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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Rock climbing in National Forests in Arizona

March 9, 2020

Dear Beth Rumpza,

To whom it concerns:

I have been an outdoor enthusiast for over 10 years since I have moved to Arizona. It's public lands mean so much to me. I believe that rock climbing has its place in the great outdoors and fixed anchors make rock climbing safe and possible. I have used some fixed talking points below, but that does not change my opinion on how much I believe fixed anchors should be allowed.

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. To keep rock climbing sustainable and safe, It should be permissible to replace any existing fixed anchor if a climber should come across one that he/she feels is unsafe.

If Tonto National Forest recommends moving forward with the Resolution Copper mine project, as part of its EIS, the loss of the Queen Creek and Oak Flat climbing areas will put significant strain on the rest of the forest, especially the Superstition Wilderness, as the large Phoenix rock climbing community seeks out replacement climbing opportunities.

Thank you very much for your time and allowing the public hearing of this issue.

Sincerely,