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Comments: Permanent anchors are essential to the exploration of many caves, including many of the caves that exist on NFS lands. This exploration supports the advancement of science in multiple fields including geology, paleontology, and the discovery and monitoring of animal species; cave mapping and documentation of NFS' own resources; and the responsible recreational pursuits of cavers themselves. These anchors are approximately the size of a single cigarette. They are usually stainless steel which does not affect the cave environment. And they are very seldom visible from more than a few feet away.

Operation of battery-powered hammer-drills is the usual method of installing these anchors. The procedure is very simple and leaves no residue, odors, nor anything else that could harm or bother cave inhabitants. But these hammer-drills could be considered by some to be machinery. Their use should be explicitly permitted.

Caving has proven over decades to bring NFS a wealth of information and subject matter expertise from thousands of volunteers. This information helps NFS monitor and protect its own resources. Cavers require very little in return from NFS, but we do need to work together to perform this function. Anchor points installed by hammer-drills are essential for the continued monitoring and ongoing exploration efforts which we provide, to our mutual benefit and that of our national resources.