

CLIMBING MANAGEMENT PLAN

Castle Rocks State Park ~ Almo, Idaho



CLIMBING MANAGEMENT PLAN

CASTLE ROCKS STATE PARK

Almo, Idaho

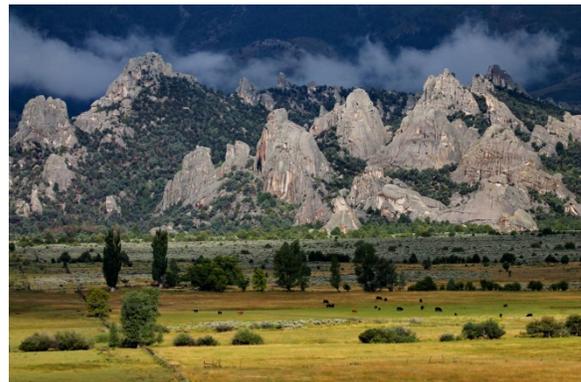
ABSTRACT

The Castle Rocks State Park (Park) Climbing Management Plan is a straightforward assessment and strategy for managing an appropriate recreational use within the Park, for the primary purpose of protecting natural and cultural resources as well as climbing resources, mitigating user conflicts, and maintaining a quality visitor experience. This plan conforms to the following:

- National Natural landmark status requirements
- Public Law 106-421 Castle Rock Ranch Acquisition Act of 2000
- Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (IDAPA) specifically 67, Chapter 42, Sections 1-49
- Idaho Park and Recreation Board Policies
- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) Procedures Manual
- Programmatic Agreement: Cultural Resources (IDPR, SHPO – 2003)
- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan 2015-2019
- Castle Rocks Climbing Management Plan, 2003 (until superseded)
- Castle Rocks Master Plan, 2006
- Sheridan/CRSP Conservation Easement, 200 acres, Rec. ease. 10 acres – Eagle Rock (2007)
- Exchange of Grazing Use (Tracy, 44 AUM from Smoky Mtn. Unit to Ranch Unit) 2010
- CRSP Annual Grazing Lease (June 15 through September 1)

PARK OVERVIEW

Castle Rocks is a dramatic geologic landscape similar to City of Rocks and located one mile NE of the City of Rocks National Reserve (Reserve). Outcroppings are primarily granodiorite, a type of granite associated with the Almo Pluton. Pinnacles and monoliths, towering 350 feet or more in local relief, characterize the area. Predominant vegetation include: sagebrush, bitterbrush, willow, aspen, juniper, mountain mahogany, and pinyon pine. An estimated 500 species of plants can be found. The more interesting wildlife includes mule deer, coyote, bobcat, mountain lion, moose, elk, big-horn sheep, and the state's first record of Ringtail. An estimated 163 bird species occur here. Sage Grouse leks and nests are present.



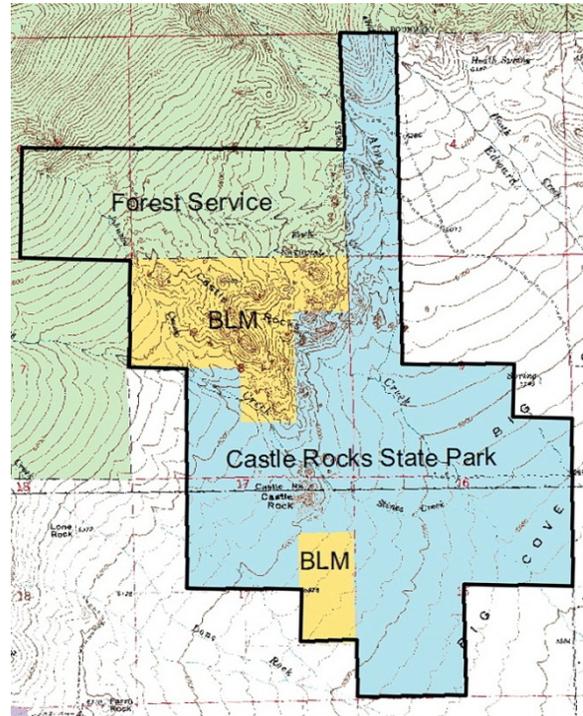
Castle Rocks Geological Area

Shoshone and Bannock Tribes utilized the area for seasonal hunting and pine nut gathering. Archeological surveys have determined that previous people-groups also inhabited or frequented the area. Evidence discovered, such as hunting blinds, pictographs, stone tools, and fire pits, provide new insight into one of the oldest documented cultures in Idaho. Fur trapping brought French Canadians and Americans into the general area as early as 1826, giving names to familiar landmarks such as Cache Peak

and Raft River. California bound immigrants (1843-1882) interacted with this landscape probably for grazing, water, and fuel; however, no emigrant signatures, trail ruts, or campsites are known to exist within the Park. Ranching was established as early as 1869. Over the next 140 years, canals, wells, fences, and shelters (including the ranch house c. 1912) were built, maintained, and rebuilt.

