

State of California - The Resources Agency CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS		MANUAL
DEPARTMENTAL NOTICE		Operations
No. 93-25		
SUBJECT		CHAPTER
ROCK CLIMBING		1600, Natural and Cultural Resources
ISSUED	EXPIRES	REFERENCE
September 9, 1993	When Incorporated	

DPR 375 (Rev. 11/97)(Word, 12/30/97)

WHEN APPLICABLE, ENTER THE NUMBER AND DATE OF THIS DEPARTMENTAL NOTICE IN THE MARGIN OF THE MANUAL PAGE, ADJACENT TO THE SECTION(S) AFFECTED BY IT.

This Departmental Notice has been re-created for transmittal in electronic format. The original notice was signed by Kenneth B. Jones, Deputy Director for Park Stewardship.

Rock climbing is a popular and growing sport in California. There are a number of areas within park boundaries used for rock climbing. Some of these areas have been used for decades. Many are featured in national climbing guides. To ensure statewide consistency in managing rock climbing areas, the following policy is added to DOM Chapter 1600.

ROCK CLIMBING

1622.11

Technical rock climbing is a form of recreation practiced in several park units. To protect resources and avoid conflicting uses, Superintendents may designate specific climbing areas, restrict the types of climbing, require mitigation, or close areas pursuant to a posted notice. When new climbing areas are proposed, a CEQA review should be initiated to determine if impacts from climbing are detrimental to scenic, natural, cultural and/or recreational resources.

Rock climbing activities should not be routinely restricted for reasons of liability. Per Government Code Section 831.7, the Department is immune from liability for visitors engaged in such inherently dangerous recreational activities. The Department may be liable, however, if it encourages the activity or involves itself with the equipment used; therefore, Districts will not take part in rock climbing activities, or inspect, place or maintain climbing equipment. Climbers are responsible for maintaining their own equipment, and the Department is responsible for insuring that resources are adequately protected.

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact Vic Maris at (805) 942-0662.

original signed by

Kenneth B. Jones
Deputy Director
Park Stewardship

