

Memorandum of Understanding for the Central Texas Climbing Committee and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



Philosophy

Enchanted Rock State Natural Area (ERSNA) possesses valuable natural, cultural and geological resources of statewide significance. The preservation, stewardship and interpretation of these features is a primary goal of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Certain recreational activities, including rock climbing, are considered compatible uses. The TPWD recognizes the need for a process which provides for safe, resource compatible, quality rock climbing.

Purpose

This document establishes the requirement for an independent chartered advisory committee to provide guidance and expert knowledge to the TPWD regarding the evaluation of rock climbing resources and the placement of fixed protection at ERSNA.

Scope

The Central Texas Climbing Committee (CTCC) is a chartered, non-profit organization of volunteers which have been elected by the users of ERSNA. The CTCC is governed by a charter and by-laws which implement policies and procedures approved by the TPWD. The CTCC will provide volunteer service to the TPWD in the following areas:

1. Replacement of fixed protection;
2. Screen and Review applications, and provide recommendations for new fixed protection as detailed in the CTCC charter;
3. Provide a network with the rock climbing users of ERSNA and advise them of TPWD's clean climbing protocols, including stewardship philosophy, and reporting noncompliance to the park superintendent;
4. Maintaining all climbing areas and routes free of trash or abandoned equipment;
5. Removal of fixed protection as requested by the TPWD;
6. Removal of excess gymnastic chalk from the rock;
7. Work jointly with the TPWD to maintain and enhance a comprehensive technical climbing management program and advise TPWD of new developments in the field;
8. Other projects as mutually agreed.

The TPWD will provide to the CTCC:

1. Site specific resource criteria and guidelines which the CTCC will incorporate into their review procedures;
2. Maintenance of a standing resource committee to interact with the CTCC on issues and to approve applications for the placement of fixed protection.

Duration

The Memorandum of Understanding will be in effect beginning on the date of execution. Either party may terminate the Memorandum of Understanding at any time with 30 days advance written notice.

Release of Liability and Statement of Status

It is understood by both parties that all work will be directed by the TPWD. Members of the CTCC will be required to execute a waiver of liability and volunteer agreement supplied by the TPWD. It is also understood that members of the CTCC are released from personal liability regarding decisions implemented by the TPWD.