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First name: George

Last name: Mossessian

Organization:

Title:

Comments: First off, thank you for providing a form for public input. I am grateful for the work that the USFS and NPS do to provide and preserve access, and I hope that you can work together with those members of the public most affected by this proposal to reach a conclusion that is the best for all parties involved, first and foremost for the natural beauty of this country and her wilderness.

I am writing in regard to the proposal "FSM 2355 Climbing Opportunities." I understand its intent and believe that the goal of preserving the character of the wilderness is an honorable and necessary one. I and my fellow climbers cherish and care for the mountains and cliffs in the wilderness, as well as the bolts installed in them that we entrust our lives to. I, too, want to preserve the character of the wilderness, for its natural beauty and for the awe-inspiring sense of the adventure and unknown that one can get nowhere else.

I appreciate how much the NPS and USFS already do in the name of wilderness preservation. Now there will be an additional expectation for Forest Service Rangers and Supervisors to make a "climbing management plan", to work continuously to assess submitted permits. Meanwhile, climbers will still visit and climb where they are allowed to, and there will be situations where fixed anchors & installations will require maintenance and/or necessary additions.

I hope there is sympathy and understanding on behalf of the USFS for the needs of climbers, and for our concern regarding the proposed process.

There is strong concern about how this proposal will be implemented in a healthy functioning way for the benefit of all parties, both the US government agencies as well as the climbing community. Climbers and those that rely on fixed anchors are collectively concerned of "redtape" and "wait-times" ultimately resulting in a future "prohibition" of using/maintaining/installing fixed anchors. Within the prerogative that park rangers, especially those who are not themselves climbers, hold to determine if routes and their bolts will receive continued use, also lies the fear of their ultimate fate hinging on these individuals.

My only real plea here is for the United States Forest Service, Regional Foresters, Forest Supervisors, and District Rangers to work along with us climbers & climbing organizations to help streamline the processes. To see how we may be of more assistance, lighten your burden, and be a compliment to the positions & responsibilities you hold.

As an immigrant to, and now citizen of, this beautiful country, from a place that had no such resources, and no stewards of public lands, I thank you deeply for taking care of such areas I have enjoyed my entire adult life. And thank you for your consideration of this climber and nature-loving individual.

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