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Comments: To whom it may concern,

I'm extremely concerned about the proposed restrictions on bolting climbing routes and anchors in wilderness areas.

Bolts and fixed anchors are of the utmost importance to ensure the safety of climbers. Many climbing locations in wilderness and NFS land are very remote and increased safety is necessary to minimize risk to climbers and minimize the impact on emergency services like search and rescue. This is because bolts and fixed anchors make it easier to create an anchor for protecting the climbers.

In a trad route, a minimum of only two bolts is required to ensure user safety when repelling/lowering off of a route. This is a much lower impact than other more traditional permanent fixtures like trails, trail markers/signs, or buildings.

Land managers need to work with the local climbers to ensure bolts are being placed correctly for that specific route. The number of bolts required for a climbing route can vary based on multiple factors like route difficulty, rock type, clipping/securing position, and other hazards present on the route. The local climbing community is going to be most familiar with all of these factors when picking the correct location to place a bolt. It is also important to allow climbers to easily replace bolts when they are damaged and unsafe to reduce the risk of a person using them and potentially hurting themselves.

The climbing community as a whole practices leave no trace principles, minimizing their impact on the places used to go climbing and ultimately enjoy nature. Whether it's picking up trash left behind by others, or using a wag bag to pack out feces, climbers leverage all of these resources to leave the climbing areas cleaner than when we got there. There have been exceptions in the past where rouge climbers have left behind trash in wilderness areas. This is the exception to the norm, and climbers ended up being the group that rallied together to make things right and clean up the messes that were made.

I believe the proposed restrictions should be reconsidered in conjunction with the climbing community as a whole to allow all users to utilize the wilderness areas that we love and cherish, and want to protect and preserve.

Thank You,  
Ryan Hintz