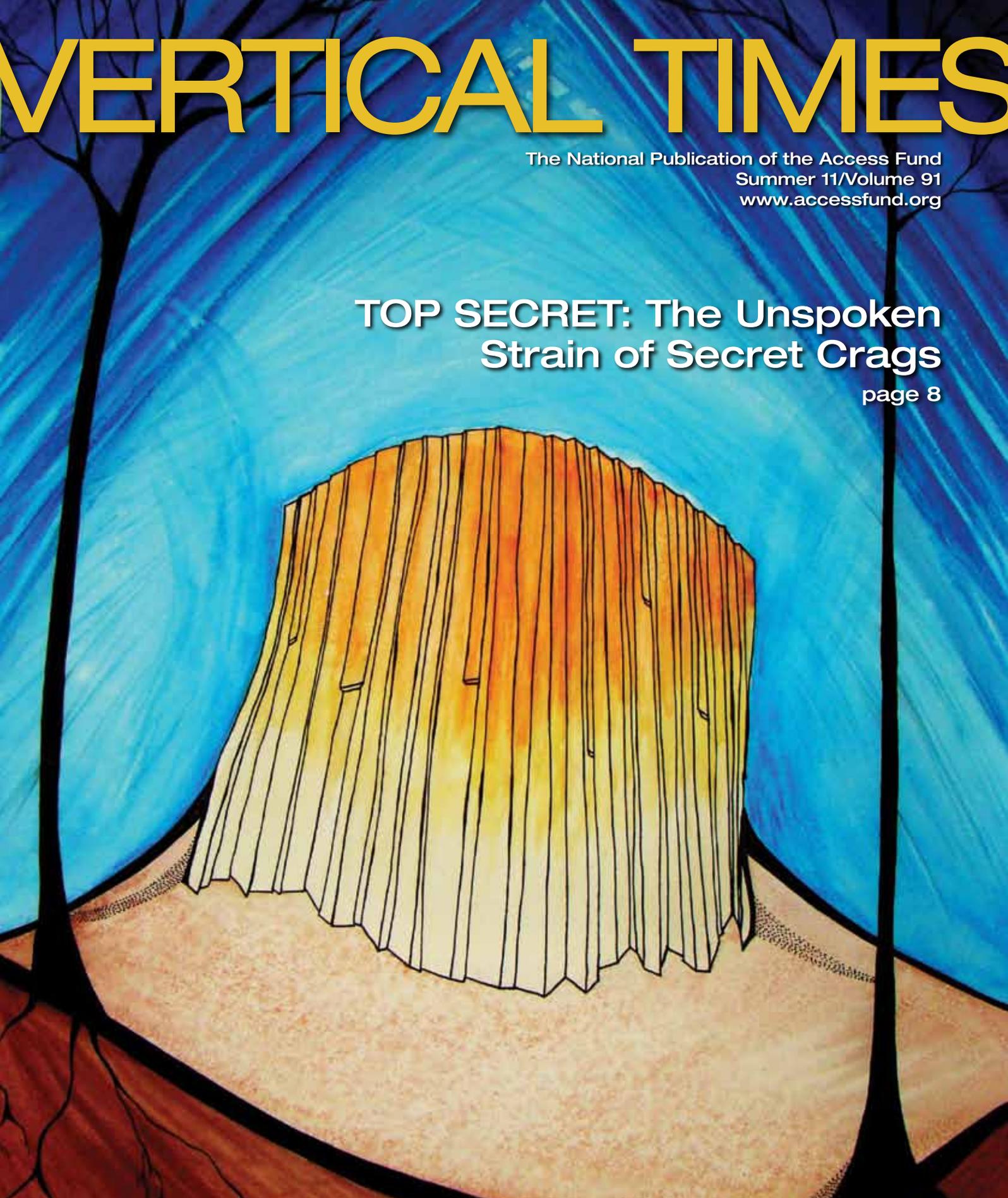


VERTICAL TIMES

The National Publication of the Access Fund
Summer 11/Volume 91
www.accessfund.org

TOP SECRET: The Unspoken Strain of Secret Crags

page 8



RAPTORS: UNDERSTANDING CLIMBING RESTRICTIONS 6
THE ECONOMICS OF CLIMBING 12
RATE IT! MEMBERS CAN NOW RATE GRANT PROJECTS 13



“Anyone who says they are not interested in politics is like a drowning man who insists he is not interested in water.”

— unknown

As I write this letter to you, I am also preparing for my third trip to Washington, D.C., in as many months. For those who work in Washington, the “beltway” is often seen as the center of the universe — the source of political power, societal change, and career advancement. For the rest of us, D.C. may be seen in a much less flattering light. As a relative newcomer to D.C. politics, I can relate to the sentiment of feeling like a drowning man. NPS Director’s Order #41, cost recovery, special use fees vs. Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Yawn. Let’s just go climbing!

That’s where the Access Fund comes in. We do our best to present esoteric policy issues to you in a way that is compelling and relevant, and we let you know when your action is needed. We regularly go to D.C. to push climbers’ policy agenda forward. On the docket so far this year: addressing fixed anchor policies in wilderness, fighting fees that unfairly target climbers, and advocating to Congress that certain line items in the federal budget are essential to maintaining public access and supporting the \$730 billion recreation economy in the United States. We even commissioned an economic study to support our case, which you can read more about in the Economics of Climbing piece on page 12.

Apathy is probably the greatest access threat climbers and other user groups face; in some ways, apathy is a politician’s greatest source of power. Those who show up are those whose interests are represented. If you don’t show up, someone else will end up speaking for you, like it or not. And though not all climbers can afford to go to D.C., your donations to the Access Fund ensure that you are represented.

In this issue of the *Vertical Times*, we aim to shed some light on another complex issue shrouded in mystery: secret crags. Why do some climbers feel it necessary to keep their favorite climbing areas to themselves? Is it ethical, or even justifiable? Writer Amanda Fox explores the various sides of this issue in our feature article on page 8. We hope that you enjoy her article and the rest of this issue!

See you out there,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brady Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brady Robinson
Executive Director

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Chris Archer



Grant Helps Save Climber's Life

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you and the rest of the Access Fund team for the grant that helped us to repair and reopen the Muir Valley Emergency/Maintenance Road. For the third time since they were installed last year, the Muir Valley Emergency Stations, which were designed and installed as part of that grant project, were successfully used to summon help to an area that does not get cell reception. Without the work that we did to reopen the road last year with the help of that grant, the Wolfe County Search and Rescue Team would have had a lengthy and very difficult time getting this patient out of the valley. Your grant may well have saved the life of this climber.

— LIZ WEBER, OWNER, MUIR VALLEY, KENTUCKY

AF: Liz, you are very welcome. Our Climbing Preservation Grants Program is fully funded by the generous donations and dues of Access Fund members. So thanks to all of our great members for supporting such a worthy and needed project!

Access to a Crag on Private Land

There's an amazing crag that is currently on private land; how do I go about getting the Access Fund in contact with the landowners and potentially opening up this area?

— DEREK HAMILTON, EULESS, TX

AF: Great question, Derek. We'd love to hear about the crag. Please call our access director, Joe Sambataro, to discuss the particular details about the crag and how best to reach out to the landowner. You can contact him at 303-545-6772 x112 or joe@accessfund.org.

Developing a Climbing Area on Public Land

Does the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) have any agency-wide policies on the development of new climbing areas, or is it district specific and only as needed?

— MAURA HAHNENBERGER, SANDY, UT

AF: Maura, there exist no policies at the BLM or USFS specific to the development of new climbing areas, but the agencies do have local plans pertaining to trails, wildlife restrictions, and sometimes the use of fixed anchors. As of right now, the BLM is the only agency with settled policy on the use of fixed anchors in wilderness, but the National Park Service (NPS) and USFS may not be too far behind. If you have questions, it's best to inquire with local land managers about their policies; climbing is almost always allowed on federal land—so long as there's not some resource-based justification for a restriction, such as cultural resources or nesting birds.

Look for the new AF t-shirt coming this fall ...

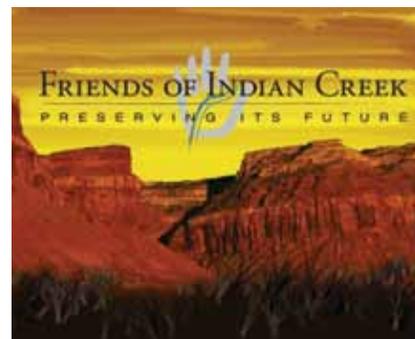
An intricate perspective on The Diamond on Long's Peak by artist Craig Muderlak is coming your way this fall!



The Access Fund wants to hear from you. Share your thoughts, ideas, and perspectives on access issues. Tell us what we're doing well. Tell us where we could improve. E-mail your comments to holly@accessfund.org.

Arkansas Climbers Coalition Collaborating on Public Lands

The Arkansas Climbers Coalition has been collaborating with the Forest Service in the past year to maintain existing areas and upgrade facilities. With the help of an Access Fund grant, the Forest Service has installed two Sweet Smelling Toilet (SST) systems at the Sam's Throne campgrounds. The group has also continued to work with the Buffalo National River to help in the formation of a climbing management plan that could allow the installation of fixed anchors in the future.



Friends of Indian Creek Take on Toilet Installation at Superbowl Campground

In more toilet news, the Friends of Indian Creek is taking on a project to install toilet facilities at the Superbowl Campground, with help from an Access Fund grant. Previously, climbers had to rely on wag bags. The new facilities will address one of climbers' biggest impacts in the desert environment—human waste.

Colorado TeamWorks is ROCK'n & JAM'n

The ROCK'n & JAM'n TeamWorks youth climbing team is on a roll, having already completed two stewardship projects in Clear Creek Canyon this spring. The team did a trash cleanup at the main parking area of Canal Zone and near tunnel 2, as well as some cairn building/enhancement and minor trail maintenance. A big thanks to these kids for making climbers look good and helping maintain good relationships with Jefferson County Open Space!



Local Climbing Organization 101: **Avoiding Burnout**

Any local climbing organization (LCO) that depends on a volunteer base to fulfill its mission knows the challenges of burnout. In addition to helping your LCO function, your volunteers have full-time jobs, families, and other interests to balance. Here are some tips for how you can avoid burnout in your volunteer base.

Delegate widely. Resist the urge to put too much on the plate of one or two superstar volunteers. Find several small efforts that can be delegated to other volunteers who have less time to dedicate.

Introduce task committees. Create committees for event volunteers, gear volunteers, website volunteers, and trail day volunteers. This will spread the work around and give volunteers a sense of ownership over their projects.

Bring in new blood. New volunteers bring new energy and new levels of commitment. Bring a sign-in sheet to trail days and events, asking people for contact information. Engage participants to see if and how they could help the organization. Most folks just need an invitation to get involved.

Award your volunteers. Everyone needs a pat on the back from time to time. Recognize your volunteers both publicly and privately. When people feel their importance to the organization, their energy gets replenished.

Ask for help. The Access Fund wants your organization to be successful, and we'll do whatever we can to help you. There are resources in the national office that are available to help you work an access issue, bring in new volunteers, or remove the administrative burden of managing a membership program. Call us anytime at 303-545-6772 to discuss.



To submit an update for your local climbing organization or area, contact Joe Sambataro at joe@accessfund.org.



RAPTORS:

Understanding Climbing Restrictions

The defining moment of a climb might just as likely be the glimpse of a rare raptor gliding overhead as a particularly difficult sequence of moves. As climbers, we gain a unique perspective on the world and on the wildlife that inhabits vertical spaces. This intimacy with nature is intricately bound with the climbing experience.

As a climber, there are ways that you can help preserve the natural and scenic values of this vertical wilderness, and it begins by understanding and promoting best practices in the protection of cliff-nesting raptors.

Why are seasonal raptor closures/restrictions needed?

Many cliff-dwelling raptor species are either protected under federal law such as the Endangered Species Act or considered a “species of concern” at the state level. This includes peregrine falcons, golden eagles, and prairie falcons, among others. Protection of their nest sites is therefore a priority for recovery of the species. The most sensitive period in the breeding cycle is incubation, hatching, and fledging, when outside disturbance to the nest site could compromise the chicks.

What constitutes a reasonable closure/restriction?

The Access Fund works with land managers and expert biologists in the field to identify a reasonable buffer zone around nest sites. Depending on the species, nest location, and history, we encourage closure areas to be limited to a quarter mile or less and to not extend beyond the viewshed of the nest site. However, all nest sites and species are different, and some flexibility is necessary.

How do land managers know if a raptor nest is even present?

Active monitoring is needed to determine if a site is “active” and in need of a buffer zone. Not all nest sites are active year after year, and some fail early due to natural causes.

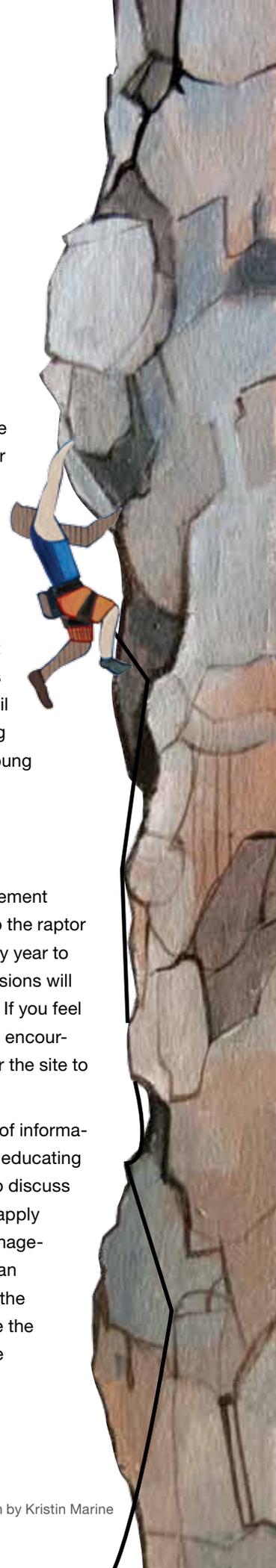
When should a closure/restriction be lifted?

Access Fund urges land managers to lift seasonal climbing closures once raptors are no longer using the restricted site, fail to nest, or fledge early. Active monitoring of the nest will determine whether the young successfully fledged or if the nest failed.

What if I identify what I think is an unreasonable closure/restriction?

The key to any successful raptor management policy is to make the closures specific to the raptor species, their nest sites, and their activity year to year—these informed management decisions will encourage responsible recreational use. If you feel that an unreasonable closure is in place, encourage the land manager to actively monitor the site to determine if a nesting raptor is present.

As a climber, you can be a great source of information to assist with raptor monitoring and educating others. Also, contact the Access Fund to discuss specific management policies that may apply to the species, ecosystem, and land management agency in question. Together we can help protect and promote the welfare of the endangered raptors with which we share the cliffs—the climbing experience would be greatly diminished by their absence. ■





Donation Rocks Open to Climbing

Local volunteers gathered at Donation Rocks for an Adopt a Crag stewardship day.

By guest contributors Julian Rodier & David Crothers of *Climberism* magazine

“Small hinges move big doors,” my momma used to say. And in the climbing community, those doors can be opened and closed in the blink of an eye. Access to crags can be a very touchy subject, and it’s not until land is purchased for public use that climbers can finally breathe easy.

On that note, it is a pleasure to announce the purchase of Donation Rocks by Stone Mountain Adventures (SMA), an adventure summer camp organization in central Pennsylvania. Located between the towns of Huntingdon and State College, Donation Rocks boasts 40- to 50-foot sandstone/quartzite cliffs and is a popular top-rope area with a range of moderate routes.

Donation Rocks had been a popular spot for local climbers until the family that owned the land was forced to close the area in 2006 due to liability concerns. Since then, SMA has been exceedingly generous and tirelessly enthusiastic about reopening this area to climbers.

The camp worked with the Access Fund and the Climbing Conservancy of Central Pennsylvania to understand and mitigate the legal risks associated with opening private land to public climbing.

The land was officially opened to the public on April 10, 2011, with an online climbing waiver system in place—all climbers are asked to fill out a free, online waiver prior to showing up

at the rocks and to carry a copy of the signed waiver with them while climbing on the property. Please visit www.c3pa.org to access the waiver.

“We’re really excited about our local success story, and we owe everything to the vision and generosity of the new landowners of Donation Rocks,” says Ieva Perkons of the Climbing Conservancy of Central Pennsylvania. “So far, the waiver system has been a success, and it keeps track of signatures online so the landowner has copies without having to physically retrieve them from the climbers.”

Thanks to Stone Mountain Adventures and the Climbing Conservancy of Central Pennsylvania for making this access victory possible! ■



The Unspoken Strain of Secret Crags

Nothing rouses climbers more than newness: new gear, new partners, new routes, and, most important, new crags. The novelty of a freshly developed crag excites climbers and gets their forearm blood pumping. So imagine when new crags are built on the down low—climbers quietly and sparingly spread the beta, keeping a tight lip. This can foster strain within the community and tension with landowners, which can lead to access issues.

Secret crags exist all over the U.S.; there's no question about it. Climbers continue to discover new rock everywhere but disclose beta only to close friends and trusted partners. Mike Majerczyk, a climber based in Seattle, Washington, brought up the issue of secret crags with the Access Fund: "In my 15 years of climbing, it consistently disappoints me how 'locals' to an area refuse to divulge information about a crag, hoping to keep it a secret," he says. "Newcomers inevitably go looking for these 'secret' crags anyways and cause the majority of our conflicts with landowners out of ignorance."

So are secret crags acceptable? Well, there is no definitive answer. There

are cases where keeping a crag under wraps from the rest of the community is acceptable and a requirement for access. "Oftentimes, things are kept quiet when the access status is sensitive or unclear," says Brady Robinson, executive director of the Access Fund. "There may be strategic reasons why things are quiet." One great example is an area in central Colorado. The developers have been putting up routes for over a decade but have requested that climbers do not spread the word yet due to unfinished routes and lack of parking. The equippers hope that by waiting to open the area—their long-term goal is complete public access—they will have time to fix the parking situation and host many intermediate routes in an area otherwise dominated by hardman climbing.

On the other hand, there are cases where a secret approach does more damage than good, like developing a crag without landowner permission, which in turn leads to secrecy from other climbers. The most logical answer is to be responsible stewards of climbing access: Instead of poaching the land, do what you can as a climber to open access for everyone, as long as the situation calls for it.

Private Land

Many times, climbers discover rock on privately owned land. In an ideal situation, landowners will grant access to the rock and wish the entire climbing community merrily on its way. "Permission from the landowner is paramount, whether it's you and your friends or you and the public," says Joe Sambataro, access director of the Access Fund. Sometimes, if the stars align just right, this does happen. But only sometimes.

The Access Fund recommends doing thorough research about land before taking any action. "Do your homework," says Sambataro. "Know and understand who owns the land, figure out how to contact them, and see if you can find any connections through friends. That's always a good way to reach out." Never trespass on private land, because you might find yourself getting chased off the property with a shotgun—that happened at Jamestown, Alabama, after the owners found climbers poaching. "That was the old way," says Brad McLeod, a founder of the Southeastern Climbers Coalition. "We're moving away from 'don't ask, don't tell.'" He recommends being

proactive: “The methods before, no contact with the owners, didn’t work. We’re doing it a different way. Some of these crags used to have ‘No trespassing’ signs on them, and now we own them.”

The second step includes introductions. “Generally speaking, this might be walking up to the door, introducing yourself, and asking permission to climb on their land, or in many cases, it may be a letter to an absentee landowner,” Sambataro says.

After establishing initial contact with the landowners, be prepared to educate them about risk management, suggests Sambataro. “I give people a whole quiver of risk management tools to approach landowners with,” he says. Many states have comprehensive recreational use statutes in place to protect landowners from liability, meaning the landowners cannot be held responsible for accidents involving climbers that occur on their land. If that’s the case, the landowner may be more pliable in working out a solution for access. Many stipulations may materialize once given the green light, including required waivers, fees, rules and restrictions, and so on.

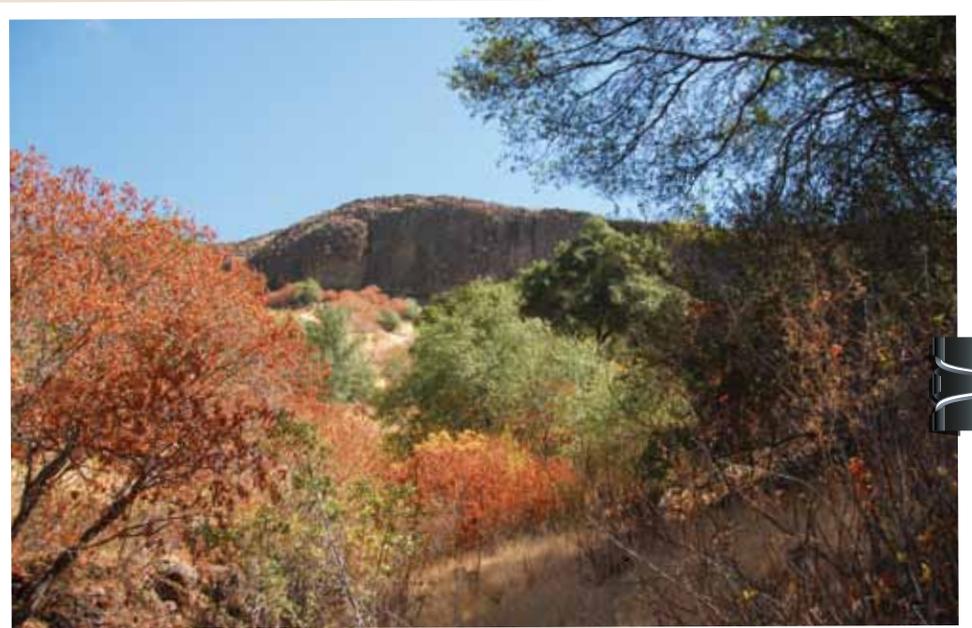
One of those provisions may include keeping the area undisclosed to the climbing community. “Landowners might have stipulations,” Sambataro says. “They might say, ‘Yes, you can climb here, but you need our permission.’ Is that really public access?” No, it’s not. This means the area must stay confidential—no spray on Mountain Project, no beta in a new area

guidebook. This is what can lead to mounting tensions.

In the worst cases, landowners can refuse to allow access to their land. “No matter what the efforts are, if they’re not willing to have any sort of access, the answer is no,” Sambataro says. “In that case, a strategy is put into place by a local climbing organization to check in every once in a while. It doesn’t hurt to touch base.”

Sometimes, an access victory comes out of a “secret” crag. A great example is the recent purchase of an

Addison, a regular climber of Jailhouse. “We treated them how we’d want to be treated and maintained a positive relationship,” which helped keep access open. Recently, the Access Fund provided a \$100,000 Land Conservation Campaign loan to the owners, ensuring permanent access to the area. “In exchange for the loan, we have secured the right to the cliff in the future, no matter who owns it,” Addison says. But he says it’s still key to communicate with the owners. “It’s important that we



Jailhouse Rock in CA had a “no guidebook, no publicity” policy at the request of the private landowners until recent efforts by locals and the Access Fund to secure a conservation and public access easement.

access easement for Jailhouse Rock in California. Historically, the landowners have allowed climbing on the land since the early 1990s, but terms included no publicity of the area.

“The climbing community did what the landowners wanted,” says Tom

comply with all their terms, like no dogs on their property,” he adds.

“Be patient. It took more than two decades for this deal to happen,” Addison says. “Also, be persistent. Keep trying. Stay in touch with landowners and the community. It’s all

about relationships—doing whatever you can to maintain good relations.”

Public Land

Jason Keith, senior policy advisor of the Access Fund, broaches the topic of developing on federally managed, or public, land. “Should you ask permission first or forgiveness later?” he says.

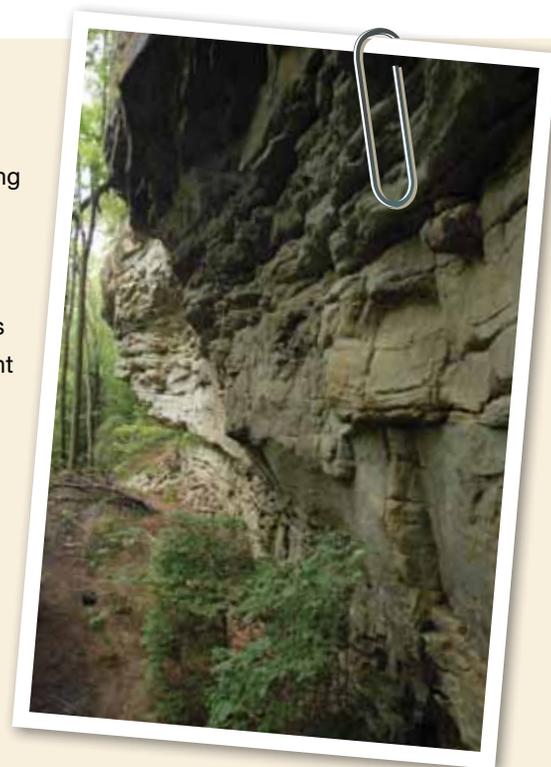
Keith suggests following the same model as with private landowners. “You have to do a little basic research,” he says. “The smartest thing for people to do is know what land they’re on, and who the decision maker is. If you’re going to drill a hole into a rock, you should be responsible enough to know where you are, and ask what the policy on rock climbing is on that land.”

On National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management property, prior authorization isn’t necessary to climb unless the land has sensitive resources like nests and cultural sites. “On most federal land without a special designation like wilderness, you don’t need permission to place fixed anchors,” Keith says. “But the best thing to do is develop a good relationship with the land managers and understand their policies and management plans.” He recommends contacting the land manager to at least start a relationship and, depending on the plan for crag development, make sure that you understand what obligation land managers have to manage the area before you start drilling holes and creating trails and staging areas.

According to Keith, “Illegal bolting at secret crags can really poison relationships when the land managers find out about it after the fact, and often results in less favorable long-term management policies for climbers.”

Until recent years, the standard practice of land managers has been to be permissive of most forms of recreation. However, that paradigm has begun to shift. “Now it’s more like ‘restricted until authorized,’” Keith says. “The growing movement is more and more control on climbing, with particular attention on bolts and access trails. We’re leaving that golden age and entering this new era where there will be more eyes watching and more controls on climbing as an activity.”

Another success story on public land includes the recent Deep Creek acquisition in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In 2007, Deep Creek was discovered by climbers who quickly and quietly established nearly 50 routes in the area. After a random hiker noticed some activity, the landowners, Tennessee’s Cumberland Trail State Park, were alerted, and a ban was immediately placed on further development. Several locals took a proactive role in attempting to secure access, including discussing climbers’ impact with land managers and volunteering many hours to clean up trails. In 2009, a memorandum of understanding was established, permanently securing climbing and future route development. “A group of climbers established



Overhanging sandstone makes the once top secret Deep Creek a new southern favorite.

a positive relationship with the landowners, and as the crag became less secret and more and more people went, climbers knew they had to do something to ensure that access would continue,” says Sambataro.

There really is no conclusive answer to the question of secret crags. There can be many components that factor into keeping a crag under wraps. Robinson hopes that through advocacy and strategic planning, permanent public access will be secured for more and more climbing areas over time. “A lot of climbing areas have lifecycles in their development,” Robinson says. “They get discovered and only a few people know about them, but then the word gets out. Our job is to chart a path forward so more people can enjoy all the great climbing opportunities our nation has to offer.” ■



Shawn McCauley climbs Two Bag Face in the New River Gorge | © Corey Rich/Aurora Photos

The New River Gorge, fondly referred to by locals as “The New,” has become arguably one of the most popular sport climbing destinations in the country, offering a high concentration of routes in the 5.10 to 5.12 range.

In December 2010, the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign provided the American Alpine Club (AAC) with a short-term loan to assist with the purchase of 40 acres in Fayetteville, West Virginia, adjacent to the New River Gorge National River. Purchase of this property will secure permanent access to Junk Yard Wall as well as walking access to other popular crags such as the Bridge Area. It will also eliminate the potential for dense residential/commercial development.

The American Alpine Club will also be building a campground on the property to enhance the climbing experience for visitors traveling to climb on West Virginia’s beautiful sandstone walls. The AAC hopes to transfer the property to the National Park Service to be comanaged by AAC and NPS as a campground for climbers and other visitors. The proposed campground is expected to house 50-60 campsites, bathrooms and showers, a cooking pavilion, a library or meeting space, and manager’s quarters. As with other AAC campgrounds, the property will be developed specifically with climbers in mind and will allow for extended stays at inexpensive rates. Completion of the campground is expected to take at least two years.

“We are building on the tradition that started with the Grand Teton Climbers’ Ranch,” says AAC Executive Director Phil Powers. “Lodging options within walking distance from great climbing supports the climbing lifestyle we all enjoy. We hope to create a facility that meets climbers’ needs and adds opportunities for climbers to gather and share their stories.”

The New River Alliance of Climbers helped advise the AAC on the best location for the campground and is in full support of the project. “We are excited to be in this partnership with the American Alpine Club, Access Fund, and National Park Service to grow the recreational infrastructure in a quality direction for climbers,” says New River Alliance of Climbers President Gene Kistler. ■

the economics of climbing

Turn on the radio at almost any hour of the day and you are likely to hear about the mounting national deficit, the depth of federal budget cuts, or speculation on whether the housing market is really turning around.

If you're like most of us, climbing offers a good escape from these financial uncertainties. A chance to block out the noise and leave our worries behind for a few hours—to connect with the natural world around us. Or focus on a demanding physical challenge.

But today's economic uncertainty doesn't stop short of impacting the sport we love. In one breath, our national leaders are telling us to take "staycations" and enjoy our outdoor spaces, even launching the America's Great Outdoors initiative to reconnect Americans with our natural spaces. But in the next, some are proposing drastic federal budget cuts that could hinder access to our national parks, state parks, and other treasured public lands—putting access to some of our best climbing areas at risk.



El Capitan in Yosemite Valley is one of many popular climbing areas on public land that could be affected by federal budget cuts.

However, climbing and its associated expenditures and activities have a crucial link to our local, regional, and national economy. That's why in recent months the Access Fund has taken a lead role, in collaboration with our Outdoor Alliance partners, to showcase the economic benefits of climbing and other human-powered recreation and advocate for appropriate funding of our public lands.

These economic benefits span numerous industries, including gear manufacturing, retail sales, travel, and local businesses that cater to recreational tourists (gas stations, food and beverage, camping and accommodations, retail establishments, and more). The list of local cities and towns benefiting from the economy of climbing, mountain biking, and boating is long.

On April 14, 2011, Access Fund Executive Director Brady Robinson testified before the U.S. House Appropriations Committee on Interior,

Environment, and Related Agencies, asking for adequate funding for specific line items in the federal budget to ensure sufficient access for Americans to parks and public lands. "Americans should have access to public lands," testified

Robinson. "This outdoor access supports a growing \$730 billion industry—representing more than 6.6 million jobs and more than \$88 billion in annual tax revenue. This isn't just about saving the environment. It's about saving private sector and small town jobs."

The Access Fund has also undertaken an economic micro-study in the state of Arizona to document and quantify the current and projected economic benefit of human-powered recreation from the cradle to the grave. The study measures the total economic value that these activities and associated industries bring to Arizona, with the goal of demonstrating this value to policy makers to encourage decisions that support conservation and quiet recreation on public lands and private property.

While this initial effort is specific to Arizona, the Access Fund hopes to replicate this study around the country and prove the contribution that low-impact recreation such as climbing brings to local and state economies. With federal and state governments under constant pressure to cut spending and balance budgets, our work provides a critically important perspective and hopefully will enable legislators to make better decisions. ■

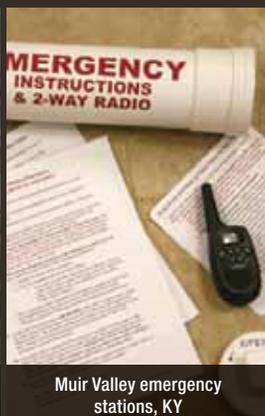


Access Fund's Brady Robinson testifying before Congress, asking for adequate funding to ensure access to public lands

RATE IT



Carcass Crag acquisition, VT



Muir Valley emergency stations, KY



New River Gorge cliff ecology study, WV



Sam's Throne toilet installation, AR



Hueco Tanks cleanup, TX

The Access Fund awards grants to support a wide variety of projects, including land acquisition, cliff ecology studies, toilet installation, access road improvements, and many more.

Each year, the Access Fund awards up to \$40,000 in grant money to local climbing communities with worthy projects that preserve or enhance climbing access. And now, for the first time, you—our valued members—will have the opportunity to rate grant projects before they are awarded.

The Access Fund Climbing Preservation Grants Program is an example of your membership dollars at work in local climbing communities across the country. And as a member, you'll now be able to review qualifying grant projects and rate them, giving you the chance to provide our grant selection committee with input into which projects you want your dollars to support.

Twice a year, the Access Fund will send out an e-mail notification with a summary of each grant project and

ask you to log on to our website to rate each project. If you are not currently a member of our e-mail list, please sign up at www.accessfund.org/enews to receive these notifications. Only members in good standing will be eligible to rate projects.

Now, for the first time, you—our valued members—will have the opportunity to rate grant projects before they are awarded.

There are dedicated and inspired local climbing organizations and volunteers all around the country who need funding for critical projects that preserve or enhance climbing access and opportunities for all of us. Make

your voice heard—tell us which projects are most important to you!

We also encourage you to learn more about the Access Fund Climbing Preservation Grants Program. We accept applications from any organization or individual who proposes a legitimate project that preserves or enhances climbing access or helps conserve the climbing environment. We are most interested in making grants to organizations and individuals who identify and work on the root causes of local climbing access and conservation issues and who approach issues with a commitment to long-term change. So if you know of a project that needs funding, visit www.accessfund.org/grants for more information and submit an application. The summer deadline is August 1, 2011. ■

Corporate Partners

These partners are businesses that put their money where their mouth is to support the future of climbing. Please consider the important contribution these partners make to your climbing future. They support the Access Fund and you. We encourage you to support them!

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Therm-a-Rest®

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Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)

DIAMOND - \$20,000+

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Climbing Magazine
Dead Point Magazine
Marmot
Rock & Ice Magazine
Urban Climber Magazine

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Clif Bar & Company
Osprey
Touchstone Climbing Inc.

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Stonewear Designs

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Campmor
Carhartt
La Sportiva
Mountain Hardwear
Mountain Khakis
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Arc'teryx
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Mad Rock
Metolius
Momentum Media PR
Outdoor Retailer
Rothschild
Schoeller
Sterling Rope Company
SuperTopo.com
USA Climbing

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CAMP USA
Clear Future Markerboards
Climb Max Mountaineering
Drive Current
Fixed Pin Publishing
Fox Mountain Guides & Climbing School
Lowe Alpine
Moosejaw
New Belgium Brewing Company
Pacific Edge Climbing Gym
RESTOP
Spadout.com
Treasure Mountain Inn
Upslope Brewing Company
Vertical World, Inc.
Yates Gear Inc.

CONTRIBUTING - \$500+

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Aiguille Rock Climbing Center
Alpine Ascents International
Amarillo Rock Climbing House
DMM Excalibur/Wild Country/Red Chili
Desert Rock Sports
Eddie McStiffs
Footprints, Inc.
GearEXPRESS.com
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Got it! Real Estate & Development
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Julbo
KNS Reps, Inc.
Liberty Mountain Climbing
Love Muffin Café
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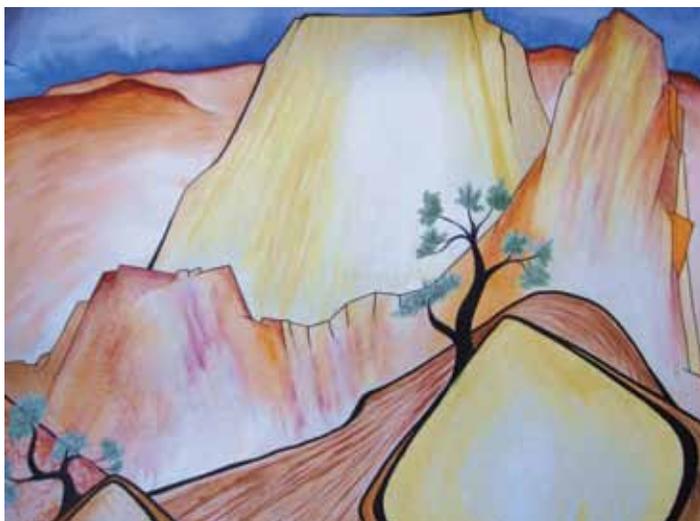
Oskar Blues Brewery
Outdoor Utah Adventure
PMI
Poison Spider Bicycles
Redpoint Nutrition
Redwood Creek
Rocks and Ropes of Tucson
Silltech
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Times Independent Publishing
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Trailspace.com
Vandalion Restaurant
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Wes & Gold

SUPPORTING - \$250+

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Boulder Rock Club/Colorado Mountain School
Climb Nashville
Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS)
Hilleberg the Tentmaker
Omega Pacific
Intelligentsia
Mesa Rim Climbing Center
Pagoda Climbing
Rock & Snow
The Law Firm for Non-Profits
Wild Country
Zeal Optics

CAUSE & [EFFECT]

This year, Cause & [Effect] Productions increased its support to the Access Fund through the 1% for the Planet program. A full-service creative agency, Cause & [Effect] Productions is made up of highly talented storytellers, artists, thinkers, and creators who see every project as an opportunity for collaboration—a chance to apply their creative team's experience, ideas, and personality to make engaging and memorable work for their clients. And they love to climb. We thank Cause & [Effect] for its dedication to keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment!



Clockwise: Zion White Throne with Angel's Landing | © Erica Lyon • Indian Creek (cropped) | © Erica Lyon • The artist, Erica Lyon, bouldering at City of Rocks, Idaho | © Tom Lyon

Erica Lyon

Growing up, Erica's family had a passion for the wilderness, and her experiences as a child in the outdoors still drive her exploration in the wilderness. In her teenage years, she was challenged by and fell in love with climbing. Cliffs for her are like a playground calling to a child. She found in the vertical world the freedom to test her conscious physical abilities and discover new capacity—beyond just physical, but emotional and mental as well. Erica defined her artistic style in college and then refined it while serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in West Africa, teaching art to deaf students. There she was challenged by explaining art using sign language. It was this language that taught her the next step with her art, how to clearly speak without words. www.ericalyonart.com ■



The Access Fund
P.O. Box 17010
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