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Comments: Permanent fixed gear is critical for safe rock climbing and mountaineering. While wilderness areas should not be the place for fully bolted climbs (sport climbing) the Intelligent use for bolts and other fixed gear for belay and rappell anchors is critical for safety and environmental impact. For example, well placed bolts will prevent people from rappelling directly off trees, which can damage the trees if not done properly. Bolts will also prevent people from using inadequate anchors for rappelling which could cause serious injuries or fatalities. Land managers should work closely with local climbing organizations so that critical fixed gear is not removed because of a lack of climbing specific knowledge by land managers who may not know as much about climbing safety and ethics.

Allowing specific use of fixed gear (belay and rappel anchors only) will be more beneficial than a blanket ban on all fixed gear and anchors.