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First name: Paul

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Rock Climbing Belongs on Forest Service Lands

March 3, 2020

Dear Beth Rumpza,

Climbers and the U.S.F.S. have a long history of working together and agreeing:

- Rock climbing is an appropriate recreational activity on Forest Service lands.

- Fixed anchors are critical tools for climbing. They are essential for the safety of the climbing public, and they often prevent damage to natural resources like vegetation

- Well-developed climbing management guidelines need to include allowances for Wilderness adventures where occasional fixed anchors provide a modicum of safety.

- Climbers have been using fixed anchors for decades to access Wilderness areas like the Superstition Wilderness. These existing fixed anchors provide exceptional recreation experiences. Unless the draft plan specifically addresses existing fixed anchors and the need for continued maintenance, it will dramatically restrict recreational access to our public lands. Climbers have been using fixed anchors for decades to access Wilderness areas like the Superstition Wilderness. These existing fixed anchors provide exceptional recreation experiences. Unless the draft plan specifically addresses existing fixed anchors and the need for continued maintenance, it will dramatically restrict recreational access to our public lands.

Sincerely,