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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have enjoyed rock climbing as a sport, a passion, and an community outreach opportunity for almost 20yrs. A great deal of my climbing has been on well established routes in Utah and mainly in the protected areas where the proposed legislation could all but end, if not significantly halt or alter climbing. I fully understand and respect the need for safe climbing, and I have personally spend countless hours volunteering (with the ASCA, AAC, and local clubs) to retrofit existing climbs with new and safe hardware. And I understand there is a TON (literally many tons) of work to be done on a continual basis to ensure current and future safety for climbing routes across the planet.

It is a very time consuming and expensive endeavour to inspect and improve the climbing bolts, anchors and other aspects of a climb to ensure it is safe now and in the future. Putting a (even possible) dead-stop on climbing until such actions can be taken to ensure they are safe is not a suitable course of action. The VAST majority of climbing is VERY safe, and while many routes can/should/will be improved with replacement hardware to ensure they are safe for the next generation, they should not be banned from current climbing. The climbing community already has (and is further expanding/enhancing) methods to ensure climbing is done in a safe manor and suspect or 'bad' hardware is flagged and replaced. While accidents do occur, these are indeed few and far between and the current organizations are making great strides to improve things.

I would like to emphasis my belief that this work should be spearheaded by the climbing community, which has extensive resources and knowledge base to do this in the most effective manner. While it is wonderful that the federal government is beginning to recognize rock climbing as a popular outdoor and wilderness activity very valuable resource for the recreators on the government lands, it is important to work WITH the climbing community and the established organizations (AAC, Access Fund, ASCA) to act in the best interest of the community. I do not believe the proposed legislation is in the best interest of the practitioners of the sport and I ask it be revised in accordance with the direction of those organizations.