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Comments: Dear USFS,

Please note my objection to the new proposed bolting regulations for wilderness areas. as a climber who has established 50 to 100 routes in wilderness areas the creation of new rules prohibiting the use of bolts is not just wrong , but it is dangerous. When establishing routes having the ability to bolt is not only essential for the safety of the leader but all subsequent climbers. It is not something that is undertaken lightly, due to the time and energy required, but it needs to be an option for the safety of all climbers.

Placing bolts (or any fixed gear) has a long history in the climbing community and certainly was well established before the Wilderness Act. Of the thousands of routes established in Wilderness Areas I suspect that other than a few sport areas (established using drills), very few fixed anchors have ever been observed (certainly as a percentage of the total number placed.

Furthermore , trying to limit wilderness climbing to existing route is not workable. many established route are vaguely documented and you may not know id you are on a route or on a "new" route until have completed the route.

Hand drilling is a very effective way to limit bolting in wilderness, and allows for both the limited intrusion in wilderness and the safety of the climber. Please do not implement the bolting ban and work with Climbing Organizations to find a better more workable solution.

Thanks

Kent Wheeler