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Comments: Hi my name is Carlos Hernandez.

I am commenting because the new DRAFT REFERENCE MANUAL 41: WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP states that bolt intensive climbs and fixed anchors should be "rare" and or are "incompatible" with preservation standards in the wilderness. In the perspective of an advanced and experienced rock climber I challenge legislators to reconsider the incompatible perspective.

The time and resources that route developers are investing is crucial toward making climbing more sustainable and accessible to the public. Without these developments, the climbing community would be at the mercy of nature and ultimately debt their safety to protectionless rock with no ability to escape if harsh conditions were to prevail.

For ages climbing has been a stamp of national pride worldwide and was recently inaugurated into the 2020 Olympics with one of the 3 sections being: lead climbing on bolted lines. Analogous to that of any other natural discovery, it is also an activity where we can connect with unknown lands and continue to explore the human potential, assuming we have the adequate resources. Without the help of fixed gear we would not be able to lower off of climbs, leaving us subject to considerable danger on the descent and 80% of climbing accidents are on the way down. The alternative would be leaving hundreds of dollars of gear on the wall that would be there until removed by the next person to climb. If we have one specific anchor that we all could use, then it would limit us from creating them everywhere and that level of development is already being managed by climbing coalitions nationwide and a wide variety of other operations attempting to tackle the sustainability of developing these areas such as the Access Fund, The Global Climbing Initiative, and The Yosemite Climbing Association who has a vision of, "creating community through preservation and education." Having fixed anchors also allows us to share more space with other parties and climbers on the wall. This is great for the security and efficiency of guided parties. The climbing community has long had what we call "bolt chopping wars" for different ethics in how climbing should be. We too believe that there is an unreasonable amount of bolts and hope that NPS and the USFS can trust the climbing community to handle these situations.