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Comments: Fixed anchors are 100% required for the sport of canyoneering, there is no way around it.

To say otherwise shows a staggering level of ignorance about the sport.

Anti-bolt policy? For climbing routes in high traffic areas like the main canyon of Zion, I could see the case for it. For canyons... it's a much harder sell given that there is /nobody/ out in the canyons to see them; and by nobody I mean normie tourists.

But I do understand the anti-bolt angle on canyons, especially in Zion/Southern Utah where there are so many natural anchors (trees, etc) to sling webbing around. I'm not on board with the anti-bolt argument in Zion/Southern Utah, but I do understand where they are coming from.

It has been enacted in places like Death Valley, and while that will slow visitation from some less experienced groups, it doesn't kill the sport in that locale; just levels it up.

What I /don't/ understand is the anti-ANY-fixed anchor argument.

No webbing? Not even black? To what end is this nonsense.

When I'm out with my crew we tend to cut colorful webbing and replace it with black; not just because it is easier to gauge when the sun has worn it, but also because it is an eyesore.

"Get good at ghosting" is also an annoying argument, especially in Zion/Southern Utah.

What makes natural anchors in Zion/Southern Utah an option is also what limits a lot of ghosting in Zion/Southern Utah; trees are good for fiddlesticking, but all the shrubs that grow where trees are will stick/hangup ropes and either wildly slow or halt a descent all together. Sometimes the best option is to forego ghosting and go with the tried-and-true webbing anchor with a quicklink; retrieving rope from this standard anchor type drastically cuts down on it getting stuck in a bush/tree.

Death valley doesn't have any biologics to speak of that will stick ropes, so the above point is moot there.

All ghosting techniques are /marginal/ techniques. They are the furthest thing from 'bomber'. They can and do fail.

If you get rid of fixed anchors, you are going to drive canyoneering novices into the realm of ghosting techniques well before they are able, ready, or competent. It takes a canyoneer many descents that they /lead/ the group for them to develop those techniques.

Advancing their timeline on when to get into ghosting due to a "no fixed anchor" policy will show a marked uptick in canyon related injuries and deaths, as well as SAR calls for the likes of them sticking too many of their ropes and not having enough to finish the route.

The SAR teams in Southern Utah have enough on their plate.

Finally, and God forbid, this mucks up the canyon access enough that the Park/FS has to throw its hands up and

implement blanket closures... all that will do is rocket canyon-poaching into the stratosphere; and any control the land managers had goes out the window.

I don't know what armchair bureaucrat who proposed this, but they clearly have no idea what they are talking about, and are simply trying to justify their existence by trying to 'fix' a system that isn't broken.