

23, 2026, 06:00 p.m., National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 which was published in the **Federal Register** on May 19, 2026, 91 FR 29149, Doc No. 2026–09947.

This meeting is being amended to change the meeting end date to June 22, 2026. The meeting is closed to the public.

Dated: June 10, 2026.

Bruce A. George,
Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory
Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2026–11935 Filed 6–12–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4167–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS–HQ–NWRs–2026–2575;
FXRS1261090000–267–FF09R20000]

Wilderness Administration and Resource Stewardship; Request for Information

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for public
comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) seeks public comment on potential improvements to Part 610 of the Service Manual (Wilderness Stewardship), which provides policy direction for the review, planning, stewardship, and administration of wilderness areas managed by the Service. The Service is interested in receiving information and recommendations regarding whether updates, clarifications, or other revisions to existing wilderness stewardship policy may be appropriate. We invite comments from the public, and local, State, Tribal, U.S. Territories, and Federal agencies.

DATES: We must receive your written comments on or before August 14, 2026.

ADDRESSES: *Comment submission:* All submissions must include the docket number FWS–HQ–NWRs–2026–2575 for this document. You must submit comments using one of the following methods:

- *Electronic submission:* Federal eRulemaking Portal at: <https://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter FWS–HQ–NWRs–2026–2575, which is the docket number for this action. Then click the Search button. On the resulting page, you may submit a comment by clicking on “Comment.” Please ensure that you have found the

correct document before submitting your comments.

- *U.S. mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS–HQ–NWRs–2026–2575, Policy and Regulations Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

Comments submitted through any method not authorized in this document, or sent to an address not listed here, will not be considered. We will not accept comments via email, fax, or hand delivery. We are not required to consider comments that are submitted after the comment period ends or that are submitted via a method outside of these instructions. Comments containing profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate content will not be considered.

We will post all comments at <https://www.regulations.gov>. You may request that we withhold personal identifying information from public review; however, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. See Public Comments for more information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nick Kaczor, National Wilderness Coordinator, Branch of Wildlife Resources, nick_kaczor@fws.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. 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:

Background

The Service seeks public comment on potential improvements to Part 610 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Manual (Wilderness Stewardship), which provides policy direction for the review, planning, stewardship, and administration of wilderness areas managed by the Service. The Service is interested in receiving information and recommendations regarding whether updates, clarifications, or other revisions to existing wilderness stewardship policy may be appropriate. The Part 610 Wilderness Stewardship Service Manual is non-binding, does not establish legally binding rules, and is internal Service policy intended only to improve the internal management of the Service.

Part 610 consists of the following five chapters:

- *610 FW 1:* General Overview of Wilderness Stewardship Policy,

provides an overview and foundation for implementing the Wilderness Act and the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended;

- *610 FW 2:* Wilderness Administration and Resource Stewardship, provides specific direction and guidance on administration of refuge wilderness, including stewardship of natural and cultural resources, public uses, and fire;

- *610 FW 3:* Wilderness Stewardship Planning, describes how to develop wilderness stewardship plans;

- *610 FW 4:* Wilderness Review and Evaluation, establishes policy for conducting wilderness reviews and managing wilderness study areas, recommended wilderness, and proposed wilderness; and

- *610 FW 5:* Special Provisions for Alaska Wilderness, describes the special provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (Public Law 96–487) that we must consider together with the policy in 610 FW 1–4 in administering National Wildlife Refuge System wilderness areas in Alaska.

To view the current Manual chapters, visit <https://www.fws.gov/policy-library/manuals/land-use-and-management-series/natural-and-cultural-resources-management-0>.

