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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my dissent for the proposed management that would affect the placement of bolts. As an avid climber, I have had amazing experiences in places such as Yosemite, Joshua Tree, and other areas that would be negatively affected if this proposal goes into effect. Here is why I feel this way.

Climbing in America's wild places predates the Wilderness Act of 1964. Climbing holds a special place in the American Psyche. When Tommy Caldwell and Kevin Jorgeson climbed the Dawn Wall in January 2015, the event was celebrated throughout the world; they even received praise from the President of the United States. If this proposal went through, their route would be considered illegal and potentially removed. The same would go for countless other routes that have inspired so many.

In the proposal, fixed anchors would require a "Minimum Requirement Analysis" before being installed. In practice, anchors are necessary in the moment and cannot be anticipated. This requirement would greatly increase the danger for rock climbers, as well as for search and rescue teams that sometimes need to quickly add anchors to save lives. The process outlined in the proposal would be both inefficient and expensive.

Also, in terms of impact, the effect of bolts is minimal. Bolts are virtually invisible to those who are not looking for them. In fact, as a climber, I often struggle to find the bolts on routes that I am trying to climb. Climbers are, by and large, good stewards of the land and have been so for a long time.

Please reconsider this proposal.

Thanks,

Sean Sullivan