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Comments: I have a couple of comments regarding the possible closure of forest lands and park lands to climbing that is safe. What I mean is that it is proposed that no bolts, gear, rope or any sort of safety gear ever be left on forest or park lands. This is akin to telling hikers they may not carry water or wear appropriate hiking shoes if they hike on park lands, despite the fact that that is what makes their hike safe. I understand that the thinking is that they do not leave anything behind so it leaves the land unblemished. However, climbing and hiking are different sports that entail different gear to make them safe. While it would be ideal to never leave gear behind on climbs, which is virtually what one does when climbing "traditionally" (i.e. placing gear in cracks that is then removed), it is usually necessary to have bolts at the top of climbs in order to rappel off. Although sometimes you can walk off of climbs, there are times when that would be dangerous or impossible, especially if the weather turned adverse. When you hike you carry backup gear in case of bad weather such as rain gear, extra water, extra food and hopefully an Inreach. The most necessary safety gear for climbers is the bolts that are at the tops of climbs or sometimes unfortunately in the middle of climbs in the case of dangerous moves or as a result of needing to bail FAST because of either weather coming, injury, rescuing somebody off of a climb who has been injured, etc. Ask anybody who has had to rescue somebody off of a climb. Those bolts are the difference between getting the climber down or leaving a body behind. I've been in that situation and we were able to rescue two climbers before the night set in and they would have died of hypothermia before their injuries killed them. While you contemplate outlawing bolting on park land, please keep safety uppermost in your mind. You allow biking, camping, riding horses, fishing, hunting swimming and snowshoeing. In none of those sports do you outlaw (in order of activities) helmets, bear spray, once again helmets (and don't get me started on the permanent damage to the land by horses tearing up the ground and the feces they leave behind) or other safety items needed for the other sports. The land belongs to us all, to be enjoyed by all. Please don't limit the enjoyment to only those who wish to keep their feet on the ground. There is glory to be found higher up, where the view is spectacular and the freedom to defy gravity is enjoyed by the select and crazy few. Thank you for reading this.

Susan Wolfe