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Title:

Comments: I strongly opposed the proposed ban of so called climbing "installations" in wilderness.

The existing ban on motorized tools is sufficient to prevent the proliferation of excessive climbing bolts in wilderness climbing areas.

Other gear may be left behind to escaped steep terrain during emergency situations (injury, inclement weather, etc.) In my opinion, one should not be punished for such minor infractions when life and limb are at stake.

Climbing has been happening in "wilderness" areas since before the wilderness act. While the popularity of climbing has grown over time, I have not witnessed a decline of wilderness characteristics in wilderness climbing areas due to the presence of climbers.

Enforcements of these new regulations would be excessively difficult. I have witnessed many blatant infractions (drones, illegal fires, etc.) that should be theoretically simple to enforce in wilderness, yet in those moments (drone buzzing overhead as I try to enjoy a sunset) there were no rangers in sight. Given the limited capacity of USFS personnel I believe attempts at enforcement of these regulations would be futile at best, at worst, a major distraction from more pertinent issues affecting wilderness characteristics.

There are relatively few areas conducive to climbing in wilderness without a few bolts or "fixed gear" to allow safe passage. I fear that if these rules are set in place, these areas would receive all of the traffic that is now spread evenly throughout wilderness areas causing them to be impacted negatively.

I personally enjoy wilderness climbing above all other forms. For me it is a way to interact with these wild places in a way that creates a deep connection to the land and an appreciation for seclusion.

I fear that the proposed regulations with limit and change the characteristics of an activity that has been very formative in my relationship to wilderness.