

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 6:43:04 PM

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Comments: As a climber, a SAR member, and general enthusiast of the outdoors, I am concerned about the proposed policy that would include climbing bolts as prohibited installations. For a long time, climbers have been a part of these parks, and bolts are already in place. Putting in any sort of bolt ban will only make climbing a less safe activity, requiring more resources from parks. Bolts allow climbers, especially new transitioning from the gym a safer learning curve into the outdoors. Fixed anchors are an essential part of a climber's safety system and the climbing community needs to be able to go out there and replace current fixed bolts at regular intervals. The impact to wilderness areas is minimal - climbers are happy to work with wilderness managers to keep the impact on land managers, while ensuring climber safety, by ensuring appropriate bolts. This has been the policy for years and years and has been working well for both land management and climbers. Existing climbing bolt policy allows for climbing safety, but also preserves wilderness areas as wilderness areas. Climbers and climber organizations are happy to work closely with land managers to continue to keep their impact light on wilderness areas, without compromising safety. As a climber I want to be able to go out and continue to explore wilderness areas by climbing. As a SAR member, I am concerned that prohibiting bolts will mean that my unit and other units are called out to more serious injuries when bolts fail and have not been replaced.

Secondly, if the safety issue is not enough, this sounds like a recipe for more confusion, which will widen a gap between outdoor enthusiasts and land management. Climbers already work to keep bolting to a minimum. Climbers are going to be the best judge of where bolts should go to protect subsequent climbers appropriately. If the process becomes too complicated, and there are too many voices, then decisions get backlogged and are not being made with the best interests of both safety and exploration in mind. Land managers should not also need to be expert climbers in order to figure out if bolt placement is good. Rather the policies should stay much the same, letting land management trust that climbers are making good judgement that is light impact.

For culturally sensitive and protected areas, it continues to make sense to ban bolts and even climbing all together for parts of the year or forever. When crags are closed for falcon nesting for instance, I am happy to climb other areas and protect the falcons. In June it would be appropriate to prohibit climbing at Bear Lodge Butte.

Please reconsider this proposed policy.