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First name: Madeline

Last name: Hwang

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

I have been an avid canyoner, climber, hiker, backpacker and mountaineer for over two decades. The ability to access and safely recreate in the outdoors has had a tremendously positive impact on my life. My first canyon was Pine Creek in Zion National Park. Pine Creek is a beautiful, undulating, highly sculpted slot canyon. Rappelling down into a feature called The Cathedral left me in awe that these places exist in the world. From there, I was hooked.

Zion was the perfect place for a beginner to learn how to canyon because it was bolted well and it enabled safe and sustainable access to these incredible places. It allowed more people to safely access canyons and appreciate these beautiful places and the need to protect them.

An argument I often hear against bolting in canyons is that bolts leave a permanent hole in the rock. While this leaves some impact, it is minimal and a sustainable in that a well-placed bolt is small and can last for decades with thousands of people using it. I would argue that bolts are more minimalist than the numerous hiking trails criss crossing the wilderness. If we believe that hiking trails are an acceptable compromise for people to recreate and enjoy the outdoors, bolts should be as well.

Bolts in certain situations are safer and a more sustainable solution as well. Rigging natural anchors such as trees and boulders with webbing creates trash in canyons and leaches microplastics into our waterways. In addition, natural anchors limit anchor location options, which have cause significant rope grooves in places like Zion. Finally, bolts are unequivocally safer in aquatic canyons compared to any other option, because they can be placed to avoid hazards such as hydraulics and heavy waterflow.

There would be significant negative impact on our country's ability to recreate outdoors if the new and continued installation of bolts were restricted or prohibited on federal lands. It would severely curtail many outdoor sports and restrict outdoor access for generations to come. I encourage you to support legislation like America's Outdoor Recreation Act and the PARC Act that is more aligned with the values of wilderness stewardship while maintaining sustainable access to the outdoors for all.