

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 4:18:24 AM

First name: Katie

Last name: Hughes

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a climber and a taxpayer and I oppose this new policy regarding the restriction of bolts and anchors related to climbing in wilderness areas. Climbing is a legitimate and appropriate use of wilderness designated land. Climbers as a user group are highly motivated to protect the environment which we share. This is evident in the vast number of climbing organizations across the country that are involved in trash clean ups, graffiti clean ups, trail maintenance, and low environmental impact education.

A small number of fixed bolts and anchors are necessary to allow for safe climbing, however the overall impact of these safety features is minimal. They are only placed when absolutely necessary. Climbers are historically excellent stewards of our public lands. We understand the necessity of minimizing environmental impact while still allowing people to experience the wonder of our public lands.

I have personally had so many wonderful experiences climbing in wilderness areas. However, this will no longer be possible if this new policy is passed. I hope this proposition will be reconsidered so that people will have the opportunity to explore wilderness through the lens of climbing for generations to come.