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Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am writing you today to ask that you stop the bolt prohibition policy and instead use this opportunity to engage in a meaningful dialogue with the climbing community, including climbers nationwide and organizations like the Access Fund, American Alpine Club, etc. on the topic of bolting in the wilderness.

Most climbers love and care about the wilderness areas that they explore and spend their time in, perhaps even more so than the average person who finds themselves in a national park or forest.

The debate over bolting and clean climbing is as old as climbing itself, and it has always been an area of concern among the climbing community. There is no doubt that there has to be a strong ethic when it comes to these practices in order to protect and preserve these pristine and often sensitive alpine and desert environments.

Prohibiting bolts takes away the ability to safely participate in a form of wilderness exploration that many people hold close to their hearts and have devoted much of their life to.

"If the last century was the century of violence, it is our responsibility to make this century the century of dialogue."

~The Dalai Lama

A successful policy must take into account and respect all of the voices of the people impacted by the decision being made. There is no reason for the USFS and the climbing community to work against each other and not with each other. In the end one-sided policies do nothing but spark more division and impede efforts for cooperation.

A policy cannot change the psyche of American climbers, and it will not create positive change unless it takes into account what is at stake for all involved. If sustainable solutions to these important issues ever wish to be reached, the USFS and the climbing community need to work together.

Thank you for your time,  
Charles Gross