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Comments: Hello! Thank you for reading my comment. I'm sure you have a lot of these to sort through and I first wanted to thank you for including the public in this process. Though required, it is important and I appreciate you all for the hard task at hand.

Secondly I want to note that I recognize that the lands we now today refer to as Wilderness areas were not always this way. These lands were largely inhabited by people who had a rich culture including intensive management practices. The abduction of these lands by the federal government and implementation of drastically different management practices has changed their ecological function and structure forever. As an expert in post-fire restoration and community based land stewardship, I understand broadly how this management change impacted the heal to of our forests, though there is much for we have left to learn. And while there is not returning to pre-European contact or any other point in time, there is importance in understanding the land's past, including human contact, interaction, management and manipulation, in order to better understand how we can go forward.

In regards to climbing, this frame of context is important because it sets the stage for why there is fixed hardware on public lands to begin with - climbers climbing, many route which pre date wilderness. And I have clipped many bolts and pitons that those first ascentionists placed - many of which are of questionable quality but all of which I was grateful to get to use. These bolts or pitons were often placed ad hoc, likely because no other option existed. So it is important to note that a process that would require pre approval for bolt placement is not only cumbersome, it is unrealistic without outright banning climbing all together. A climber will do what they need to do to get up and get down. Bolts have become the least invasive, most permanent way for climbers to do that. Making this process more cumbersome won't necessarily lead to more bad bolts - it could result in more deaths and injuries or greater impacts to trees and plants, as climbers will sling trees or trample on vegetation to get up or down instead of sticking to the rock face.

I have climbed in wilderness areas across the country, including el cap, the diamond, black canyon of the gunnison, Joshua tree, linville gorge, and others. As a climber I am accustomed to fixed hardware. But what I am most disturbed by in these places are the increasing highway traffic in Yosemite, the wildfire smoke in the black, the cars all over the side of the road in Jtree, and the shortening weather window in linville. It is the factors that are beyond the silly sport of climbing that are impacting these places magnificently - climate and increased population. I would love to see the park service efforts focus on this, as opposed to trying to figure out how to do an MRA analysis and removal for a rivet hanger half way up el cap. I've spent many a nights on that wall, and everything feels wild until I hear the echos of the green dragon or see the stream of car lights at night. Those sights and sounds impact the wilderness experience far beyond the minimum impact of an old crusty piton.

In closing, I wanted to share a bit about my background to provide more context for the value of partnership and expertise within the climbing community and to say that we are here to help. I currently serve as the stewardship manager for the Access Fund. I have been performing stewardship work in climbing areas across the country for over 13 years. I have a masters degree in Geography and specialized in human-environment interactions specifically public private partnerships in post fire restoration and community based stewardship and education. I have partnered with every federal agency and worked with thousands of volunteers to maintain or construct access trails and staging areas, remove trash and graffiti, restore riparian areas and remove invasive species, and more. I have hired and trained dozens of employees and led thousands of volunteers. I also provided environmental education and LNT information to climbers and currently oversee the largest nationwide climber steward program, operating on BLM, NPS, USFS, and public and private land. As a climber, public lands advocate and environmental steward, I would love to see us collaborate more to provide direction for climbing area management that is sustainable, community based, user appropriate, and leads to greater resiliency of our nations forests, deserts, mountains, and rivers. I fundamentally believe in the power of human connection to

wilderness to foster a greater sense of stewardship and civic duty. In short - we're here to help. Use us.

Thank you and I appreciate your patience with my brevity of this comment.