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Comments: I have direct experience climbing in designated wilderness, stretching from 1982 until now. I have used, and placed when safety demanded it, fixed anchors on my climbs. These were primarily but not exclusively used to facilitate safe descents via roped rappels. On a few climbs, for instance, Warbonnet in the Idaho Sawtooths, an old bolt "ladder" provided the only means of summiting the peak. Those bolts needed to be replaced, but the subsequent earthquake removed the entire peak. Nature makes sure the very minor and mostly invisible impact of safety bolts, installed using hand drills, will not last long using nature's clock. Humanity's other sins; climate change, mechanized recreational vehicles and toys, excessive road building. These are true threats to wilderness. Not the rare hand drilled safety bolt.

Climbers and mountaineers have long been the staunchest defenders of wilderness in the US. We will continue to do so. But this proposed bolt ban does no good, endangers climbers, and is a needless change from the current policy which works. Why mess with a good thing?