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First name: Leland

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

My name is Leland Howard and I am a Wilderness EMT, medical student, hiker, and rock climber. I believe that the new directive would create confusion among climbers and land management, and negatively impact the safety of rock climbers and. Climbers have a long history of discouraging over-bolting, encouraging cleaner climbing techniques, and policing our own community. Restricting new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" is antithetical to the spirit of climbing's adventurous history throughout this country. It is additionally unenforceable and would cause conflict and confusion with climbers and management.

There are many other ways that climbing anchors can be managed to reduce impact, such as the camouflaging of bolts, a common practice in many areas. I wholeheartedly agree with restrictions to protect wildlife, such as raptor nesting, and to protect indigenous heritage sites. Climbers have worked with indigenous communities in areas like Bears Ears National Monument to protect petroglyphs, and we will continue to do so. We also police our own community in regards to raptor closures.

I believe these new restrictions will cause confusion and unnecessary conflict. There are many other ways to regulate rock climbing that don't impact safety or create unenforceable rules.

Thank you,

Leland Howard