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Comments: Climbing anchors should not be banned in wilderness areas. Existing anchors should be allowed to be maintained so that climbers can safely experience these areas and historical routes. New routes should be allowed to be established in a conscious manner. Anchor bolts are nearly invisible for non-climbing user groups. New bolts and old anchors are often completely camouflaged with paint (colored to match rock) or conscious placement out of sight of trails or camping areas.

Climbing in wilderness areas on pre-existing routes for me personally has been one of the most important experiences that has led me to care to be a steward of these lands. If anchors are no longer allowed in wilderness areas, we will not be able to experience these areas in such powerful, meaningful ways. Climbing is inherently a sport about freedom, so it is likely that people will still climb these routes if anchor placement is banned. As anchors age, they will become less safe, and may fail. Why prohibit maintenance of pre-existing anchors at risk of human life? Often, climbers are the most outspoken protectors of wild landscapes and practice leave-no-trace principles. Yes, bolted anchors are a trace, but they are not harming the landscape or viewshed for any other user group, and they are profoundly enhancing the user experience for climbers.

Long, multi-pitch routes in wilderness areas are a special piece of American history and heritage of the sport of climbing that need protection and continued maintenance. They should not be neglected and disallowed from future travel by humans.