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Comments: To the National Forest Service,

Please do not allow artificial anchors to mar wilderness areas. Agencies have no duty to develop Wilderness to provide "opportunities for primitive recreation." Wilderness, by its very existence, provides these opportunities. Instead, your agency should protect the Wilderness according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act to safeguard the opportunity. That necessarily means not "enhancing" climbing routes. Such intrusions are violent interruptions to the rock and landscape. 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. More than ample opportunities are available to climbers who want bolted routes in areas not designated "wilderness".

As a person who climbed hundreds of routes in my younger years, both natural and bolted, and who spent hundreds of days some years in Wilderness areas, state parks, national parks, and national forests, I can say that Wilderness travel in true Wilderness Areas is decidedly different than in areas not subject to the same protections. It matters to users that these areas remain as untouched as possible, and those of us who travel there do so with deep respect and care for the land and ecosystems. We as a nation should do all in our power to protect Wilderness for the generations who come after us. No bolts! No anchors!

Thank you,

Buff Grace