

Protecting America's Rock Climbing Act

On March 7, 2023 Representatives John Curtis (UT-03) and Joe Neguse (CO-02) introduced the bipartisan **Protecting America's Rock Climbing Act** ([PARC Act](#)). This proposed legislation will ensure responsible access to rock climbing in designated wilderness, an activity dating back to its creation in the Wilderness Act of 1964. This is particularly relevant in the West where over 92% of federally managed lands are located.

The **PARC Act** would establish consistency between federal agencies and support sustainable wilderness management by making clear that climbing and the use, placement, and replacement of climbing anchors are an appropriate activity within America's wilderness areas, subject to reasonable rules and regulations to protect wilderness character. The PARC Act does not dictate how each agency should allow fixed anchors but prevents current land management proposals that would formalize policies that fundamentally prohibit fixed anchors as illegal installations.

Climbing fixed anchors are essential tools for navigating technical terrain in wilderness and are essential for rock climbing, mountaineering, and backcountry skiing in some of America's most iconic public lands, such as El Capitan in Yosemite National Park, Longs Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park, and Wyoming's Wind River Mountains. A national prohibition on fixed anchors in wilderness would jeopardize the safety of climbers, harm our recreation economy (rock climbing is a \$12 billion industry according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis), contradict the purposes of the Wilderness Act, waste taxpayer dollars, and restrict access to some of the wildest places in America.

Last June an [amendment](#) to the PARC Act unanimously passed the House Natural Resource Committee on June 21, 2023, aligning the PARC Act with the Senate version of the bill (**America's Outdoor Recreation Act** [Section 122, S. 873](#)).

We urge you to join outdoor businesses, mountain guides, climbing advocates, conservation groups, and the climbing community in supporting the PARC Act and its Senate companion bill.

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The PARC Act is supported by the following businesses, associations, and organizations:

Recreational Equipment, Inc., Black Diamond Equipment, Petzl, Edelrid North America, La Sportiva USA, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, Outdoor Industry Association, USA Climbing, Pew Charitable Trust, The Conservation Alliance, Outdoor Alliance, American Mountain Guides Association, Kent Mountain Adventure Center, Vertical Adventures Rock Climbing School, Cliffhanger Guides, Skyward Mountaineering, Colorado Mountain School, Mountain Trip, American Alpine Institute, Access Fund, American Alpine Club, American Whitewater, Boulder Climbing Community, Salt Lake Climbers Alliance, American Canoe Association, The Mountaineers, Winter Wildlands Alliance, Coalition of American Canyoneers, Carolina Climbers Coalition, Friends of Indian Creek, Colorado Mountain Club, Southeastern Climbers Coalition, New River Alliance of Climbers, Friends of Joshua Tree, Central Appalachia Climbers Coalition, East Tennessee Climbers Coalition, Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition, SoCal Climbers Coalition, Ragged Mountain Foundation, Western Maryland Climbing Coalition, Rumney Climbers' Association, Clifton Climbers Alliance, and Arkansas Climbers Coalition.



Climbing on El Capitan in Yosemite Wilderness, California



Climbing in Zion Wilderness, Utah