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First name: Wes

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Canyoning saved my life, bolts made it possible.

Canyoning is an inclusive sport, and bolts make that possible. Canyoning is a sport that provides access to incredible places hidden right in my backyard. I'm proud to be part of an inclusive community that prioritizes empowering individuals and creating a sense of team.

As a recovering addict, I owe my sobriety and newfound wellbeing to canyoning. Canyoning is a sport that reinforces all of the "executive function" skills vital to my ability of gaining and maintaining sobriety. Canyoning teaches teamwork, resilience, perseverance, practice, humility, and care for your community. I believe this to be true far more in canyoning than in many other outdoor sports.

In the PNW, our canyons are bolted. This greatly improves safety in an aquatic environment. Perhaps more importantly, a well-bolted technical canyon reduces the need to be an elite athlete or a "seasoned explorer" to be an asset on a team, and allows a much broader group of outdoor enthusiasts, to not only experience full immersion in a remote place, but also experience themselves as a valued member of the community.

The USFS Minimum Requirements Decision Guide lists as its policy objectives: Protect and perpetuate wilderness character and public values including, but not limited to, opportunities for scientific study, education, solitude, physical and mental challenge and stimulation, inspiration, and primitive recreation experiences. Fixed anchors in a canyon promote these values in an equitable way, allowing more of the public to benefit from these stated objectives.