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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I do not believe that as originally written permanent installations refers to bolting to allow safety during climbing or the leaving of slings fixed for emergency descent. New bolting and replacement of old unsafe bolts should not be banned and should have its own category independent of permanent installations.

Climbers by nature are conservationists. As they climb in the outdoors they learn to love and protect the resource which their sport requires to exist. Bolts are an integral part of that sport and are necessary to prevent injury or death. If new bolting or replacing old bolts is banned this will not stop people from climbing, but it will result in more injury or death.

It's important that one of the leading conservationist groups (climbers) are not alienated. I therefore propose that the National Forest for a specific area works with the local climbers, whether they be a group, or leading individuals, to work out an acceptable practice for the continuation of the freedom which climbers currently enjoy.

For example:

- 1- agreement that bolting hardware shall be camouflaged prior to placement.
- 2- agreement that power drills shall be used to create more reliable placements.
- 3- agreement that only non-corrosive hardware shall be used.
- 4- agreement that slings left behind will be retrieved at the earliest possible convenience.
- 5- cooperative engagement with climbers to oversee and report on dispersed camping usage and use of illegal fires.
- 6- cooperative restoration events at local crags between climbers and the National Forest.
- 7- establishment of climbing area ranger volunteers to patrol sensitive areas on a regular basis, and practice real-time outreach when on patrol.
- 8- permitting in heavy use areas.

Thank you,
Chris Owen.