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Comments: The USFS was founded as a multi-use agency whose goal was to guide interactions of interested parties with the environment. Part of its mission is preservation, part of it is allowing sustainable use. Fixed anchors and fixed equipment are replaceable and modern bolting techniques can reuse placements again and again. Removing them will not prevent climbers from accessing the areas, however it will lead to more accidents. Bolts and anchors are, at the end of the day, safety equipment.

Climbing access leaves its mark on nature, of this there is no doubt. However, so do trails, cairns, blazes, campsites, and outhouses. Some times it is better to sacrifice absolutism for outcomes. For example, I've been to many wilderness areas where frequent camping sites were littered with toilet paper and reeked of human feces. In these places, managing the waste is better than prohibiting the building of small infrastructure that sustains the land use and ameliorates human impact.

Land management, at its best, manages the interaction of people with the environment and preserves its history. Climbing has now become a part of the local history in many areas, and this should be preserved as well. Prohibition just leads to bad blood between parties and general animosity. If there is a general sense that climber impacts outweigh those of other users, then the response should be local, not general. Hueco Tanks has effectively managed the impact of climbers by limiting how many people can use the area each day, as has Old Rag in SNP.