Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/9/2024 6:31:27 PM First name: Riley Last name: Koester Organization:

Title:

Comments: The proposed directive would be a terrible addition to the way that wilderness climbing is handled. As of right now, wilderness climbing is already restricted in reasonable ways. Hand drilled bolts are the only allowed bolting mechanisms. By essentially removing the ability to install bolts, and replace existing old hardware, through bureaucratic means would actually increase costs and degrade wilderness even further. By putting bolting behind a bureaucratic wall, and requiring unrealistic standards on how bolts can be applied in the future, climber volunteers will be unable to update old hardware on rappel and descent routes. These rappel and descent routes decrease the impact of climbers in sensitive areas and reduce rockfall by funneling climbers all to the same spot for the descent. Additionally if old hardware is not replaced, climbers are more likely to have accidents, costing human and monetary resources in search and rescue efforts. The proposed changes to wilderness climbing should NOT be made, and the current methods for oversight should be kept.