Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 8:54:01 PM First name: Reed Last name: Welsh Organization:

Title:

Comments: Climbing is an integral part of my life and is my true passion in life. Banning bolts in wilderness areas would greatly hinder my ability to do the sport that I love in the public lands part of this country. So much of my history of climbing has been involving bolts in wilderness areas that were placed correctly and following the law by hand. These are not installations but tools that allow climbers to safely enjoy and explore these lands. They are essential pieces of safety equipment, and with the existing laws the community has policed itself more than enough to protect these lands that we all love. Instead of spending on potential removal of bolts and enforcing this new policy a better use of resources would be investing in things like climbing rangers. They can help police the community and be the bridge between climbers and policy makers. Climbing is a rapidly growing sport in the US and around the world. The US is known around the world for some of the best climbing the world has to offer. Places like Yosemite and Red Rock canyon in Las Vegas were known by many when I was abroad in Europe. Climbers come from around the world to climb in these areas. Banning bolts would basically eliminate these areas from the map as bolts are a very important part of practicing climbing safely in these areas and so many more. I urge you to revisit this policy and consider different approaches to regulating bolts in wilderness areas like working with groups like climbing rangers already present in Yosemite and Bishop.