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Comments: I recreate as a hiker, biker and climber in the George Washington and Thomas Jefferson national forest. These forests have a great history of climbing and a current culture! All of the best spots in these woodlands are well known and have been up kept and protected by climbers themselves. But not without working first with climbing guides, climbing clubs, recreational climbers and the forest service. The new proposal would require involvement of the forest service that would overload their rangers and other staff. The state of many trails and other forest service installments makes evident that our local office is already overloaded. The new proposal's requirements of updating existing routes are too extensive. Older routes are only updated due to safety concerns. All anchors on existing routes have been placed when deemed necessary to protect. The ethic of clean climbing allows for lifesaving anchor placements via bolts/permanent rappel stations. The removal or blockage of updating older anchors will lead to increased danger but not decreased traffic. Climbers will already climb classic routes and added danger has never been a deterrent.

Outside of safety concerns the impacts of bolts on "the feel of the wilderness" is extremely minimal compared to loggers using chainsaws, hunters shooting guns, planes/helicopters operating, off-road vehicles. All of these will still be allowed in the "wilderness" but somehow bolts are not allowed? The wrong activity has been swept into a battle that many climbers believe in.