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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been sport climbing on Mount Lemmon in Tucson Arizona since 2018. I am concerned that the new possible regulations on climbing areas in NF and NP lands will prevent existing bolts in the walls from being replaced or maintained thereby creating potentially rickety and unsafe climbing areas. I have climbed in Yosemite, Pinnacles NP, Lover's Leap NF, Wild Iris NF, Teton NP and several other National Forest and National Park lands. Climbing is important to me. Preserving climbing areas and surrounding areas for future generations is equally important to me. Moreover, actively protecting and enjoying these amazing spaces is important to most of the climbing community. I am also a professional geologist, so I understand how rock mechanics work, how soft and brittle rock can be. I know and appreciate that the use of these spaces is a privilege. I have seen the effects of overuse of these areas- how devastating overuse or abuse can be. These are habitats for native species which are immediately impacted by MTBers, climbers, hikers, wilderness rescue crews, sight seers, campers etc. I disavow the climbers who bolt walls willy-nilly just to get their name on a first ascent. I disagree with the climbers that believe the NPS and Forest Lands are "theirs" to do with what they please. Most of my local climbing community agree that we need to protect these lands- with the exception of a spare few who are of the aforementioned mindset. Mount Lemmon for example has "enough juice to last a lifetime", thousands of routes, some bad, some good. All known. All climbed. We don't need more routes here. However, to stop the preservation and replacement of those existing bolts will likely end in catastrophic injuries. People are going to keep climbing, just on bolts that are compromised. I beg the Forest Service and the National Parks to please, please not hinder the replacement of these bolts. Climbing is such an experience. In my case, it saved my life. It gave a me a community and brought me closer to my estranged climber father. It granted me peace and a way to love the land and see more rocks (as a geologist I love rocks) than anything could have done. Please give us another chance to reel in our eccentric cohorts who can't hear the words 'no new bolts' or 'stop using power tools that damage everything' yet. Please let us work with you to do better in preservation. Or if we have become too insufferable as a self-identified "rebel community", please take this plea from a single climber: it would be devastating to me and mine if we lost such a valuable privilege because we couldn't trust the equipment. Thank you for your time and consideration.