

A History of Climbing Management in the National Park Service

- 1916** Creation of Park Service
- 1959** First NPS Climbing Policy: “Mountaineers will be required to remove pitons, expansion bolts, and any ropes that may have been used by them to the fullest extent possible consistent with good safety practices.”
- 1960’s –70’s** NPS climbing closures or permit requirements existed in some parks.
- 1988 - 1992** Several NPS wilderness parks began studies of climbing-related impacts. Rocky Mountain NP produces the first NPS climbing management plan
- 1991 - 1992** NPS Climbing Management Workshops held in Denver, CO
NPS directs all National Park units with significant climbing activity to develop climbing management plans.
NPS Climbing Management Task Force is established.
- 1993 - 1994** NPS drafts service-wide guidance and proposes rulemaking.



LODGING



RESCUE



DISCOUNTS



BETA



GRANTS



PUBLICATIONS



COMMUNITY



ADVOCACY



CONSERVATION



A History of Climbing Management in the National Park Service

1991-1994

Climbing management plans & studies developed at various parks
Climbing management plans approved at Devil's Tower N.M., Canyonlands UT, and City of Rocks

ID

First comprehensive climbing impact study – City of Rocks National Reserve

1995

Devil's Tower N.M. – June voluntary climbing closure
Canyonlands Plan prohibits new fixed anchors, allows free and clean aid climbing

1997

NPS drafts Wilderness Climbing & Fixed Anchor Management for Wilderness
Preservation Reference Manual #41.

2000

USFS completes Negotiated Rulemaking Process but consensus not reached regarding the
Joshua Tree National Park Climbing Management Plan

2001

Rocky Mountain and Denali Backcountry Management Plans address climbing



LODGING



RESCUE



DISCOUNTS



BETA



GRANTS



PUBLICATIONS



COMMUNITY



ADVOCACY



CONSERVATION



A History of Climbing Management in the National Park Service

- 2012** North Cascades National Park removes rappel bolts from Forbidden Peak
- 2013** NPS Director's Order #41 Wilderness Stewardship signed on May 13th Section 7.2 management of climbing in wilderness, including fixed anchors
- 2013** North Cascades Superintendent's Compendium bans bolts. Joshua Tree Superintendent's Compendium prohibits using vegetation as anchors and authorizes its first permit for adding bolts in wilderness.
- 2015** Lake Mead Wilderness Plan prohibits new fixed anchors, allows replacements with a permit, and establishes stakeholder process to consider fixed anchor removal. Sequoia and Kings Canyon Wilderness Plan require special use permits for bolt additions and replacements.



LODGING



RESCUE



DISCOUNTS



BETA



GRANTS



PUBLICATIONS



COMMUNITY



ADVOCACY



CONSERVATION

