



Summary of and Response to Comments For Amendment to Chapter 1

Baxter State Park Rules and Regulations 2022-2023

Statutory Authority: 12 M.R.S. § 903(1)

Proposed Amendment to Rule 2.2 **prior to public comments:**

Hiking or **mountain climbing** may be restricted at the discretion of the Director. Park users must be reasonably prepared and equipped for the activity they are engaged in and must take reasonable precautions against endangering themselves or others. Hikers must carry a working flashlight. ~~No children under the age of six (6) years are allowed above timberline.~~ *Children under the age of six (6) years walking under their own power may be authorized to travel above timberline by special use permit, subject to conditions set by the Director.* Registration of technical rock/ice climbers is required. The Baxter State Park Authority may request reimbursement of search and rescue costs in cases of reckless hikers.

Summary of Comments on Proposed Rule

Three (3) comments were received from Carla Ritchie, Carl Carlson, and Jon Winans. In summary, all three support the proposed rule amendment, but noted that the clarity of the proposed rule amendment would be improved by retaining in Rule 2.2 the text that expressly states the prohibition—“No children under the age of six (6) years are allowed above timberline”—before stating the proposed exception to the rule—“Children under the age of six (6) years walking under their own power may be authorized to travel above timberline by special use permit, subject to conditions set by the Director.”

Agency Response to Comments

The Authority agrees with the commenters that retaining the prohibition before stating the exception to the prohibition, as set forth immediately below, enhances the clarity of the rule without changing the meaning. Thus, the Authority incorporates those comments by revising the proposed rule amendment to provide as follows:

Hiking or **mountain climbing** may be restricted at the discretion of the Director. Park users must be reasonably prepared and equipped for the activity they are engaged in and must take reasonable precautions against endangering themselves or others. Hikers must carry a working flashlight. *No children under the age of six (6) years are allowed above timberline. Children under the age of six (6) years walking under their own power may be authorized to travel above timberline by special use permit, subject to conditions set by the Director.* Registration of technical rock/ice climbers is required. The Baxter State Park Authority may request reimbursement of search and rescue costs in cases of reckless hikers.

Post-public comment text of proposed amendments to Rule 2.2 (Clean Text):

Hiking or **mountain climbing** may be restricted at the discretion of the Director. Park users must be reasonably prepared and equipped for the activity they are engaged in and must take reasonable precautions against endangering themselves or others. Hikers must carry a working flashlight. No children under the age of six (6) years are allowed above timberline. Children under the age of six (6) years walking under their own power may be authorized to travel above timberline by special use permit, subject to conditions set by the Director. Registration of technical rock/ice climbers is required. The Baxter State Park Authority may request reimbursement of search and rescue costs in cases of reckless hikers.

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