Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/4/2024 2:39:06 PM

First name: Zane

Last name: Meyer-Thornton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Rock climbings impact on my life can not be overstated. It has made me realize the strength within my body and mind, helped me find a community, and explore my ancestral lands in the SE United States. Based on your willingness to protect wilderness areas, it seems you all have a passion for the outdoors yourself, which I greatly appreciate, but think there are some adjustments that can be made to satisfy everyone. The number one example of this is for fixed anchors and bolts. These pieces of hardware enable us to access cliffs that would otherwise be far too dangerous to climb with traditional protection. This gear allows us to explore the wilderness, push ourselves physically and mentally while also keeping ourselves and others safe. In many instances these fixtures are installed and tended to by caring stewards, who do everything they can to make sure routes are both safe to climb while not impeding on the natural beauty of the cliff. I fear that without these essential pieces of equipment we will see a lot more injuries and accidents involving climbers, and the legacy of climbing in the America's will be a pale comparison to what it was and could be. Thank you again for the care you show to the world around us, and I hope you can rethink these small details so thousands of others can continue to do the same.