

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/13/2020 5:54:27 AM

First name: Stephanie

Last name: Furniss

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Tonto National Forest Representative,

As an Arizona citizen and a local rock climber and National Forest user, I wish to offer some suggestions regarding the draft Management Plan for the Tonto National Forest.

It appears that the Plan on numbered pages 28 and 29 limits rock climbing to prior authorization. Could you please clarify this wording to reinforce that rock climbing does not require prior authorization?

Existing anchors in established climbing areas: There is no mention of how established rock climbing areas would be managed. Could you please add a statement that incorporates and protects rock climbing routes and anchors that exist prior to the date of the adoption of the new Management plan?

Bolts are used for safely ascending and descending. The draft Plan appears to recognize fixed anchors only as a means of descent. That is incorrect. Fixed anchors (bolts) are very frequently used as a safety measure in ascending a route where removable anchors (pro) are not feasible. Could you please add language recognizing that fixed anchors and bolts are also required for ascending a route?

Bolt and anchor replacement. There is no mention of replacing old bolts. While fixed bolts are generally safe, some are aging and new technologies may improve the safety and utility of existing bolt placements. Could please add a statement that allows for the replacement of old, potentially unsafe bolts?

Thank you for reviewing and considering my suggestions.