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Comments: As somebody who has climbed for nearly a third of their life and subscribed to the leave no trace ethos for longer, I believe the current proposed climbing restrictions are a backwards solution to reducing the impact of recreational climbing.

Fixed anchors and bolts are not the most visible or damaging environmental impacts from climbing. As with most outdoor activities, it's simply the presence of people that brings the most impact. Banning bolts while still allowing access to parks will only reduce the safety margin in an already risky sport, putting both climbers and rescue staff in danger. Areas such as Hueco Tanks have shown that it is very achievable to reach agreements between those most concerned with cultural preservation and climbers advocating for access.

As the USFS has historically taken a hands off approach with regard to climbing, climbers around the nation have already built their own groups to allow for safe maintenance of gear by the community who uses it. Ignoring these established and functioning organizations seems to prioritize consolidation of regulatory power for these areas over prevention of harm to the environment, culturally valuable areas, and those entitled to public land access.

In the interest of safety, fixed anchor addition and maintenance should not be restricted. Additionally, given how a route can change over time due to weathering and landscape changes, the distinction between new routes and maintenance of existing hardware will be an enforcement nightmare that will make it more likely for subpar gear to be used.