

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 7:31:02 PM

First name: Kira

Last name: Bouchard

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To climb and connect in wilderness depends immensely on being safe and confident that you can accomplish the experience and come back home when the trip is over. Having protection in place for ourselves and others is paramount for this community to thrive. We are stewards of the land and want to keep it pristine for generations to come. Our intention is to keep our impacts minimal and most of all, safe.

There are decades of experience, education and passion in preserving this raw desire to explore the vertical wilderness. This community should be able to maintain it without interference from a federal agency lacking the realization of the circumstances and needs that keep our community recreating responsibly. Climbing Rangers should be able to develop a structure to inspect, replace and maintain these nuanced areas. They are our most educated grounds keepers and advocate for our wilderness recreation and safety to ensure the best practices are put in place and kept in place. We deeply care for one another and our public lands.

In the past decade, there has been a massive movement in education and environmental impact. Rather than remove that progress, let's invest in what we've already built organically through our outdoor agencies and partners. This community is responsible and ready to adopt forward changes to protect and improve.

Consider keeping our sport safe and letting our community leaders develop practices for our sport to live on.