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Comments: I live in Minnesota, yet I have been all over the western half of the country appreciating our national forests and parks with an emphasis on the mountainous & rocky.

These are amazing places that have to be protected, especially the high quality rock climbing, and maintaining these places is a task we should all take upon ourselves & respecting leave no trace principles. Of course not all people really pull their own weight in that regard, but at the same time there are people who try to compensate for that by doing everything they can to respect and improve our shared wilderness areas.

The art of rock climbing is really important to me as a person and my appreciation of the outdoors. It is an expression of freedom, technical backcountry aptitude, and athleticism. Naturally the protection for this sport is extremely important to our safety as climbers. There are members of the climbing community that go out of their way to respect and improve the conditions of our wilderness areas, and the safety of these cliffsides & other routes through services such as removing hazards and replacing bolts and other fixed protection. Maintenance which the USFS is surely familiar with. Imposing additional bureaucracy, unnecessary processing, and wait times for approval will only cripple the already-functional tradition of climbers replacing or improving on protection when fault or age starts to show. In no way is it favorable to follow a more painful and time-consuming process of reporting faults to a land manager, waiting for processing times, then furthermore relying on the timeliness and knowledge of some random individual appointed as a land manager for the area. It's foolish to try to shift the responsibility for maintaining protection from the hands of the climbing community as a whole, in to the potentially unqualified or inactive hands of a federal employee.

The proposed changes as a whole introduce so much complication in to such a simple, vital process, that I believe it will result in a degradation in the safety and quality of our public rock climbing areas. The changes must be rejected.