Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 6:12:52 PM

First name: Dusty Last name: Reed Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the proposed language banning the use of bolts in Wilderness areas. Bolting can be done in a low impact manner that does not diminish wilderness character any more than water bars in trails or bridges on hiking trails do. If bolting is considered a permanent establishment then by that language all hiking infrastructure should also be removed. Hiking trails increase erosion and fragment habitat, many species of wildlife are negatively impacted by people just walking along trails. Removing any of these are bad ideas because while Wilderness is designated to be untrammeled and natural in character there is recreation allowed and without some infrastructure, whether it is trails or bolts, people will be more likely to become injured. Bolts constitute an important piece of safety for climbers. Treat bolting like the building of trail infrastructure, each local agency should make plans about where is and is not an acceptable place to place new bolts in management plans, but let that be made by local managers that understand the local dynamics the best. Permitting exemptions is not the answer because this will increase labor by already stretched thin public land officials. If the policy was amended to require that any wilderness areas with rock climbing create a climbing management plan like exists in Black Canyon of the Gunnison I would approve that.