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Comments: I would like to share my concern with banning fixed climbing protection in National Parks. I support the continued ban on power drills and powered equipment in general. However, a complete ban on fixed protection lacks nuance for the use and historical context for such gear. Instead of a blanket ban on placing fixed gear, develop a plan for fixed gear maintenance and a process for developing new routes with new fixed gear placement.

I have been a rock climber for over 20 years and appreciate that the sport has grown exponentially in popularity, with a parallel increase in outdoor climbing and route development. There is a problem with indiscriminate bolt and anchor placement by people who are not educated about an area or the ethics of bolt/anchor placement in general. A blanket ban on fixed bolts will not solve this problem and will instead create the problem of unsafe bolts and anchors when the existing ones age out. Please develop a plan that will allow for appropriate bolt and anchor replacement, and allow for a sustainable level of route development. I love the outdoors, appreciate that the outdoors are being loved to death in some places, and support sustainable forest management.

Regards,

Tera Pitman