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Title:

Comments: The spirit of this law is good. If it was better put together, I would agree with it.

For my credibility, I am a beginner climber but my brothers are advanced outdoor climbers. My whole family has visited and camped in 45 national parks in the USA so far. I love climbing but I love maintaining nature as well.

But it seems you have a contradiction between "we aren't responsible for the safety of what you place" and "we get to decide what you place". Those two things just don't work together. Does the park superintendent have extensive climbing and route placing knowledge? Pretty much never (as someone whose sister is a NPS ranger). So how can she/he even look at this application and know where to begin or whether to accept/deny our MRA request?

Unless you are going to staff full or part time climbing experts as consultants for these wilderness areas, then this contradiction combined with the complete lack enforce-ability of this and the lack of resources and funding (the parks service is stretched horribly thin), I don't think this makes sense.

As much as I, a nature lover, do want to make sure the nature areas stay as natural and undeveloped (or "untrammeled" as the document says), this needs work before it can be used to accomplish that purpose in harmony with keeping climbers safe.

I'm a big promoter of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". So is it "broke"? Are climbers falling and getting injured regularly because bolts are poorly placed by the public and no one is regulating their safe placement? If so, first of all provide proof in the law, and then make a law that fixes this. This law doesn't address the safety of the bolts. Are wilderness areas being destroyed by climbing bolts being placed willy-nilly? If so, again, provide proof! And then make the law work better with enforcement, resources, and the COMMUNITY that you are affecting.

If neither are true, then why put in place such a significant hurdle to route placement and maintenance? Please consider this. Thanks for your hard work.