

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 This draft guidance, proposed as an update to BLM Manual 6340—Management of Designated Wilderness Areas, incorporates Congressional direction from the PARC Act, as included in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.

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 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, PPMPLR1Y.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

guidance governing the management of climbing activities in wilderness areas in the National Park System, as mandated by the EXPLORE Act Section 122 (Protecting America's Rock Climbing). Comments are now being accepted from the public, and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies.

DATES: Comments must be received or postmarked on or before 11:59 p.m. ET on August 14, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The documents this notice announces are available for public inspection at <https://www.regulations.gov> in Docket No. NPS–2026–0101. Interested persons should submit comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

Instructions: Comments will not be accepted by fax, email, or in any way other than specified. Comments delivered on external electronic storage devices (flash drives, compact discs, etc.) will not be accepted. Bulk comments in any format (hard copy or electronic) submitted on behalf of others will not be accepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Michener, Deputy Associate Director, National Park Service, (202) 513–7080.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The National Park Service (NPS) has long recognized that climbing is an important and historically relevant recreational activity in many NPS wilderness areas. Wilderness is a unique resource that has overriding implications for all recreation uses, including climbing. Climbing is among those recreational uses that are traditionally associated with wilderness and identified by Congress in the legislative record for the development of the Wilderness Act (Pub. L. 88–577). As with any human activity, however, climbing will have impacts on wilderness resources and values. Climbing, including climbing in wilderness, continues to grow in popularity, which has prompted both the public and park managers to express the need to establish standard climbing management procedures that recognize the NPS statutory responsibility to preserve wilderness character while also providing appropriate opportunities for recreational climbing in wilderness.

In 2025, the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act was signed into law

(Pub. L. 118–234). EXPLORE Act Section 122, Protecting America's Rock Climbing (PARC), addresses recreational climbing and is codified at 16 U.S.C. 8422. It contains a requirement for bureau issuance of guidance for recreational climbing activities on covered federal lands, including wilderness.

The NPS requests public comments on the draft revisions of two related documents for wilderness climbing management in the NPS: (1) Director's Order 41: Wilderness Stewardship, Section 7.2 (draft) and (2) Reference Manual 41: Wilderness Stewardship, Section 7.1 (draft). Together, this guidance clarifies NPS policy on managing recreational climbing activities in wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act and consistent with the requirements of PARC with respect to the NPS. This request for public comment is entirely separate from the opportunity to provide comments on Director's Order #41: Wilderness Stewardship that also published in today's **Federal Register**. If you wish to submit comments on the broader policy framework, please comment on that docket.

Michael P. Michener,
Deputy Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection, National Park Service.
[FR Doc. 2026–11959 Filed 6–12–26; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS–WASO–VRP–WS; Docket No. NPS–2026–0100; PPWOVPADW0, PPMPLRLE1Y.Y00000, 266P103601]

National Park Service Level 2 Wilderness Stewardship Policy Review: Director's Order #41

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) seeks public comment on Director's Order #41: Wilderness Stewardship, which provides policy direction for the identification, planning, stewardship, and administration of wilderness managed by the NPS. Comments are now being accepted from the public, and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies.

DATES: Comments must be received or postmarked on or before 11:59 p.m. ET on August 14, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The document this notice announces is available for public

inspection at <https://www.regulations.gov> in Docket No. NPS–2026–0100. Interested persons should submit comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

Instructions: Comments will not be accepted by fax, email, or in any way other than specified. Comments delivered on external electronic storage devices (flash drives, compact discs, etc.) will not be accepted. Bulk comments in any format (hard copy or electronic) submitted on behalf of others will not be accepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Michener, Deputy Associate Director, National Park Service, (202) 513–7080.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NPS is interested in receiving information and recommendations regarding whether updates, clarifications, or other revisions to existing wilderness stewardship policy may be appropriate. Director's Order #41 is intended only to improve the internal management of the NPS and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable as law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

This request for public comment concerns the service wide policy framework that guides how the NPS, plans for, stewards, and administers wilderness across the National Park System. This request for public comment is entirely separate from the opportunity to provide comments on draft NPS wilderness climbing guidance mandated by the EXPLORE Act that also published in today's **Federal Register**. If you wish to submit comments specifically on the draft NPS wilderness climbing guidance, please comment in that docket.

Michael P. Michener,
Deputy Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection, National Park Service.
[FR Doc. 2026–11958 Filed 6–12–26; 8:45 am]
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