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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a canyoneer, climber, and father of a young boy who I am introducing to the wilderness and to the sports that I love. It is important to me that we protect our lands and maintain access to them for a variety of uses that also respect and preserve the environment.

Responsibly placed anchors make safe access to special places possible. Many people lack the time or access to training to travel through technical terrain independently. A guided canyoning experience not only allows people to experience special places they wouldn't otherwise have access to, but it builds confidence, encourages teamwork, and promotes a sense of play, all of which are critical for adult mental health. As guides/educators, when we take untrained individuals into a canyon, well-placed fixed anchors are what allow us to provide a transformative experience in nature for our participants, while effectively managing the objective risks of the environment. (For guides/educators: Insert trip advisor comments)

It's no secret that our public lands are underfunded. Most Forest Service Districts and National Parks lack the staffing needed to respond to basic permit requests, much less conduct a NEPA process. Requiring an MRA for any bolts in wilderness, including existing bolts, is irresponsible without identifying a dedicated fund to provide the resources for this. This unfunded mandate will surely lead to bolting permit moratoriums, an absurd outcome that wholly fails to meet the stated purposes of the Wilderness Act.

In aquatic canyons, teams must prioritize managing the risks of water hazards. This means that anchor managers must be stationed at the edge of a drop so that they can communicate with the rappeller to ensure the rope is set with precision, and so that they can help facilitate any problem-solving. Additionally, anchors must be placed so that the fall line avoids any major aquatic hazards. These safety objectives should be considered the minimum safety requirements for the public to experience aquatic canyons in wilderness and non-wilderness alike.