Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 11:53:52 PM

First name: Alec Last name: Belman Organization:

Title:

Comments: Having been climbing throughout the US public and park lands for 34 years I have come to rely on the safety of insite anchors in the mountain environment, whether it be slings, pitons or bolts. Objects that only climbers ever encounter on their trips through these blessed places that we call wilderness. The amount of damage that is done to wilderness by climbing activity pales in comparison to other users, we travel on snow and rock which show no lasting signs of our presence. Compared to access accommodations provided to other wilderness uses (campsites, trails, sign posts) the idea that a 1/2 inch bolt which can easily be removed mars the wilderness is laughable. Consider a bridge, or a trail and the excavations they require and the time it would take the land to no longer show signs of those modifications; if wilderness were to be preserved as pristine then we would need to keep people out entirely. If you are going to let hikers in and build them trails, climbers should receive similar allowance to enjoy the vertical wilderness making those passages safe with climbing protection. No one but a climber will come across a piton or bolt in their travels through the wilderness. These lands should be shared and protected, but excluding climbers from placing anchors that are left in place is akin to letting hikers in but not allowing marked trails. Bolts and pitons are not permanent, they are placed and replaced, used and removed.