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Comments: I am glad and agree that climbing is an appropriate use of NFS lands, but the language regarding fixed anchors threatens the ability for climbing to occur on NFS lands.

Fixed hardware is essential to the safety of climbers and significantly reduces impact on the land. For instance, bolts and fixed rappel stations enable climbers to descend in carefully planned areas which reduces damage to the surrounding environment from scrambling, rappelling from trees, reduces rockfall from less trafficked areas, and more. Importantly, rappel stations with fixed hardware reduce dangerous situations and costly rescue operations because they make it simple for climbers to descend. Rappel stations require periodic maintenance, and prohibiting maintenance of anchors increases the risk of anchor failure - this would lead to increased accidents and deaths from rappelling.

In the wilderness, I think it's important to note that climbers have been responsibly enjoying climbs/routes before the Wilderness Act. Currently, climbers must hand-drill to install fixed anchors in these areas. This is a tedious process that significantly limits the number of bolts that can be installed. These bolts are generally used to protect areas that are unable to be protected such as sections between crack systems or rappel stations. Prohibiting installation of bolts would result in a greater number of catastrophic falls by climbers, increasing the need for rescue services in these remote areas. These bolts are able to be camouflaged, are difficult to see until you're actually on the climb, and preserve the character of wilderness areas with their limited impact.