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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Rock Climbing Belongs on Forest Service Lands!

March 3, 2020

Dear Beth Rumpza,

Please reconsider this new forest plan! 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. Well-developed climbing management guidelines need to include allowances for Wilderness adventures where occasional fixed anchors provide a modicum of safety

.The fixed anchors that already exist within the forest need to be specifically mentioned in the plan language and "grandfathered" in. It should be permissible to replace any existing fixed anchor if a climber should come across one that he/she feels is unsafe. 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

Thank you for including climber's needs in the new plan!

Sincerely,