Public Comments

We invite comments from the public, and local, State, Tribal, U.S. Territories, and Federal agencies on the Service Manual chapters. 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; Managing Climbing Activities in Wilderness that also published in this issue of the **Federal**

Register. If you wish to submit comments on the draft rock-climbing guidance, please comment on Docket No. FWS-HQ-NWRS-2026-1618 at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Cynthia Martinez,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-11956 Filed 6-12-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-NWRS-2026-1618; FXRS12610900000-267-FF09R20000]

Wilderness Administration and Resource Stewardship; Managing Climbing Activities in Wilderness

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability of a draft national guidance memorandum and proposed revisions for two Service Manual chapters to fulfill the direction in Section 122 of the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act governing the management of climbing activities in wilderness areas in the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) and, where applicable, the National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS). The draft guidance memorandum and Service Manual chapter amendments clarify our wilderness policy by adding explicit policy elements related to climbing routes and equipment. We invite comments from the public, and local, State, Tribal, U.S. Territories, and Federal agencies.

DATES: We must receive your written comments on or before August 14, 2026.

ADDRESSES: *Obtaining Documents:* You may obtain copies of the documents this notice announces, along with any comments and other materials that we receive, online in Docket No. FWS-HQ-NWRS-2026-1618 at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Comment submission: All submissions must include the docket number FWS-HQ-NWRS-2026-1618 for this document. You must submit comments using one of the following methods:

- *Electronic submission:* Federal eRulemaking Portal at: <https://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter FWS-HQ-NWRS-2026-1618, which is the docket number for this

action. Then click the Search button. On the resulting page, you may submit a comment by clicking on "Comment." Please ensure that you have found the correct document before submitting your comments.

- *U.S. mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-NWRS-2026-1618, Policy and Regulations Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

Comments submitted through any method not authorized in this document, or sent to an address not listed here, will not be considered. We will not accept comments via email, fax, or hand delivery. We are not required to consider comments that are submitted after the comment period ends or that are submitted via a method outside of these instructions. Comments containing profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate content will not be considered.

We will post all comments at <https://www.regulations.gov>. You may request that we withhold personal identifying information from public review; however, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. See Public Comments for more information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nick Kaczor, National Wilderness Coordinator, Branch of Wildlife Resources, nick_kaczor@fws.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. 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:

Background

In 2025, the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act was signed into law (Public Law 118-234). EXPLORE Act Section 122, Protecting America's Rock Climbing (PARC), addresses recreational climbing and is codified at 16 U.S.C. 8422. PARC requires the Secretary of the Interior to issue guidance for recreational climbing activities on covered Federal land. PARC further directs that the guidance shall recognize that recreational climbing (including the use, placement, and maintenance of fixed anchors) is an appropriate use within a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System if undertaken in accordance with the

Wilderness Act and other applicable laws (including regulations) and subject to appropriate terms and conditions to be determined by the Secretary.

Accordingly, the Service has prepared a draft guidance memorandum and amendments to Service Manual chapter 610 FW 1, General Overview of Wilderness Stewardship Policy, and 610 FW 2, Wilderness Administration and Resource Stewardship. To view the current manual chapters, visit <https://www.fws.gov/policy-library/610fw1> and <https://www.fws.gov/policy-library/610fw2>. The draft guidance memorandum and proposed amendments maintain compliance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee) and the Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136).

Draft National Guidance on Recreational Rock Climbing on National Wildlife Refuge System and National Fish Hatchery Lands as Directed by the EXPLORE Act

The draft memorandum provides national guidance for the Service regarding the consideration and management of recreational rock climbing on lands administered by the NWRS and, where applicable, the NFHS. This guidance, in tandem with associated policy amendments, discussed below, fulfills the direction in Section 122 of EXPLORE Act. It clarifies how the Service will evaluate, authorize, and manage climbing activities, consistent with existing statutory authorities, Service policy, and purposes of the lands administered by the Service. Rock climbing is not known to occur on any NFHS lands, however, this guidance establishes a framework for considering such proposals if they arise.

The draft memorandum is available for public review online in Docket No. FWS-HQ-NWRS-2026-1618 at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Proposed Amendments to Service Manual Chapter 610 FW 1

In Service Manual chapter 610 FW 1, General Overview of Wilderness Stewardship Policy, we propose to add the following definitions to section 1.5:

- *Fixed Anchor.* Climbing equipment such as a bolt or piton that is left permanently in place to facilitate ascent, descent, or traverse of technical terrain.
- *Installation.* Anything made by humans that is not intended for human occupation and is left unattended or left behind when the installer leaves the wilderness.