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Comments: I've been a climber for over 20 years. And in that time I have watched the NFS go from an organization aimed at education and conservation, while helping open the doors and encouraging the public to get outdoors, get involved and enjoy our wild spaces. To now becoming an overreacting bureaucracy lead by lobbyists and environmental extremists who's sole purpose is to restrict access, implement restrictive and excessive permits and assign fees to just about every aspect of the outdoors you can exploit. This is not the image, nor the direction NPS should be projecting. Unless your goal is to become overburden in years of expensive protracted legal battles?

The use of climbing anchors (bolts) has been around and excepted for at least 80 years throughout the U.S. It has facilitated the expansion and progression of the sport throughout the entire world. The use of bolts are essential to the progression of advancements in difficulty far beyond what was even considered possible only 20 years ago. Our wilderness areas have also been absolutely essential in providing the opportunities which have kept the U.S. at the forefront of advancement, innovation and even self regulatory conservation for the past century. The draconian, authoritative, over reaching proposals brought forth by the NFS in this bill will essentially put a screeching halt to any further opportunities to explore, create and advance the sport in our wilderness areas. It will create a system which is not even remotely enforceable, and a permit system which will make the nearly constant maintenance and upkeep of safety equipment almost impossible. This will create dangerous conditions for users of old, worn out and failing hardware, as well as discourage the dedicated volunteers with the necessary skills and tools who upkeep this essential hardware. Furthermore, the enforcement of these new regulations will financially cost far more than any benefits they produce. Our wilderness areas are vast and wide.

The climbing community which I have been proud to be a part of, has been one of the greatest advocates for environmentalism, conservation and sustainability in the world for as long as it has existed. There has been endless debate within the climbing circles on how to regulate and conserve our natural resources. Not only in the use of bolts, but trails, sensitive ecosystems and wildlife habitat on and around the rocks we choose to climb. The argument on how to regulate and manage fixed anchors (bolts) is not a new one. The sensible conclusion has been to ban motorized equipment (power drills) and only permit ground up exploration of new routes. This eliminates the convenience factor, and extremely discourages their over use. This is the practical solution. One which will be self regulated by the climbers themselves. The solution has never been, nor will ever be government intervention, creating a wall of red tape manifested in a series of permits, and unenforceable regulations. They will do no good, and only further financially burden the NFS. I would strongly encourage you to reconsider this proposal. It has the hallmarks of nothing less than a total unenforceable nightmare. Instead, put the word out. No power tools, only ground up exploration with the exception for route maintenance, and watch the problem solve itself as climbers have always held themselves to a strict code of ethics.