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Comments: Hello,

As a life long climber and mountaineer, I've experienced countless hours and days clinging to unlikely rock faces and ridge lines on public land and in wilderness settings throughout the American West. These are some of the most sacred and spectacular places to be found on earth, and the ability of the passionate climber to visit these places, and even more importantly, return home safely requires the reliance on responsibly placed, thoughtfully executed and properly maintained anchors and other protection hardware. Many of the routes I have visited have hundreds or thousands of visitors per year, these places will continue to see visitation regardless of prohibition on fixed anchors or protection. But instead of these people utilizing modern, subtly placed fixed protection for their ascents and descents, they'll have to improvise protection which will invariably be less safe, less effective, and often more damaging to the landscape, resulting in a mess of 'temporary' improvised anchor systems which will often be left on the mountain.

It is imperative that climbers be allowed to continue to utilize and maintain fixed protection on public lands, because the alternative is deeply problematic. Thank you for your consideration.

Scott Rinckenberger