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Title:

Comments: Climbing in the wilderness is a remarkably intimate and unique way of interacting with nature that often inspires participants to seek new experiences, focus on personal growth, and care incredibly hard for the environments in which they climb. This fosters a community that is deeply concerned with how to best manage our impact on that environment while preserving its natural state for its own sake and for future generations, as well as the safety of its members. The sport organically developed its own set of ethics because it is clear to those who participate that it is not sustainable without one, and the community has worked hard over many decades to develop a set of ideas and guidelines that balance safety, accessibility, and environmental preservation impressively well and which are so widely accepted that any deviance is quickly, soundly quashed. If you do believe in the legitimacy and beauty of climbing as a means of making good use of this country's fantastic wilderness environments, please do not disregard the hard-won learnings and opinions of this passionate group of people. This ban as proposed will severely hamstring the ability of climbers everywhere to safely develop and enjoy the sport itself, and that will be a very, very sad loss.