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Comments: There needs to be clear rules and regulations regarding bolting in wilderness, but an outright prohibition of bolting is dangerous and ineffective. Bolts exist, across wilderness areas, and have been placed (mostly by hand) by generations of climbers and adventurers. Most of those bolts are not eyesores (they are far out of sight from where most people will see) and have been placed thoughtfully. Wilderness climbs already mostly follow cracks, and bolts are *mostly* only placed so as to allow safe passage between crack systems. Furthermore, not allowing rebolting of existing routes means that decades of history will either fall by the wayside as those routes rust (leaving bigger eyesores) or more likely, people will climb (and die) falling on rusted bolts.

We need NPS to step up and write effective policies as to govern the placing and re-placing of bolts in wilderness areas - climbers are clearly ready to work with NPS and the USFS on this task and there are organizations who would love to be involved (Access Fund, America Safe Climbing Association). As more and more climbers move from the gym to the crag (and eventually, to the wilderness) we need policies to govern the safe and thoughtful use of bolts. This should vary based on the wilderness area - what is appropriate in Joshua Tree may not be appropriate in the Wind Rivers, compared to Yosemite. I'm not advocating for allowing power drills in wilderness for new bolting, but allowing hand drilling remains a way to limit the number of bolts.

Additionally, bolting on rocks does not harm nature (in fact, it can keep climbers from damaging trees and shrubs) and bolts can be camouflaged rather easily so as not stand out. Humans leave marks as they move through wilderness - leave no trace is impossible when you are wearing heavy hiking shoes and trampling through brush or on less used trails. A limited number of bolts placed thoughtfully or replaced to ensure safety and preserve history are a net good.