

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/12/2024 4:24:43 PM

First name: Toby

Last name: Glick

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a climber based out of Tucson, Arizona who works in the climbing industry and greatly values my time in the outdoors, I feel that the proposed changes and argued impacts of this proposal are incredibly out of touch with one another. From my personal experience climbing in multiple countries, the activity of climbing, aside from crags or routes that are off of established front country roads, requires a level of knowledge about how to operate in the outdoors. As climbing has become more popular and accessible in gyms, many newer climbers have been introduced to the sport through a lens that does not consider its outdoor foundations. That being said, working in the industry both with gyms as well as non profits who focus on making climbing more accessible, the climbing community as a whole in southern Arizona has always made safety and sustainability its focus. Based on what I understand from the proposal, the NFS is advocating for what the climbing community as a whole is advocating for, but sanctioning it by making development and maintenance less accessible and creating another paywall for climbers. Not cool. In Tucson, there are thousands of sport, traditional and mixed routes right off of the Santa Catalina highway, which meanders through the center of the range. At the peak of this highway, there is a fun little ski resort and vista, with gift shops and now a new parking garage and real estate opportunities! I find it somewhat comical that those people don't have to pay for a permit or take LNT classes. Anyway, I certainly have a bias towards the current establishment but I also understand that this is due to the relationship that climbers have fostered with the Forest Service locally, and that attitude does not encompass the entirety of the nation. At the end of the day I think that advocating for collaboration with local groups that share the goals of the NFS would have a much more positive impact than creating permits. Using climber's public forums could be a great way to organize certain locations, and because these forums have locals who monitor these forums and provide up to date input, these leaders could be great points of contact to understand the bolting and maintenance of certain climbing zones (instead of making it a climbers job to make an appointment with the ranger to scope their crag out). I personally am not in favor of this proposition, and think that there are much better ways to achieve such a goal.