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First name: Sam

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi team,

I moved to Salt Lake City to get my Ph.D., but I chose SLC in order to have access to climbing and skiing. Both are very popular and gain popularity every year. As such, climbing routes see more traffic than they have historically. A few years ago, after 20 years of climbing, I began developing new routes for this burgeoning sport. Additionally, I have helped maintain established routes by replacing old, worn out hardware. This is the normal development of any avid climber and a way for the next generation to take the torch, continuing the U.S's rich history of climbing and providing a safe environment for current and future climbers.

I have strong, seasoned mentors and respect the areas I visit. We think extensively about what routes are deserving of our hard work and are judicious about how many bolts we use and where we place them. This is to ensure we make the lowest impact possible while keeping the climber safe. What we are doing is not new: this is how it has been done, and what has been allowed for my mentor's entire 73 year life. Bolting is necessary for climbing and we climbers are rapidly expanding our ranks (whether we like it or not). For this reason, preventing the development of new routes would only make existing routes more trafficked leading to issues associated with overcrowding. And not allowing existing hardware to be replaced is preposterous. The routes are already there- they will be climbed. If bolts are old they will fail and climbers will injure themselves. Even trad lines need anchors lest we leave ugly tat on the rock. Lowering or rappelling is the most dangerous part of climbing. Sound, permanent anchors help assuage that. Do the right thing. You allow all manner of corporations to destroy the land. At least let the people climb.