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Comments: These regulations are incredibly worrying to the safety of climbers in the wilderness areas. While I understand the reality of protecting wilderness areas, particularly when establishing new climbing routes, climbing is a special activity that should have its own clearly defined set of rules. Unlike a trail or a campground, the integrity of routes is often tens or hundreds of feet off the ground, meaning that problems can easily lead to needless deaths.

For example, Janette Heung of Colorado fell over 300 feet to her death in Wyoming's Wind River Range when the tat she was using was cut by rockfall in 2020. All of the anchors on the already popular route she was on were replaced with bolts in order to make the route safer for any future climbers. This would be illegal under the proposed regulation, which creates completely unnecessary safety risks. The visual impact of bolts is also much less than other safety equipment which is just as important, such as slope protection netting.

Power tools are also already prohibited in wilderness areas, meaning that bolts must be drilled by hand. This regulation is not preventing the establishment of new climbing routes, this regulation is turning new, run-out traditional climbs into deadly traditional climbs, and making a retreat a more dangerous and costly affair.

Ultimately, people are still going to climb. Without allowing for proper and *prompt* maintenance of climbing routes, this regulation will only introduce safety risks. I understand that bureaucracy takes time, however the rules on approval of activity need to be very strict in order to service the people quickly and effectively to ensure their safety. While this regulation is presented as regulating activity, a form of regulation that I largely understand and might even be in favor of, what this regulation is actually doing is regulating and risking the safety of both climbers and visitors to the wilderness areas.