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First name: Mike

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear persons in charge

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Michael Lorenzo, and I am writing to express my deep concern about the recent regulations imposed on climbing activities in American wilderness areas. Climbing has a rich history spanning half a century, and as climbers, we have actively contributed to various scientific studies, extending our impact beyond personal enjoyment.

The sudden imposition of restrictions on bolts and anchors raises safety concerns, particularly in navigating remote and sometimes not-so-remote areas. It is perplexing why these regulations have emerged seemingly out of nowhere after decades of responsible climbing practices. I am left wondering who stands to gain from such restrictions.

Many of our national parks actively promote and celebrate climbing as an integral part of the wilderness experience. However, recent regulations seem to undermine this support, akin to attending a show without witnessing a performance. While I understand the importance of preserving wildlife and trails, it is disheartening that these regulations may be driven by individuals who lack a comprehensive understanding of our activities.

One significant point to consider is that remote climbing locations are often isolated, with very few witnesses to the climbs. It becomes challenging for those who do not understand our practices to complain about potential impacts. Climbers are generally respectful of the environment, leaving minimal damage and noise behind.

Iconic climbs in places like Yosemite hold immense historical value and contribute to the identity of our national parks. Yet, our user group, climbers, often faces what seems like unjust targeting through restrictive rules that limit access. For decades, climbing has been managed responsibly, and the sudden imposition of new regulations puts our American climbing legacy at risk.

I urge you to reconsider these regulations and engage in a dialogue with the climbing community to develop solutions that balance conservation efforts with our rich climbing history. Your understanding and collaboration are crucial to preserving the unique experience of climbing in American wilderness areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Michael Lorenzo Red Rock Climbing Center Red Rock Climbing Guides Desert Rock Sports Las Vegas, NV 89129