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Organization:

Title:

Comments: There are many many climbers in my community in Utah including my across the street neighbor and her entire "group" who travel together for the sole purpose of 'climbing'. Their book shelves are littered with books on the subject. It is a kin to a religion... But, make no mistake, this is a VERY SELF-CENTERED endeavor.

What I have witnessed over several years in close proximity to the climbing community is an absolute commitment to pursue climbing over any other activity; work, school, care of property etc... Many if not all have vehicles that they can live in and do for the purpose of extended and frequent trips to the latest 'hot spot' (according to their network) for the newest and most difficult climbs to accumulate a resume of accomplishments to boast about. They live and breath CLIMBING and refer to themselves as "DIRT BAG CLIMBERS", because personal hygiene is also not important , only climbing.

There are several, (many) of this community that have impressive degrees and promising careers that they have abandoned so their lives can better accommodate the "life of a climber", this includes an inability to commit to relationships unless they are both climbers. They spend their money on 'gear' and vehicles to live in while camping-to-climb.

Make no mistake, they are not contributing to the trillion dollar recreational economy. To the contrary, they claim the Wilderness as theirs and devour all that it provides only to leave it compromised by trash and feces. As a group, they are entitled...

With only 3% of Wilderness remaining, attracting more climbers to degrade any location with permanent "routes", only destroys what is still remaining. This is not a recreation we need to further encourage!