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Comments: I'm writing to day to express the importance of climbing bolts through federal land. With the changes proposed in the upcoming changes, it's clear that this was written from a place of concern for poorly maintained routes. I understand why these changes are being considered, but I can see that by imposing these changes an even greater risk and tax on resources will be required. Permanent anchors on sport climbs are essential for safety and crucial for developing climbers.

Much like hiking trails often use bridges to protect riverbanks and hikers, climbing bolts are even more influential in safety and preservation. Every climber needs to have a base knowledge for climbing established by permanent anchors before they can move to placed anchors. By limiting bolted climbs, we will see a strong increase in new climbers accidents that may have been prevented with permanent anchoring. For example, if I wanted to climb in Zion NP, and the bolts were removed, then I would need to train with Trad gear and experience sandstone climbing for the first time on a trip. This would increase a risk factor, as it's not something I'm familiar with. The same would be the case for MANY climbers throughout the US.

The use of permanent anchors is also very important to travel with minimal gear to enjoy the wilderness. This means that climbers from one region can enjoy the beauty and nature, instead of limiting climbing experiences to primarily locals. This also circumvents the financial requirements that impact our citizens that are in most need of financially viable activities. It's very important that activities are not guarded by financial barriers, and that we consider who is excluded from enjoying nature.

Climbing is built on the principal of gradual development of skills and strength. This change will allow existing climbs to be put at risk, and interrupt the natural progression of skill development from neighboring communities. Some may say that "losing a few climbs will not cause an impact on the community." But even some of the routes that will be put in question were some of the first climbs I completed. This is a legacy of climbing that is being placed at risk. These are the environments that allow access to the outdoors for all, and they are extremely important in the development of the climbing community.

I believe that the ruling should be amended to protect permanent anchors on existing routes. That new bolts should be monitored, and that replacement of worn or damaged anchors is permitted.