Much of the geologic area lies within jurisdictions of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the USDA Forest Service. The front massifs and the surrounding rangeland were private owned until 1999; yet in 1964, its granite monoliths were included in the City of Rocks National Historic Landmark as an area of national significance.

The Castle Rock Ranch Acquisition Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-421) authorized the National Park Service (NPS) to purchase the 1,240-acre ranch. The purchase was completed on March 15, 2001. The NPS was not authorized to manage the land for recreation or add it to the adjacent Reserve, but instead to exchange the property with IDPR for land the state owned within Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument. Since May 25, 2003, IDPR has provided facilities and managed recreation at the Park. NPS and IDPR signed an exchange agreement on August 21, 2003, and the Park became officially recognized; however, the legal exchange was not completed until October 6, 2004. On December 18, 2006, an additional 200 acres (Erickson acquisition) were purchased and added to the Park, connecting the ranch to the southern base of Cache Peak. On December 21, 2007, the 120-acre Sheridan conservation easement (with 10 acres of recreational access) east of Eagle Rock Grove was purchased by IDPR.



Land Ownership around Castle Rocks Geological Area

The most popular recreation is climbing, but the area offers many other opportunities, such as overnight experiences in the lodge and bunkhouse, horseback riding, fishing, birding, mountain biking, hiking, hunting, practicing archery at the target range, picnicking, snowshoeing, and outstanding photography.

Administratively and by [IDAPA Code 67-4212](#), the Park consists of three named units: Ranch (1,440 acres), Smoky Mountain (240 acres) and Administrative (12 acres) for a total of 1,692 acres + 200 acres conservation easement. The Ranch Unit local relief is 1,204 feet, from 5,636 to 6,840 feet. The Park Master Plan was approved on August 3, 2006. The Park units receive about 100,000 visitors annually.

Climbing has occurred at Castle Rocks since at least the 1960's, although not nearly so much as City of Rocks. A competition was held in 1986 that brought much greater notoriety, but still the resources were on private land and generally inaccessible. Climbing management began in the spring of 2003. Zone 1 (known as Castle Rock and its associated outcrops) opened May 25, 2003. Zone 1 was distinct from the main geologic area known as Castle Rocks. In Zone 1, park personnel assessed natural and cultural resources prior to opening. Zones 2A within the state park opened October 29, 2005, for fixed anchor development after the resources had been assessed, trails had been constructed, and route developers had applied for a permit. Zone 2B, known as the Erickson Acquisition, was opened on October 25, 2008.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR PLAN

The purpose of this plan is to protect natural and cultural resources as well as high-quality visitor experiences. Climbing is an appropriate, permitted, and promoted recreational activity at the Park, and climbers are the predominant user-group. Climbing can be divided into three types of uses: sport, traditional, and bouldering. Most climbers come to experience established sport routes. Well-engineered routes in various challenging grades draw climbers from around the country (and even internationally). Climbing is the recreational use most likely to impact natural and cultural resources, even if unintentionally. Resource impacts can include:

- Disruption of nesting raptors, swallows, swifts, canyon wrens, etc.
- Disruption of packrat middens or nest sites
- Soil erosion at base of climbs
- Removal of loose rock, fragile features, and lichen, creating a visual scar on a scenic feature
- Removal of vegetation at base of climbs, boulders, and staging areas
- Accidental or inadvertent disturbance and relocation of cultural artifacts
- Proliferation of social trails
- Visual impacts to the natural scene when chalk, bolts, and anchors are not camouflaged
- Rusting and staining of rock from substandard bolts and hangers

Other impacts include:

- Conflict and interference with other users where staging areas and hiking trails are juxtaposed
- Unplanned budget expenditures to repair trails and eroded areas resulting from high use, development of trails signs
- Additional monitoring by staff for compliance to permits and fixed-anchor development

This plan only addresses climbing at the 1,420-acre Ranch Unit of the Park. Furthermore, climbing resources are located within only 160 acres. Climbing is prohibited within the BLM jurisdiction of the Castle Rocks geologic area. The USDA Forest Service also has restrictions on climbing within the Sawtooth National Forest that covers portions of the Castle Rocks geologic area.

A climbing management plan leads to better resource protection and visitor experiences because primary recreation areas are identified, trails can be designated, staging areas can be defined, operation budgets can be planned, staffing can be assigned, and pristine archeological, historical, and natural resources of national significance remain intact.

TYPES OF CLIMBING USES

Traditional: A style of climbing where protection is placed by the ascending climber and removed by the seconding partner. Traditional climbs are protected by climbing equipment that is removable and does not impact the rock surface.

Sport: Climbs that are protected exclusively with fixed protection, usually bolts. These climbs are usually short (typically one rope length, 50-60 meters). Sport climbs are generally more popular and provide a safer climbing environment.

Bouldering: ropeless climbing that concentrates on short, sequential moves on rock usually no more than 15 feet off the ground. Falls are short and typically inconsequential. Use of a bouldering crash pad is common.

The Park offers world-class rock climbing. This means that:

- The climbing resource and access to it is nationally significant to the sport
- The granite faces are solid, featured, and challenging
- A variety of grades (5.0-13+) and styles (sport, trad, bouldering, mixed-pro) are offered
- The routes are well engineered with high quality fixed-anchors
- The recreational experience and facilities are high quality
- The area is well-known and popular
- Climbers, organizations, and land managers work in partnership
- Scenic, natural, and cultural resources are protected
- Conflicts with other recreational uses are minimal and mitigated

In summary, a climbing management plan is needed to:

1. Ensure that recreational climbing does not impact natural and cultural resources
2. Inform visitors (and especially climbers) on park policies, rules, and practices that are designed to protect resources, while still providing appropriate recreational access and opportunities.
3. Demonstrate a positive working relationship between park management and user group
4. Maintain a reputation for world-class rock climbing
5. Maintain a positive climbing experience

This plan addresses such basic questions as:

- Where can I climb?
- What can I climb?
- When can I climb?
- Do I need to acquire a permit, or to preregister, or to pay a fee just to climb?
- How do I obtain a permit to place fixed anchors and what is the process?
- To whom and how do I report an incident, issue, violation, or injury?
- Do I need a permit to guide other climbers?
- How does IDPR assess resources and determine temporary or permanent closures?

WHERE CAN I CLIMB?

Within the geological area known as Castle Rocks, only those rocks and features within the boundary of the Park are open for consideration. Approximately 320 acres of Castle Rocks geological area lies within the jurisdiction of the BLM. Rock climbing in this jurisdiction is strictly prohibited. For information about the closure as well as recreation within the 320 acres, call the Burley Field Office of the BLM at 208-677-6600. The BLM has revised the Cassia Resource Management Plan and provided notice to the public via the Federal Register the following prohibitions:



Carsonite posts mark the jurisdictional boundaries

On BLM-administered public land within the Castle Rocks area, the following supplementary rules apply:

- 1. Traditional and sport rock climbing and bouldering are prohibited.*
- 2. Staging is prohibited.*
- 3. Camping is prohibited.*
- 4. Trail building is prohibited.*

Exceptions: The following persons are exempt from these supplementary rules:

- A. Any Federal, State, local, and/or military employee acting within the scope of their duties;*
- B. Members of any organized rescue or fire-fighting force performing an official duty; and*
- C. Persons, agencies, municipalities or companies holding an existing special use permit and operating within the scope of their permit.*

Penalties: On public lands under Section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1733(a)) and 43 CFR 8360.0-7, any person who violates any of these supplementary rules may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined no more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for no more than 12 months or both. Such violations may also be subject to enhanced fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571.

Definitions:

Traditional rock climbing means a style of climbing where a climber or group of climbers places all gear required to protect against falls and removes it when passage is complete.

Sport rock climbing means a style of climbing that relies on fixed protection against falls, usually bolts and/or top anchors.

Bouldering means ropeless climbing that involves short, sequential moves on rock usually no more than 20 feet off the ground and uses bouldering crash pads at the base of the climbing area to prevent injuries from falls.

Staging means assembling, unpacking or otherwise preparing gear for climbing; typically conducted at the base of the cliff, where gear such as backpacks may also be left during a climb, but in some cases, is conducted at the top of a cliff.

Trail building means the act of creating new travel routes through the use of tools; or user-created trails developed through repeated visits to a specific destination. EA DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2013-0010-EA Appendix II serves as the baseline for existing trails on BLM lands.

Camping means setting up, occupying or making use of a place for shelter or overnight stay.

