

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/3/2020 7:00:00 AM

First name: Benjamin

Last name: Lurie

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Climber Needs Fixed Anchors for Safety

Benjamin Lurie

8066 Regents Road

San Diego, CA 92122

March 3, 2020

Dear Beth Rumpza,

If Tonto National Forest recommends moving forward with the Resolution Copper mine project, as part of its EIS, the loss of the Queen Creek and Oak Flat climbing areas will put significant strain on the rest of the forest, especially the Superstition Wilderness, as the large Phoenix rock climbing community seeks out replacement climbing opportunities. Rock climbing is an appropriate recreational activity on Forest Service lands. Well-developed climbing management guidelines need to include allowances for Wilderness adventures where occasional fixed anchors provide a modicum of safety. Climbers have been using fixed anchors for decades to access Wilderness areas like the Superstition Wilderness. These existing fixed anchors provide exceptional recreation experiences. Unless the draft plan specifically addresses existing fixed anchors and the need for continued maintenance, it will dramatically restrict recreational access to our public lands.

Fixed anchors make sure that climbers are not tempted to use trees or other anchors which could be damaged. They are safe and can be very low profile if painted/dark colored bolts and anchors are used.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Lurie