

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 8:44:02 PM

First name: Brian

Last name: Herman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please do not ban existing bolts and the bolting of routes.

Over the past few decades climbers and parks have started to work together to make climbing safer and more accessible. Eliminating bolts on rock walls will take several drastic steps back for climbing in America and the ability to safely climb. Many groups, clubs and people around the country have come to rely on bolted routes to progress further into climbing and have the ability to safely climb in nature. Bolts do introduce a non natural material to the wall but overuse of trees, placed protective gear, and other methods of achieving safe anchoring can erode the stone, and living edges of these areas. This can make areas more unsafe, and damaged. Bolting of a route can help minimize or eliminate damage to the area by giving climbers a clear path and places for protection that can't not damage the wall further. The climbing community is willing to assist in managing and maintain wilderness areas. As a lover of nature and a climber I want the land to be enjoyed, explored, and used safely and with the best care in mind. Balancing safety, enjoyment, environmental impact and spiritual use is of the greatest concern. I hope that areas can be kept beautiful and maintain usability in the future.

Brian Herman