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Comments: The prohibition or serious restriction of fixed anchors used for lowering from climbing routes would create a serious hazard for climbers in most locations. Without fixed anchors for lowering purposes, climbers will be using trees, rocks, etc., to hold slings which will have at least two dramatic negative impacts: 1) they will be far less safe (no method is as safe as fixed bolted anchors) and 2) they will have a far greater impact on the environment (trees will sustain bark erosion, slings will remain as they cannot be retrieved, etc.) Further fixed bolts for anchors are generally in locations that are not intrusive at all.

Separate is the use of fixed bolts on a climbing route to either make it easier to climb or to place protection where no other option is available. For this case there should be a reasonable process to distinguish between those bolts which are truly necessary and those which are used to lower the difficulty of the climb. It seems that a team of climbers and climbing aware rangers should be able to reasonably work this out.