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Organization:

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Comments: To whom it may concern,

I have been climbing in the Sonoran desert for 5 years and as a native Tucsonian I have never experienced the level of environmental stewardship as I have through the local Tucson climbing communities. The climbers association of Arizona (CASA), as well as the other local non profit climbing communities, has not only provided many cleanups all around windy point and other popular tourist sites, but they offer trail building along with information about how to leave no trace. Just last year I assisted with a info night at the hop shop (a local Tucson brew shop) where dozens of Tucson climbers showed up in a Arizona women's climbing coalition(AZWCC)/climbers association of Arizona (CASA) collaboration on a leave no trace night presentation. In addition to that, AZWCC has hosted two outdoor retreats on mount Lemmon where not only were women made to feel safe exploring the outdoors but also educated on leave no trace. This is a small example of how in one year, a climbing association educates members not once, but twice on leave no trace! Climbers are the best advocates for environmental stewardship that I have encountered and encourage it throughout the Tucson community! I not only love and care for national forests and park lands because of climbing, but I also go to river cleanups because of members of my climbing community encouraging me to do so!

I believe that the climbing community exemplifies not only a love for nature but a true want and desire to preserve nature for all of the generations behind us that come. Every climber I know picks up the trash in the parking lots on the way back to the crag that other people who are just driving on the Lemmon highway leave. This is a constant commitment climbers have to keep the outdoors clean and we help the park staff with it every single day we are out there!

My hope is that NPS and USFS will realize that the climbing community has had many years working symbiotically with both organizations, and the climbing community does a wonderful job of maintaining bolts and providing cleanups and trail building. Climbing provides a wonderful connection to nature and has a successful relationship with the Coronado national forest since 1964. I hope to be able to continue to foster an environment for climbing to safely survive long into the future. I hope the USFS and NPS will take into consideration that climbing communities have a very positive effect on community cleanups and safety in the outdoors and leave no trace practices.

Thank you,

Desi