

Proposed Amendments to Service Manual Chapter 610 FW 2

In Service Manual chapter 610 FW 2, Wilderness Administration and Resource Stewardship, we propose to revise section 2.5A and add a new section 2.5D(6). These changes are described below.

Revised section 2.5A to read:

A.If a structure or installation existed before wilderness designation, we may retain it if we determine it is the minimum requirement to administer the area as wilderness and is necessary to accomplish the purposes of the refuge, including Wilderness Act purposes. Existing climbing routes established prior to January 4, 2025 (including fixed anchors along the routes) must be allowed to be used and maintained. We will remove or allow natural deterioration of all structures and installations that do not meet these criteria.

New section 2.5D(6) to read:

(6) Fixed Anchors. Fixed anchors for recreational rock climbing that are necessary for the ascent or descent of a technical rock, ice, or mountain climb will not be considered installations, and therefore not subject to an MRA. The occasional placement and maintenance of a fixed anchor for belay, rappel, or protection purposes will be allowed in wilderness, and does not violate the Wilderness Act or necessarily impair the future enjoyment of wilderness. Fixed anchors should be used as a last resort when temporary anchors and equipment, which can be placed and removed without altering the environment (clean climbing), is not viable.

Public Comments

We invite comments from the public, and local, State, Tribal, U.S. Territories, and Federal agencies on the draft guidance memorandum and proposed Service Manual chapter amendments. All comments must be received by the date specified above. If you submit a comment at <https://www.regulations.gov>, your entire comment, including any personal identifying information, will be posted on the website. If you submit a hardcopy comment that includes personal identifying information, such as your address, phone number, or email address, you may request at the top of your document that we withhold this information from public review. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Moreover, all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as

representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

This request for public comment is entirely separate from the opportunity to provide comments on Wilderness Administration and Resource Stewardship; Request for Information that also published in today's **Federal Register**. If you wish to submit comments on the broader policy framework, please comment on Docket No. FWS-HQ-NWRS-2026-2575 at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Cynthia Martinez,

Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[A2407-014-004-065516; #O2509-014-004-125222]

Policy Review: BLM Manual 6340, Management of Designated Wilderness Areas

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of policy and procedural guidance.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public comment on potential updates to BLM Manual 6340—Management of Designated Wilderness Areas and is interested in receiving information and recommendations regarding whether updates, clarifications, or other revisions to existing Manual 6340 may be appropriate.

DATES: Send your comments on Manual 6340 on or before August 14, 2026. The BLM is not obligated to consider comments received after this date.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods. Please include the words “Management of Designated Wilderness Areas” as an identifier in your message.

To submit comments electronically, go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search-box, enter Docket number “BLM-2026-0067” and click the “Search” button. Click the “Comment Now!” button. Comments can also be mailed or hand delivered to: U.S. Department of the Interior, Director (630), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C St. NW, Room 5646, Washington, DC 20240, Attention:

Management of Designated Wilderness Areas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sean MacDougall, BLM Division of National Conservation Lands, email BLM_HQ_410_Wilderness@BLM.GOV, telephone: (970) 256-4934 for additional information.

Individuals in the United States who are deaf, blind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services for contacting Mr. MacDougall. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM is seeking public comment on potential updates to BLM Manual 6340—Management of Designated Wilderness Areas. The manual provides policy and guidance for managing BLM lands that have been designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The manual describes BLM's responsibilities for managing and protecting designated wilderness areas to preserve wilderness character, including administering public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use in accordance with the Wilderness Act. Additionally, the manual provides management direction for permitted uses under section 4(c) to preserve wilderness character, and requirements under section 4(d) of the Wilderness Act. The BLM is interested in receiving information and recommendations regarding whether updates, clarifications, or other revisions to existing Manual 6340 may be appropriate.

If you wish to comment separately on the BLM's proposed recreational climbing guidance per section 122 of the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act (16 U.S.C. 8422), please go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), and search for Docket number “BLM-2026-0034.”

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

(Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1131 *et seq.*)

Carla M. Bock,

Acting Assistant Director, National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships.

[FR Doc. 2026–11949 Filed 6–12–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[A2407–014–004–065516; #O2509–014–004–125222]

Policy Review: BLM Manual 6320, Considering Lands With Wilderness Characteristics in the BLM Land Use Planning Process

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of policy and procedural guidance.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public comment on potential updates to BLM Manual 6320—Considering Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the BLM Land Use Planning Process and is interested in receiving information and recommendations regarding whether updates, clarifications, or other revisions to existing Manual 6320 may be appropriate.

DATES: Send your comments on Manual 6320 on or before August 14, 2026. The BLM is not obligated to consider comments received after this date.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods. Please include the words “Considering Lands with Wilderness Characteristics” as an identifier in your message.

To submit comments electronically, go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search-box, enter “BLM–2026–0068” and click the “Search” button. Click the “Comment Now!” button. Comments can also be mailed or hand delivered to: U.S. Department of the Interior, Director (630), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C St. NW, Room 5646, Washington DC 20240, Attention: Considering Lands with Wilderness Characteristics.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sean MacDougall, BLM Division of National Conservation Lands, email: BLM_HQ_410_Wilderness@BLM.GOV, telephone: (970) 256–4934 for additional information.

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outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM is seeking public comment on potential updates to BLM Manual 6320—Considering Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the BLM Land Use Planning Process. The manual provides policy and guidance for evaluating and considering lands with wilderness characteristics during land use planning under section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and other applicable laws. Consistent with FLPMA and other applicable authorities, the BLM considers management of public lands identified as having wilderness characteristics in land use plans, amendments, or revisions. Lands with wilderness characteristics share similar conditions as designated wilderness or existing wilderness study areas; however, their management is derived from land use planning or project-level management decisions. The BLM is interested in receiving information and recommendations regarding whether updates, clarifications, or other revisions to existing Manual 6320 may be appropriate.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

(Authority: 43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*)

Carla M. Bock,

Acting Assistant Director, National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships.

[FR Doc. 2026–11951 Filed 6–12–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[A2407–014–004–065516; #O2509–014–004–125222]

Draft Policy and Guidance for Managing Recreational Climbing in BLM-Managed Units of the National Wilderness Preservation System

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of policy and procedural guidance.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is issuing this Draft Statement of Policy to announce updated policy and procedural guidance for managing recreational climbing in BLM-managed units of the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). This draft guidance, proposed as an update to BLM Manual 6340—Management of Designated Wilderness Areas, incorporates Congressional direction from the Protecting America’s Rock Climbing (PARC) Act, as included in section 122 of the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act. The BLM is seeking public comment to inform the final guidance for inclusion in Manual 6340.

DATES: Send your comments on the draft policy and guidance on or before August 14, 2026. The BLM is not obligated to consider comments received after this date.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods. Please include the words “Draft Recreational Climbing in Wilderness Guidance” as an identifier in your message. See also discussion of Public Availability of Comments below.

To view a copy of the draft guidance and to submit comments electronically, go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search-box, enter the Docket number “BLM–2026–0034” and click the “Search” button. Click the “Comment Now!” button. Comments can also be mailed or hand delivered to: U.S. Department of the Interior, Director (630), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C St. NW, Room 5646, Washington, DC 20240, Attention: Draft Recreational Climbing in Wilderness Policy Guidance.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sean MacDougall, BLM Division of National Conservation Lands, email BLM_HQ_410_Wilderness@BLM.GOV, telephone: (970) 256–4934 for additional information.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM has released updated policy and procedural guidance for managing recreational climbing in BLM-managed