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First name: Adal

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I LOVE our nation's forests. Rock climbing, specifically, has brought me to explore the forests far more than I ever did before. Climbing in places like Bishop and Whitney Portal has literally changed my life. Without it, I would have never been able to move on to a more mature phase where I find myself today, settle in San Diego, with a lovely fiancé, employing people and working hard. You see, climbing scratched a spiritual itch, a need for adventure that was tugging at my soul.

Many people will climb no matter what, they are drawn to it like moths to the light. This is not to be avoided, but to be celebrated....

and because so many people can't resist the draw of this beautiful and spiritual activity, it is critical to HELP, not hinder, their ability to replace old bolts with safe, new ones. Otherwise, people will be climbing on gear that is rusty and can fail, leading to serious injury, or death.

Now is not the time to start imposing new regulations, that disrupt the flow of the sport. It is not reasonable to change things so suddenly, after decades of allowing the practice. A tradition has been created. It must be respected.

Here's some perspective: fire prevention has already required the installation of fixed gear, on a much larger scale than a few, small climbing bolts, which can be painted the color of the rock and hardly ever seen.

There are far worse assaults on the environment that can and should be stopped, than a few bolts that encourage a small percentage of people to go a little off-trail.

Climbers are clean, respectful people. More and more, the dirtbag climber is fading away, leaving the walls to well-employed engineers, doctors and nurses, white collar people who crave a little adventure and some out-of-the-ordinary activity in nature.

They mostly leave no trace, pick up more trash than they bring and advocate for sustainable use of nature, just like you.

Please reconsider the policies being proposed. Please stop the prohibition of fixed anchors.

Sincerely,

Adal Bermann