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Comments: I do not support the change of language as proposed. It is an overreach and places climbers lives at the mercy of untrained personnel and those who will never face the risks associated with climbing.

I have been a mountaineer/rock climber since 1976 and have climbed routes throughout United States and abroad including in dozens of NPS/NM areas, National Forests, and designated Wilderness Areas. In those areas, including places like Yosemite NP and the Pusch Ridge Wilderness Area (AZ) I have searched for widely spaced bolts that were at time invisible to a trained eye. I have also had multiple conversations with non-climbers who almost without fail could even find a bolt when I pointed it out to them. The mere existence of a bolt has never been mentioned to me as ruining or degrading a wilderness experience.

I would support a ban on placing bolts with powered drills as in keeping with both tradition and current Wilderness policies. However, the placing of bolts by hand and hammer drills should be permitted. For existing routes climbers should be able to replace old, damaged, or missing bolts by non-powered drills.