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Comments: I live in Colorado, I have been rock climbing for 50 years. I especially enjoy climbing in wild and untrammeled settings around the Western USA.

I am happy that the EXPLORE Act has clarified that rock climbing is a valid and appropriate use of wilderness, and that fixed anchors on existing routes are legitimate and protected.

As far as bolts go, it is important to distinguish between two demands;

1. The need to maintain fixed anchors on existing routes. Please ensure that climbers are allowed to replace existing bolts and other hardware as needs arise: as long as the rebolting work is strictly like-for-like, there should be no need for any kind of review process. Ideally power drills should be allowed for such work, as this allows easier removal of an existing old bolt. If the existing bolt can be extracted, the existing hole can be re-used multiple times, a sustainable approach.

2. New bolts. A review process may be appropriate to decide whether new bolts and other new fixed hardware may be installed on new routes established in wilderness areas. If any such committee or board is called for, please ensure that climbers are involved in every part of the process. There are a number of examples of such review committees/boards around the country. One of the oldest established is the Action Committee for Eldo (ACE) Board which has been reviewing new route proposals for Eldorado Canyon State Park in Colorado for over two decades and the process is smooth, clear and popular, and has been a huge success for everyone involved, climbers, non-climbing park users, and park personnel.

Thank You for your time.