

ERSNA Rock Climbing Management Plan

1 Introduction



2 Purpose and Motivation

Enchanted Rock provides an ideal setting for rock climbing that is unique in this part of the country. The Department supports and wishes to sustain recreational use by climbers, and climbing is and has historically been very popular at Enchanted Rock both before and after it became a State Natural Area. A considerable number of people visit every year to partake in climbing and climbing-related activities. This popularity coupled with the actual and potential impact of these activities on natural resources, historical artifacts and on other Enchanted Rock visitors creates a requirement to actively and effectively manage those activities. The purpose of this plan is to provide a solid and sustainable platform for climbing activity management at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area (the “Natural Area”).

3 Goal and Objectives

The primary goal of this plan is to codify and document the applicable policies, procedures and guidelines that have historically been applied to managing climbing activities at the Natural Area. Within this overall goal, the following objectives are each addressed: 1) insuring that the impact of climbing on natural, cultural and historic resource values is mitigated, to preserve those values for the future, 2) enabling climbers to enjoy the freedom of the sport, without undue or unnecessary restriction and 3) maintaining a positive experience of the Natural Area for climbers and non-climbers alike in relation to climbing activities.

4 Authority and Structure for Resource and Recreation Management

The authority presiding over all activities and usage policies, guidelines and procedures at the Natural Area is the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (the 'Department').

5 Natural, Historic and Cultural Resources

5.1 General Description

5.2 Vegetation Communities

5.3 Wildlife Communities

5.4 Specific Resources (special-status species/cultural/historic)

5.5 Existing Condition of Identified Resources

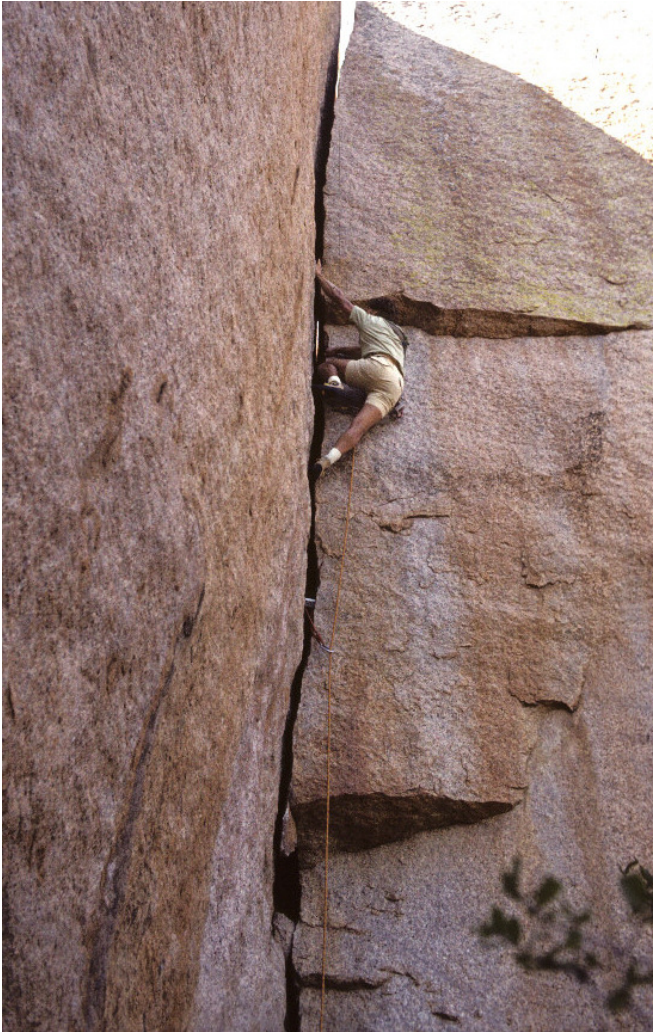
6 Description of Relevant Infrastructure (trails, camping facilities, waste disposal, parking)

7 Description of Climbing Activity

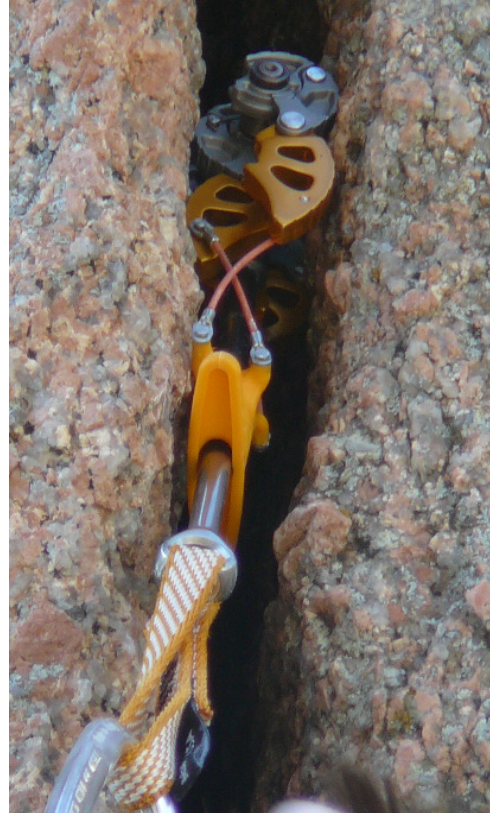
The numerous granite formations of Enchanted Rock are in many ways ideal for rock climbing. The surface texture of the pink granite of Enchanted Rock and nearby formations is coarse-grained and extremely rough, with sharp edges and crystals being commonplace. In addition to many climbable cracks and other features, the rough texture

creates interesting climbing challenges on many of the steep slabs and faces.

There are many cracks that enable climbers to ascend and to place removable “clean” climbing anchors for protection. Such protection is very strong when placed properly and typically doesn’t cause rock damage, and is preferred by many climbers. Placing clean climbing protection is a specialized skill requiring considerable practice, and because of the limited height of the



formations, placements must be frequent especially at the beginning of a climb to mitigate the risk of injury in case of a fall. Although pitons have occasionally been used at Enchanted Rock in the past, their use is outmoded due to the availability of improved clean climbing protection, and because the damage that piton placement and removal inherently cause to the rock is a violation of Natural Area rules.



On the steep slabs and faces, the absence of cracks and other features means that expansion bolts are often the only viable option for climbing protection. Climbers have traditionally minimized the number of bolts placed for a variety of reasons. Given that installed bolts are left in place, there is no ongoing rock damage due to their use after installation, and an installed bolt is typically much easier for climbers to use safely than a clean climbing anchor.

