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Comments: As an avid climber for the last decade, I am fearful of what the banning of fixed equipment in National Park Service Wilderness Areas might mean for the safety of a sport I love and that is growing in popularity.

Fixed anchors are absolutely essential to climbers. They are critical for those that are starting out, and they are non-negotiable for many climbs to avoid unneeded safety risks. It is not always possible for climbers to build their own anchors safely, and it takes time to learn these skills even when the rock does give us ample ability to do so.

I urge you to not ban fixed anchors or equipment in these areas. I would be supportive of a more robust permitting and application system for those that want to install them as a means to address the concerns that are at the root of this issue.