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First name: Willaim

Last name: Webb

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Jan 8, 2024

Dear US forest service (National Park Service),

My name is Will Webb, I am 17 years old and climbing is something I am very passionate about. I am sending this email to talk about my concerns with the new policies you are developing regarding fixed anchors in America's wilderness lands. As a young climber I am very worried that this sport I have recently fallen in love with, is coming to an end. Climbing for me is more than just an activity. When I am climbing I feel completely at peace. It is a way for me to connect with nature and myself. There is no better feeling for me than when I am up on the wall. It is something that I am confident in and find true happiness doing. My friends and I go up Little Cottonwood almost every weekend to climb, and I can always say with confidence, it is the highlight of my week. Because I am fairly new to climbing, removing fixed anchors is something that is very frightening. Climbing with fixed anchors, also known as sport climbing is what my friends and I do, removing these anchors would make it impossible to climb safely. These anchors ensure our safety as we are ascending up the wall and as we are repelling down. Without them, I would not feel safe to climb and would have to devastatingly say goodbye to the thing I love so much. I would also like to point out that climbing is an amazing way for people to get out and enjoy the outdoors, which is what we all want in the first place correct? With today's day and age, I feel that it is extremely unnecessary to eliminate something that is a reasonable way to enjoy nature and a good outlet for so many people. When making your final decision, please consider all the amazing people and communities that have been formed by climbing in which you will be drastically affecting. Thank you for your time and for considering my words,

Sincerely,

Will Webb