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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a person that has climbed for over two decades, all over the world, and very heavily in the U.S. I grew up in Michigan but my very first climbing trip was to Joshua Tree National Park while in college. Removing fixed hardware there would have not made the trip possible for me to begin with and would have put me on a very different life path. Now that I'm in my 40s, I climb less than I once did, but enjoy our Forest Service and public lands more than ever. My wife and two children and I go on camping trips almost exclusively for our vacations. We've been to over 200 National Park Service sites and countless forest service destinations. We climb at some of them, like Rocky Mtn, Yosemite, and Joshua Tree. I would be devastated to learn that my children wouldn't have the opportunity to have the same types of adventures I did because of removing existing hardware. I can totally get behind preserving the resource and managing it appropriately but I feel like this extreme stance does neither effectively. I would ask that you work with nonprofit groups, such as the Access Fund, to strike a better balance than can accommodate protecting what we have and still allowing people to enjoy that resource through recreation. Because even if you say people can still climb, what's going to happen when a storm rolls in and people need to evacuate? Are they going to put their lives at risk because being afraid of leaving gear from a fine or not having the right equipment to bail when an existing anchor that previously had been there would have allowed them a safe retreat? Thank you for your consideration,

Jason Haas