

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 12:15:43 AM

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Comments: I am writing to challenge the current bolt removal and prohibition proposal in wilderness areas and offer more sustainable alternative solutions. First, I believe the Leave No Trace Ethic is a cornerstone of sustainable climbing. In perfect conditions, this means that there is no trace of human traffic (i.e. bolts, chalk, tat, garbage) However, this ideal situation is often not always reasonable. Numerous existing and future routes require additional protection to be placed to ensure an "acceptable" risk and avoid recklessness. Restrictions to current and future permanent protection are likely to lead to routes that currently retain an "acceptable" level of risk to now contain serious injury or death sections that do little to add to the value of the route. This significantly decreases the accessibility of the route. A possible solution to this is to implement a permit system for establishing new routes in wilderness areas. A set number of new routes w/ permanent protection. being put up may encourage a more sustainable approach to bolting in wilderness areas.

In conclusion, I believe that reasonable measures should be taken to follow the "leave no trace" ethic, however, this is not always feasible as it can result in extreme levels of risk and serious consequences. Permanent protection placed in wilderness areas should be placed thoughtfully, and only when "necessary". A permit system may help ease the stress of new permanent protection being placed in wilderness areas as climbing continues to grow in popularity.