

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1380
OFFERED BY MR. CURTIS OF UTAH**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting America’s
3 Rock Climbing Act”.

4 SEC. 2. GUIDANCE ON CLIMBING.

5 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after
6 the date of enactment of this Act, each Secretary con-
7 cerned shall issue guidance for recreational climbing ac-
8 tivities on covered Federal land.

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

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

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

4 (2) subject to any terms and conditions deter-
5 mined by the Secretary concerned to be appropriate.

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

14 (e) EXISTING ROUTES.—The guidance issued under
15 subsection (a) shall include direction providing for the con-
16 tinued use and maintenance of recreational climbing
17 routes (including fixed anchors along the routes) in exist-
18 ence as of the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance
19 with this Act.

20 (f) PUBLIC COMMENT.—Before finalizing the guid-
21 ance issued under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned
22 shall provide opportunities for public comment with re-
23 spect to the guidance.

24 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

3 (A) means the lands described in subpara-
4 graph (A) and (B) of paragraph (2); and

5 (B) includes components of the National
6 Wilderness Preservation System.

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

9 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
10 spect to National Forest System lands; and

11 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
12 spect to lands under the jurisdiction of such
13 Secretary.

