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Comments: Hello!

Hello!

I would like to make the comment that prohibiting bolts outright is a blunt decision to a problem that I do understand; it is the goal of this department to preserve and maintain. Climbing does in fact impact the environment as does other sports in nature such as hiking. Climbing also brings traffic, which as said, impacts the environment BUT it also gives opportunity for people to have an experience with the outdoors. There are many climbers who have gotten into the sport through a local gym in their city, and then have an experience outdoors later. It is my opinion that that experience is going to be the most influential and impactful moment that'll help us Americans protect our natural environment. That experience is the fundamental experience of getting a connection! A connection that creates EMPATHY AND EXPERIENCE! I truly believe that people will support something that they feel empathetically connected to and are attached to because of a meaningful experience that they've had with it. I feel the same with climbing.

It should also be argued that restricting the establishment of new routes on non wilderness land is practically unenforceable and is going to create confusion, I propose that you instead give guidelines and continue education on the impacts but do not enforce unless it is to protect natural and cultural resources.

Please please consider how important it is for people to create a connection with the environment; it will absolutely impact how they vote, how they support candidates, and how are environment will look in the future.