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Comments: Hello, I am writing to express concern about the new climbing bolt policy. I feel that as it is written it will jeopardize the safety of climbers by reducing the maintenance of existing routes and encourages questionable practices for rappelling when a bolt is the best option. I have had the opportunity to climb in many wilderness areas and have not had my experience altered by the presence of bolts. In reading the Wilderness Act I don't see how using bolts goes against the act and should not be prohibited.

With decades of precedent in how climbing has been managed in the wilderness, it seems onerous, expensive to taxpayers, and an overreach to change the policy on climbing and climbing route maintenance.

Solutions to any issues with visibility or unnecessary bolting can be addressed with simple changes at the individual fores level. These could include:

no fixed bolts when a simple natural protection option is available such as a crack.

New or replaced bolts/hangers must be camouflaged with paint matching the surrounding rock.

Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.

Thank you for considering my request to not eliminate bolting as a tool for safety and for enabling wilderness exploration. Ensuring continued maintenance and responsible route setting encourages passionate wilderness users. These are the people who will stand up for the continued protection of these special places in the future.