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Comments: 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 that can lead to concentrated areas of overuse. The Wilderness Act prohibits installations and structures like permanent fixed climbing anchors in order to protect the wild character of these rare and precious protected areas. Fixed climbing anchors must not be allowed in Wilderness. Lobbying by particular interest groups is not sufficient reason to ignore the Wilderness Act's strict prohibitions, including its prohibition on installations.

Agencies have no duty to develop Wilderness to provide more opportunities for recreation. 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 as regards wilderness protection, particularly given the recent explosion of outdoor recreation uses in Wilderness. Climbers seeking developed climbing opportunities, can use some of the many areas with permanently bolted climbs that occur outside of Wilderness.