

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/19/2024 12:07:33 AM

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Comments: I am writing to express concern about the proposed update to interpretation of the Wilderness Act in relation to climbing bolts placed responsibly in wilderness areas.

The simple truth is that even as a climber who is often actively seeking out routes that use bolts, they are hard to notice in the wild - the impact of a single bolt on a wilderness landscape is miniscule when compared directly against a hiking trail; if the visibility of a climbing bolt is too much for a wilderness landscape, then many other forms of wilderness recreation must also be called into question.

Another fact is that bolts are incredibly safe & durable pieces of protection for a climbing team that dramatically increase (1) safety of the parties, (2) speed of the parties - lessening the time that another traveler may see or hear a climbing team, & (3) the physical impact of a climbing team on the landscape - when descending a peak, nothing will be left behind.

Bolts are inert, quiet, borderline invisible pieces of metal that dramatically increase the safety of climbing parties while also decreasing their impact on the landscape.

Regarding a potential review process for each individual placement of bolts & anchors - this is a process that sounds okay in a vacuum, but is not realistic. Climbers may know generally where a bolt or anchor needs to be placed, but it is nearly impossible to determine the location of the placement until this is occurring live on the scene: rock quality, climbing route planning, & rope length all come into play in a way that is simply not possible to specifically project in an proposal request.

These issues with the above process don't even include the massive price & ranger hours that would be required. This is an expensive & unnecessary process that will effectively result in a backlog-based ban on any new low-impact high safety pieces of gear being used to enable wilderness experience for a core user group.

Core principles of climbing experience & style within the community focus on not placing too many bolts as well as minimizing overall impact in other areas. Climbers know where they need bolts in a way that cannot be communicated through a request form, & have been effective at self-policing poor style that could result in over-bolting.

Lastly - climbing & mountaineering activities are a core tenant of wilderness experience. Mountaineers such as John Muir were some of the earliest advocates of wilderness protection. The activity has been a breeding ground for landscape reverence & respect for decades. The climbing community is small but loud, & has historically been incredibly effective at calling out the occasional bad actors that are present within any outdoor recreation community. Mountain travel has created & reinforced so many of the Leave-No-Trace principles that we hold dear, while acting as the introduction to the concept for many people.

In this time of political, economic, & climate change, rallying all user groups who value the protection, preservation & expansion of wilderness should be our focus. Ostracizing a passionate core user group with new major restrictions acts directly in opposition to the fundamental mission we all share: introducing people to the life changing experience of wilderness while teaching them how to protect & cherish it.