

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 4:13:32 AM

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Comments: A blanket wilderness bolting band would make traditional climbing more unsafe. Traditional rock climbing relies on intermittent fixed anchors to make for safe descent, belaying partners, and hauling gear. The visual impact on other user groups is very minimal to the utility that this serves the climbing community. People will continue to climb as hardware becomes more antiquated. Anchors need updating every 20 years. continuing to use aging hardware WILL lead to catastrophic accidents that can easily be avoided.

I agree that wilderness spaces should be respected and maintained. They should remain wild. Intermittent anchor bolts at intervals of 100-200 feet are not changing the character of these spaces or creating undue visual impact or burden on other user groups. If maintaining the aesthetic of wilderness is the concern, legislation should specifically limit development of sport climbing crags, which rely on bolts spaced every 8-10 feet for safe protection of the climber. This climbing discipline DOES have a greater visual impact and is qualitatively different than traditional rock climbing which only intermittently relies on fixed hardware for protection, but benefits greatly from belay anchors.

Having legislation to mandate hand drilling and camouflaging bolt hangers is reasonable and I can and do abide by these practices. But blanket bans of use of bolts in wilderness spaces is short-sighted, irresponsible, likely to lead to INCREASED search and rescue efforts and emergency medical service utilization, and will massively limit development of new climbing routes. Please reconsider the impact of this legislation.

Thank you.