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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, my name is Matt Burrus, I am a Canadian living in Calgary, Alberta.

I am a frequent user of USA wilderness areas for climbing, travelling to the USA specifically for this activity each year for the past ten years.

Bolts are a fundamental and necessary part of climbing, as important as wings are for airplanes or wheels are for cars.

Removing bolts from wilderness areas or implementing an approval board for their installation will make climbing to cease to exist in American Wilderness area due to three reasons:

1. It will make climbing unsafe and unmanageable by our responsible user group. Bolts allow the safe retreat of routes in adverse conditions, and the safe completion of routes once they have been ascended.
2. It will erase a rich climbing history that predates the Wilderness act of 1964. USA climbing has a storied history that is admired among the international climbing community, removing bolts would be akin to banning tennis on courts in the USA.
3. Restricting 'new route development' to non-wilderness lands is unenforceable due to the already high load on the American Parks governing bodies. The timeline to propose a route and be approved is so long that it is unreasonable to expect climbing to continue to exist with such a constraint. Furthermore, it is with responsible and flexible development that we are able to create new routes- you cannot propose exactly where a bolt will be placed before investigating and learning where the route will go. This is not building a road or engineering a building, it is illuminating a path that is already there based on how the rock guides the climber.

Bolts are a low impact and high value tool that climbers have a long history of responsibly using to manage and recreate responsibly. Please consider this freedom and history in your decision.

Thank you for reading my Letter and have a great day,

Regards, Matt Burrus