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Comments: Climbing is a sustainable, low impact activity that aligns with wilderness conservation goals. Bolts can be placed using non electric tools and can last for years afterwards where climbers can use the bolts safely to enjoy the US wilderness and forest service areas. They are invisible to most people unless you look for them.

Horse packing is allowed in wilderness areas and has an arguably larger impact in wilderness areas than climbers.

Fixed anchors are essential for climbing safety.

Fixed anchors allow for exploration climbing and safe wilderness travel on diverse rocky terrain.

Climbers should be considered like backpackers, with likely equal amounts of impact. The only small difference being fixed anchors are occasionally necessary for safe climbing.

Please consider this carefully. The number of people who will use fixed anchors in wilderness areas are a wild and lovely bunch, but there aren't many of us. We hold these experiences on rock as some of the most valuable experiences in our lives. There does not seem to be justifiable grounds for prohibiting fixed anchors.

I have developed into the person I am today because of early experiences climbing in the proposed wilderness areas of the Bitterroot Valley in Montana. These opportunities are deeply impactful and meaningful, and they encourage new generations of people who will grow to love the wild and will fight for conservation of wilderness areas.