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Comments: Bolts in Wilderness and National Parks

Metal bolts, to increase the safety of rock climbers reminds me of trail junction signs, they are both more or less permanent, made by people, for the safety of people. Trails are more or less permanent, made by people and maintained by government agencies for the protection of the environment and people. When hikers and equestrians do not get lost or climbers do not get injured, no rescue helicopters enter the area, no hordes of rescuers need enter the area, thereby enhancing the opportunities for solitude, and the environment is better served.

The bolts on a rock wall have little effect compared to say air pollution in our National Parks or Wilderness Areas. Cleaning or removing coal fired power plants is a better concern for spending money, time, and energy than bolts. USGS Survey markers are metal bolts and more or less permanent, and my guess, outweigh the total number of bolts in Wilderness Areas and National Parks. Powerlines and dams are permitted in some Wilderness Areas and National Parks.

I believe that the idea of National Parks and Wilderness Areas are among our country's greatest ideas. I have no desire to weaken our protections of these protected areas, and I believe that climbers are also strong advocates for protecting land, but eliminating bolts will drive away some of our support for protective legislation. Please categorize bolts with trails and trail signs; do not include bolts in the same category as roads and dirt bikes.

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