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Comments: There will be mention of climbing bolts in my obituary, but probably not because I will have died when one failed. I have spent the last 12 years inventing tools and refining the process for cleanly removing rusty anchors in order to replace them with larger stainless steel ones using the original holes rather than simply breaking off the old bolt and drilling an additional hole right next to it. Why does that matter? Because the marks we leave can be permanent, and leaving the minimum footprint is important to most climbers.

Proof that we actually care: look at the extra effort we will put in. I have helped to replace many hundreds of bolts in Wilderness areas with permission and permits from the land managers. I could have chosen the easy route and spent less time with fewer tools if I had left the old bolts in place and added new ones nearby. On one occasion I was awake for 40 hours straight - awake at 0500, began hiking at midnight, summit around 0500, rappel in replacing anchors until 3pm, hike out, home at 9:00pm.

I want to preserve the resource for generations to come, and I think the Wilderness Act was intended to allow activities like climbing.