Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 12:00:51 AM First name: Trevor Last name: Clack Organization:

Title:

Comments: I would like to begin with a story: While climbing in Joshua tree, I climbed a traditionsl route (bolt free) with a friend and had the friend follow. There were no anchor bolts as I had expected (they had been removed). So I lowered my friend down and looked around for a potential walkoff. There was no safe walk off. After thinking for about 20 minutes, I noticed a "bump" in the rock that I could use to wrap my rope over and use this to rappel down. Often trees are used for this purpose, but this formation had no such tree. I carefully weigted the rope with some gear as my backup and then when I was sure it was alright, I rappeled. This could turned out very badly. I considered so many alternatives such as down soloing or "protecting" a down climb with a web of gear to protection (which isn't always possible).

If bolts are removed, safe protection is removed and many more such "shenanigans" such as rapelling of a shallow bump may happen and that will not always end well for the climbers involved. Removing bolts will make the "safer" tree rappels more common which will only result in unnecessary wear and tear of actual natural wilderness.

Climbers are generally among the most respectful of nature. We don't simply burn tons of fossil fuels to go to national parks to take selfies. We immerse and connect with the environent around us and a bolt prohibition will result in a lot more deaths of teammates on the favorable side of wilderness conservation.