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Comments: Fixed anchors have been an essential part of my outdoor experience as well as the key reason tens of thousands of additional people have been able to experience our national forests. Prior to the 1980s outdoor climbing was very much a niche sport. The learning curve was too steep and dangerous for most people to understand the complexity of climbing with removable protection. In addition, removable protection significantly limits where you can climb because of the need for cracks to place the gear. With the addition of fixed anchors climbing has been able to draw significantly more people to the outdoors because it vastly broadens where people can climb and makes the learning experience less scary and safer. All of my first outdoor climbing experiences were on climbs with fixed protection. I wanted to learn to climb with removable protection but I would never have been able to learn the complexity of climbing without the middle step of learning with fixed protection.

While I can understand the desire to try and reconcile what seems to be a rogue action (placing of fixed anchors) not allowed for other outdoor activities. The difference is for decades, on the ground, it's worked. It's worked for decades for two reasons. The placing of fixed anchors is a very specialized activity. And the actual impact of a small piece of metal 200ft up a rock face is extremely small, not much more than survey markers or stepping on a stick.

Climbing is my primary motivation for spending time outside. Fixed anchors are behind 80 percent of those experiences. Climbing also motivates all my parking pass purchases, donations to support outdoor activities, and political support for our outdoor spaces. In my early climbing years, I didn't have much money but over the last 20 years that has significantly changed. Fixed anchors are central to driving outdoor experiences as well as funding. I hope whatever language that gets enacted takes into account there is a system that is not currently broken. A system that is critical for one of the fastest-growing outdoor activities.