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Comments: Dear Tonto National Forest Representative

As a relatively new member of the Arizona climbing and canyoneering community (I moved here from Canada over 2 years ago), I have been thrilled to be able to recreate in the Tonto National Forest. I read with interest the draft management plan and was happy to see that there are provisions in place for continued rock climbing and canyoneering activities in Tonto National Forest. However, I do have a couple of concerns that I hope you will be able to address.

There are already many, many rock climbing routes in the National Forest. In some instances, bolts are used as part of the process of ascending a route (as well as an anchor used for descending the route while canyoneering). Any bolts that were put in place for these routes will eventually need to be replaced. What is the plan for maintaining existing climbing routes? In some instances the document reads as if written authorization will be required for placing any climbing bolts. This has the potential to put undue burden on climbers who wish to maintain the safety of the climbing routes. Would you add a provision to allow for maintenance of existing climbing routes?

Climbers are also interested to develop new routes. Currently the language states that prior authorization is required for placing any bolts. Could you please clarify how this process of authorization will work?

Again, thank you for your careful consideration of how to manage the wilderness where many of us enjoy for recreation. Please contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely

Ann Revill