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Comments: I am a climber and a canyoneer who has grown up around nature my whole life. I instruct on friction and alpine climbing and I work part time as an AMGA single pitch rock guide.

As a climber, numerous multi pitch routes would become unsafe to complete without bolts. While trad climbing doesn't always require bolts, bolts create a safe belay station and also create safe rappel stations out of rock fall. On alpine routes, I have definitely used trees, boulders, and rock cairns for anchors and rappels, but even when climbers are careful, using trees as anchors damages the tree over time and cairn anchors can sometimes lead to rockfall.

While trad climbing will still be possible without bolts, trad gear is expensive and is arguable much more difficult (and less safe) than sport climbing. Sport climbing is often how people build confidence outdoors before progressing to trad and for people with certain disabilities it is the main way they are able to climb outdoors.

For canyoning, I mostly prefer participating in aquatic canyoning, which is when a team of people descend a wet canyon that involves waterfalls and streams. It is not easy to descend a canyon using natural anchors alone. Rock cairns can be used for certain dry canyons, but in a wet environment there is too much slippage for rock cairns to be reliable. Large rocks and trees can get swept away seasonally so boulders are also not reliable. Bolted anchors used for handlines are useful for moving across difficult or unsafe terrain to get to a safe rappel spot.

I lost a friend this last year because she was in a canyon at a rappel without a possible handline setup. She fell in a no fall zone and there was no nearby feature where an anchor could be setup to rescue her and she drowned.

In both canyoning and climbing scenarios, removing bolts isn't going to prevent people from attempting the sport, however it is going to prevent people from staying safe and will probably lead to more accidents.

Removing bolting is going to make it harder for people to experience the wilderness and hurt communities whose economy depends on climbers.

The Forest Service proposal would be bad for the outdoor community, so please do not ban bolting in Wilderness.

Instead consider the proposed Protect Wilderness Climbing Act, which should address concerns around sustainability while still allowing some regulation.