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Title:

Comments: This has to be changed. America is in a crisis brought on by our sedentary lifestyle and a lack of time outside. In the years following the 2020 covid lockdowns, the sport of rock climbing has seen a major influx of new climbers who need safe and protected areas to get out of their homes, into nature, and to be active. Our national parks have provided exactly that for the past 60 years, and should continue to do so for the good of our following generations. If these bolted routes (new or established) are prohibited, access to almost every new climber will disappear. Without bolts climbers must bring their own impermanent anchors, forcing anyone attempting to enter the sport to pay enormous costs up front. Additionally, they must know how to properly use these anchors, meaning that without proper training there is a much higher likelihood for tragic accidents to occur. Fixed anchors remove a huge amount of the risk in rock climbing. They are placed by experienced and qualified individuals, and significantly reduce the obstacles to entry for this sport. Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

Additionally, the Rock climbing community is more focused on sustainability and environmental protection than any other outdoor communities I've known. The placement of each fixed anchor is agonized over as we try to make the least amount of environmental impact possible and still enjoy the beauty of our world. Please work with us to make positive solutions rather than cutting us out of these lands we all dearly love