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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

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

Mr. CURTIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

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”.

1 **SEC. 2. GUIDANCE ON CLIMBING MANAGEMENT IN DES-**
2 **IGNATED WILDERNESS AREAS.**

3 (a) CLIMBING GUIDANCE REQUIRED.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
6 retary concerned shall issue guidance on climbing
7 management in designated wilderness areas that rec-
8 ognizes the appropriateness of the allowable activi-
9 ties described in paragraph (2) in such areas, if the
10 allowable activities are undertaken in accordance
11 with—

12 (A) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et
13 seq.);

14 (B) other applicable laws (including regu-
15 lations); and

16 (C) any terms and conditions that are de-
17 termined to be necessary by the Secretary con-
18 cerned.

19 (2) ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.—The allowable
20 activities referred to in paragraph (1) are—

21 (A) recreational climbing;

22 (B) the placement, use, and maintenance
23 of fixed anchors; and

24 (C) the use of other equipment necessary
25 for recreational climbing.

26 (b) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—

1 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in
2 paragraph (2), prior to taking any significant man-
3 agement action affecting the allowable activities de-
4 scribed in subsection (a)(2) on the land described in
5 subsection (c)(1)(B), the Secretary concerned shall
6 provide the public with notice and an opportunity to
7 comment on the proposed action.

8 (2) EXCEPTION WITH RESPECT TO EMERGENCY
9 ACTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to an
10 emergency action that has a duration of less than 2
11 years.

12 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) DESIGNATED WILDERNESS AREA.—The
14 term “designated wilderness area” means an area—

15 (A) designated as a wilderness area pursu-
16 ant to the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et
17 seq.); and

18 (B) located in—

19 (i) National Forest System lands; or

20 (ii) lands under the administrative ju-
21 risdiction of the Secretary of the Interior.

22 (2) EMERGENCY ACTION.—The term “emer-
23 gency action” means a time sensitive action nec-
24 essary to protect natural resources or public health
25 and safety.

1 (3) 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 administrative jurisdic-
7 tion of such Secretary.