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Organization:

Title:

Comments: You're driving with your family and approaching Yosemite. Sunlight reflecting off of the god-sized granite naturally drops your jaw as you look across the valley. "Wow" - almost in unison as you and your family are realizing the scale and beauty. All of a sudden, something seems to come into focus, moving, half way up the massive wall you are looking at. Are those people on the side of the mountain? It couldn't be, that would be impossible, there's no w- "Wow" in unison this time, everyone in the car realizes those are people climbing the face of the mountain. In complete disbelief, you exhale, "How?" Dad looks over and smiles "You can do truly incredible things when you put your heart into it, and Rock Climbers are some of the best examples."

Fast forward 20 years, you're addicted to drugs, haven't left the apartment in days, haven't worked out or moved your body in actual years. That was me, and then I discovered Rock Climbing. One day I remembered what Dad said, and decided to not take pills, and go to the local climbing gym to see what it was all about. The sport changed my life. Specifically, being able to safely sport climb and use top rope anchors at different climbing areas gave me such a new perspective on life. It gave me a healthy outlet for stress, a great way to exercise, and the most loving and caring community in the world - and one I'm proud to be a part of.

Climbers are incredibly conscientious and environmentally focused, as we are constantly in nature, we want it protected more than most. Best practices are well known for safety and pioneers in the industry are responsibly establishing new routes for the enjoyment of the entire community. Better yet, leaving a "Crag" (climbing area) better than you found it, is a repeated mantra among every climber I've encountered.

It is well agreed among climbers that everything is at your own risk and community driven. No guarantee should ever be made by the government at any level: local, state, or federal related to equipment or maintenance. This would open up many problems. In addition, no resources should be wasted on enforcing any level of government involvement within climbing. The only level of government involvement that makes sense is an area access role. This role includes specific parks deeming a rock is too loose or too fragile for climbing for example (including an appeal process for the community to use if the power begins to infringe on climbing rights to areas that were wrongly categorized). Lastly, in the case these changes are proposed due to any litigation against the NPS or USFS, it could make sense for the NPS or USFS to implement an electronic waiver to sign the first time you climb on government owned land.

Please do not restrict the freedoms of these peaceful, respectful, and loving Americans. This is the best country in the world because 1) the freedom we have and 2) the amazing parks & land we have. Thank you for doing what you can to preserve these rights.