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Comments: Rock climbing is an ever-growing sport that relies heavily on Public lands both in wilderness areas and not. Climbing offers a unique way to experience public lands in a wild and incredible setting. It would not be possible without fixed anchors, regardless of whether a route or formation can be protected using traditional methods or not. The ability to place and replace fixed hardware is essential to keeping climbers safe without it the sport will become more and more dangerous as old failing anchors continue to age. As a climber of 15 years, it has been my experience that climbers do a good job respecting the wilderness act and insuring that any fixed hardware placed in wilderness areas is done according to wilderness area ethics.

As the sport continues to grow, the need for new routes continues to grow as well, which demands being able to place new fixed hardware. Certainly guidelines can be in place as to how, where and when, fixed anchors should and can be placed.

Please consider the positive impacts of climbers being advocates for public lands wilderness areas and better leave no trace ethics.

Thank you