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Title:

Comments: As an advocate for wilderness areas in the U.S and especially in Colorado, there are plenty of other areas for climbers to "drill into rock faces" for climbing routes. The impact of the human effect on the beauty of the wilderness, the ability to maintain a pristine environment for visitors to enjoy and wildlife to survive in, and the management of the interaction of humans, the environment, and the wildlife are a challenge for the existing government resources to manage as it is.

The Wilderness Act was implemented to protect the environment for the use of today's generation and future generations. If climbers are allowed to come in and deface the surfaces with drilling bolts for climbing routes and mountain bikers are allowed to come in and destroy the trails with biking, what then is keeping artists from coming in and painting murals on rock faces? What then is preventing someone from building multi-million-dollar homes in a federally protected environment?

Everyone will have a cause and a purpose to do what they feel is their right in the wilderness areas. With any small crack in the federal legislation to protect wilderness, a river of people with a purpose will come up with any reason that will expand that small crack to change the way the government oversees these protected areas.

I am a mountain biker and there are plenty of places for me to ride my bike without having to go into a wilderness area. I see the trail destruction from bikers who feel they have a right to ride when and where they want to, even when trails are muddy and wet. Even when dry, all trails are susceptible to erosion and constant maintenance.

It is already a problem within the ranger districts to provide enough resources to maintain trails and safety for visitors. Now add the element of drilling into rock faces and the impact to visitor safety.

The human effect is a constant issue when you have a large society of people who disrespect the rules and regulations outside of wilderness areas. Now, they feel it is their right to do the same within a federally protected area. How do we protect the beauty of our pristine wilderness areas if any group with a cause can break down the federal protection of wilderness areas throughout the country?