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Comments: I kindly request for you to reconsider the above proposal. I've been climbing, both sport (using existing bolts and fixed anchors) and traditionally (using removable gear in cracks and other weaknesses) for more than a decade and am convinced that there is no question that fixed hardware significantly reduces the risk of injury and even death. Eliminating those little life savers would, in my opinion, lead to many more accidents and rescues. Just one of many stories is that of a friend who, even though he is one of the safest climbers I know, trusted a sling that others had left at the top of a route which didn't have fixed anchors. He got really to rappel, weighted the sling which subsequently failed and my friend fell to the ground from 40 or feet. He is lucky to have survived, but broke both his legs and suffered several other injuries. I'm certain that he would have been unharmed had fixed anchors been in place and I don't even want to begin to imagine how many more of these sort of accidents could happen to the ever growing community of beginning climbers.

But I believe that not only climbers greatly benefit from fixed anchors, I'm convinced that nature does as well. I'm specifically thinking about climbing areas in northern Arizona (the Forks, the Overlook) where fixed anchors are prohibited, yet climbing is allowed and very popular. As a result of the bolt ban, climbers use trees to secure their ropes which after many years show severe wear and damage. I find it sad to walk around in those areas, which are heavily frequented by casual hikers. Those people would not see bolts below the lip of the canyon, but they can't overlook the suffering trees.

Any sort of fixed gear allows us to safely enjoy ourselves in beautiful places, please do not take this away from a great and responsible part of the community.

Thank you for your consideration!