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Comments: I have been climbing for several years now in many wilderness areas, and fixed anchors have been an important part of my climbing system. Their use and installation make climbing safer, more accessible, and more efficient in scenarios where efficiency matters for a climber.

In my own experience in Northern Arizona, there is large debate over the use of natural anchors for protection. Areas such as The Overlook and Paradise Forks in the Sedona region are home to areas where trees have been rappelled off for decades. The result is dead trees, trampled vegetation, and less safe climbing. It has long been believed by many that the installation of fixed anchors in this area would effectively reduce the overall impact on the area itself, by filtering climbers towards reliable, safe places to access climbs.

Fixed anchors are very important for beginners through experts in the sport of rock climbing. Their use can be in many cases entirely invisible to other users, yet crucial to climbers. The restriction of climbing routes to "existing climbing opportunities" is unenforceable and confusing to land managers and climbers alike. Additionally, restricting new route development only increases traffic on existing areas, likely causing damage to those pre-existing areas.