Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/21/2024 6:27:07 PM

First name: Conor Last name: McCune Organization:

Title:

Comments: Climbing bolts are an essential part of climbing safety. Many climbs in National Parks across the US are either impossible to climb safely or impossible to climb at all without bolts. Whether these climbs are sport routes or aid routes the removal of bolts would drastically reduce the access to "unconfined recreation" of our wild spaces. Bolts also have a shelf life and need to be replaced. Injuries and deaths occur when climbers put trust in unsafe bolts. Requiring a formal approval for climbs before bolts can be replaced will put climbers in danger and will likely result in deaths or injuries that would be entirely preventable by letting the climbing community operate as it successfully has up till now. Let me be perfectly clear. Climbers will not stop climbing routes that have been made unsafe by this proposal, nor will they stop bolting new routes. This proposal will do nothing but put climbers in danger and restrict access to the wild. Additionally the climbing community naturally advocates for the preservation of our wild spaces. The community as a whole opposes overuse of bolts and many people chop bolts that are unnecessary. "Clean" climbing already is the norm and is expected whenever possible. If the goal of this proposal is to stop people from over bolting routes, an appropriate solution is to widely release guidelines as to how frequent bolts should be placed. Widely distributed information such as, "bolts should be placed as infrequently as possible" with then specific guidelines of what that means will accomplish the same goal as this proposal without putting people in danger and restricting our access to the wild.