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Comments: I began climbing in the Black Hills National Forest near Spearfish, South Dakota, in 1992. The first climbs in that area were established at about that time. Those early days of rock climbing fueled a passion for the outdoors and conservation.

Like many areas, the rock in Spearfish Canyon requires fixed anchors to ascend and descend safely. Fixed anchors improve safety and reduce impact. Were it not for fixed anchors, erosion-intensive hikes up steep canyons to anchor off trees would be the only way to climb safely in many areas. Eliminating fixed anchors would increase the human impact and danger in unacceptable ways.

I urge you to honor the long-established practice of permitting fixed anchors. They are necessary for safety and often reduce human impacts.