7.1 History

The history of technical climbing at Enchanted Rock began in the 1930s, and presumably scrambling and other activities involving ascent of the rock date back much further. In the early days of technical climbing, most of the moderate cracks and easy faces at Enchanted Rock were climbed. Over the years leading up to the early 1970s, Enchanted Rock became known as a good place for climbing, mostly among climbers living in Texas where other opportunities to climb were very limited. During this period Enchanted Rock was privately owned, and was accessible for climbing due to its operation as a private fee-based camp ground and park. Very little improvement was done to the area for camping or other purposes prior to its being purchased by the Department with the help of The Nature Conservancy and becoming a State Natural Area in 1978.

In the early 1970s, there was considerable growth in interest among climbers, and new and harder climbs were developed at Enchanted Rock including the first bolted face climbs. Throughout the 1970s and into the 1980s, a clean climbing ethic prevailed and bolting was generally treated by climbers as a last resort, to be used only when other means of protection were not available. Increasingly difficult first ascents were completed in the late 1970s. This period saw a surge in the popularity of climbing and correspondingly increased popularity of Enchanted Rock as a place to climb and to explore new climbing possibilities. This trend continued throughout the 1980s, with many new climbs at higher levels of difficulty being completed by a growing and ever more dedicated community of climbers.



During the mid to late 1980s, a trend toward climbing steeper, more difficult climbs caused a shift of popularity in Texas toward limestone, and away from the granite of Enchanted Rock. Much of the limestone in central Texas previously had largely been ignored, and in the late 1980s places like Austin's Barton Creek green belt and Reimer's Ranch on the Pedernales River became popular among climbers as alternatives to Enchanted Rock. This combined with other factors led to a decline in the number of new climbs being developed at the Natural Area, and to an eventual decrease in the overall number of climbers visiting there. Nonetheless, climbing continues to be a very popular activity that contributes significantly to attendance and revenue at the Natural Area.

In the late 1980s, the Department became increasingly aware of climbing management concerns at the Natural Area. A close collaboration between the Department and the climbing community led to the establishment of the Central Texas Climbing Committee (CTCC) to help address these issues. The CTCC is an elected volunteer advisory committee of climbers that since the late 1980s has provided expertise to assist the Department in managing climbing activities at Enchanted Rock. The genesis of the CTCC set a unique precedent for a highly effective form of climbing management that has since been adopted in numerous places throughout the United States.

<Figure: modern bolt with color powder-coated hanger>

The first major task performed by the original CTCC membership was the replacement of most of the existing fixed climbing protection at the Natural Area with new, stronger and more durable hardware. The CTCC has continually monitored and maintained fixed climbing protection at the Natural Area since then, has installed new anchors as requested by the Department to mitigate impact on trees and other natural features, and has advised the Department regarding climber applications for new fixed climbing protection. Much of the material herein simply comprises documentation of the procedures and guidelines that have been established and practiced by the CTCC.

In recent years, the wide availability of indoor climbing gyms and artificial climbing walls has made climbing accessible to more people than ever before. This has led to a surge in the popularity of both climbing in general, and of bouldering. The number of boulderers visiting Enchanted Rock on a given day has grown tremendously, and many new boulder problems have been climbed and documented. At the same time, there has been a growing interest in developing difficult new climbs at Enchanted Rock. Because most of the remaining opportunities for such routes at the Natural Area occur on formations less than 50 feet tall, this interest presents an evolving set of challenges for climbing management.

7.2 National and Regional Importance

Enchanted Rock is quite important as a resource to many central Texas climbers, and it is one of very few places in a multi-state region that offers the opportunity to effectively practice skills and techniques that are applicable to climbing in the mountains or at major climbing destinations such as Yosemite Valley. What has also been especially notable and influential about climbing at the Natural Area under the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is the formation and operation of the CTCC as a management advisory body. The Department set a national precedent and an outstanding example by forming the CTCC as the first climbing advisory body of its kind in the United States. Since then numerous other advisory bodies have been formed following the functional model provided by the CTCC, and it has proven over the years to be an efficient and effective partnership between climbers and the Department.

7.3 Who Are the Climbers?

The majority of climbers at Enchanted Rock are visitors from nearby cities such as Austin and San Antonio, as well as from places somewhat further away that offer little local outdoor climbing, including San Antonio, Dallas / Fort Worth and Houston. Many of them have been coming to Enchanted Rock to climb for a number of years, as it is the only place in this part of the country that offers such a variety of high quality granite climbing routes. There are also many people who come to Enchanted Rock to learn about climbing, either through one of the commercial guide services or with the Scouts or other groups offering instruction with the Department's approval.

The range of people who climb at Enchanted Rock is highly varied, of all ages and descriptions. Because there are climbs available at all levels of difficulty, there is no one group or type of climber that predominates. Everyone from the beginner just scrambling over the rocks for the first time to the experienced climber who enjoys the sport at the highest levels of difficulty may be seen climbing at Enchanted Rock.

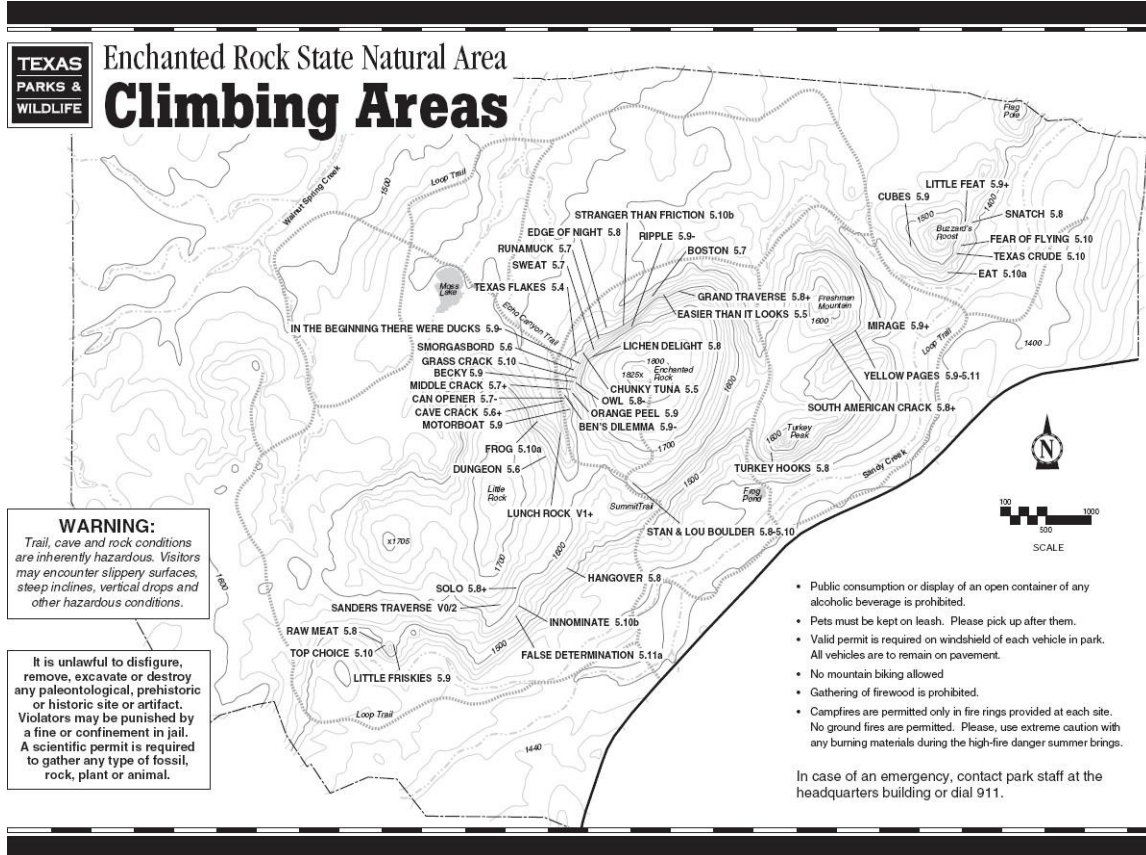
7.4 Existing and Potential Climbing Opportunities

