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Title:

Comments: As a rock climber, I strongly oppose the proposal as it stands. In my area (Pima County/Mt. Lemmon), it would drastically cut the climbing opportunities available to the public, including many routes and areas that have been established for decades. It would also make the existing areas unsafe: established routes without bolt/anchor maintenance that is currently undertaken by local climbing/wilderness stewardship groups would pose a safety threat. In our community, climbers make positive contributions to stewardship, maintenance, and conservation efforts individually and through groups--contributions that are in line with the USFS goals and that work in concert with local indigenous groups. Much of this conservation activity would likely be lost if climbers have to go further afield and seek other (private) sites for route development. Similarly, because Tucson is a climbing destination, visiting climbers generate revenue for the state/county/city--funds that would be lost if climbers choose to go elsewhere.