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Comments: The USFS has defined fixed anchors as permanent "installations", and therefore their use should be prohibited in Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, and Recommended Wilderness. These installations, along with use of motorized power drills, diminish the wilderness character. There are tens of thousands of bolted climbing opportunities outside these protected areas for those unwilling or too unskilled to use traditional climbing methods. Traditional climbers, and other wilderness users, will be glad these areas remain for pure climbers leaving no trace.

In areas on public lands where fixed anchors are allowed, an authorization permit should be required for their installation. The public is required to obtain permits for Christmas trees, firewood cutting, and mushroom picking, and the installation of bolts should require a permit too. This way, the agency has some control over where installations occur, and can prevent installations in areas important for wildlife, for example, peregrine falcons nesting areas (see below).

Current science shows that an 800 meter (1/2 mile) buffer around raptor nests should be seasonally closed. In addition, mountain goats and bats should also be protected by closures.

In order to avoid a rush of bolting before climbing management plans are implemented, an immediate moratorium on bolting on public lands that do not already have CMPs should be put in place. Baseline inventories should be done, but will probably take time, and the moratorium should be done immediately.