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Comments: I feel that rock climbing is a wonderful way to experience wilderness areas. the perspective that is gained by being on the wall is second to none. However, I do think that there need to be reasonable limits to how the climbs are established. Following the existing rules regarding the use of motorized equipment being the most obvious. Climbers are not special in this regard. The installation of fixed hardware, however, is necessary for our safety.

In my local area is a place called Blackleaf Canyon, located in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area. This cliff is among the tallest developed areas in Montana. Being limestone, the availability of locations for non-fixed protection are limited. The fixed protection that has been installed is rather tricky to find, even when you have a guide book and know where to look. To that extent, the fixed hardware has limited visual impact on other users. I don't see how climber's fixed hardware is any different than a trail for hikers or horses. Both are fixed installations. Arguably, trails have a higher visual impact.