Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 3:00:08 AM
First name: Sophia
Last name: Kingsley
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I am concerned about the impact of the proposed directive on climbing areas on Mount Lemmon in southern Arizona. The safety equipment of many climbs in areas such as the Pusch Ridge Wilderness Area could be compromised by these policies. Climbers rely on fixed anchors to safely ascend and descend routes. Prohibiting the placement and replacement of such anchors unless authorized through Minimum Requirements Analyses could prevent the climbers who use these anchors from evaluating and replacing them as needed and in a timely fashion. The partnership between climbers and land managers is essential, and I absolutely support efforts to reduce climbers' impact on wilderness areas. However, involving land managers in anchor maintenance without providing funding, sufficient time, or the expertise held by the climbers who have been fulfilling this function for decades has too much potential to compromise safety.