

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

Carla M. Bock,

Acting Assistant Director, National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships.

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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.

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 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,

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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.

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 has released updated policy and procedural guidance for managing recreational climbing in BLM-managed

units of the NWPS. This draft guidance, proposed as an update to BLM Manual 6340—Management of Designated Wilderness Areas, incorporates Congressional direction from the PARC Act, as included in section 122 of the EXPLORE Act (16 U.S.C. 8422). It recognizes recreational climbing—including the use, placement, and maintenance of fixed anchors—as an appropriate wilderness use when conducted in accordance with the Wilderness Act and other applicable laws; clarifies criteria for casual use; and outlines processes for authorizing activities that exceed casual-use thresholds, managing legacy routes and anchors, and addressing emergencies, fixed equipment, and commercial services. In accordance with 16 U.S.C. 8422(f), the BLM is seeking public comment to inform the final guidance for inclusion in Manual 6340.

Substantive edits to Manual 6340 related to section 122 of the EXPLORE Act include:

- Section 1.6.B.2.j, installations;
- Section 1.6.C.13.c.ix. Primitive recreation;
- Section 1.6.C.13.f. Recreational climbing activities in wilderness;
- Section 1.6.D.5.a. Wilderness Management Plans; Climbing Management Plans; and
- Glossary revisions for “anchor, permanent fixed,” “anchor temporary,” “clean climbing,” “fixed equipment,” and “installation”.

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. 8422)

Carla M. Bock,

Acting Assistant Director, National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

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

Policy Review: BLM Manual 6330, Management of BLM Wilderness Study 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 6330—Management of Wilderness Study Areas and is interested in receiving information and recommendations regarding whether updates, clarifications, or other revisions to existing Manual 6330 may be appropriate.

DATES: Send your comments on Manual 6330 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 Wilderness Study Areas” as an identifier in your message.

To submit comments electronically, go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search-box, enter “BLM–2026–0069” 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 Wilderness Study 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.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM is seeking public comment on potential updates to BLM Manual 6330—Management of Wilderness Study Areas. The manual provides policy and guidance for managing wilderness study

areas (WSAs) to maintain their suitability for potential congressional designation as wilderness, until Congress makes a final determination. It defines the non-impairment standard for WSAs and outlines requirements for BLM managers to manage the resources on these lands in a manner that maintains each WSA’s suitability for preservation as wilderness. The WSA policy applies to: (1) WSAs identified by the wilderness review required by section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA); (2) Legislative WSAs established by Congress; and (3) WSAs that were identified and submitted to Congress in Wilderness Study Reports under the authority of section 202 of FLPMA. With respect to certain section 202 WSAs that were identified after the Wilderness Study Reports were submitted to Congress, this policy applies until the designation is changed through BLM’s land use planning process. The BLM is interested in receiving information and recommendations regarding whether updates, clarifications, or other revisions to existing Manual 6330 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.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS–WASO–VRP–WS–NPS41952; Docket No. NPS–2026–0101; PPWOVPADW0, PPMRLE1Y.Y00000, 266P103601]

EXPLORE Act Mandated Wilderness Climbing Guidance for National Park Service

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of draft