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Comments: trust this message finds you well and immersed in the crucial decisions that shape our nation's natural treasures. I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed policy to ban bolts in rock climbing within the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service jurisdictions. This decision is paramount in maintaining the pristine beauty and ecological balance of our cherished wilderness areas.

Here are key points supporting the ban on bolts:

Preservation of Natural Beauty:

Our national parks and forests are unique ecosystems that deserve the utmost protection. The use of bolts, while enabling climbing access, leaves a lasting impact on the rock faces and surrounding environment. By prohibiting bolts, we ensure the preservation of these landscapes for future generations.

Ecosystem Sensitivity:

Many climbing areas are home to fragile plant and animal species that are highly sensitive to human disturbances. Bolts, even with the best intentions, can inadvertently harm these ecosystems. A ban on bolts aligns with the imperative to safeguard these delicate environments.

Promotion of Traditional Climbing Ethics:

The ban on bolts encourages climbers to adopt traditional and more environmentally conscious climbing practices. This shift promotes a deeper connection with the natural features of the landscape and emphasizes skill and technique over reliance on fixed hardware.

Adaptive Climbing Practices:

Climbing without bolts encourages the use of removable protection, fostering a more adaptive and versatile approach to climbing. This not only reduces environmental impact but also encourages climbers to engage more intimately with the varied challenges presented by different terrains.

Encouraging Low-Impact Recreation:

By discouraging the use of bolts, we promote low-impact outdoor recreation, aligning with the principles of Leave No Trace. This ensures that our climbing activities have minimal long-term effects on the environment, allowing others to enjoy the same pristine landscapes in the years to come.

In conclusion, I urge you to stand firm in supporting the proposed ban on bolts in rock climbing within national parks and forests. This decision aligns with the broader goal of preserving our natural wonders, maintaining ecological balance, and fostering a sense of responsibility among outdoor enthusiasts.

Thank you for your commitment to the protection of our nation's invaluable natural resources.