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Comments: As a long-time climber, engineer, and volunteer, I've hand-installed occasional bolts in California's alpine regions, saving myself from potential danger due to unforeseen events like impassable snowy conditions. These bolts not only ensure my safety but can be used to make climbing safer for others, all while presenting a negligible visual and environmental impact. These experiences highlight the crucial role fixed anchors play in climbers' safety, aligning with the spirit of the Wilderness Act. Without the capacity to place a bolt, I am certain that I would, at the very least, have broken my legs on one occasion.

Fixed anchors are not just installations but vital components of climbers' safety systems, a practice upheld for over half a century. Restricting them contradicts the diverse installations present in the wilderness, such as bridges and visitor centers.

Recognizing climbers' contributions extends to their integral role in the 10th Mountain Division's success during World War II. Climbers' skills and adaptability are woven into the modern American identity and were key to the division's mountain warfare effectiveness, contributing to defeating fascists.

In my volunteer roles, I've witnessed disadvantaged youth developing self-confidence and an appreciation for the wilderness. Allowing safe recreation in our natural places contributes to their personal growth and connection with nature.

Implementing new policies prohibiting climbing anchors disregards decades of responsible climbing practices. Prohibitions risk safety by hindering anchor maintenance, a duty embraced by the climbing community. Preserving climbing routes and fostering exploration in wilderness areas requires a nuanced approach.

Moreover, restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is not just unenforceable but creates confusion among land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should encourage opportunities for new anchors unless analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.

In summary, allowing bolts respects safety, preserves climbing heritage, acknowledges climbers' historical significance, and contributes to the positive development of disadvantaged youth through safe wilderness recreation. It ensures a balanced approach, considering the unique needs of diverse wilderness activities, while promoting clarity in climbing management policies.