

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 8:55:43 PM

First name: gabriel

Last name: cisneros

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Climbers have been excellent stewards of wilderness since long before the Wilderness Act was ever written into law. It is an inherently low impact form of recreation with leave no trace principles hard-baked into the sport's very foundations and essence. Climbers appreciate wilderness as much as any other recreation group-likely more than many-and as such, we have self-regulated our impacts on wilderness areas for decades. It is true that we are a growing demographic, and our impacts are growing concurrently. But almost every state with significant outdoor climbing areas has nonprofit advocacy groups called local climbing organizations (LCOs) dedicated to that cause. Some states have multiple LCOs. Moreover, national organizations such as Access Fund and the American Alpine Club have a long history of working hand in hand with federal and state land managers to collaborate on policies and climbing management plans, which are respectful and tolerant of all user groups and that align properly with the stated purposes of those land managers, in Wilderness designated areas and otherwise. It is not the very idea of regulation, or a reconsideration of the framework under which future climbing installations may be installed, that we are opposed to. Many LCOs have already worked with smaller agencies to do just that. What we are opposed to is the intent, and would-be consequences, of these specific proposals, which for the aforementioned reasons we deem to be ill-advised, and generally uninformed.