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Comments: There was a reason for designating wilderness, and for the statement that wilderness is a place where "man (sic) is a visitor who does not remain." Rock climbing is an activity undertaken for personal pleasure. There is no environmental or societal benefit to be derived. That being the case, there is no reason to relax the standard that no human artifacts are to be left in designated wilderness.

We have seen the effect of climbing on the often rare vegetation which takes hold in the cracks and crevices and on the tiny ledges which are characteristic of popular climbing areas. The main impact is their destruction and extirpation. We do not want to see that same impact in wilderness areas.

There are plenty of places to climb outside of designated wilderness. If climbers lack the expertise or the nerve to free climb, then they should limit themselves to those areas where fixed hardware is allowed, and leave the wilderness sites to more experienced climbers.