

**From:** [Samuel Foreman](#)  
**To:** [Rumpza, Elizabeth - FS](#)  
**Subject:** Climber Needs Fixed Anchors for Safety  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 9:07:00 PM

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Samuel Foreman  
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March 3, 2020

Dear Beth Rumpza,

I am writing to tell you about the importance of rock climbing in the Tonto National Forest and the dangerous impact the proposed new forest plan will have on it. Not only is rock climbing extremely important to me, as I have climbed a lot in the Superstition Wilderness, but I have seen climbers from across the country come and climb and love the Superstitions as well. The proposed new forest plan will impact all of us. Along with that, the proposed new forest plan will impact future generations of climbers furthermore.

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. This will also significantly increase the danger involved by forcing climbers to use deteriorating and unsafe anchors to ascend and descend, as well as forcing climbers to climb far above natural protection without the ability to place protection bolts. These pieces of equipment significantly increase climbing safety and they are small and almost always completely unnoticed.

Thank you for reading and please consider redrafting the language regarding rock climbing in the proposed new forest plan. Also, feel free to contact me with questions. I'd be happy to explain more.

Warm regards,  
Samuel Foreman