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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to ask you to please reconsider prohibiting all bolting in America's Wilderness areas.

I understand and deeply respect all the work you do to protect our natural landscape and to make sure these places remain as wild and full of life as possible. I agree with that endeavor wholeheartedly. However, I believe that banning bolted anchors on rock walls is actually counterproductive to this pursuit.

Climbers have great respect for the wild places we enter. Staying in touch with these places helps us feel alive and passionate about protecting them. With that in mind. Here are my specific reasons I ask you to reconsider.

Allowing bolted anchors has the following benefits:

- \* Saves human lives by reducing risk

- \* Bolted anchors are an essential part of the climbing safety system

- \* Reduces overall impact to wild areas by:

- \* Reducing the amount of random gear left behind by climbers who rappel, which will ultimately reduce the impact of this kind of litter on wildlife

- \* Reducing the amount of wear and damage to flora of these areas, as climbers are much more likely to use the safer and more convenient bolted anchors rather than to sling a tree or a boulder

- \* Keeping climbing and rappel lines more consistent; as we know with hiking trails, it is much preferable to keep human traffic all in one single file line rather than having folks romp around where they see fit; bolted anchors create these "hiking-trail-like" lines

- \* Keeps our wilderness areas accessible

I think establishing some amount of regulation around this may be merited. But I think an outright ban on all bolts will not ultimately help our wild places or us.

Please reconsider prohibiting all bolts in America's Wilderness areas.

Thank you for reading.

Respectfully,

Natalie Sidhom