Rules were published October 28, 2015 and become effective on November 27, 2015

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/10/28/2015-27373/final-supplementary-rules-for-the-castle-rocks-land-use-plan-amendment-area-idaho>

Climbers visiting the Park should be aware of boundary signs and markers that delineate the jurisdiction between Park and BLM to avoid violation and penalty. Be aware that not all routes described in published climbing guides are legal to climb. While every effort has been made to educate the visitor, it is ultimately the visitor's responsibility to know where they are and which rules apply. If additional information is needed, call the Park visitor center at 208-824-5901, or the park manager at 208-824-5911, or email the park manager at Wallace_Keck@partner.nps.gov.

Climbing in the Castle Rocks area that lies within the Sawtooth National Forest is allowed; however, placing fixed anchors is currently prohibited. For information and policies about climbing in the Sawtooth National Forest, call the Minidoka District Ranger in Burley at 208-677-4878.

Climbing on rock features on private land is an issue between the visitor and the private land owner. IDPR does not have enforcement jurisdiction related to trespass. IDPR and the Park desire to maintain

good relations with adjacent private landowners and ask that visitors respect private property. Cassia County Sheriff's Department enforces complaints of trespass.

Although on private land, a 10-acre recreational easement at Eagle Rock was purchased from Cordell Sheridan by IDPR for the purpose of providing access to this rock climbing feature. The easement is located NW1/4, SE1/4, NW1/4, Sec. 9, T15S, 24E, Boise Meridian, Cassia County, Idaho.

Within the Park, rock climbing is permitted everywhere except the following:

- On rocks with pictographs, specifically the known site in the area called Tiny Town
- On routes with temporary closures to protect nesting raptors and other wildlife
- On routes or rocks that are specifically shown on a permanent closure map (See Appendix A) as posted at Stines Creek bulletin board and as amended to this plan where temporary closures do not effectively protect pristine archeological sites, or significant natural resources (e.g. rare ferns, special plant communities, packrat middens, fragile geologic features, etc.)
- On rocks where a climber discovers previously undocumented/unknown fragile geology, nesting wildlife, ferns, alumroot or other plants dominate the cracks and crevices, and where cultural artifacts are present. Climbers are asked to report such findings to demonstrate mutual care and respect for these resources. In most cases, these areas might only be temporary closed.



Sheridan 10-acre Recreation Easement

WHAT CAN I CLIMB?

Climbers may choose to free climb, scramble, boulder, place temporary gear (trad climb) or climb existing sport routes with fixed anchors on any rock feature in the Park not specifically closed as above. The placing of new permanent anchors within the Park requires a permit, and is discussed later in this plan.

Climbers are required to avoid fragile geological features wherever they may be encountered, such as windows, arches, spindles, and Tafoni-weathered features, honeycombs, etc.). Climbers are required to avoid disturbing wildlife and active nests whenever and wherever they may be encountered regardless of posted closures. Climbers should be aware that cultural artifacts may be discovered inadvertently at any time due to natural erosion or accelerated erosion due to heavy use of a staging area. Examples of these resources are pictured in Appendix B. Climbers should not congregate in a staging area which results in vegetation being trampled.

WHEN CAN I CLIMB?

The Park is open to climbing every day of the year between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.

DO I NEED TO ACQUIRE A PERMIT, OR TO PREREGISTER, OR TO PAY A FEE JUST TO CLIMB?

No permit or pre-registration is required to climb. A \$5 Motor Vehicle Entrance Fee (or Idaho Passport to Parks, Annual Pass, etc.) is required, but there are no additional fees, permits, or registrations required to climb existing routes, traditionally climb new routes, or to boulder.

Climbing is inherently dangerous and involves personal risk. IDPR does not assume any risk for decisions made by individuals to engage in or to take climbing risks. Fixed anchors are not maintained by the Park or IDPR, nor do either make any statement or give any assurance that the anchors are safe. Park staff does not require climbers to read policies, plans, or watch orientation videos. Park staff does not inspect climbing gear prior to climbs.

Park staff may post safety tips or warnings about conditions, or provide guidance on where routes are located, the purpose of which is to enhance or supplement a climber's knowledge and personal enjoyment. IDPR works to provide public access, information, and opportunities to learn and experience recreational pursuits in natural outdoor settings.

