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Comments: Hello, I am a concerned citizen writing in today to voice my concerns with the joint proposal from the National Park Service and USDA Forest service for managing and protecting resources within wilderness areas. Based on my understanding of the proposal from Access Fund and politically involved professional climbers such as Tommy Caldwell and Sasha DiGiulian, this proposal threatens to extend a bureaucratic hand into the work of climbers and land managers around the country. It would do this by requiring the inspection of bolts and anchors to deem them safe and before more bolts can be added on wilderness land.

While this seems benevolent in principle, neither organization posed an effective solution of how to meet their requests, nor did they offer funding to complete this task. The end result being that land managers and climbers would be hamstrung to figure out how comply with the new, ill thought-through, regulations. The more likely result of the proposal's implementation would be that climbers and land managers would be at odds similar to in previous generations when climbing was a more fringe form of outdoor recreation.

I am not here to argue that climbers in the past decade have not done their best to preserve the natural and cultural resources provided to them. However, it is my opinion that an overly restrictive proposal such as this will lead to proverbial social trails to avoid the new expected process. Additionally, applying these restrictions to existing pieces of gear will lead to greater safety concerns if they are at risk of being removed. Many of these pieces of gear have been around for decades and through various climbing coalitions are replaced or maintained regularly.

Please reconsider the broad blanket banning of bolts in favor of working with leaders in the climbing community to help create a more thoughtful plan that will protect both the wilderness' resources as well as the autonomy of the climbing community.