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Comments: As a person who has been rock climbing for nearly a decade, I feel threatened by the federal government's desire to suddenly step in and manage "fixed" placements in wilderness areas. I consider myself an intermediate climber and also an environmentalist. My love of national parks and climbing is what led to my family and I relocating to Joshua Tree, so this affects me quite personally.

Without the use of fixed anchors in wilderness areas, many routes would simply not be climbable, or they would require such a high level of risk that only bold climbers would attempt them, likely at their own peril. I have been on the sharp end of a runout where a ground fall would have been lethal and it's entirely avoidable with proper bolting.

As someone who visited numerous national parks and climbing areas prior to being a climber, I can honestly say I never even noticed the bolts. Now that I am a climber, even after researching a route online, it is still hard to find them from the bottom of the wall. I just don't see how they cause a direct impact to the wilderness environment. One could argue that the traffic to and from the route could cause an impact, but this is avoidable with proper marking of trails and educational messages.

In terms of new bolting, forwarding a request to a federal entity is likely to be a slow and bureaucratic process. I do not have faith that this will be adequate to keep pace with the popularity of climbing, nor will it suffice when bolts need to be replaced due to wear.

Please consider these comments before a decision is made.