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Comments:

I strongly disagree with the current interpretation that considers bolts as fixed installations, deeming them unsuitable for wilderness areas. The use of bolts in wilderness areas has long been a standard practice, predating the enactment of the Wilderness Act. Climbers have historically employed bolts and other anchors as essential tools for safe access to and descent from mountains.

The rationale behind leaving bolts and anchors in the mountains is rooted in the necessity for safe passage and descent. This practice has been widely acknowledged and accepted by the climbing community for years. The recent and somewhat unconventional interpretation that categorizes bolts in a way that seemingly contradicts their historical usage under the Wilderness Act is, in my opinion, unwarranted.

I urge a reconsideration of this contemporary perspective on the classification and regulation of bolts in wilderness areas. It is crucial to involve climbers and the organizations that advocate for our interests, such as the Access Fund, American Alpine Club, and other relevant trade organizations, in discussions surrounding the usage of bolts and permanent anchors. By engaging climbers and these representative organizations, we can collaboratively devise solutions that align with the enduring spirit of the Wilderness Act while permitting the continued, responsible use of bolts in the mountains as has been customary.