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First name: Alice

Last name: Fischer-Colbrie

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please re-consider the proposed ban on placement of fixed climbing bolts in our Wilderness Areas. Although technically not written as a blanket ban, the restrictions of prior administrative approval and criminalizing not formally sanctioned bolts creates such a high barrier to legal bolt placement as to effectively ban it.

Instead of permanent installations, please consider fixed bolts as the equivalent of small signposts on our hiking trails. They help ensure that the hiker or backpacker gets safely back to their start or campsite at the end of each day in the Wilderness. Fixed bolts are sustainable, have exceptionally low impact on others and our environment, while enabling each of us to savor our glorious wilderness.

The joy of rock-climbing in the Wilderness is a life-altering and very emotionally-centering experience. It should not have to be accompanied with life-threatening risk on the basis of an intellectual principle of whether a bolt is a permanent or impermanent fixture.

Please allow us to continue to deeply, safely and sustainably access our beautiful wilds by not imposing a ban on the placement of rock-climbing bolts.