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Comments: While I am no longer an active climber, I do have experience with both climbing and caving . During my 50 years of active outdoor recreation I have found climbers to be respectful, concerned for the environment and incredibly safety conscious. Unlike many other wilderness users such as mountain bikers, casual amateur hikers and hunters, the impact of climbing on fixed routes appears to me to be of limited impact. I have witnessed local climber volunteers out doing trail repair and participating in trail upkeep.

The local climbing community is diligent about maintaining and replacing unsafe bolts and to restrict that activity invites tragedy. As a frequent and avid hiker my observation is that the forest would be better off if all this effort would be directed at teaching casual hikers how not to get lost, how to properly put out a campfire, how to pick up the trash they drop and how and where to poop in the woods.