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Organization: Ojai Rock Climbing

Title: Owner

Comments: As the owner of a guide service, certified AMGA guide, and dedicated rock climber, I fully support the NPS and NFS proposals regarding Wilderness rock climbing.

Sport climbing (bolt intensive face climbs) are categorically incompatible with Wilderness. Traditional style rock climbs, including those with the occasional lead bolt and bolted belays, "are not necessarily incompatible" with Wilderness according to the legislation. I agree.

Sport climbs by definition require a significant amount of installations (bolts) to exist. The lower skill set required, the group activity culture associated with them, and the common presence of environmental modification such as trail building and seating, disqualifies sport climbs as being appropriate for protected Wilderness.

The campaign by the Access Fund, and other organizations, as well as climbers themselves, has been dishonest. "Stop the bolting ban" is their call to action. No bolting ban has been proposed. Instead, a process of approval has been earmarked as appropriate by the government. While a banning of sport climbs is also part of the proposal. This is the prudent approach, and I fully support it.

Please enact this legislation and help protect Wilderness areas and Wilderness climbing. Wilderness climbing should be low impact, adventurous, and in line with the fundamental ethos of Wilderness.