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Comments: Prohibiting climbers from being able to establish and maintain fixed protection on climbing routes will increase hazardous situations potentially leading to more accidents and injuries thus increasing the costs and burden on government agency's for Search and Rescue services and in some cases potential litigation.

Continuing to allow individual climbers to responsibly assess present danger and mitigate same by placing adequate protection should be one of the core tenets of not only each Park and Forest's Preventive Search and Rescue (PSAR) Plan but central to any envisioned Climbing Management Plan.

Climber consensus (verified by historical accounts) is achieved in each local area by practitioners who are most familiar with terrain features, climbing routes and the need for minimal use of bolts, pitons and slings that may be left in situ - to discourage additional duplicate placements. Climbers regularly engage with other like-minded individuals on social websites, to share this information, report climbing route changes or hazards and are likely Members of the American Alpine Club (30,000+ strong) and The Access Fund representing over 8,000,000 + climbers throughout the land.

All Federal Parks, Forests and Bureau of Land Management properties should adhere to and support the above concept as core to any "climbing management plan". Climbers are a unique and vital visitor resource with the most knowledge and experience of technical terrain and as such a valuable asset to all Parks and Lands.

Known for staffing volunteer rescue teams - in Park, (like Yosemite Search and Rescue - YOSAR) or regionally (like Mountain Rescue Association Teams (MRA Teams) - these individuals selflessly donate their time, equipment and auto to travel to areas of need) - climbers augment and support Climbing Rangers, work along side of Rescue Technicians and other Federal Park Staff responsible for Searches and Rescues. Often time, climbers are the first to respond to help needed by their community members - given we are dispersed throughout the area, have the necessary tools and training and are highly motivated.

Without fixed anchors and their maintenance by climbers, climbing clubs (Action Committee for Eldorado) and volunteer rescue teams rock climbing, ice climbing and mountaineering routes will become more dangerous.

Best Climbing and Minimal Regulation!