

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 2:40:31 AM

First name: Caroline

Last name: Pechuzal

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am a long-time Tucson resident and rock climber and I urge the USFS not to prohibit fixed anchors. I have been climbing on Mt. Lemmon since 2003, and the experience has been invaluable to my development as a person. I do not want the safety of existing fixed anchors compromised by restrictions on who is able to authorize their maintenance or removal. The climbing community, particularly here in Southern Arizona, have a long history of being advocated to preserve the integrity of wilderness areas. They have also consistently shown responsibility and organization in ensuring that the sport is executed safely. I encourage any new policy to specifically site the need for the USFs to coordinate and work in partnership with local climbing organizations to assess safety of any bolts and fixed anchors. Placing a blanket ban on them will severely hinder access to safe rock climbing opportunities. This is a beautiful and growing sport that promotes and encourages stewardship of public lands. Please consider the expertise of the climbing community and do not ban fixed anchors.