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Comments: I am from Tucson, AZ and I am a college student who loves climbing. I am alarmed at the proposed changes in fixed anchor and bolt regulations.

The Southern Arizona climbing community has a long and positive history with National Forest system lands in the region such as Coronado National Forest. The Southern Arizona climbing community and groups like CASA have been successfully collaborating with the Coronado National Forest for decades to improve forest lands and steward climbing areas via dozens of volunteer efforts including trail maintenance, climbing area erosion control, litter and graffiti removal, anchor maintenance, and wildlife monitoring. Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the 1964 Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow prudent use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness and Park character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing. Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by inflicting 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 a climbing route. The rule changes and development of the management plans come with no funding mechanism attached. The changes will place an unnecessary and unsustainable management burden upon the already short-staffed Forest Service and Park Service.

Climbing has been a part of my life since I was a small girl. It is a way for me to connect with the land around me and connect with my friends and family. It is single handedly the most important and beneficial activity I take part in for my mental, physical, and emotional health. Creating unnecessary boundaries and roadblocks to climbing in the outdoors means that a multitude of climbers across the country will be faced with restricted access to their chosen way of interacting with the wilderness. Please consider the impacts these proposed regulation changes would make.