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Comments: Please don't ban fixed anchors. As a climber, I can confidently say that this will result in safety issues, likely resulting in fatalities during descents. They are a pivotal piece of our methods for safely ascending and, I believe more critically, descending the features we do love and cherish within the park system. Without them, climbers are forced to find alternative means of descent (often at night) which are less reliable and more difficult to relay clearly to new climbers. Fixed anchors, among many other safety benefits, provide a clear, predictable line for descent, and prevent nighttime wandering near the edges of cliffs in search of a means to get down.

In addition, fixed anchors are necessary for the kind of vertical exploration and adventure that the US has historically led the charge on. Ours has been a culture of rugged, inspired alpinism, marked by a love of venturing up into the great vertical unknown. Without the safety-measure of fixed anchors, this pursuit will be made significantly more dangerous. People will not stop climbing, but will do so in a manner more likely to result in their own death and the deaths of others. Continuing to allow fixed anchors will prevent this unnecessary consequence, and will support the spirit of adventure which North American climbing so consistently inspires.

Thanks for considering my perspective, and the perspective of many other climbers across the nation.