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Comments: Climbing is an activity that relies highly on self-reliance, and allows people to experience wilderness in a way that you cannot by walking on a trail. Having safe, well maintained, and strategically placed fixed gear actually reduces impact. This is analogous to having designated trails, which are used in wilderness areas to reduce impact. Having fewer, well marked, designated trails prevents others from making many social trails that would degrade a habitat. Bolts and fixed rappel stations prevent resource degradation in fragile alpine environments.

Rappelling is the primary cause of death in climbing accidents. When climbers rappel, they rely on an anchor, and anchor failure during rappelling often results in death. Prohibiting the maintenance of anchors or placing bolted anchors increases the risk of anchor failure. This would increase demand on already overworked volunteer Search and Rescue organizations and greatly increase the risk of severe or fatal climbing accidents. Ultimately, because climbing is very low impact, and climbing groups already care deeply about the long term ability of everyone to enjoy the beauty of our outdoor spaces in their natural condition, the climbing community is one of the best advocacy groups for preservation in Wilderness areas. Fixed gear and wilderness are not incompatible.