Although the climbing potential at Enchanted Rock is substantial it is not unlimited, and the majority of the area has been explored and developed with climbing routes. The largest collection of routes in any one area is on the northwest side of the main Enchanted Rock dome, where the overall steepness and height of the face is excellent for climbing. There is also a large collection of routes in Echo Canyon, predominantly on its north slope, among the many boulders and domed faces above the canyon floor. Numerous other established routes exist across the entire Natural Area, both on boulders and on the domes.

Although a large portion of the climbing possibilities has been previously developed, there remain opportunities to add new climbs in areas that may be of interest and enjoyment to a wide range of climbers. One of the major benefits that can be realized by thoughtful development of new climbs especially in lightly used areas at the Natural Area is the potential reduction of crowding in more popular areas such as Echo Canyon. There are locations that currently have few climbing routes and are not often frequented by

climbers where there is great potential even for large groups to climb or to hold classes, if new routes are developed with that possibility in mind.

7.5 Maps/location of climbing resources



8 Summary of Climbing Management Issues

9 Description of Climbing Management

Before becoming a State Natural Area under the purview of the Department, Enchanted Rock's operation as a private park didn't involve any management of climbing activities. After its acquisition by the Department and re-opening as a State Natural Area, most climbing remained unrestricted, although a small set of management policies were established regarding the use of expansion bolts and other fixed protection.

The current era of active management of climbing at the Natural Area began with the establishment of the CTCC. Leveraging the CTCC as an advisory body, the Department initiated acceptance and evaluation of applications for fixed climbing protection. The set of procedures and guidelines documented herein comes primarily from practices that

have been established and applied by the CTCC in advising the Department, and from its experience with maintaining fixed protection hardware installed on established climbs.

10 Climbing Management Policy Guidelines

This section describes specific guidelines regarding the management of climbing activities at the Natural Area. The primary emphasis is on issues that have a direct impact on natural or historic resources, or on Natural Area users. Such issues primarily include fixed climbing protection placement and maintenance, and the resource and user impact resulting from climbing activity, from foot traffic associated with climbing, and from related peripheral activity in the vicinity of climbing.

Any alteration of the rock or of other natural resources at the Natural Area without the express permission of the Department is prohibited. In particular, except for the placement of fixed climbing protection approved by the Department as described herein, any alteration including chipping, chiseling, drilling, sculpting, gluing, dry-tooling or other activity causing permanent modification or damage to the rock for climbing purposes is never permitted under any circumstances. The placement and maintenance of fixed climbing protection is permitted only based on approval by the Department as described in Sections 10.3 and 10.4.

10.1 Clean Climbing

Most climbing areas at the Natural Area offer clean climbing opportunities, often in the form of crack climbs protectable by removable artificial chocks and camming devices. Clean climbing having no permanent impact on the area's natural resources is encouraged and is generally unrestricted, except in special cases where location-specific restrictions may apply. Such restrictions will typically be temporary, and even in the absence of such a restriction, climbers must always be observant of wildlife activity, and consciously avoid any undue disturbance of local flora or fauna.

<Figure: modern active cam placed in a crack>

10.2 Climbs Using Fixed Protection

The placement of any form of fixed protection for climbing is controlled by the Department through an application and approval process, as described in Section 10.3. Any placement of fixed hardware or software requires that the individual installing the placement have in their possession an approved application bearing their name. Climbers are urged to make every reasonable effort to promptly remove all other equipment placed in the process of climbing.

It is understood that sometimes a normally removable piece of gear may inadvertently become difficult or impossible to remove, and in such a case, climbers are asked to notify Department staff and/or the CTCC without delay of the nature and location of the stuck gear. This is both a matter of environmental impact and of safety, since abandoned gear may interfere with subsequent gear placement attempts, and its strength may not be possible to assess.

10.3 Fixed Protection Addition or Modification

The placement or modification of fixed climbing protection at the Natural Area is allowed as defined in this Section. Alteration or destruction of vegetation, wildlife or other natural resources at the Natural Area for any purpose without specific permission from the Department is strictly prohibited. Any modification or destruction of the rock for climbing or any other purpose without specific written permission from the Department is illegal, and may incur fines and/or other consequences as specified by Texas state law.

10.3.1 Departmental Fixed Protection Request

The Department may submit a request to the CTCC for the addition or modification of fixed climbing protection for any reason at any time. The CTCC and the Department will cooperatively maintain a process and appropriate forms to support such requests, and CTCC will provide the Department with relevant feedback regarding submitted requests, and support their prompt implementation. The most common reason for a Departmental request historically has been to place fixed rappel anchors intended to reduce the impact of climbing activities on natural resources such as trees. The Department may request the addition, modification or removal of fixed protection as needed for this or other reasons.

Upon receipt of a request to add or modify fixed protection from the Department, the CTCC will review the request and provide feedback to the Department as soon as possible, using the response form shown in Section 17. The response form will include space for detailed CTCC feedback and recommendations regarding the request. The CTCC response will be forwarded to the Department for final disposition. Once the CTCC receives a final decision from the Department, it will act promptly to implement the request.

10.3.2 Fixed Protection Application Process

Any placement of fixed protection at the Natural Area must be based on written approval from the Department. Such approval can be obtained by following a straightforward application and approval process, as described in this section.

10.3.2.1 Application Form and Requirements

The CTCC will maintain a written application form to be used when applying for the placement of fixed protection at the Natural Area (see Section 0). This form must be used by all parties who wish to place any fixed protection, or to take any climbing-related action which permanently alters any natural formation at the Natural Area, except as stated in Sections 10.3.1 and 10.4. Submitted applications may use the provided form or any variant thereof, as long as the following information is included (no exceptions):

- ◆ Precise location(s) of the proposed fixed protection, including the general area, nearby existing climbs, and specific position of each fixed protection placement.
- ◆ Specific type and size of hardware, installation procedure and sealant (if any) to be used for each proposed fixed protection placement.

- ◆ Printed names and signatures of all applicants. Only an individual whose printed name and signature appear on an approved application may place fixed protection per that application.

An individual may have at most two applications in an approved-unexpired status or in the review and approval process at any given time. An application may be withdrawn from consideration prior to its approval, and an approved application may be withdrawn at the request of all applicants whose names are on the application.

10.3.2.2 Application Review and Response Schedule

The application form provided by CTCC will include information about submission deadline(s) and the schedule for application consideration. CTCC will render a decision according to the stated schedule, and will inform the applicant(s) and the Department of their decision as soon as possible, using a standard response form as described in the following subsection.

Upon receipt of a final decision from TPWD, CTCC will notify the applicant(s) of the decision as soon as possible. This notice will include a written authorization to place fixed protection, naming the applicant(s), if the TPWD decision was for approval.

10.3.2.3 Application Response Form

An evaluation and response form, including a record of the CTCC members' votes and space for Department comments and signatures, will be included with each application when it is submitted to the Department for final disposition (see Section 0). If the CTCC decision is to decline the application, the specific reasons explaining that decision will be included on the response form.

<Departmental review and response ???>

10.3.3 Application Review and Evaluation Guidelines

The CTCC membership will review and evaluate each submitted application on its merits, and vote to approve or decline the application prior to forwarding its conclusion to the Department. CTCC approval of an application requires an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the CTCC membership, except as described in Section 10.3.3.2. It should be noted that this is not related to the size of the quorum at a given CTCC meeting, since the two-thirds majority vote requirement applies to the entire CTCC membership. In addition, a CTCC member may not vote for approval of any application bearing that CTCC member's name as an applicant or co-applicant. CTCC will submit the application response (see Section 10.3.2.3) to the superintendent of the Natural Area as soon as possible after the CTCC vote is finalized.

Each application will be evaluated by the CTCC on a case-by-case basis, taking into account any specific resource impacts and other non-climbing concerns as well as the qualities of the application from a climbing perspective. The latter assessment takes into account safety factors, rock quality, the proximity to other climbs, the inherent impact of placing fixed protection for climbing, the applicant(s) prior experience with anchor

placement, and other relevant information. The CTCC may in some cases suggest modifications to an application to improve its viability, and may allow the applicant(s) to make such changes before a decision is made.

Each application will be given all due consideration, and no application will be declined without cause or explanation. Neither will any application be approved without due process and careful assessment of its impacts and potential impacts, both direct and indirect, on climbers and climbing resources, on other natural resources, on Natural Area users in general, and on wildlife. The CTCC may in some cases discuss questions of potential resource or other impacts with the Department prior to making its decision.

10.3.3.1 New Climbing Route Application

The following guidelines will be used to determine whether an application is approved or declined. The impact of fixed protection placement, of climbing itself and the associated foot traffic to and from climbs as well as other direct and indirect influences all must be assessed and considered.

Application Assessment Guidelines

1. Of special concern in the evaluation of an application for fixed protection is the possible destruction of **endangered or rare vegetation**, of **animal habitats**, or of important **cultural or archeological artifacts**, as these are overriding concerns that cannot be overlooked. In most cases, the immediate proximity of a proposed route to natural resources such as these may create a sufficient risk to justify declining an application without further evaluation, and seldom can this kind of impact be mitigated by making modifications to the application.
2. **Erosion** is also a prime concern, and some areas are especially fragile and subject to damage due to increased foot traffic. One clear example of such fragility can be seen on the steep hillside below the base of Turkey Peak to the southeast. Often erosion concerns can be mitigated by appropriate trail development, and in such cases an application may either be approved with the caveat that trail work in the area will be needed, or may be declined with the qualification that once appropriate trail work is accomplished, the application may be resubmitted with a greater likelihood of approval.
3. Increased **climber safety** is the fundamental justification for placing any fixed climbing protection. However, given that climbing is an inherently risky activity and that some degree of risk is unavoidable, the decision about a given application will not normally be based solely on the degree of risk involved in climbing the route as proposed. This is a matter of personal judgment, and it is understood that any climber must make that judgment for himself or herself. The intent is explicitly **not** to “make climbing safe,” since it is inherently impossible to eliminate all of the risk involved in climbing.

Any application whose implementation is deemed to create a substantial risk to bystanders—possibly due to the proximity of unstable rock—then changes may be suggested or the application may be declined for this reason. If a proposed fixed

protection placement's integrity may be adversely affected by local rock quality or other physical factors, again the application should be suitably amended to avoid such problems, or the application declined.

The criteria for assessment of risk to a climbing party will be based primarily on the ability to judge that risk prior to encountering it while climbing. In other words, if the risk involved in climbing a proposed route is apparent to a climber using sound judgment prior to climbing it, then the risk alone will not normally result in an application being declined. However, if a proposed specific placement of fixed protection is such that it may significantly increase the risk to a climber or a belayer, or may lure a climber or belayer using sound judgment, proper climbing equipment and techniques into a substantial life- or limb-threatening risk that they would not normally be expected to anticipate, then the application may be declined for this reason.

4. **Fixed protection density** and **route density** must be kept within acceptable limits. Using fewer fixed protection placements for a route (within reason) is generally preferred because it reduces the overt destructive impact to the rock as well as visual and other aesthetic impact. Similarly, placing multiple climbing routes very close together (for example, near enough to substantially share climbing holds between adjacent routes that are not specifically variations of a single route) may create undesirable impact both to the area's resources and aesthetics. High density also generally increases the likelihood of crowding and logistical complications for climbers, and this may contribute to safety hazards that would not otherwise occur. While density issues by themselves may not represent overriding concerns that necessarily rule out approval of an application, they must be considered along with other factors in reaching a decision.

