

Union Calendar No. 774

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 1380

[Report No. 118–749, Part I]

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to issue guidance on climbing management in designated wilderness areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2023

Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. NEGUSE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

Referral to the Committee on Agriculture extended for a period ending not later than December 19, 2024

DECEMBER 19, 2024

Additional sponsors: Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. LIEU and Mr. FITZPATRICK

DECEMBER 19, 2024

Committee on Agriculture discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 7, 2023]

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to issue guidance on climbing management in designated wilderness areas, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Protecting America’s*
5 *Rock Climbing Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. GUIDANCE ON CLIMBING.**

7 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the*
8 *date of enactment of this Act, each Secretary concerned shall*
9 *issue guidance for recreational climbing activities on cov-*
10 *ered Federal land.*

11 *(b) APPLICABLE LAW.—The guidance issued under*
12 *subsection (a) shall ensure that recreational climbing ac-*
13 *tivities comply with the laws (including regulations) appli-*
14 *cable to the covered Federal land.*

15 *(c) WILDERNESS AREAS.—The guidance issued under*
16 *subsection (a) shall recognize that recreational climbing*
17 *(including the use, placement, and maintenance of fixed an-*
18 *chors) is an appropriate use within a component of the Na-*
19 *tional Wilderness Preservation System, if undertaken—*

20 *(1) in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16*
21 *U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and other applicable laws (in-*
22 *cluding regulations); and*

23 *(2) subject to any terms and conditions deter-*
24 *mined by the Secretary concerned to be appropriate.*

1 (d) *AUTHORIZATION.*—*The guidance issued under sub-*
2 *section (a) shall describe the requirements, if any, for the*
3 *placement and maintenance of fixed anchors for rec-*
4 *reational climbing in a component of the National Wilder-*
5 *ness Preservation System, including any terms and condi-*
6 *tions determined by the Secretary concerned to be appro-*
7 *priate, which may be issued programmatically or on a case-*
8 *by-case basis.*

9 (e) *EXISTING ROUTES.*—*The guidance issued under*
10 *subsection (a) shall include direction providing for the con-*
11 *tinued use and maintenance of recreational climbing routes*
12 *(including fixed anchors along the routes) in existence as*
13 *of the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with*
14 *this Act.*

15 (f) *PUBLIC COMMENT.*—*Before finalizing the guidance*
16 *issued under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall*
17 *provide opportunities for public comment with respect to*
18 *the guidance.*

19 (g) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

20 (1) *COVERED FEDERAL LAND.*—*The term “cov-*
21 *ered Federal land”*—

22 (A) *means the lands described in subpara-*
23 *graph (A) and (B) of paragraph (2); and*

24 (B) *includes components of the National*
25 *Wilderness Preservation System.*

1 (2) *SECRETARY CONCERNED.*—*The term “Sec-*
2 *retary concerned” means—*

3 (A) *the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-*
4 *spect to National Forest System lands; and*

5 (B) *the Secretary of the Interior, with re-*
6 *spect to lands under the jurisdiction of such Sec-*
7 *retary.*

Union Calendar No. 774

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 1380

[Report No. 118-749, Part I]

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to issue guidance on climbing management in designated wilderness areas, and for other purposes.

DECEMBER 19, 2024

Committee on Agriculture discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed