

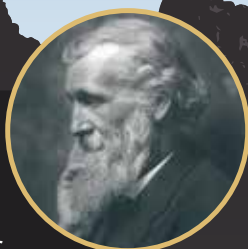
# CLIMBING IN WILDERNESS

The climbing community is deeply connected to wild places and relies on conservation of these landscapes to climb. By celebrating this connection, we help create the next generation of conservationists.

## CLIMBERS HAVE PLAYED A CRITICAL ROLE IN WILDERNESS AND CONSERVATION HISTORY

### JOHN MUIR

In the late 1800s, pioneer climber and second American Alpine Club president John Muir fought for the conservation of America's wild places, and was a key player in establishing the National Park system.



### DAVID BROWER

Prolific climber David Brower was instrumental in the 1964 signing of the Wilderness Act while he was the Executive Director of the Sierra Club.



### YVON CHOUINARD

Yvon Chouinard, groundbreaking climber and founder of Patagonia, helped develop environmentally friendly climbing techniques and gear. A dedicated conservationist, Chouinard has helped conserve many of America's wild places.



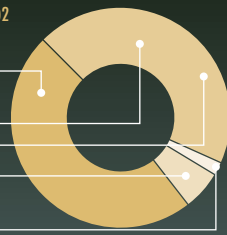
### DID YOU KNOW?

David Brower placed, what is believed to be the first climbing bolt in the US, in 1938.

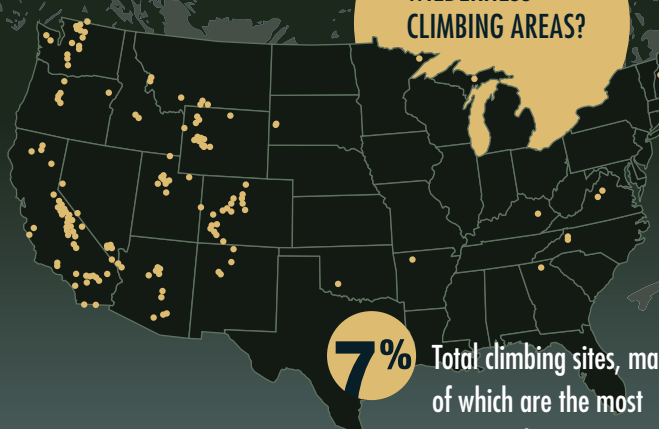
## THE WILDERNESS CLIMBING LANDSCAPE

### WHICH FEDERAL AGENCIES MANAGE WILDERNESS CLIMBING??

- 48% National Park Service
- 44% National Forest Service
- 6% Bureau of Land Management
- 2% Fish and Wildlife Service



### WHERE ARE WILDERNESS CLIMBING AREAS?



**7%** Total climbing sites, many of which are the most iconic in the US, are in designated Wilderness<sup>1</sup>



### FIXED ANCHORS

Climbing equipment left in place to allow safe ascent or descent of technical terrain.

## THE WILDERNESS CLIMBING ETHIC



All climbers are encouraged to follow the Wilderness climbing ethic:

- 1. Be inspired!** It is a privilege to climb in these beautiful, wild places.
- 2. Be aware** of and respect wilderness climbing regulations, restrictions, and closures.
- 3. Use removable climbing protection** whenever possible.
- 4. Get appropriate authorizations** from land managers before placing a fixed anchor.
- 5. Understand that bolts are used as a last resort** and must be placed by hand.
- 6. Tread lightly** to minimize impacts. Adopt Leave No Trace principles and climbing practices.

## BEST PRACTICES IN WILDERNESS CLIMBING MANAGEMENT



- 1. Know the land agency guidelines.** The government has recognized climbing as an appropriate activity in our nation's Wilderness and acknowledges that fixed anchors are sometimes necessary tools for Wilderness climbing.
- 2. Involve the public.** Stakeholder input is critical in managing safe climbing environments.
- 3. Recognize the importance of maintenance.** Climbers should be allowed to maintain the safety of existing anchors in accordance with agency guidelines.
- 4. Allow provisions for emergencies.** Climbers must have some level of control to make critical decisions regarding fixed anchor placements where no other options are available.
- 5. Broadly publicize any changes.** Publicize changes to fixed anchors, climbing regulations, and cliff closures to increase compliance and avoid compromising climber safety.



### THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OFFICIALLY LEGITIMIZED WILDERNESS CLIMBING IN 2013.

"Climbing is a legitimate and appropriate use of wilderness."  
— National Park Service Director's Order #41, Section 7.2, 2013



<sup>1</sup> Based on all climbing sites in Mountain Project's US database.

<sup>2</sup> Based on federal land ownership data and all climbing sites in Mountain Project's US database.

Photo of Muir courtesy of American Alpine Club Library  
Photo of Brower by Philip Hyde, 1955  
Photo of Chouinard by Jeff Johnson