

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/6/2024 1:15:19 AM

First name: Daniella

Last name: DellaGiustina

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern:

As a dedicated member of the Southern Arizona climbing community, I'm deeply concerned about the proposed rule changes affecting our cherished National Forests and Parks. Our community has a rich history of collaborating with the Coronado National Forest, contributing significantly through trail maintenance, erosion control, litter cleanup, graffiti removal, and raptor monitoring. This partnership, supported by local businesses and organizations, has fostered a safe and sustainable climbing environment.

Rock climbing, a revered activity in the Coronado National Forest, predates the 1964 Wilderness Act. The recent proposal to prohibit Wilderness climbing anchors nationwide overlooks decades of safe, managed, and authorized use of these essential safety tools. Such a ban could compromise climber safety, disrupt the maintenance of fixed anchors, and potentially erase significant climbing achievements.

Moreover, restricting new routes to non-Wilderness areas is impractical and confusing for both climbers and land managers. The absence of a funding mechanism for these changes further strains the already limited resources of the Forest Service.

I believe the US Forest Service should recognize existing fixed anchors as approved and appropriate, engaging with the local climbing community to ensure safety and promote outdoor recreation. This approach honors our climbing legacy and the spirit of the 1964 Wilderness Act while safeguarding our natural treasures.

Sincerely,

Daniella DellaGiustina