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Comments: Please do NOT classify climbing anchors such as bolts and pitons as installations. This will dramatically increase the danger of climbing in wilderness areas, while doing nothing to preserve the character of that wilderness for other user groups. The footprint of a bolt or piton is only a couple inches, invisible to anyone not actually climbing on the route, yet it provides a critical and irreplaceable means of safe ascent and descent for climbers recreating responsibly.

Leaving anchor policies up to individual land managers will create confusion and an expensive patchwork of policies and relationships across the country. Responsible, limited use of fixed anchors in wilderness areas has existed for decades, allowing for a rich climbing history that is indeed a vital part of the history of our national parks and forests. There are already means to keep fixed anchors to a tasteful minimum in wilderness areas, such as prohibiting power drills. Authorities should rely on policies such as these and ongoing efforts to educate all user groups about ethical use of our shared lands, rather than a severe blanket policy that unnecessarily unwinds decades of climbing as an accepted and welcome practice in wilderness, and also unnecessarily endangers lives.