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First name: George

Last name: Nickas

Organization: Wilderness Watch

Title: Executive Director

Comments: Dear Objection Reviewing Officer,

I submit this request on behalf of Wilderness Watch to attend, as an interested party, your objection resolution meeting regarding the Tonto National Forest Plan Revision.

Wilderness Watch is a national wilderness advocacy organization dedicated to the protection of the National Wilderness Preservation System, including the eight designated Wilderness areas administered by the Tonto National Forest. Wilderness Watch has a broad membership including many folks who reside near or visit the Tonto National Forest and its wilderness areas. Numerous of our individual members have been following and/or engaged in the plan revision process and submitted comments, and Wilderness Watch as an organization has for many years been actively engaged with the Tonto National Forest when Wilderness management issues arise.

Many of the objections that you plan to address at the upcoming resolution meeting touch upon the policy and planning issues that are the focus of Wilderness Watch's work. These include the objections relating to climbing and fixed anchors, wildlife management, motorized recreation, and cattle and sheep grazing in Wilderness and recommended wilderness.

Thanks for your work putting this together, and we look forward to the opportunity to hear the Forest's public engagement with the objectors on these issues.

Sincerely,

George Nickas
Executive Director
Wilderness Watch