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Comments: Hello, I am a climber living in the Tucson, AZ area. Climbing at Mount Lemmon and the Catalina mountains is one of the main reasons I love Tucson. The beauty of the mountains and forest is only enhanced by access to safe climbing. Please consider the following points from the Access Fund to help us maintain access to a major part of our life here in Tucson:

The Southern Arizona climbing community has a long and positive history on National Forest system lands in the region.

The Southern Arizona climbing community has been effectively collaborating with the Coronado National Forest for decades to improve forest lands and steward climbing areas via dozens of volunteer efforts including:

- o System trail maintenance
- o Climbing area erosion control work
- o Litter cleanup
- o Graffiti removal
- o Fixed anchor maintenance
- o Raptor monitoring

NOTE: A considerable amount of community resources has been committed to these collaborative stewardship efforts, including support from local businesses and non-climbing organizations:

Rock climbing is a well-accepted and celebrated activity on the Coronado National Forest (CNF), with routes established well before the 1964 Wilderness Act. The CNF even celebrates rock climbing on its homepages as a major forest activity.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers need to allow climbers to explore Wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.

Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is

unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.