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Comments: Dear NPS management,

My writing about the fixed anchors matter represents only my own opinions, but as you surely are experiencing from reading the feedback from the larger climbing community, it resonates in essence with the core response you're getting from everyone involved with recreational or professional climbing in the US.

Bottom line: don't do it, it's a bad idea to prohibit the installation or replacement of fixed anchors.

Why? They serve us greatly in staying alive and severely reduces the risk of serious injury when actively climbing a route in any form of style. There are climbing routes that don't necessary requires fixed anchors or hardware, and those don't have them. But the bolts, pitons, and slings left in place on routes are there for a reason, they keep the people performing the climbing from dying or getting seriously injured. We need them to do what we do.

So, to the argument for removing anchors and prohibiting new installations: it ruins the wilderness experience for everyone else. Well, how many hikers or runners, or backpackers or other people recreating or traveling through the American wilderness have really had their experience ruined by a couple of bolts high up on a cliff? We're not leaving trash or building monuments at the side of trails. Said fixed anchors would ultimately be located off the ground, usually at least 100+ ft off the "ground", meaning terrain that non climbers can access. Are these bolt and piton protestors walking around the backcountry scanning the terrain with binoculars and metal detectors? I don't think so. Bolts and pitons are hard to find. Often, even on a frequently climbed route, you really have to look around in the rock to identify the fixed hardware, it's definitely not all that obvious. So, the people who are finding the fixed hardware so very repulsive, must either be climbing themselves to find said fixed hardware (which they aren't, as they wouldn't be complaining then) or they're using some technological equipment to find the hardware across the cliffs of America in order to find said hardware to subsequently condemn it and get irritated about its existence. I find the latter scenario very unlikely also. So, how then, are the advocates of bolt removal getting their hunger for their cause? It seems as if it only happens on a hypothetical, theoretical level. They never encounter bolts or tat or pitons. But solely knowing it's out there makes their hair turn grey, they're so hosiery about small pieces of steel attached to large mountain faces and ridges, that they must declare war on the entire outdoors climbing community. It's too bad for them that they've got nothing better to do with their spare time, maybe they should try climbing and find some more fulfillment in their lives:)

A cliff like El Capitan in Yosemite surely is covered in a lot of little hardware. Pitons, bolts, copperheads and every kind of fixed gear exists up there. But are all the bystanders down in El Cap meadow focusing their binoculars on the fixed metal up there, to agonize about its existence? No, those bystanders, your regular Yosemite tourist who paid the fees you charge them to enter the park, come there to bask in awe of this magnificent rock formation, the people who are in the process of scaling it, and maybe even to get to talk to a climber and taste a snippet of climbing culture. They don't come home thinking "that big cliff was really awful in how it was littered with all those metal things". They don't.

Finally, don't kill climbing in the US. It's a very specific sport with a very specific cultural heritage, part of the American heritage and culture. The actual rangers who work for your organization as specific "climbing rangers" know about this. You have them in Yosemite, Mt Rainer, and Denali NPS for example. I know that some rangers in WA for example actually went out on their own accord to chop bolts, to make some Mountain more "pure". Some Madman in Joshua Tree national park has taken upon himself to run around chopping bolts all they long. Also a climber, however not a ranger. So there are loonies even within the climbing scene. But 99% of us want to keep hardware in the routes that have it, and replace it when it gets old. So, I as thousands of other active

practitioners of this sport am urging you: don't kill climbing, don't kill this very unique sport and culture. You're not gonna ban ski resorts because they're manipulating and cutting up otherwise untouched beautiful and pure mountain terrain right. You're not gonna tell all the resort skiers to go ski mountaineering instead right? People want ski resort to ski "safely" in. That's fine, they should have it. There are many other "permanent installments" in the American wilderness that could act as similar examples. If you forbid hardware in cliffs, you gotta be prepared to walk the entire line, which could ultimately result in a huge decline in outdoors recreation. Do you want that for the American people? Do you want that for the world? Climbers, true climbers, are real nature and wilderness lovers. We're not heading out there to mess things up, we're real advocates for an immediate solution to the climate crisis. Maybe you should allocate those taxpayer dollars that you're considering spending on bolt chopping to instead reversing the climate crisis instead? That's the real threat to our wilderness. Common, you know this, it's common sense right?

Thanks for considering yet another rant!

Emanuel