

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/7/2024 4:36:01 AM

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Title:

Comments: As a canyoneer and adventurer for over 20 years in the state of Utah I support the CAC comments to the NFS. I support the continuation of the policy set forth over 50 years ago that under the Wilderness Act of 1964 to include bolts and webbing, common anchor material used by climbers long before passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964. While climbing (and canyoneering) is understood to be compatible with Wilderness and that these anchors are not distracting in any way from the non-canyoneers. I believe as accommodations have been made for special needs and the handicapped to allow them to enjoy our National Parks and National Forest Lands. we deserve the same respect and access for the sport of canyoneering. Being able to access these canyons is vital for my outdoor experience with the goal of safety, conservation and education to those new to the sport and the next generation. I am now passing my skills and passion for the canyons onto my grandchildren and teaching them the importance of working with landowners and NFS so everyone can use and enjoy our public lands. I live in Moab, Utah where I can be in a canyon 20 minutes from my home. My favorite summer canyon is Pleiades Canyon with its Class C waterfalls. Bolting is essential for our safety to descend this canyon. The only persons who see these anchors are fellow canyoneers and climbers. Canyoneering in a highly used area I see the importance of fixed bolts for the safety of users and preservation of the landscape as vital.

I have come upon several groups in canyons where the bolts have been cut, unknowingly by them, and they are not equipped and don't have the skills to descend without the bolts. Luckily, I always carry alternative methods and was able to assist them out of the canyon. Otherwise, this would have been a SAR rescue and a waste of resources. In the case of Pleiades Canyon there is no alternatives to the bolts. It is just not possible or safe to use alternative methods. Well placed bolts are much less damaging to a canyon than inappropriate anchors that damage rock and kill trees. Please do not change the bolting and webbing policies.