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Title:

Comments: This comment is in regards to the proposed change of bolting rules in National Parks. I agree that the parks are a vital part of our existence as humans and the protection of our environment is of the utmost importance. That being said, most climbers are the most environmentally conscious people. We have strict rules within our community to make sure that people are practicing habits that minimize our impact in nature. We absolutely preach pack in, pack out, our gyms regularly host completely volunteer crag cleanups where we all get together at popular climbing locations to pick up trash in the entire surrounding area, people check each other to make sure others aren't climbing on sandstone after rain, or climbing when there are shutdowns for breeding. If anything, climbers are some of the most environmentally conscious park patrons you have. While hikers and campers impact the ground, we go vertical. How can you say that our impact is greater than that of campers? We don't leave food because we aren't climbing on the walls into the night (mostly) and we barely have interactions with the local animals. The serious climbing community is very aware of closures and it is even blasted on our climbing apps when it is closure season. If your concern is safety, I know so many climbers and route setters that would jump at the chance to work with the NPS & USFS to ensure regular maintenance of bolts. There are definitely old bolts that are no longer in use that could be removed. Perhaps we could hire these route setters! We love love love our parks so much. Not just for the climbing but for everything it stands for. Please let us climb the pretty rocks :(