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Comments: To whom it may concern:

The Climbing Management plans as proposed by the NPS and USFS pose an unnecessary threat to the activities of the climbing community; a community which has been stewards of the land and responsible users of public resources for decades.

The processes proposed the USFS proposal are problematic as the climbing community takes responsibility for maintaining fixed anchors. The MRA process as described appears to be an unfounded mandate that will prevent a diligent community which has safely self-monitored climbing areas for decades from ensuring the safety of their participants.

Speaking from personal experience, I have hiked some of the areas prior to taking up climbing and never felt as if the presence of climbing hardware negatively impacted my experience. As I began climbing and visited areas that will be effected, I have developed a great respect for how well the climbing community and climbing associations have contributed to maintaining trails and mitigating negative impacts of their use in the areas in question. The climbing areas within the described areas I have visited reflect great care from the community. Beyond the tireless efforts of many in the community to care for the wilderness areas, the activities of our local organizations are vital to maintaining safe practices by updating hardware necessary for safe climbing. 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:

- \*System trail maintenance

- \*Climbing area erosion control work

- \*Litter cleanup

- \*Graffiti removal

- \*Fixed anchor maintenance

- \*Raptor 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 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

Rock climbing provides a unique way in which we can enjoy wilderness areas and protecting the ability of the climbing community to ensure safe practices is the only responsible course of action. I hope that the relevant parties will come to the conclusion that such a broad sweeping policy will cause far more harm than good.