HOW DO I OBTAIN A PERMIT TO PLACE FIXED ANCHORS AND WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

While climbing is allowed without a permit, a permit is required to place fixed anchors. A fixed anchor is any material hammered or drilled into the rock. Acquiring a permit and the placement of fixed anchors is discussed in the following Fixed Anchor Management Policy:

Fixed Anchor Management Policy

1. Fixed anchors can only be placed in open areas.
2. Fixed anchors can only be placed after acquiring a permit signed by the park manager.
3. A request for permit is made by the applicant (see Attachment C) to the park manager.
4. The applicant is required to read this Climbing Management Plan, certify that he/she has read it, and attends a brief field orientation to open climbing areas and natural and cultural resources. The orientation may be conducted by park staff or a current permit holder.
5. A registry of permittees is maintained by the park manager (see Attachment D for sample permit).
6. A permit is valid for one year, and may be renewed by recertifying that the permittee has reread the current Climbing Management Plan. No additional orientation in the field is required.
7. The permittee must submit route location, description, rating and name to the park manager upon completion of fixed anchor placement, using the first ascent registration form (Attachment E).
8. The permittee must accept the following standards for fixed anchor hardware for consistency, safety, and resource protection:
 - Stainless steel hardware (hangers and bolts)
 - Minimum of 3/8-inch bolt diameter
 - Minimum of 2¼-inch bolt length (3 ½-inch is preferred)
 - Bolt heads and washers must be painted to match surrounding rock
 - Use commercially produced camouflaged or powder-coated hangers that best match surrounding rock
 - Top anchors shall consist of two separate hangers bolted to the rock with a minimum 3/8" X 3½" stainless steel bolts. Attached to these shall be minimum 5/16" threaded screw links, with minimum 3/8" chains attached. The chain length shall be as short as possible without compromising safety.

- Zinc-plated chains and threaded screw links may be used or commercially available stainless steel climbing top anchors.
- All top anchor components must be painted to best match the surrounding rock
- Avoid sharing top anchors when possible. No more than two routes can use a single top anchor.
- Top anchor should be placed in appropriate location with safety, as well as rope retrieval considered.
- Top anchor bolts should be placed at least twice the distance apart as the depth of the bolt holes. For example: 4" bolt holes (for 3.5" bolts) X 2 is minimum 8" apart for the 2 bolts.
- Top anchors should not be set back from the edge if possible
- Bolting is discouraged where removable protection (cams, nuts, etc.) is adequate and available.
- Fixed anchor spacing shall be consistent and reasonable.
- Fixed anchors are not permitted for routes under 30' feet
- Dark-colored webbing (black preferred) should be used only when necessary to descend safely from traditional routes
- Webbing is subject to removal by park staff, and will not be considered a permanent or long-term fixed anchor.
- Chipping, gluing, or excessive cleaning (i.e. contriving/manufacturing a route that the natural rock does not provide) is not permitted.

These standards may be reviewed annually by park staff and by the Climbing Resource Advisory Group (CRAG) to determine if industry standards have improved. If a higher standard is determined and preferred, it is recommended that it be incorporated into the Fixed Anchor Management Policy.

If a fixed-anchor fails to meet these standards, the park manager will notify the route developer of the steps and timeframe required to rectify the violation. The park manager may consult the CRAG for assistance in determining the best course of action; as well the CRAG may bring violations to the manager's attention.

Route developers who fail to meet the conditions of their permit may have their permit and future privileges revoked. Blatant disregard of these policies that lead to impacts on natural and cultural resources may result in additional fines.

FIELD ORIENTATION TO OPEN CLIMBING AREAS AND NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

In addition to reading and certifying that the applicant has Climbing Management Plan, applicants must also attend a field orientation to climbing areas and natural and cultural resources. Applicants should plan approximately 1-2 hours for this activity. The orientation includes the following themes:

The **Climbing Resource Advisory Group (CRAG)** is an ad hoc committee consisting of representatives of local regional and national climbing organizations. The group provides technical advice to the park manager about current trends, policies, issues, and standards in recreational climbing. These same groups serve as advocates for the climbing community to voice issues and concerns to public land managers about policies, access, and conflicts. Climbing organizations have been instrumental in assisting agencies and managers with land acquisition, facility development, education, and volunteerism.

1. Cultural/historical resources are pristine, numerous, and protected.
2. Soils are highly susceptible to erosion. Not using established trails whenever possible is detrimental to the resources, and reflects poorly on user groups.
3. Federally protected species and state species of concern occur within the Park and are identified. Users should be able to recognize these species.
4. Grazing is a traditional and continuing use in the Park. Respect for this prior use builds positive relations with other land users.
5. IDPR rules and regulations apply and are available for review.
6. Pets must be controlled by a leash no greater than 6 feet within the Park. Dogs frequently contribute to resource degradation (such as digging, chewing vegetation and chasing wildlife) and user conflicts. Proper control of pets is essential to resource protection and visitor safety.
7. Users should respect the natural quiet of the area.
8. Visitors should practice "Leave no Trace" techniques.
9. Climbers should be respectful of other recreation users.
10. Climbers should be respectful of private property adjacent to the Park.
11. Climbers and route developers should notify Park staff of serendipitously- discovered cultural resources or raptor nests, and leave those resources intact and unimpaired.
12. Chalk users should make every effort to remove unsightly markings (especially tic marks) before leaving the route.
13. Climbing is inherently dangerous, and adults should give special attention to the activities and location of children in and around climbing activity.
14. Climbers are expected to comply with this climbing management plan.
15. Adherence to the fixed anchor policy helps resource protection and reinforces a positive image of climbers.
16. Alterations to ground cover and surrounding areas (e.g. movement of rock or woody debris) to place bouldering pads, is strongly discouraged
17. Dragging bouldering pads damages vegetation and soils, and is strongly discouraged

DO I NEED A PERMIT TO GUIDE OTHER CLIMBERS?

A license and temporary concessions agreement is required if a climber meets the following definition:

"Guide" is any natural person who is employed by a licensed outfitter to furnish personal services for the conduct of outdoor recreational activities directly related to the conduct of activities for which the employing outfitter is licensed. Any such person not employed by a licensed outfitter who offers or provides facilities or services as specified in subsection (b) of this section shall be deemed in violation

In order to provide guide services in the Park, an individual must first be licensed by the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board (IOGLB). To apply for a license, contact the IOGLB at:

Outfitters & Guides Licensing Board
 1365 North Orchard Street #172
 Boise, Idaho 83706
 Phone: (208) 327-7380
 Fax: (208) 327-7382
 Email: licensing@oglb.idaho.gov

Once an individual is licensed to guide in the state of Idaho, they will then need to enter into a temporary concessions agreement with IDPR. This involves a contract that requires a \$300 application fee and 3% of gross revenue made in the Park. To begin the agreement process, contact the Park Manager at 208-824-5911, or email Wallace_Keck@partner.nps.gov.

If an individual climber is not providing a fee-based service, or if a non-profit educational organization is teaching/demonstrating climbing, no agreement is required.

HOW DOES IDPR ASSESS RESOURCES AND DETERMINE TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT CLOSURES?

How the Park is managed is guided by Policies of the Idaho Park and Recreation Board. The following is an excerpt of relevant policy:

DEV. 4:73, 08 SERVICES AND FACILITIES provided to the public shall be in accordance with the master plan, the classification and resource area designations established for the use and development of each park.

Considerations for providing services and facilities will be:

- I. Provision shall be made for a wide range of interests and activities.*
- II. Each park will be developed for as many activities as is consistent with the classification, wise use, and protection of the facility or resource.*
- V. No facilities or services shall be permitted within a park which encourage or contribute to the deterioration of the park environment or adjacent property.*

Furthermore, the Park is guided by a master plan. The Castle Rocks State Park Master Plan (Plan) was approved by the Idaho Park and Recreation Board in September 2006. The Plan designated the Park as a *Natural Park*. A Natural Park is established to maintain the ecological integrity of areas of Idaho possessing exceptional resource values that illustrate Idaho's natural history. Natural Parks provide for the use and enjoyment of these resources in a manner that will enhance the understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of these resources for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Natural Parks must be managed for low resource impact.

Significant natural and cultural resources to protect:

- Granite spires and domes
- Pristine archeological sites
- Cultural landscapes of the California Trail
- Historic landscapes and features of late 19th century farming and ranching
- Northern-most range of the Pinyon Pine woodlands
- Sagebrush steppe, wetlands and riparian areas of Almo Creek and ephemeral streams
- Wildlife with a limited presence in Idaho (e.g. Pinyon Jay, Cliff Chipmunk, Ringtail, etc.)
- Sage Grouse leks and nests
- Winter Range for mule deer, as well as moose, mountain lion, and other species
- Biological crossroads – a diversity of plants and animals whose geographical ranges overlap
- Other special protected species (Idaho Species of Greatest Conservation Need) as listed at the following website: <https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/docs/compWildStrategy/appendixB.pdf>

Idaho Code, Chapter 41 dictates that No person shall destroy or harm archeological or historical sites on state lands. The Park is also guided by the requirements of the National Historic Landmark designation and the Programmatic Agreement between IDPR and the Idaho State Historical Office of the Idaho Historical Society (May 29, 2002). In the Programmatic Agreement (page 3, Assessing Effects), IDPR shall

assess the effect of a proposed state land use on historic properties by applying the criteria of effect. The criteria of effect is: "An undertaking has an effect on a historic property when the undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, the characteristics of a historic property that qualify it for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places or diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Examples of effects include physical destruction, of or damage to, all or part of the property; removal of the property from its historic location; introduction of visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that are out of character with the property or alter its setting; and neglect of a property resulting in its deterioration or destruction; transfer, sale, lease of the property to a non-state or non-federal party."

