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Title:

Comments: I want to start of this comment by saying that the wilderness climbing areas in the U.S. are some of the most special, unique, and incredible places on the planet. I have experienced my fullest humanity while high up on the cliffs of Yosemite, Zion, Canyonlands, Grand Teton, Rocky, Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Denali, the list goes on... and every single time I have gone climbing in these wild and scenic areas I have utilized fixed anchor protection whether it be in the form of bolts, fixed pitons, slings around trees, none of them unsightly or unnecessary and all of them allowing me to get back down alive. I get wanting to keep these places untouched and indeed that is the point of the wilderness act... however climbing in these areas predates the wilderness act and in the same way that horse-packers and cattle grazing have been grandfathered into wilderness areas such as the wind river range, yellowstone, ect., it would be hypocritical to not also include and protect climbing into this act for the same reason. From a practical standpoint, the NPS and NFS also does not have the resources to fund fixed anchor maintenance patrols or whatever it is that they are envisioning. There is no way that they will send a patrol 20 miles to the base of Mt Hooker 20 in the winds or fund expeditions up the infinite spur on Mt. Foraker/Sultana in the Alaska Range, or routinely climb all of the routes on El Cap. Thus making it illegal for any other body or person to replace/maintain these anchors knowing that the governing bodies themselves do not have the manpower, resources, and money to do so is ridiculous and also will no doubt have fatal consequences directly or indirectly. Fixed anchors should and must be maintained and replaced by the people climbing the routes otherwise people will 1. do it anyway or 2. die.

Additionally, this past spring I was in Denali National Park and it was there I learned about the NPS maintenance of fixed pickets and ropes up to the base of the West Buttress. Ask any climbers who are on Denali by themselves and they would probably agree that they wished they weren't on the mountain... but Denali is a seven summit and without those fixed lines none of the people getting guided up could make it to the summit. So clearly it seems like the NPS/NFS is in favor of promoting fixed anchors when it is profitable for them to do so... From logic perspective it would be antithetical to ban one and keep the other... so you should probably just keep both. Furthermore, restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.