



FRIENDS OF THE INYO

SINCE 1986

Caring for the Eastern Sierra

Inyo National Forest Supervisor's Office
351 Pacu Lane Suite 200
Bishop, CA 93514-3101

Dear Supervisor Tammy Randall-Parker,

FOI understands the difficulties that multi-use mandates place on agencies and political representatives. Friends of the Inyo's mission balances preservation, stewardship, and recreation to protect the Eastern Sierra's public lands.

Weighing our position on Winnedumah bolts was fast and simple. The drilling and destructive bolting presents a clear case of overzealous focus on recreation without any consideration for damaging a sacred resource.

Owens Valley tribes oppose bolt installation at one of Owens Valley's most important cultural and historic points of interest. Friends of the Inyo are in support of all indigenous people of Payahuunadü (the Owens Valley) to remove the bolts and ban future bolting on Winnedumah.

A small group of rogue climbers ignored the value of this monument to thousands of people for a novelty experience. The only climbing website featuring the route (Summit Post) holds 3 "climbers log" entries from 2011 to 2015. This illustrates how little interest the bolted Winnedumah route generates in the climbing community. Some fear the long approach, and others respect for their native neighbors leads them to myriad other bolted climbs in our valley.



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This mural greets all travelers entering the Owens Valley from Los Angeles. The painting features Winnedumah next to Mount Whitney. Source: Google Streetview

Please stand with the Native community, Friends of the Inyo, and conscientious climbers to make this mural a celebration of our valley's love for every aspect of our public lands.

Sincerely

Michael Cleaver

Michael Cleaver
Operations Director