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Comments: I grew up in southern Idaho in the 1970s and 1980s and part of my youth was spent rock climbing. It was a great sport to challenge your physical and mental limits, get outdoor exercise, learn practical skills, develop a personal safety mindset, and it was just fun (usually).

The era of pitons and bolts had recently ended, replaced by the ethic of "clean climbing" which discouraged permanent anchors whenever possible. Instead temporary anchors such as stoppers, nuts, hexcentrics, and various camming devices were developed and successfully used. Although I haven't climbed much in many years, I still have my rack of hardware, and I'm happy to say I never drilled a bolt or pounded a piton, and very seldom did I have to leave an anchor when I couldn't retrieve it.

I recently visited a rock face popular with the local climbing crowd and was dismayed to see the number of bolts on all the routes. Hundreds of them had been installed, permanently altering the rock and making it resemble a gym more than an outcrop of basalt in the forest. I strongly feel that this is an utterly inappropriate use of federally protected wilderness areas.

If people want their routes clearly marked with bolts every four feet then they should climb at their local rock gym. Wilderness is supposed to be managed as a place where you "take only memories and leave only footprints". Bolts and other permanent anchors should be disallowed except in rare cases where (a) no other options exist, and (b) an overwhelming public interest exists for its placement.

If the problem is that a face needs to be bolted in order to climb it, then maybe it doesn't need to be climbed. Leave it for the lizards, and a future generation of better climbers.