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First name: Kevin Last name: Armstrong

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Rock climbing is my outlet; It's my favorite way to connect with myself and with nature. In many places around the country, fixed anchors are essential to the climbing experience. While fixed anchors are not always essential, they significantly reduce the risk of climbing (especially rappeling), and therefore, the risk of having to perform a rescue. Climbing anchors have never before been prohibited via legislation. Within the climbing community, the use of fixed anchors is heavily scrutinized to ensure that the impact climbers leave on the landscape is minimal. The community understands the necessity of them in many places, while opting for alternatives in others, to preserve the climbing adventure/self-sufficiency experience, but also to preserve the landscape. Fixed anchors have a negligible impact on the landscape. Often, the anchors are comprised of a few bolts, less than half a pound of metal that would fit into a dinner plate. America has a rich climbing legacy, one that is revered around the world, and fixed anchors have played a huge role in that legacy. Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of pre-existing fixed anchors.