Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/23/2024 6:36:20 PM First name: Parker Last name: Newby Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a lifelong rock climber and mountaineer, I find the proposed bolting policy to be a considerable threat to the integrity of the Wilderness Act. As policy stewards of wilderness areas, the USFS needs to standby the original language of the Act and stay focused on maintaining Wilderness character as intended by the Act.

Climbing is not prohibited in Wilderness areas and access has always been allowed. Guide services and outfitters can access and operate their businesses within Wilderness areas and individuals can pursue challenging climbing objectives as their abilities allow. I fear that the pressure currently being put on the agency to create fabricated recreation opportunities is going to result in the opening of a floodgate of demands for further commercialization of the Wilderness. This would be most unfortunate for future generations.

The US Wilderness system is unique across the globe. There are very few places on the planet that have ecosystem protections in place such that are provided for in the Wilderness Act. Please don't degrade these protections in the name of profit driven recreation pressure.

I do not support the proposed directives that would add a new section (2355 - Climbing Opportunities) to Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2300 - Recreation, Wilderness, and Related Resource Management, Chapter 2350 - Trail, River, and Similar Recreation Opportunities.

Respectfully submitted.