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Title:

Comments: Hello, this comment is regarding the proposed "Bolt Prohibition" - specifically targeting rock-climbing areas on Tucson's Mt. Lemmon. I would first like to share my positive experiences while climbing on Mt. Lemmon. I am 19 years old, and have been climbing since I was 3 years old, I am a third generation climber - so this issue is very important to me. I grew up on Mt. Lemmon crags, going there on weekends with my Dad. Exploring the mountain nurtured my creativity, boosted my confidence, and helped me gain a deep love, adoration, and appreciation for the natural world. Which is exactly why I support many conservation causes. However, this bolt prohibition is blatantly misguided. Actions should be taken to protect our crags, not take them away. It is a core belief of mine that everyone deserves access to nature and what it has to offer. Is it a privilege that comes along with being respectful? Yes! That being said, climbers tend to be some of the best stewards of the natural world. Ensuring that our Earth can be enjoyed for generations to come. At the end of the day, if you want more people to be passionate nature conservationists, you have to give them access TO that nature, so that they can build a relationship with it. Also, let it be known that I am not arguing that nature is simply here for "human enjoyment," I do believe plants and animals should be protected, because our well-being goes hand and hand with theirs. Is a built trail destruction of the natural environment? Yes. Will it prevent people from not damaging areas off the path and limits overall destruction? Also, Yes! It is all about balance, we must critically think about these issues! Two things can be true at once. And bolts are a small price to pay for so much enjoyment and connection.

Taking away these Lemmon crags would be a terrible mistake and disservice to our community. Tucson climbers deserve to have those crags not only be available but SAFE, through frequent replacements of gear. I strongly urge you to reconsider the bolt prohibition here, and consider what is really important, and reasonable. I am saddened that I am even having to write this... and that this huge loss is even a possibility. Please protect our crags. Please keep our climbers safe. Your organization should be working WITH climbers, NOT against them.