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Comments: Hello I would like to take a moment of time to advise the forest service to seek further guidance from the climbing community before continuing down the path of a bolt ban in national wilderness areas. I truly love and respect our wilderness system here in America but this bolt ban goes against both the exploration of our beautiful wilderness areas through climbing as well as can potential destroy climbs that are both iconic on an American and international scale as well as put a great many fans of climbing and our wilderness system in danger beyond the reasonable risk that wilderness exploration requires. Bolt's especially on fixed anchors are not only a very important way to mitigate the risk of climbing anywhere but especially the wilderness as well as essential lifelines when things go awry. A bolt ban while being almost unenforceable would chop current routes bolts making their safety marginal at best and at worst making climbing history and future only accessible to those who are willing to die for the route or just make the route's impossible to explore for anyone. It would also send bolting underground which with the current regulations where the forest services systems have a pathway to involvement and even management of bolting and there maintenance has made climbing that much more safer and above the board. The exploration of wilderness is truly important to climbers and a bolt ban would both marginalize a community that is both an ardent supporter as well as a core user group and with out the ability to reasonably bolt in situ would make wilderness climbing all but impossible. Yes do we as climbers need to actively be at the table and willing to compromise when it comes to navigating what wilderness means and how it is managed absolutely! A reasonable amount of management when it comes to bolting should be part of that conversation but a bolt ban does nothing but take a core user group away from the table and take the wilderness areas that we love and want to protect so dearly, out of our ability to enjoy and interface with it in the way that has meant so much to both the American climbing community as well as the worlds!

Thank you for your time and consideration

Matt Gunter