Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/25/2024 12:27:52 AM

First name: Patrick Last name: Quinn Organization:

Title:

Comments: Outdoor sport climbing has become a central part of my connection with nature and the great outdoors. While I've always enjoyed hiking, discovering sport climbing was a game-changer for me. It has not only significantly increased the time I spend immersed in the natural world but has also influenced my choice of vacation destinations, making climbing the focal point of many of my trips. Moreover, it has heightened my commitment to the preservation of natural areas.

One of the remarkable aspects of sport climbing is its safety compared to traditional climbing methods. It enhances both the safety and the challenge of routes in the area. This elevation in safety standards not only benefits climbers like myself but also sets a higher bar for athletes aspiring to push their limits and represent the United States on global platforms such as the Olympics and international climbing competitions.

A crucial element of sport climbing is the use of bolts to secure routes. These bolts are strategically placed in locations that are typically only accessed by climbers or rappellers. Thanks to modern technology, these bolts have a long lifespan and do not require frequent replacement. Removing them would not only mar the landscape with unsightly holes but also deprive many of us from experiencing the breathtaking views from the middle of climbs. Moreover, it would hinder the formation of a profound connection between individuals and the natural rock formations that define these stunning natural areas.

In conclusion, outdoor sport climbing has not only enriched my outdoor experiences but has also contributed to the promotion and conservation of our natural treasures. The use of bolts in climbing is essential for safety and accessibility, and their removal would have detrimental effects on both the landscape and the profound connection that climbers form with these remarkable geological formations.