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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom in may concern:

I am writing to express my concerns about the the NPS and USFS proposals to change legislation that would prohibit maintenance and placement of bolts and other fixed anchors in current recreational areas that are presently allowed. I am strongly against this proposed legislation for multiple reasons:

1. Fixed anchors and bolts are elements of safety for and should be judiciously allowed, including the ability of the discretion of the FA to add bolts to routes when safety issues are identified. This initiative is not currently prohibited under the Wilderness Act and should be allowed to continue as outlined.
2. As populations continues to grow, it is important to maintain measures that will allow safety exploring the wilderness areas. The collateral effect is that this measure may help to maintain lessening the impact to popular areas that are currently seeing more traffic and thus suffering the impact of overuse. Please allow expansion and development of new areas and maintenance of current ones.
3. Restricting or changing the current process will significantly increase the incidence of unsafe climbing in prohibited areas which cannot reasonably be monitored or policed, causing the increase in preventable deaths. We have witnessed this issue with other sports, like BASE jumping, and it makes more sense to support safe recreational climbing, as well.
4. I live it Utah and I live here because of the recreational opportunities. Climbing is my primary sport. This proposed legislation would drastically change the landscape of one of the most dynamic sports in our state. I am concerned for these opportunities being lost or restricted nationally, but I am vested in my state of residency for obvious reasons.

I hope that my comments are considered and taken seriously. The possible fallout and impact from the proposed changes are devastating if implemented.

Thank you,
Deborah Witte