Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 11:08:12 PM First name: Kerwin Last name: Louksua Organization: Title:

Comments: As a long time rock climber and user of the wilderness I urge you to reconsider your proposed legislation regarding climbing opportunities. For the following reasons.

1. Climbing anchors in these wilderness areas predate the wilderness act, at the time of writing they were not specifically addressed because they had so little impact, most of the time its hard to even find a bolt when your climbing on the route, its not something the general public would seen on a regular basis.

2. Quality anchors much friendlier to resource degradation then the alternative. If forced to rappel off trees, vegetation, or even large stacked piles of rocks climbers will do some but these will result in much more visually impactful anchor arrangements.

3. Proposing changes like this while there does not exist the funding to properly manage does not seem like a feasible.

4. This form of legislation turns casual users into criminals if enacted, if a climber needs to leave behind and anchor they would now be performing an illegal act and will need to make those decisions on the fly. Usually gear left behind by other users is removed by the next set of climbers and thus cleaned up organically, but this legislation does not seem to understand that nuance.

5. The historical aspect of climbing in areas such as Yosemite valley, joshua tree, etc cannot be replaced to the sport of rock climbing, removing bolts or changing routes to comply with these proposed policies would be a tragic lost of living history to the sport practiced by thousands.

6) Many formations, such as freestanding pinnacles and slot canyons are impossible to descend without leaving an anchor behind. Did these suddenly become illegal to visit?

Thank you for your time, Kerwin