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Comments: I am an avid outdoor enthusiast. I grew up in the Rockies and have been a lifelong wilderness backpacker. I recently took up rock climbing in retirement and have a few comments. Very few backpackers or hikers get close enough to climbing routes to see bolts. Far more obvious is all the chalk which could be regulated to newer products that don't show.

In trad climbing areas without fixed anchors, climbers will often walk off. In popular areas walking off can result in FAR more environmental damage like erosion and habitat loss than a few fixed anchors to descend off of.

Instead of fixed anchors often slings are left tied around objects like trees. These being of questionable age often new ones are added resulting in multiple brightly colored slings left behind which are far more visible than a couple of bolts and hangers would ever be. I do think that new routes should be subject to review in high profile areas especially with the advent of very efficient cordless roto-hammers. Many routes are put up by young guys that are poorly done and no one ever uses.

My general impression is most non climbers view seeing climbers like they would viewing some wild animal like something curious to watch. The biggest animosity I can see is from trad climbing purists, some who are way over the top in terms of us versus them thinking of sport climbing and anchors. No shortage of holier than thou climbers. I think a far better emphasis would be education on waste management in the wilderness.

We recently bought a winter home in Las Vegas to climb more but are from Bend Oregon. Nearby Smith Rock is a popular sport climbing area.