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First name: Cory

Last name: Patton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Sir or Madame,

I am writing to express to you the great influence that climbing and the ability to climb within national wilderness areas has had on my life, and to urge you not to change regulations regarding permanent anchor placements or remove any pre-existing anchors.

I moved to Tucson from Charleston, SC. A coastal town. With no beach or ocean for recreation, I had to ask myself what there was to do in the desert and eventually found rock climbing. Rock climbing proved to be an excellent way to meet new friends and explore the beauty of the Santa Catalina mountains. Through climbing I fell in love with my new city and also visited beautiful areas I never would have seen otherwise. The history of climbing is rich and longstanding in Tucson, with some routes being established even before the 1964 Wilderness Act, and the presence of fixed anchors kept me safe while I was learning to enjoy this new sport.

I quickly began volunteering with CASA, the local climbers association that has a long standing and productive relationship with the local forest service. CASA not only maintains the climbing areas and anchors, but has also provided many hours of trail maintenance and upgrades to trails used by both hikers and climbers alike. Not to mention graffiti removal and raptor monitoring.

In my opinion, the current proposition not only needlessly deters a rich and rewarding pastime with a long legacy within the Coronado National Forest, but also places climbers at risk. Please reconsider this plan.