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Comments: Please record my opinion that the use of fixed anchors for climbing is totally inappropriate for Wilderness areas. The Wilderness Act is clear on this; a desire to facilitate certain recreational activities does not nullify it. Recreation is a side benefit of wilderness, not the justification for wilderness. Recreational activities that degrade or destroy wilderness should certainly not be permitted. Fixed climbing anchors are no more appropriate in wilderness than helicopters, dirt bikes, or other destructive means of bringing in more people.

The use of fixed anchors for climbing is being relegated to the past. For many years, conscientious climbers have avoided setting permanent protection because it is not consistent with persistence of a natural climbing environment. There are readily available means for climbing protection that are completely removable, and those are the means used by serious climbers today.

For climbers who feel a need for bolted anchors, there are plenty of locations outside of designated wilderness that have been bolted. There is no need to degrade wilderness terrain to provide more. There are plenty of climbers in wilderness areas who are willing to climb in a manner consistent with wilderness. It is entirely appropriate that they should have access to undamaged terrain, while people who want bolts can seek out non-wilderness climbing sites. Luring more numerous, less meticulous climbers to wilderness climbs is a destructive policy.