

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/23/2024 2:20:26 AM

First name: Link

Last name: Tung

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have read the proposal to limit the presence of bolts in Wilderness, and I disagree that bolts are installations and that recreation would be unconfined if your change is enacted.

FSM 2320.6 states: Permanent Improvement. A structural or nonstructural improvement that is to remain at a particular location for more than one field season. Permanent improvements include such items as trails, toilet buildings, cabins, fences, tent frames, fire grills, and instrumentation stations.

Bolts are a Permanent improvement that enables recreational climbers to safely access areas that would otherwise be inaccessible and thus need to be allowed without confinement.

The Wilderness Act is set aside for unconfined recreation.

"Unconfined" recreation is generally defined as recreation free from managerial - or even societal - control. This means that wilderness visitors should have "outstanding opportunities" to freely explore and discover. Freedom is really key to unconfined recreation.

People go to wilderness areas with the expectation that they will not have to follow a bunch of rules and regulations. That they will be free to wander, to be spontaneous, to go where the place leads them.

* Unconfined recreation. Unconfined means "not kept within limits" and encompasses attributes such as self-discovery, exploration, and freedom from societal or managerial controls

(Lucas 1983, Nash 1996, Hendee and Dawson 2002). The idea here is to provide opportunities for the physical and mental challenges associated with adventure and self direction as well as the personal growth that results from facing and overcoming obstacles (Dustin and McAvoy 2000, Borrie 2000)

By placing a managerial and societal constraint on bolts you are violating the Wilderness Act. You would need an act of Congress to place a managerial and societal constraint on recreation. Climbers need to continue using the freedom that the Wilderness Act of 1964 gives them with regard to placing bolts. Hindering that freedom will decrease the spirit of exploration and confine recreation for current and future generations. Ratcheting up control over recreation in violation of the Wilderness Act will waste beurocratic and legal resources of an already resources deficient organization. How many important aspects of managing our public lands are going to be neglected because the Forest Service will have to micromanage bolts placed for recreation?