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First name: Radek

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to add my voice to the chorus of those who oppose your planned prohibition of bolts and any fixed hardware on climbing routes in the wilderness areas. My wife and I have been climbing for about 25 years and have safely enjoyed a large number of routes located on America's priceless public lands, including inside wilderness areas. After nearly a quarter of a century of climbing, we have firsthand insights into the behavior of other climbers. Almost without exception, the climbing community consists of people who value and are very devoted to protecting all those public lands. We have seen and participated in various trash cleanup efforts, both organized and spontaneous. As a community, we are disciplined and value self-policing: things like seasonal route closures for bird protection as well as adherence to various local rules are not just understood and accepted by the community but they are also self-enforced! We have always taken pride in following the rules which we know are designed for protecting those places. Climbers who climb outside do so because of their love of and respect for nature. We are, I believe, among the most active proponents of protecting public lands. Judicious use of fixed protection on climbing routes has been a part of the wilderness experience since the activity of rock climbing first appeared in the United States. I do believe that there's a history of overwhelmingly responsible approach to this on the part of climbers. As a more practical issue, to prohibit the future upgrades of existing fixed climbing protection would clearly endanger people's lives.

I very much hope that you do listen to a community that has been at the core of loving and protecting our national treasures.

Kindest regards.

Radek Chalupa

Portland, Oregon