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Comments: I have been a rock climber for 30 years. Fixed hardware is so critical to a safe, minimally impactful, efficient, and affordable climbing experience. Please do not implement a fixed anchor ban in the parks.

Banning of fixed anchors and other hardware will make climbing more dangerous, requiring substantially greater skill and potentially thousands of dollars of gear in order to build workable anchors in a range of settings. The temporary "trad" anchors built by climbers using expensive gear will inevitably cause more wear and tear to rock and plants, and will be more likely to fail catastrophically resulting in injury and death, even when the user has taken all appropriate precautions. A ban on fixed hardware will also make emergency evacuation far more difficult- in the event of an impending thunderstorm, snow, injury, or loss of equipment, evacuating off a route without fixed hardware is far more difficult and encumbered at best, and far more dangerous or even impossible at worst.

The need for advanced equipment when hardware is not available will leave climbing accessible only to the rich, leaving behind a majority of those who currently enjoy the unique connection with nature afforded by the vertical terrain.

Please please protect fixed anchors and safe bolting practices in our public lands.

Thank you,

Dr. Kelly McCormick

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