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Comments: The new draft policies proposed by the NPS and USFS are extremely detrimental to the culture and safety of rock climbing on federal lands. Rock climbing access and bolt installation predates the Wilderness Act in many of the currently designated wilderness areas and many rock climbing areas have been respectfully developed since then following wilderness regulations.

The placement of bolts and bolted anchors should NOT be considered "installations" as defined by the USFS and NPS as they are required to protect rock climbers and enable us to explore our public lands in a safe manner. These bolts and bolted anchors have little impact on the ecology of wilderness areas and minimal impact on other user groups of these areas.

There are huge safety concerns with these new proposals specifically with the MRA process. The timely replacement of a faulty, outdated, or unsafe bolt would be significantly impacted by this delayed bureaucratic process and would lead to serious injury or death of rock climbers. This would also increase the need for search and rescue efforts in wilderness areas. Are the NPS and USFS willing to accept increased injury and deaths on public lands, and how would this new risk be addressed?

Rock climbing is a historical and valuable activity with a rich legacy throughout America and its public lands. We require different means of safety and protection which cannot be fully understood by those who have never participated in our sport. There are also two different pieces of legislation in Congress currently (The EXPLORE and PARC acts) which advocate FOR the protection of rock climbing and recreation on federal and public lands. These proposals are in conflict with these proposed bills.

As a rock climber, tax payer, and user of wilderness areas, I ask that you reconsider this proposal and work directly with rock climbers to develop more appropriate management plans for rock climbing that ensure the protection of our sport and our ability to protect ourselves against injury or death with the use of bolt and bolted anchors throughout both wilderness areas and all public lands.

Sincerely, Katelyn K