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Organization:

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Comments: As a climber and skier for over 35 years, I have a deep respect for the importance of these activities, and for the American wilderness areas where some of my most powerful backcountry experiences have occurred. From this experience, I strongly want to protect wilderness areas. The current proposals regarding bolting, however, I think need to be balanced. Climbing is and should be an allowable use of wilderness, and safe climbing requires bolts and anchors. Classifying bolts as an installation and requiring MEA's for each placement (or replacement) is unduly onerous on the climber and the land manager. I hope changes to the proposed bills can be made that allow for individual land managers to create practical solutions for their lands, solutions that protect wilderness and allow for safe climbing on historic/existing routes, and new routes to be developed in the future. Thank you for considering.