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Comments: Thank you for addressing the impact permanent climbing hardware has on the natural environment. Wild areas need as much protection from human degradation as possible. As a life-long climber, I have seen the vast improvement of climbing gear and techniques that allow us to climb safely and with low(er) impact than ever before. I have no doubt that climbing gear technology can continue to improve and will afford us a means to climb safely WITHOUT the use of fixed hardware. Fixed hardware is a blight on the environment, it needs to be stopped and we need to clean up the mess our recreation has made.