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Comments: Hello all,

Being able to safely enjoy climbing in US forests has gotten me out into the wilderness in a way no other activity can. Without the ability to climb on bolts that I know are safe, I never would have developed the love I have for the outdoors. Climbing bolts have single-handedly converted me into an adamant supporter of our access to, and preservation of, US forests.

Please please please do not enact a bolting ban. Such a ban will likely stop thousands like me from ever developing a love for, an appreciation of, and, most importantly, a drive to protect our forests.

I have never once heard of actual citizens, hikers, or otherwise, ever complaining of bolts, which are virtually invisible to anyone not looking for them. Hikers often look with awe and are inspired themselves by climbers heading up cliffs.

Banning bolts, as well as removing them, will have dire safety consequences as well. Many old bolts are dangerous and need replacing. Many rappels are extremely dangerous without fixed anchors. To add to all this, people are going to be funneled towards the only bolts that exist, causing them to wear even faster, and the approaches to those climbs to erode and become hard to manage. Allowing for new routes is the best of all worlds since it spreads the load across all forest land, instead of concentrating it to a few pitiful spots that will get worse and worse with time.

Please don't take away over half a century of legacy. Please don't take away the chance for others to explore where no one has gone before. Please don't take away one of the most pivotal ways of making people ardent supporters of our forests. Please let us use these forests as the temples they are, with equal access for all.