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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear NPS,

I am writing today as an extremely concerned citizen, taxpayer, and rock climber to voice my concerns regarding the draft climbing management guidance that was issued in November 2023.

I share the belief with many fellow climbers and mountaineers that the use of a stainless steel bolt is an essential element of the safety system for climbers, partially while descending from a climb. A stainless steel bolt is an inert, environmentally non-impactful, long-lasting, and dependable anchoring piece necessary to rappel down from a climb. Without bolts, us wilderness climbers would be forced to leave behind nylon "tat" to rappel down. This nylon tat is either webbing or cord, tied into a loop and slung over a protrusion of the mountain. Being forced to use tat instead of bolts creates tremendous amounts of garbage left behind in the mountains, is unsafe as the tat can wear out rapidly, and creates eye-sores that detract from the natural beauty of the wilderness climbing environment. Modern bolts last for decades, and can be replaced in the same holes they were initially placed in to ensure their continuing sustainability. They are also totally dependable as anchor points, unlike left behind nylon tat, which is damaged over short periods of time left in the mountains and can fail under a climber's weight, causing a fatal accident. Bolts are also nearly invisible when color matched against the rock, helping to preserve the natural beauty of the wilderness environment, much unlike months of accumulated nylon tat slung around a piece of rock.

The judicious use of modern, stainless steel climbing bolts are simply essential for climbing, without bolts many of the most historic and significant rock climbs in America would cease to exist, never to be enjoyed by the climbers of today or tomorrow. Please don't take that away from a massive group of some of the most passionate stewards of America's wild lands.

Thank you for your consideration,

John Bushway, Sandy, UT