Given the fact that this is a State Natural Area, coupled with the traditional nature of climbing at Enchanted Rock, a wide proliferation of climbing routes having closely-spaced bolts is to be avoided. Avoiding high density both in terms of the locality of routes and of fixed protection in general will help to moderate impact.

5. With the increasing popularity of **bouldering** at Enchanted Rock, it is important to recognize bouldering as a valid recreational pursuit in its own right. If a proposed climbing route is less than 25 vertical feet from base to top, serious consideration must be given to leaving the rock unaltered as a boulder problem, or perhaps placing top anchors only. Exceptions may include climbs with rocky and uneven landings or other factors that make bouldering or top roping impractical or unsafe. However, even in such cases the traditional nature of climbing at Enchanted Rock as well as the visual impact of additional fixed protection placed close to the ground must be carefully considered.
6. **Hardware quality and durability** are critical to the continued strength and safety of fixed protection placements over time. Specific current guidelines will be provided on the application form, and if an application isn't sufficiently clear about the hardware intended for proposed placements, or if the proposed hardware doesn't meet currently established standards or otherwise is deemed unsuitable for

the location of a proposed placement, then the CTCC will suggest appropriate changes to the application as a condition for approval.

7. **Applicant experience** with the placement of fixed protection of the type proposed in an application must be sufficient to insure that sound decisions are made and that proper installation procedures are used. If an applicant has insufficient verifiable experience with placing fixed protection of the proposed type in rock such as that found in the proposed placement location, then the CTCC may either decline the application, or approve the application with the caveat that a CTCC member must be present to provide supervision and guidance when the proposed fixed protection is placed.
8. There may be questions about a proposed route's **viability** as a climb. If the proposed route has never been climbed, or at least all of the climbing moves on the route previously accomplished (not necessarily contiguously), then the application may be declined if in the CTCC's judgment it is unclear that the climb can be completed by the applicant(s). This doesn't represent an absolute requirement for a route to be climbed before an application for it is submitted and approved, since it may be apparent by other means that the route is climbable.

The assessment and evaluation of other application issues not specifically discussed in the above guidelines is often more subtle and hence more difficult than much of the foregoing. Given the impracticality of defining guidelines for the infinite variety of scenarios that may arise, understanding and evaluating these issues is left to the judgment of the CTCC membership and the Department.

10.3.3.2 Application for Additional Fixed Protection (“retro”) or Existing Placement Modification or Removal On An Established Climbing Route

An application for the addition, removal, or other modification of fixed protection of an existing route (other than routine maintenance) may be submitted for a route that is not designated as a historic route (see Section 2). The guidelines in this Section pertain to any proposed fixed protection that is close enough to be within reach of a climber ascending the route, even if the application refers to a different route. Generally the first ascent party retains veto rights over any such modifications to an existing route that has been legitimately established, except in rare cases as described below. If the first ascent party approves of a proposed modification, then the application will be evaluated using the criteria described in section 10.3.3.1, and a decision made and documented following the procedure described in Section 10.3.2.2.

In the absence of available contact with the first ascent party, the CTCC may act on an application for existing route modification if 1) the CTCC is satisfied that a diligent good faith effort has been made by the applicant(s) to contact the first ascent party, and 2) a period of two months has elapsed since the application was submitted, during which period public input about the proposed modification has been actively solicited and collected for review. In such a case, a unanimous affirmative vote of the CTCC membership is required for application approval. Subsequent to a CTCC decision on such an application, the procedure described in Section 10.3.2.2 will apply.

Exception: the CTCC will act on a Departmental request to modify an existing route (see Section 10.3.1) without the approval of the first ascent party, or in spite of their explicit disapproval. This may occur if in the Department's view a compelling reason exists to take action to modify an existing route, such as overriding resource or safety concerns.

10.3.4 Application Resubmission

An application may be resubmitted if 1) the application was previously approved and the approval expired without the approved hardware being installed, or 2) the application was previously declined, and has either been substantially revised or circumstances affecting the application's evaluation have significantly changed. In the absence of convincing evidence of a change favoring its reconsideration, an application that was previously declined by the CTCC or the Department will normally not be approved.

10.3.4.1 Approved Application

A previously approved application may not be resubmitted until after the approval period (as specified on the approval form) expires. If the specified approval period expires without the approved hardware being installed or if some but not all of the hardware has been installed, then a new application is required to complete the installation. Such an application for any or all of the previously approved fixed protection may be submitted at any time after expiration of the prior approval period.

10.3.4.2 Declined Application

An application for fixed protection on a climbing route that has ever been applied for and specifically declined by the Department will not be considered. An application for fixed protection on a climbing route that has been previously applied for and declined three (3) times by the CTCC will not be considered. An application for a route that was previously declined by the CTCC (but not specifically declined by the Department) may be resubmitted as many as two (2) times (up to a total of three submissions) if at least one of the following conditions is satisfied:

1. A previously declined application may be resubmitted if modifications are made that substantially impact application evaluation. Such modifications cannot be merely superficial, and must have significant impact favoring a change of decision on the application. This may include altering portions of the climbing route from what was stated on the previous application, changing the number and/or the location of fixed protection applied for, etc. The resubmitted application must be supplemented with a clear explanation of the important changes and a convincing demonstration of their positive impact on the viability of the application.
2. A previously declined application may be resubmitted without significant modification if external circumstances have changed that substantially affect the application's evaluation. In such a case, application resubmission must be supplemented with material that clarifies the new circumstances in terms of how they affect the application, explaining how and why the change(s) support changing the evaluation to approve an application that in the past was declined.

3. A previously declined application may be resubmitted without significant modification if at least four (4) years have elapsed since the application was declined. In such a case, application resubmission must be supplemented with material that clearly explains why the application should be reconsidered.

10.3.5 Historic Route Designation

Some climbing routes have special significance in the history of a climbing area, in that they represent breakthroughs or other game-changing differences from previous ascents. Such routes at Enchanted Rock may be given ‘historic route’ designation in order to protect them from future addition of new fixed protection or other possible modification that would detract from their historic character. Historic route designation may be applied for, and applications will be evaluated as described in the following subsections. An application to modify or to add fixed protection on a climb that is designated as a historic route will not be considered, including an application for any fixed protection that is close enough to be within reach of a climber ascending the historic route.

