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Comments: The banning of bolting and maintaining bolted anchors is a feckless, reckless and wholly irresponsible policy. You say that climbing is a valid use of the national parks, then that means bolting and maintaining bolts falls under that. Not only will this policy proposal create deadly situations for climbers it will create deadly situations for the park's search and rescue teams. Any deaths, especially due to unmaintained or improperly made anchors will be on the national parks hands if this policy is enacted. The parks will cause more trouble and rescues for themselves if this is put in place. The climbers who visit the parks make sure they learn and follow leave no trace ethics. Compare that to the everyday tourist who do not know anything about maintaining the environment. The popular and maintained hiking trails face way more degradation due to a sheer volume of visitors who do not stay on trails or care properly for the environment. Many climbers take care of routes and climber trails and make sure they are not further degraded. Do you know how many initials of tourists I see carved into the trees along the trails at Rocky Mountain National Park. Compare that to the minuscule bolts that are away from the general public.

When properly placed and maintained bolts and anchors do very little damage to the environment. Especially compared to maintained trails. But I guess the climbers who care about where they recreate are the problem. If this policy is implemented many popular guidebooks will become obsolete. The entirety of the climbing industry will feel the impact. The climbing community will not be the only ones to feel this impact. The national parks themselves will see a huge drop in revenue as attendance will drop and less and less people will support the parks if this policy is put into effect. Think about your profits too.

You will piss off an entire group of people and shoot yourselves in the foot by implementing this policy.

We climbers care for the environment, rocks and parks more than any of the other tourists who visit the parks on a daily basis. Please do not punish us and put us in death sentence situations, we frequently visit and care for the lesser traveled parts of the parks.