

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/22/2024 7:19:30 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Ben LaRiviere and I have been an avid rock climber for more than half of my life. As an individual with ADHD and depression, rock climbing has been a source of joy and community. I often wonder how my life would differ if I had not been a rock climber. I think I may have found other ways to find risk and excitement that may have damaged society.

I recently read about proposed rule changes that would prohibit bolts, anchors, slings and pitons in wilderness areas. These safety devices save lives and allow members of the climbing community to connect with nature in profound ways.

Land managers concerned about the impact that climbing has on wilderness areas have other, better options. Rules could be introduced that require all new fixed gear match the color of the rock, and that power drills never be used. Climbers, especially those who recreate in wilderness areas care deeply about the wild places that we frequent. These proposed regulations would restrict climbing opportunities, create safety hazards and would lead to fewer people connecting deeply with wild places.

Climbers are dedicated to preserving the places that we climb. Restricting the establishment of new climbing routes is unenforceable and will create confusion with land managers. Please continue to allow climbers to responsibly establish new routes.