

Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

The following definitions are used for the scope of this climbing and canyoneering management plan:

Access Route is the route from an existing parking area, trail or road in which a climber or canyoneers walks to the base of a climb or beginning of a canyoneering route. Routes are not formally maintained as park assets.

Aid Climbing is the direct use of fixed or placed protection –pitons, nuts, bolts, rivets, spring-loaded cams, etc.–to support a climber’s weight and assist in the climber’s ascent. In general, aid techniques are reserved for pitches where free climbing is difficult to impossible, and extremely steep and long routes. Most difficult aid climbs still require pitons or other techniques using a hammer.

Anchors can be any way of attaching the climber/canyoneer, the rope, or a load to rock or tree, by either permanent or temporary means for belaying or rappelling. The goal of an anchor depends on the type of climbing under consideration but usually consists of stopping a fall, or holding a static load. Anchors can be either retrievable or permanent.

Bivying (also known as bivouac) is the act of camping overnight while on a climbing route above the ground. This may involve nothing more than lying down or sitting on a rock ledge overnight. If no rock ledge is available, a cot or ‘portaledge’ is suspended from anchors to serve as a bivouac.

Bolt is a permanent, man-made article that requires a hole to be drilled or hammered into the rock for its placement, usually consisting of a glued-in or expansion bolt. Bolts are small anchoring devices (usually 3/8” diameter by about 3” length) used to protect climbers where there are no cracks or openings for other types of protection.

Bouldering is a style of rock climbing undertaken without a rope that requires the use of specialized equipment (rock climbing shoes, crash pads, etc.) and normally limited to very short climbs over a crash pad so that a fall will not result in serious injury. It is typically practiced on large natural boulders or at the base of larger rock faces. Chalk is typically used.

Canyoneering (also known as Canyoning) is traveling across land and into canyons using a variety of techniques that are associated with technical descents — those that require rappels (abseils) and ropework, technical climbing or down-climbing, technical jumps, and/or technical swims.

Chalk is the common name for magnesium carbonate powder, which climbers carry in a pouch (chalk bag) at the waist. It dries the hands and is used in rock climbing in the same way it is used in gymnastics, to improve grip.¹

Clean Aid Climbing is aid climbing without the use of bolting gear, pitons or other gear that scars the rock or becomes fixed after ascent.

Egress or Exit Route is the route from the completed climbing or canyoneering route back to the parking area. Routes are not formally maintained as park assets.

¹ Fund. 2008. *Climbing Management: A Guide to Climbing Issues and the Development of a Climbing Management Plan*. The Access Fund. Boulder.

Ephemeral Pool is a naturally occurring sandstone basin that collects rain water and wind-blown sediment that can range from a few millimeters to a few meters in depth and may or may not be located in drainages.

Fixed belay/rappel station or “anchor systems” shall be deemed any configuration of fixed anchor hardware (requiring rock alteration for installation) or software placed at the top of a pitch or rappel for the purpose of belaying or placed for the sole intent of rappelling. The hardware or software is left behind.

Fixed gear is any man made article, either hardware or software (webbing, rope, cordelette, etc.), that is used to aid ascent or descent, or as protection, and is left on the route by a climbing party after the completion of the climb.

Free Climbing (also known as “traditional” climbing) is a minimum impact approach that employs chocks, stoppers, nuts and camming devices, rather than pitons or bolts, for protection or direct support. These are climbing aids that are removable and do not damage the rock. Traditional climbing is how the sport of rock climbing has been practiced since its inception, and has strong historic associations.

Free Soloing is a form of free climbing where the climber forgoes ropes, harnesses and other protective gear while ascending and relies only on his or her physical strength, climbing ability, and psychological fortitude to avoid a fatal fall. Free solo climbing should not be confused with traditional free climbing, in which gear is typically used for safety in case of a fall, but not to assist the climb.

Hardware is climbing equipment placed in cracks or on faces to protect climbers/canyoneers from falling. This specialized equipment includes wired nuts, camming devices, hexes, pitons and bolts.¹

Harness - Used to protect people in climbing, used in canyoneering to protect in rappelling. It wraps around the waist with leg loops.

Keeper Pothole - A pothole that may be impossible for numerous people to escape without the aid of advanced techniques, experience and special gear. If it contains water, hypothermia or drowning becomes a large risk.

Nut (or chock) is a metal wedge threaded on a wire, used for protection by wedging it into a crack in the rock.

Piton (also called a *pin* or *peg*) is a metal spike (usually steel) that is driven into a crack or seam in the rock with a hammer, and which acts as an anchor to protect the climber against the consequences of a fall, or to assist progress in aid climbing. Pitons are equipped with an eye hole or a ring to which a carabiner is attached; the carabiner can then be directly or indirectly attached (through more equipment) to a climbing rope.

Pothole - A cup- bowl- glass-shaped depression in the rock that is large enough to accommodate one or more persons.

Rating is a numerical value assigned to indicate the difficulty of the climbing on a particular route. The rating is typically estimated by the first ascensionists, then revised by subsequent parties if necessary. The most commonly used rating index for free climbing ranges from 5.0 to a current maximum of 5.15. (The “5” is a constant in most of the difficulty ratings used in rock climbing,

¹ Fund. 2008. *Climbing Management: A Guide to Climbing Issues and the Development of a Climbing Management Plan*. The Access Fund. Boulder.

and indicates that the type of climbing is technical free climbing rather than easier scrambling – class 3 or class 4 climbing.)²

Rap rings are made of a single ring of aluminum or steel. Soft aluminum rings are prone to destruction as you pull your sand-impregnated rope across the metal. Rap rings are often found on anchors in canyons.

Rock alteration is the intention removal of rock from its natural position, drilling, chipping, or gluing of hold.

Rock climb is any independent line of ascent of a rock face. A climb may follow a crack system or other natural features, or it may strike out across a “blank” face. A climb is considered to be created when it is first ascended, and is usually given a name by the first ascensionist. The climb is typically recorded and described in a guidebook or internet site so that other climbers can identify and climb the route.

Semi-keeper Pothole - A pothole that may be impossible for one person to escape but should never be a problem for two people using simple techniques.

Slacklining/Highlining is defined as walking on a rope, webbing, or other line that is tensioned horizontally between two points such as rock formations, trees, or any other natural features. Height of the rope above the ground is immaterial.

Sport Climbing involves the permanent placement of bolts (hardware) to ascend a climb along the entire route of a climb.

Spring-loaded camming device (also SLCD, cam) are used for protecting a climber’s fall. It consists of three or four cams mounted on a common axle or two adjacent axles, so that pulling on the axle forces the cams to spread farther apart. The SLCD is used by pulling on the “trigger” (a small handle) so the cams move together, then inserting it into a crack or pocket in the rock and releasing the trigger to allow the cams to expand. Camming devices can be manually removed and should leave no trace of use on the rock.¹

Stopper is a wedge shaped nut or a knot used as passive protection while rock climbing.

Technical Rock Climbing is defined as ascending or descending a rock formation utilizing specialized rock climbing equipment.

Vegetation alteration is any intentional removal of vegetation from its natural position, destruction, or damage of vegetation.

Webbing - A synthetic flat rope that is used to tie around anchors.

¹ Fund. 2008. *Climbing Management: A Guide to Climbing Issues and the Development of a Climbing Management Plan*. The Access Fund. Boulder.