10.3.5.1 Historic Route Application Form and Requirements

The CTCC will maintain a written application form to be used when applying for a historic route designation at the Natural Area (see Section 19). Submitted applications for historic route designation may use the provided form or any variant thereof, as long as the following information is included (no exceptions):

- ◆ Precise identification of the proposed historic route, including the general area, name of the route, and nearby climbs.
- ◆ Rationale supporting the historic nature of the route, describing the history of its establishment and original ascent, names of the first ascent party, and any other information relevant to the decision based on the criteria discussed in Section 10.3.5.3.
- ◆ Printed names and signatures of the applicant(s).

10.3.5.2 Historic Route Application Review and Response

An application for historic route designation will be posted for public review as described in the following section, and will be subsequently reviewed by the CTCC based on the information in the application and on public input received. The CTCC decision, including reasons for approving or declining the application, will be recorded and forwarded to the Department for final disposition as soon as possible.

10.3.5.2.1 Public Review

When an application for historic route designation is received, it will be posted and public input solicited and collected for review for a period of three (3) months prior to a vote being recorded. During this period a public input form will be made available to all Natural Area visitors who have signed a Department climbing release form. The public input form for a historic route designation will include an opportunity to register an

individual “yes” or “no” opinion as well as an indication of whether the climber has climbed the proposed historic route and space for general comments. A suggested form for public input is provided in Section 0.

During the public review period and until a decision is reached, applications to modify or add fixed protection on the proposed historic route will be treated as if the historic route designation is approved. The CTCC will vote on the application and forward its decision to the Department as soon as possible after the end of the public review period.

10.3.5.2.2 CTCC Review and Decision

A historic route designation approval requires a unanimous vote of the CTCC membership and subsequent approval from the Department. The CTCC will review all public comments received, and will take it closely into account its decision.

10.3.5.2.3 Application Response Form

The final decision will be recorded on a form containing the route’s name and location, summary of the public vote and comments received during the public input period, and the details of the CTCC voting results. Rationale will be included describing the reasons for the decision to approve or decline the application. The completed response form will be conveyed to the applicant, and will be posted for public viewing for a minimum of at least one (1) month.

10.3.5.3 Historic Route Application Review Criteria

A historic climbing route stands out from other routes in terms of the character of its features and setting, relative difficulty at the time it was established, quality of the climbing experience and other less tangible aspects. Climbs that set significant new precedents in terms of difficulty and other metrics are potential candidates for historic route designation. Difficulty alone isn’t often sufficient, and other factors must contribute to the overall quality of the route for it to be considered historic. In general a historic route will have been recognized as a landmark climb at the time or soon after it was established, and its quality and desirability will have proven to be sustained over time.

Since many of the factors that contribute to this decision are subjective, it may seem that historic route designation is a difficult decision to make, but consensus on this question among climbers who know a route and its history is often easy to attain, and rarely controversial. The process defined herein is based on identifying that consensus.

10.3.5.4 Historic Route Application Resubmission

If an application for historic route designation is declined, the route may not be resubmitted for historic route designation for a period of one (1) year after the final application decision is communicated to the applicant.

10.3.5.5 Historic Route Designation Removal

In general once assigned a historic route designation will not be removed except under extraordinary circumstances. If however it becomes known that a historic route designation was approved based on false or inaccurate information that has substantial bearing on the establishment and historic character of the climbing route, then the CTCC may at its discretion reconsider and vote to remove the historic route designation. Removal of an approved historic route designation requires a unanimous vote of the CTCC membership and written approval from the Department. Should such a situation occur, the CTCC will document the reasons for reconsidering historic route designation, and will forward its recommendation to the Department for final disposition.

10.4 Maintenance of Fixed Protection

CTCC may take action on the following without written application; however these actions will require prior notification and verbal authorization from the superintendent of the Natural Area:

- ◆ Removal of unsafe or unauthorized fixed protection
- ◆ Replacement of unsafe fixed protection

CTCC may take action on the following without written application; however these actions will require prior notification and review, followed by written authorization from the superintendent of the Natural Area:

- ◆ Placement of fixed protection for rappel or belay stations
- ◆ Reinforcement or relocation of loose and/or unstable rock or other natural material that may endanger climbers or bystanders

11 Climbing Access and Trail Work

<Figure: trail erosion>

<Figure: trail work>

<Figure: results of trail work>

12 Group Climbing Activities

12.1 Commercial Climbing Guide Services

Commercial climbing activities are managed through contract arrangements between the Department and the guide services. A contract is required by the Department for any commercial guiding activity conducted at the Natural Area, and this contract defines the rules and policies regarding commercial group activities.

12.2 Non-Commercial Group Climbing Activities

13 Future Review and Liaison Procedures

14 Contacts (interested parties/organizations)

15 Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

belay – (n) The use of safety equipment (ropes, anchors, etc) to protect a climber from falling, usually accomplished by another person holding the rope to which the climber is attached and using a friction device to stop a fall. (v) The performance of a belay.

belayer – A person performing of a belay.

belay anchor – Fixed protection, usually placed in pairs, intended to be used primarily for belay purposes, i.e. to attach climbers and equipment involved in protecting other climbers while they climb. Such an anchor also often also serves as a *rappel anchor*.

Bylaws (of CTCC) – A document which describes the makeup and activities of the *Central Texas Climbing Committee*. Subordinate to the *Charter of the Central Texas Climbing Committee*.

Central Texas Climbing Committee – An elected body which maintains and operates under these Bylaws; an advisory body to TPWD regarding climbing-related issues.

Charter of the Central Texas Climbing Committee – A document which governs the existence of the CTCC and their Bylaws.

climbing – In precise terms, ascent of the rock. Generally used herein to encompass any activity that involves ascending or descending the rock by any means.

climbing equipment – Any item not occurring naturally which is used in the process of ascending or descending the rock; for example: bolts, pitons, slings, carabiners, and ropes.

CTCC – See Central Texas Climbing Committee.

CTCC Charter – See Charter of the Central Texas Climbing Committee.

Enchanted Rock State Natural Area – A TPWD facility located southwest of Llano, Texas. Also commonly referred to herein as the “Natural Area.”

ERSNA – See Enchanted Rock State Natural Area.

ERSNA superintendent – Department official who manages operations of at the Natural Area.

Natural Area user – Any visitor to the Natural Area.

election year – A year in which a CTCC election is held.

fixed protection – Any item of climbing equipment which remains in place, or which in any way permanently alters natural formations by its presence or placement.

rappel – Descending on an anchored rope, using friction to control the rate of descent.

rappel anchor–Fixed protection, usually placed in pairs, intended to be used primarily for rappelling purposes, i.e. to attach equipment involved in supporting ropes used to descend. Such an anchor also often also serves as a *belay anchor*.

removal (of fixed protection)– Removal from the rock of fixed protection, usually followed by application of sealant.

replacement (of fixed protection)–Removal of fixed protection, followed by placement of new fixed protection in nearly the same location.

retro - Addition of new fixed protection to an existing climbing route.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department– A branch of the Texas state government which manages the acquisition, development and operation of Texas state parks and natural areas. Also commonly referred to herein as the“Department.”

top anchor–Fixed protection at the top of a climb, usually placed in pairs, intended to be used primarily as a *belay anchor* and/or *rappel anchor*.

