

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/17/2024 6:43:22 PM

First name: Matthew

Last name: Weir

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Rock climbing is a thrilling and challenging outdoor activity that relies on a variety of techniques and equipment to ensure safety. Bolting, the practice of installing anchors or bolts into the rock face, plays a crucial role in providing secure points for climbers to attach their gear, such as carabiners and quickdraws. It is essential to recognize the importance of bolting in the context of rock climbing and understand why advocating for its ban may not be a prudent approach.

1. **Safety:** Bolting contributes significantly to the safety of climbers. Well-placed bolts help create routes that are secure and reduce the risk of falls. Climbers can confidently navigate the rock face, knowing that reliable anchors are in place, enhancing overall safety during the ascent and descent.
2. **Accessibility:** Bolting allows for the creation of climbing routes in areas that might otherwise be inaccessible or too dangerous without proper protection. This opens up opportunities for climbers to explore a wider range of terrains, promoting inclusivity and diversity within the climbing community.
3. **Preservation of Natural Features:** Bolting, when done responsibly, can help preserve the natural features of rock formations. By establishing designated routes and avoiding unnecessary damage to the rock, climbers can enjoy the activity without causing undue harm to the environment.
4. **Community Engagement:** Rock climbing is a community-driven sport, and bolting fosters a sense of collaboration among climbers. Local climbing communities often work together to establish and maintain climbing routes, leading to a shared sense of responsibility for the climbing environment.
5. **Economic Impact:** Rock climbing can have positive economic effects on local communities, attracting outdoor enthusiasts and promoting tourism. Bolting allows for the development of climbing destinations, contributing to the economic well-being of these areas.

While responsible bolting is crucial for the sustainability of rock climbing, it's essential to recognize and address concerns related to overdevelopment, environmental impact, and ethical considerations. Instead of advocating for a ban on bolting, the focus should be on promoting responsible bolting practices, education, and collaboration within the climbing community to ensure the longevity and sustainability of the sport.