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Comments: The proposed climbing bolt prohibition is not only misguided, but dangerously short-sighted and quixotic. It reeks of a disconnect between public land administrators and the very citizens they are supposed to serve, those who yearn to connect with nature in a deeply personal and low-impact way. America boasts vast swathes of public land, yet much of it remains inaccessible to people of all abilities due to a lack of infrastructure or facilities. Instead of erecting new barriers, shouldn't we be seeking ways to expand access and foster responsible stewardship?

This land obsession, where human presence is demonized as the ultimate desecration, is misguided. Fetishizing the untouched wilderness ignores the reality that humans have always been part of the natural world. Our activities, when practiced responsibly, can complement and even enhance the landscape. Consider the legacy of John Muir, the father of our national parks. A passionate hiker and adventurer himself, his transformative experiences in the wilderness were instrumental in his fight for conservation. Climbing, just like skiing, hiking, or stargazing, can be a profound and transformative experience, nurturing a deep respect for nature's power and fragility. Why deny future generations the chance to forge their own spiritual connection with our wild spaces?

By outlawing climbing bolts, these national bureaucrats are inadvertently engineering a future where Americans' connection to the land weakens with each passing generation. Instead of fostering responsible access and stewardship, they're erecting another fence between people and the wilderness they yearn to explore. Imagine Yosemite without Half Dome's iconic route, El Capitan shorn of its climbing challenges, or Devils Tower standing sentinel untouched by human climbers. Can we truly claim to be preserving these incredible landscapes if we deny people the very experiences that can inspire them to become their most ardent protectors?

Let's find a way forward that acknowledges both the need for responsible outdoor recreation and the importance of protecting our natural heritage. Instead of erecting new barriers, let's work together to find solutions that allow future generations to experience the transformative power of the wilderness, with climbing bolts serving as tools for safe exploration, not symbols of environmental degradation.