TPWD–See Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

16 Appendix B: Fixed Protection Application Form

Application for Placement of Fixed Protection at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area

An application for the addition of fixed protection (FP) to a new route may be submitted freely. An application for the addition, removal, or other modification of FP to an existing route (a "retro") may be submitted so long as that route is not designated a Historic Route.

Most climbing areas at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area (ERSNA) offer clean climbing opportunities protectable by removable slings, artificial chocks and camming devices. Clean climbing, having no permanent impact on the area's natural resources, is encouraged and is generally unrestricted. The placement of any form of FP for climbing is controlled by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) through an application and approval process. Any placement of FP requires that the individual installing the FP have in their possession a TPWD approved application bearing their name.

Each application will be evaluated by the Central Texas Climbing Committee (CTCC) on a case-by-case basis, taking into account any specific resource impacts and other non-climbing concerns as well as the qualities of the application from a climbing perspective. CTCC approval of an application requires an affirmative vote from at least five (5) of the seven (7) CTCC members. The CTCC may in some cases suggest modifications to an application to improve its viability, and may allow the applicant(s) to make such changes before a decision is made. Approved applications are valid for one year from the date of approval by TPWD. Placement of all approved bolts will be deemed completion of the application. If the specified approval period expires without the approved hardware being installed or if some but not all of the hardware has been installed, then a new application is required to complete the installation.

It is not practical to detail here the full extent of the processes involving application for FP. For further details on the placement of FP at ERSNA, please refer to Sections 10.3.2 thru 10.3.5 of the ERSNA Climbing Management Plan (CMP).

Applications are accepted in person by serving CTCC members (www.centraltexasclimbingcommittee.com), via email sent to the CTCC (centraltexascc@gmail.com), or at the following address:

**Superintendent
Enchanted Rock State Natural Area
16710 Ranch Rd 965
Fredericksburg TX 78624**

Application Rules:

1. All application information must be completed or the application is subject to rejection.
2. Applications must be signed by all applicants. Only application signees will be eligible to install the applied for bolts and hardware.
3. Application must unambiguously identify the submitted route. Applications for routes or protection that cannot be precisely located will be rejected.
4. All FP must be a type approved by the CTCC: Standards are Powers 1/2" x 2 3/4" stainless steel 5 piece bolts or equivalent and stainless steel powder coated hangers to match rock color.
5. Application must be for one (1) route only. Variations of a route are each considered as their own route for this purpose.
6. An individual may only have two pending applications active at any given time.
7. Applications may be withdrawn in writing by the applicant at any time.

Applicant Information

Name:			
Street Address:			
City, State, ZIP:	,	,	
Email Address:			
Phone #:	() - -		

Route Information

Please include with this application topo(s), photos or other documentation to unambiguously identify the route and proposed fixed protection modifications.

- Indicate whether the FP in question is for addition to a new route, or addition to / removal from an existing route.
- If this is a new route, please indicate whether you have personally climbed the route in completion, climbed all the moves though not consecutively, climbed most but not all of the moves.
- If this is a retro, please indicate whether you have successfully top-roped only or successfully lead the route.

Route Name:		Grade: 5.
-------------	--	-----------

Dome, Area:	
-------------	--

Specific Location:	
--------------------	--

Nearest Route(s):	
-------------------	--

Fixed Protection Details

For the addition of fixed protection, detail all types, sizes, color and sealant for all fixed protection. For removal of existing fixed protection, detail the sealant to be used. In both cases, be specific.

--

Please explain your experience locating & placing and/or removing FP for rock climbs. Also provide information about the tools you plan to use.

--

Please explain why you feel this route should be modified in the manner applied for.

--

4 May 2011

Signature

Date

17 Appendix C: Retro Application Public Feedback Form

Public Input Form (PIF) Regarding Applications for Retros to Existing Routes at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area

An application for a "retro" (the addition, removal, or other modification of fixed protection of an existing route, other than routine maintenance) may be submitted for a route that is not designated as a historic route. Generally the first ascent party retains veto rights over any such modifications to an existing route that has been legitimately established. In the absence of available contact with the first ascent party, applications for retro will be posted and public input solicited and collected for review for a period of three (2) months prior to a vote being recorded by the Central Texas Climbing Committee (CTCC).

The CTCC will review all public comments received, and will take them closely into account in forming its decision. The CTCC will vote on the application and forward its decision to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) as soon as possible after the end of the public review period. A retro approval requires a unanimous affirmative vote of the CTCC membership and subsequent approval from the TPWD.

For further details on retroing, please refer to Section 10.3.3.2 of the ERSNA Climbing Management Plan (CMP).

Public Input Forms are accepted in person by serving CTCC members (www.centraltexasclimbingcommittee.com), via email sent to the CTCC (centraltexascc@gmail.com), or at the following address:

Superintendent
Enchanted Rock State Natural Area
16710 Ranch Rd 965
Fredericksburg TX 78624

Public Input Form Requirements:

1. All form information must be completed.
2. PIF must be signed by the citizen.
3. Only visitors to ERSNA who have signed a TPWD Climbing Release Form may submit a PIF.

Citizen Information

Name:				Age:	
City, State, ZIP:	,	,			
Email Address:					

Details & Input

An application for retro was submitted to the CTCC for the route by on . This route has been applied for retro times. A copy of the application as well as collected historical information regarding the route will be provided upon request made to any serving CTCC member.

Please indicate whether you have Top Roped and/or Led the route.

Please indicate whether you Approve or Disapprove of the submitted application for retro.

Add any personal comments here.

--

Signature

4 May 2011

Date

18 Appendix D: Fixed Protection Application Evaluation Form

Evaluation of Application for Placement of Fixed Protection at ERSNA

For details on Fixed Protection policy & procedures, refer to Sections 10.3.2 thru 10.3.5 of the ERSNA Climbing Management Plan.

