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First name: Marshall

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear NFS,

I write as an avid climber and enthusiast for wilderness, and wilderness climbing. I have climbed and recreated in NFS wilderness extensively throughout California, Washington and Oregon. Wilderness climbing helps me appreciate our public land and all it has to offer. I have become an even stronger advocate for wilderness and its preservation as a result of climbing.

Climbing is a rapidly growing sport. Bolted anchors are paramount to the safety of climbing and the prevention of injury or death. They are often essential for safety on multipitch climbs and the often most efficient way of egress when retreat is necessary or in RESCUE scenarios. For any route, there should be ***NO BAD BOLTS*** and the climbing community should replace and maintain them with as little impact to the wilderness area as possible. I **STRONGLY** believe that there should be **NO HINDERANCE** to the maintenance and upkeep for safe bolts on existing routes at ****ANCHORS****

I write as I am concerned that maintenance and safety of existing routes will be hindered. Climbers will still climb on routes regardless of anchor condition, but now we will have more rescues, injuries, and death. Climbers will leave more slings behind and hurt trees, dislodge boulders and harm delicate rock (or leave rope burns on the rock).

I believe that bolted ***anchors*** are critical to my safety as a climber and wilderness recreationalist.

If bolts do not get maintained and replaced, **PEOPLE WILL DIE**, rescues will increase, damage to wilderness will increase (e.g. rappelling off trees)

Wilderness climbers are major advocates for preserving and maintaining wilderness. please do not alienate this community and make it so that they have to choose between being safe and breaking the rules.

Thank you very much for reading this.