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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed no bolting policy for rock climbing areas, as outlined in the draft Wilderness Stewardship Reference Manual. As an avid rock climber who deeply values our national parks and wilderness areas, I understand and appreciate the efforts of the NPS to preserve these natural treasures. However, I believe that the proposed policy may not fully consider the unique nature of rock climbing as an outdoor activity and its historical presence in these areas.

Firstly, rock climbers are among the most respectful and conscientious users of the outdoors. We deeply appreciate the natural beauty and integrity of these landscapes and are committed to preserving them. This is evidenced by the numerous climbing organizations and individual climbers who actively participate in conservation efforts and adhere to strict ethical guidelines to minimize their impact on the environment.

Secondly, bolting, when done responsibly, is a historically low-impact activity, especially when compared to other permitted activities in national parks and wilderness areas, such as logging and hunting. Bolts are often placed in a manner that minimizes visual impact and ecological disturbance. They provide a safe means for climbers to enjoy the wilderness in a way that is in harmony with the surroundings.

I understand that there are valid concerns regarding the proliferation of bolts and the potential impacts on wilderness character.

I urge the National Park Service to reconsider the complete prohibition on bolting and to seek input from the climbing community, who are eager to be part of a solution that honors both the preservation of our wilderness areas and the rich tradition of climbing in these landscapes.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Adam Mitchell