

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 4:24:33 AM

First name: Kieren

Last name: Emens

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a climber, this policy will directly affect my ability to recreate and find joy at National Parks and Wilderness areas. Notably, bolts may be the only way in which I may safely descend from a route, even if I solely relied on traditional gear to safely climb. While I too want to keep our Wilderness areas well preserved, this policy does not accomplish that effectively whilst still allowing climbers to recreate appropriately. I think that given the volume of climbers that continue to use bolts to stay safe on route, this policy becomes unenforceable and only serves to eliminate much climbing traffic outdoors. I would propose that bolts should be known as legal installations for the purpose of staying safe on the wall, and not requiring a lengthy, unknown process for getting them installed. The nature of this sport often requires regular maintenance of equipment to stay safe, and setting it behind a laborious approval process will place many climbers in dangerous situations.