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First name: FRANCIS

Last name: SANZARO

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I write as the former editor-in-chief of the biggest climbing media brands in the US, but as someone who now works for an environmental conservation organization in Colorado.

I will try to be quick:

--bolts are necessary to climb in some wilderness areas, but they can be abused

--I would say bolts are abused in 15% of cases

--a lot of bolts should be removed, the most egregious cases of them

--the egregious use of bolts will likely only affect other climbers, and not general visitors seeking a wilderness experience

--a bolt two hundred feet off the ground, out of sight, is not the same as allowing mountain bikes, for instance, into wilderness

--bolts should be regulated

--bolts should be chopped when there is availability for natural protection

--bolts up face climbs should not be allowed, but the occasional bolt on a face should be allowed

--the wild should always take priority

--often, boulderers in the backcountry, as with Emerald Lake, will have 100x times more impact than bolts on an alpine face

--reviewing every current bolt would be impossible in the short term, but possible in the long term

--do not be fooled, climbers do not always respect wilderness ethics

--clean climbing should always be the norm and best practice in wilderness

thanks

Francis Sanzaro