Applicant Name(s): _____
 Name of Route: _____
 Application received by: _____
 Date of Receipt: _____

Basic Qualification of Applications

CRITERION	YES	NO
Signed by all applicants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All information supplied	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Location clearly specified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Type of hardware approved	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>CTCC Evaluation</u>	Member Name	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL				

CTCC Comments

Result of CTCC Evaluation: Approved Disapproved

 CTCC Representative Signature Date

TPWD Evaluation

Satisfies...	YES	NO	SIGNED
1. Antiquities Laws	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
2. Endangered Species Act	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

TPWD Comments

Final Decision of TPWD: APPROVED DISAPPROVED

 TPWD Representative Signature Date

19 Appendix E: Historic Route Application Form

Application for Historic Route Designation at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area

Routes at Enchanted Rock may be given Historic Route Designation (HRD) in order to protect them from future addition of new fixed protection or other possible modification that would detract from their historic character. All applications will be posted and public input solicited and collected for review for a period of three (3) months prior to a vote being recorded by the Central Texas Climbing Committee (CTCC). The CTCC will review all public comments received, and will take them closely into account in forming its decision. The CTCC will vote on the application and forward its decision to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) as soon as possible after the end of the public review period. A historic route designation approval requires a unanimous vote of the CTCC membership and subsequent approval from the TPWD. The final decision will be conveyed to the applicant, and will be posted for public viewing for a minimum of at least one (1) month.

For further details on HRD, please refer to Section 10.3.5 of the ERSNA Climbing Management Plan.

Applications are accepted in person by serving CTCC members (www.centraltexasclimbingcommittee.com), via email sent to the CTCC (centraltexascc@gmail.com), or at the following address:

**Superintendent
Enchanted Rock State Natural Area
16710 Ranch Rd 965
Fredericksburg TX 78624**

Application Rules:

1. All application information must be completed or the application is subject to rejection.
2. Application must be signed by the applicant.
3. Application must be for one (1) route only.
4. Application must unambiguously identify the submitted route.
5. Application may be withdrawn in writing by the applicant at any time.
6. If an application for HRD is declined, the route may not be resubmitted for HRD for a period of one (1) year after the final application decision is communicated to the public.

Applicant Information

Name:			
Street Address:			
City, State, ZIP:	,	,	
Email Address:			
Phone #:	(-)	-	

Generic Route Information

Please include with this application topo(s), photos or other documentation to unambiguously identify the route and, if applicable, its existing fixed protection.

Route Name:		Grade: 5.
Dome, Area:		
Specific Location:		
Nearest Routes:		

Route Establishment Information

Please detail as much pertinent information about the establishment of the route as possible. Particularly important information includes first ascent party name(s), date, style & technique, etc..

It is understood that specifics to some of these details were not documented & may not be possible to ascertain with precision. Please be as thorough as possible. i.e. For date, an exact day may not be known. An acceptable alternative would be the month or season & year.

First Ascention(ist)/Party:		Date:	
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History & Manner of Route Establishment (i.e. style, tooling, techniques, etc.):	
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

Any other pertinent information:	
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Please indicate whether you have Top Roped or Led the route.
You may also detail any other personal history with this route here.

--

_____ Signature	4 May 2011 _____ Date
--------------------	-----------------------------

Appendix F: Historic Route Application Public Feedback Form

Public Input Form (PIF) Regarding Applications for Historic Route Designation at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area

Routes at Enchanted Rock may be given Historic Route Designation (HRD) in order to protect them from future addition of new fixed protection or other possible modification that would detract from their historic character. All applications will be posted and public input solicited and collected for review for a period of three (3) months prior to a vote being recorded by the Central Texas Climbing Committee (CTCC). The CTCC will review all public comments received, and will take them closely into account in forming its decision. The CTCC will vote on the application and forward its decision to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) as soon as possible after the end of the public review period. A historic route designation approval requires a unanimous vote of the CTCC membership and subsequent approval from the TPWD. The final decision will be conveyed to the applicant, and will be posted for public viewing for a minimum of at least one (1) month.

For further details on HRD, please refer to Section 10.3.5 of the ERSNA Climbing Management Plan.

Public Input Forms are accepted in person by serving CTCC members (www.centraltexasclimbingcommittee.com), via email sent to the CTCC (centraltexascc@gmail.com), or at the following address:

Superintendent
Enchanted Rock State Natural Area
16710 Ranch Rd 965
Fredericksburg TX 78624

Public Input Form Requirements:

1. All form information must be completed.
2. PIF must be signed by the citizen.
3. Only visitors to ERSNA who have signed a TPWD Climbing Release Form may submit a PIF.

Citizen Information

Name:				Age:	
City, State, ZIP:	,	,			
Email Address:					

Details & Input

An application for Historic Route Designation was submitted to the CTCC for the route ____ by ____ on _____. This route has been applied for HRD ____ times. A copy of the application as well as collected historical information regarding the route will be provided upon request made to any serving CTCC member.

Please indicate whether you have Top Roped and/or Led the route.

Please indicate whether you Approve or Disapprove of the submitted application for Historic Route Designation.

Add any personal comments here.

--	--

Signature

4 May 2011

Date

Appendix G: Historic Route Application Evaluation Form

See next page.

Evaluation of Application for Historic Route Designation at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area

For details on Historic Route Designation policy & procedures, refer to Section 10.3.5 of the ERSNA Climbing Management Plan.

Basic Information

Applicant's Name:					
Application Received By:		Via:	Select...	On (Date):	
Name of Route Applied For:					

Verification of Basic Application Requirements

	YES	NO
All required information furnished?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Route clearly identified?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Applicant signature present?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Public Input

The CTCC will review all public comments received, and will take them closely into account in forming its decision.

Public input was solicited & collected between the dates of ____ and ____.

Detail the manner in which public input was solicited.

Was a scheduled & duly announced public forum held? Yes, on ____ / No

The CTCC has received ____ Public Input Forms from ____ individuals. There are ____ unique votes in favor & ____ unique votes against the application for Historic Route Designation. This computes to ____% in favor & ____% against.

Detail the CTCC's consensus view of the public's wishes.

Committee Evaluation

A historic route designation approval requires a unanimous vote of the CTCC membership and subsequent approval from the TPWD. The final decision will be conveyed to the applicant, and will be posted for public viewing for a minimum of at least one (1) month.

Below is the record of committee votes. Please see reverse side for Committee/Member comments.

Committee Member Names	Yes	No	Abstain
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL	0	0	0

The result of the above votes means the Committee suggests the application be:

Approved

Disapproved

 CTCC Representative Signature

 Date

Committee & Committee Member Comments

Final TPWD Evaluation

Please indicate TPWD approval or disapproval of the Committee's evaluation.

Approved

Disapproved

TPWD Representative Signature

Date