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Comments: From the time I moved to southern Arizona 10 years ago, my experience on NF and NPS lands have shaped my great appreciation, respect for the laws and policies surrounding, and promotion of the wilderness, specifically through climbing in Coronado National Forest. For decades, the southern Arizona climbing community has worked hand in hand with the forest authorities, pouring our passion into numerous volunteer initiatives. From trail maintenance to graffiti removal, our commitment runs deep, supported by the generous contributions of local businesses and non-climbing organizations.

In the heart of the Coronado National Forest, rock climbing has been embraced and celebrated long before the 1964 Wilderness Act. Fixed anchors, crucial for climbers' safety, have been a legitimate and accepted part of our landscape for over half a century.

It seems unreasonable for federal agencies to introduce new policies that prohibit fixed anchors nationwide. Our community has responsibly managed and maintained these anchors for years, ensuring safety and preserving our climbing legacy. Prohibiting fixed anchors not only poses safety risks but also threatens the erasure of remarkable climbing achievements worldwide.

We urge a reconsideration of the proposed changes, emphasizing the need to protect existing routes and support the efficient maintenance of fixed anchors. Restricting new routes on non-Wilderness lands is impractical and risks confusion among both land managers and climbers.

Furthermore, the lack of a funding mechanism for these rule changes places an undue burden on the already short-staffed Forest Service. We propose that existing fixed anchors be deemed approved and appropriate until a thorough resource analysis can be conducted.

Collaboration with the local climbing community is essential for maintaining safety and promoting outdoor recreation. Let's work together to ensure that our climbing heritage thrives while safeguarding the natural beauty of our cherished lands.