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First name: Joseph

Last name: DeMarco

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Wilderness is an endangered landscape. Less than 3 percent of land in the Lower 48 is protected as Wilderness, and it is under threat, including from rapidly escalating recreation pressures. For those climbers seeking developed climbing opportunities, there are ample permanently bolted climbs outside of Wilderness. The agencies' primary duty is to protect Wilderness in its natural, untrammelled state, and the Wilderness Act's ban on installations can only be overcome in rare administrative circumstances where the installation is necessary to protect Wilderness in its natural, untrammelled state.

Agencies have no duty to develop Wilderness to provide "opportunities for primitive recreation." Wilderness, by its very existence, provides these opportunities—the agencies need only to protect the Wilderness according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act to safeguard the opportunity.

Climbing without permanent fixed anchors is generally compatible with wilderness preservation. While it may be true that fewer people will climb certain routes in Wilderness if they don't have fixed bolts or other permanently-installed protection, natural limits on use is not a bad thing when it comes to wilderness protection, particularly with the recent explosion of outdoor recreation uses in Wilderness.