Based on these requirements and parameters, the Park manager has established the following guidelines for temporary or permanent route closure if/when:

1. Raptors and other cliff-dwelling birds nesting activity are noticeably affected
2. *Idaho Species of Greatest Conservation Need* are impacted
3. Fragile geologic resources are present
4. Significant plant communities exist in cracks (ferns, alumroot, wire lettuce, shrubs, etc.)
5. A packrat midden (plant debris and feces cemented by dried urine or amberat) is present
6. A riparian or ephemeral wet area is significantly threatened
7. Significant soil erosion and devegetation will result
8. Archaeological sites of significance are found and mitigation has not occurred
9. Administrative activities such as facility maintenance, restoration, construction, scientific research, or an emergency is taking place
10. When Visitor safety is threatened (*e.g.* where two recreational activities may conflict, where a horse or mountain bike trail may conflict with a potential climbing staging area and trail use takes precedent)

Changes in closure status will be publicized on the Stines Creek Picnic Area kiosk, on the park's website and social media sites, in the revised climbing management plan, and via email to the CRAG, who may in turn publicize it through popular climbing websites.

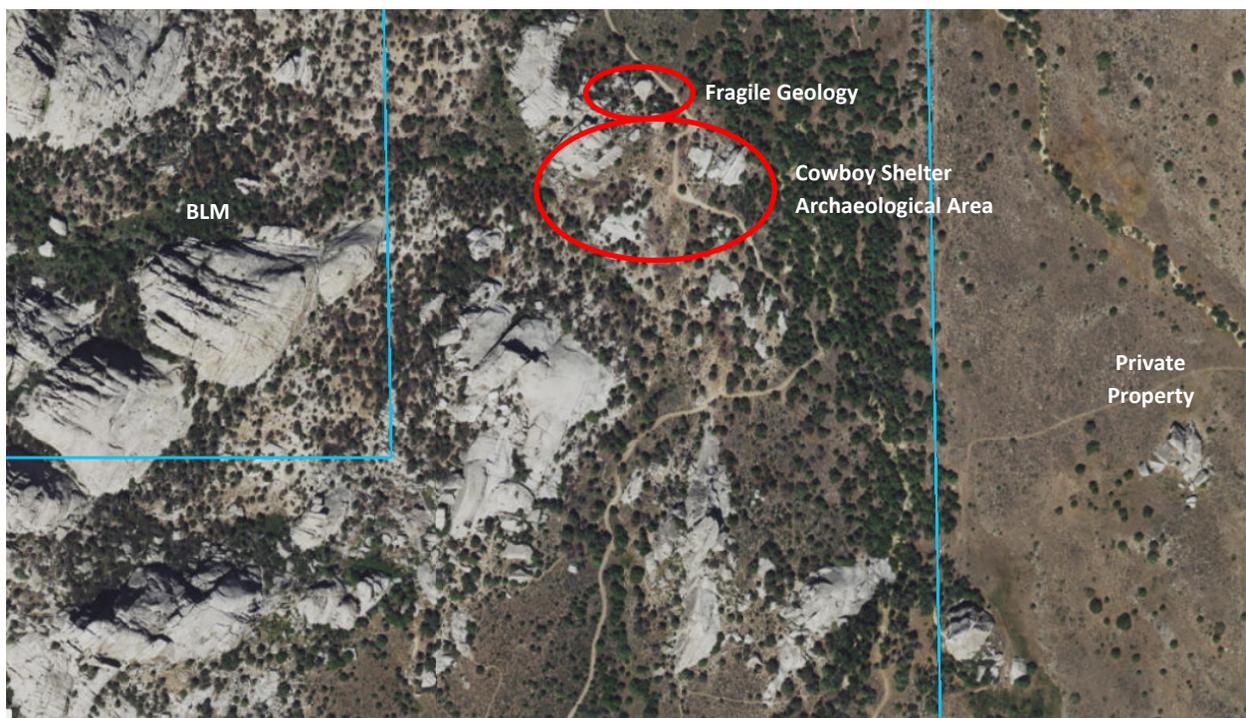
This climbing management plan
has been recommended by:

Date: 1/6/2016
Wallace F. Keck, Park Manager
Castle Rocks State Park
PO Box 169
Almo, ID 83312
(208) 824-5911
Wallace_Keck@partner.nps.gov

