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Comments: Hello, I have been climbing in wilderness areas using fixed anchors for my whole life and it has profoundly impacted my appreciation and care for the natural world. Removing the ability to maintain fixed anchors on existing routes, and to explore new climbing potential will severely limit the possibilities for this rapidly growing sport, and cause safety issues that will create more problems than it solves.

I support consideration of the environmental impacts of the climbing pursuit, but banning new fixed anchors is an unenforceable policy after so many decades of rich climbing history in the US. The benefits to outdoor recreation of allowing climbers to explore the natural world in this way far outweigh the costs of the visual impact of some tiny bolts. Most non climbers would never notice bolts up on a cliff anyway.

There are also ways to paint the bolts to match the color of the rock which could be a good compromise in wilderness areas where visual impact is more important.

Thank you for your consideration.