Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/21/2024 3:03:22 AM First name: Brooks Last name: Kollman Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi! I am concerned that this may make wilderness areas unsafe for future climbers. Bolts are necessary for many climbs, especially sport climbs where there are typically no features to place removable gear. Bolt removal will leave scars in the rock and make certain climbs less safe. People will get confused on climbs if they are not aware of changes, which will require more rescues (and potential deaths). Additionally, traditional climbs (where all gear is removed), often has bolts at the top of climbs. If these bolts are removed, traditional climbers will have to leave behind scraps of rope and/or use trees/rock/etc which would litter the area and potentially damage the foliage. Well maintained, safely placed bolts at the top of traditional climbs can protect nature more than it defaces it. Additionally, bolts can be placed in an artistic manner that doesn't ruin the aesthetic of areas. Bolts can be painted to match the environment, as well. I think having a process and application for bolting would be beneficial. I do not like it when people go out and place excessive, unnecessary bolts either. However, this needs to be done in collaboration with local climbing communities, organizations, and non-profits. Otherwise, the backlash will cause problems for all parties.