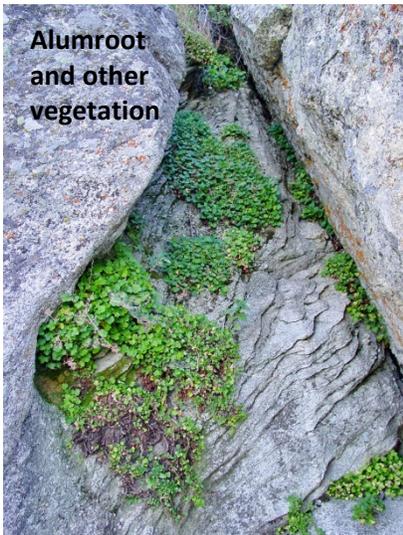
This climbing management plan
has been approved by:


Date: 01/06/16
David Langhorst, Director
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0065

APPENDIX A – PERMANENT CLOSURE MAP



APPENDIX B – EXAMPLES OF RESOURCES TO AVOID



APPENDIX C – APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO PLACE FIXED ANCHORS



APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO PLACE FIXED ANCHORS
CASTLE ROCKS STATE PARK

P.O. Box 169; Almo, ID 83312



Any person using a rock drill or hammer for the purpose of installing fixed anchors on rocks opened to climbing in Castle Rocks State Park must have a permit signed by the park manager.

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____



Applicant certifies that he/she has read the Castle Rocks State Park Climbing Management Plan and agrees to abide by the plan.

Applicant certifies that he/she has attend a field orientation to climbing areas and natural and cultural resources. Field orientation was conducted on: _____ by: _____

Please Print

_____ (Signature of person conducting the field orientation)

CHECK ONE: _____ Park Staff, or: _____ Current Permit Holder

WAIVER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK: *I understand that rock climbing activities are inherently dangerous While exercising the privilege which has been granted by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR), my heir and I agree to release from liability and hold harmless IDPR from any accidental injury or death that I may incur while exercising this privilege. I wish to make it expressly understood that my request for a permit to place fixed anchors was based on my own desire and I will not carry out the activity as an agent of the state government.*

Signature of Applicant: _____ **Date:** _____

Submit application to Park Manager at the visitor center, or at address above, or email to Wallace_Keck@partner.nps.gov

APPENDIX D – SAMPLE PERMIT



PERMIT TO PLACE FIXED ANCHORS
CASTLE ROCKS STATE PARK

P.O. Box 169; Almo, ID 83312



Any person using a rock drill or hammer for the purpose of installing fixed anchors on rocks opened to climbing in Castle Rocks State Park must have a permit signed by the park manager.

NAME OF PERMITEE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

This permit expires on

but may be renewed annually by recertifying that the permittee has read and agrees to abide by the Castle Rocks Climbing Management Plan

This permit holder has certified that he/she has read the Castle Rocks State Park Climbing Management Plan and agrees to abide by the plan; and has also certified that he/she has attended a field orientation to climbing areas and natural and cultural resources. The permit holder has also signed the following Waiver and Acknowledgement of Risk:

I understand that rock climbing activities are inherently dangerous. While exercising the privilege which has been granted by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR), my heir and I agree to release from liability and hold harmless IDPR from any accidental injury or death that I may incur while exercising this privilege. I wish to make it expressly understood that my request for a permit to place fixed anchors was based on my own desire and I will not carry out the activity as an agent of the state government.

Signature of Park Manager _____ **Date:** _____

CASTLE ROCKS STATE PARK
PO BOX 169
ALMO, ID 83312
(208) 824-5911
Wallace_Keck@partner.nps.gov

IDAHO DEPT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PO BOX 83720
WARM SPRINGS AVE
BOISE, ID 83720-0065
(208) 334-4199

APPENDIX E – FIRST ASCENT REGISTRATION FORM



FIRST ASCENT REGISTRATION FORM
CASTLE ROCKS STATE PARK

P.O. Box 169; Almo, ID 83312



The Castle Rocks State Park Climbing Management Plan states that the permittee must submit route location, description, rating and name to the park manager upon completion of fixed anchor placement.

NAME OF PERMITEE: _____ DATE COMPLETED: _____

NAME OF ROUTE: _____

NAME OF FORMATION: _____

DESCRIBE LOCATION: _____

PROPOSED RATING: _____

APPROXIMATE HEIGHT: _____

NUMBER OF ANCHORS: _____

DESCRIBE THE DESCENT ROUTE: _____

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO:

Park Manager
Castle Rocks State Park
PO Box 169
Almo, ID 83312

Or give it to any park employee, or email it to:

Wallace_Keck@partner.nps.gov

For questions, call the park manager at (208) 824-5911

ADDITIONAL ROUTE BETA:

