



Protect America's Climbing

State Recreational Use Statutes

All 50 states have enacted recreational use statutes to encourage public access for recreational purposes on private land. Under certain circumstances, these statutes limit a landowner's duty of care and warning, though they vary in their degree of liability protection by state. Many states have a nonexclusive list of recreational activities with the phrase "such as but not limited to." Some states—such as Alabama, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin—mention rock climbing as an example of recreational use, providing further liability protection for climbing. In most cases, public access must be free or there is a limit on fees. Some states provide protection for both private and public landowners in these statutes.

Visit www.climbingmanagement.org/climbing-information-and-management-plans/recreational-use-statutes to research your state's statute. Access Fund makes no assurances that this is the most-up-to-date legislation, so it's important to search the applicable state code number on a government database for the most recent legislation enacted.

