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Title:

Comments: Rock climbing has simply changed my life. Climbing outdoors is so much more than a sport or hobby, it is an irreplaceable form of exploring nature and our country's parks and wilderness areas. Like many, I enjoy time outside for the escape from daily city and work life, but also for the beauty that awaits me in our parks and wilderness areas and the incredible way of moving on the rock that is unlike hiking or simple scenic drive through. Climbing has also been a huge part of my family and an activity I do with my young girls who have been able to share the similar joys and experience our national parks in a unique, safe way, through learned skills and passion for the sport outdoors. Removing or prohibiting the safe use of fixed equipment on climbs, certainly anchors, not only makes rock climbing extremely more dangerous but would prevent current and future generations from experiencing the same joys in these outdoor spaces, based on little or no benefit to others sharing the same space. The same is true for this proposal that would limit fixing, updating, or safely expanding climbing routes in certain areas. Unless impact studies show otherwise for specific areas, wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors, otherwise this seems like an uninformed and short sighted attempt to stop an entire outdoor community from exploring wilderness areas. Further, it seems that restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands would be unenforceable and create a lot of confusion amongst the land managers and climbers.

This is not an invasive activity that is particularly loud or environmentally unsound such as ATVs or other motor equipment in these spaces. Nor does saftely placed anchors cause such a detrimental change to the beauty or integrity to the rock, in fact it is often unnoticed or looked upon with curiosity for this incredible activity. The climbing community often involves and tries to teach and practice a clean up your space, make it better after ethos. It's a community that camps and backpacks in. A community that enjoys the outdoors at its purist by using your body to move up a wall. The limited amount of bolting involved by those educated and trained results in a wonderful outdoor activity that can be quite safe. However, the limitations by such a proposal changes access to climbing and its safety which would be such a disappointment for this agency to be considering when this community loves nothing but to explore these spaces and its beauty too.

Please stop this bolting prohibition so this sport may continue to allow future generations to enjoy the outdoors safely.