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Title:

Comments: Fixed anchors and bolting are a huge advantage to the safety of the climbing community. Not only do they protect the legacy of some of America's greatest rock climbs, they protect the climbers on them. Rock climber's greatest interest is protecting and exploring America's wilderness areas. Creation and maintenance of fixed anchors and bolts is a job undertaken by the climbing community in order to keep its members safe. I have encountered many routes where the bolts had been previously replaced by friends and I was able to have a safe climbing experience. Fixed anchors also prevent further damage to climbing areas because they allow for an established, safe way off of a climb. Without fixed anchors, climbers would be forced to figure out other ways off a climb which could cause damage to delicate soil ecosystems, rock features and potentially contribute to serious injuries and or death if the climbers are unsure of what to do in the situation. In addition, this policy will be very difficult to enforce. Making bolting and fixed anchors illegal would remove the process from its current normal regulations. It would create a rift between the land management and forestry service community and the climbing community; and history has shown us that both natural areas and climbers are safer when those groups work together.