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Title:

Comments: I strongly disagree with the proposed procedure. While I do not think that new, fully bolt protected sport routes belong within a wilderness area. I do think that existing sport, traditional, and mixed climbs should stay, and the development of new traditional and mixed climbing routes should be allowed.

My biggest concern is regarding fixed anchors for the descents of climbing routes. While many routes can be climbed up without the use of any fixed anchors gear, getting down or, descending from those climbs is often dangerous, impossible or very economically costly to the climber. Without fixed anchor bolts climbers tend to leave behind gear, (slings, webbing, cord etc,)in order to descend, which degrades rapidly in the elements. This poses a safety problem for future climbers wanting to use what's there and not lose their own gear and ultimately causing an excess of trash left behind in the wilderness.

Additionally, I feel strongly that an inspection of all climbing anchors within wilderness areas to decide if they should remain or be removed is an impossible task and almost completely unenforceable. It seems also a waste of resources to use personnel to inspect climbing anchors. Not much information on the quality of a fixed anchor can be gained from an "inspection". The decision of whether an anchor should remain or be removed seems largely a matter of opinion. In my experience current fixed anchors do not hurt or take away from anyone's experience in the wilderness. Fixed anchors are often hard to notice and placed inconspicuously. From my experience, the placement of fixed anchors is not out of hand and in no way impacting these wilderness areas. If anything more fixed anchors, and the permission to place such after initial exploration, especially for descending routes, are needed to prevent future accidents.

There have been many accidents, such as one recently within North Cascades National Park where two climbers died in a descending accident that could easily be prevented by fixed descending anchors. This and many more accidents can be prevented by fixed descending anchors. Please revise this procedure and do not let more and more accidents happen for no good reason. Fixed anchors are cheap and easy to install, they are by far the best option for descending a climbing route and when no traditional protection can be placed.