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Comments: These are my thoughts as a climber, a caver and a Search and Rescue volunteer:

Given the prohibition on the use of power drills in wilderness areas I see no need for further regulation on the placement of fixed anchors. When bolts must be drilled by hand there is little risk of climbers placing too many. Furthermore, most fixed anchors are in places where they are only apparent to climbers, who are usually happy to see them. They do not impair the wilderness experience of most visitors.

The lack of fixed anchors can add to the dangers of a climb, potentially leading to an injury which necessitates a rescue. When a human life is in the balance concerns over environmental impact are secondary. The accident, which could have been prevented by one bolt, may result in dozens of bolts being placed to facilitate the rescue and insure the safety of the rescuers.

Requiring the development of a climbing management plan and the issuance of permits for bolting imposes new tasks on already overworked staff. The net effect may be that permits will not be issued because there is no staff available to do so. This has been a problem with access to caves which require permits. Rather than new regulation I think we should work to codify a code of ethics to insure the responsible development of climbing routes using the minimum necessary fixed anchors. Anchors should be chosen and placed so as to minimize their impact on their surroundings.