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Title:

Comments: Prohibiting fixed anchors will destroy an American past time, as they are necessary for safe climbing. Traditional climbing gear is used by some, but it is inherently unsafe, and people get seriously injured and die every year while using traditional gear. In addition, many people including myself are not willing to take many risks using traditional climbing gear and as a result, if fixed anchors are not present, people will not be able to climb. Others will choose to climb in places where traditional gear is not sufficient for safety, resulting in tax dollars spent on needless rescues. Without fixed anchors, I am unable to safely enjoy and explore our national parks. This is a sport that has existed for many decades without major impacts on our wilderness. Yes, there are people who climb that are destructive, but the things they do are already illegal and if being destructive is the problem, then planning and funding enforcement of existing rules and regulations should be the solution. The removal of fixed anchors would be a devastating removal of the fundamental purpose of national parks, and that is to conserve the scenery and provide enjoyment for future generations. Removing fixed anchors reduces our ability to enjoy wilderness areas, and does very little to preserve them beyond what is already being done. Even restricting new routes is unenforceable, and will cause destruction of rediscovered routes due to confusion of how old these routes really are.