

VERTICAL TIMES

THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION OF THE ACCESS FUND





Fifteen years ago Nelson Mandela became a free man, Germany was figuring how to reunify, Madonna was “Vogue-ing” on MTV, and Homer Simpson walked in while Johnny Carson walked out of the American consciousness.

Fifteen years ago freeing the Nose was impossible, no one had heard of Chris Sharma, and lycra was a right not a privilege.

And fifteen years ago the Access Fund was created to keep climbing areas open and to conserve the climbing environment.

Anniversaries are a time to celebrate history, collect wisdom, but most importantly look toward the future.

The Access Fund envisions a future in which climbing and access to climbing resources are viewed as legitimate, valued, and positive uses of the land; where climbers respect and appreciate the places they climb so that the climbing environment is conserved for current and future generations.

Whether this becomes a reality next year, in five years, or for the Access Fund’s 30th Anniversary we are toasting to the materialization of this vision- we all have a stake as individual climbers and as a collective to see this vision manifest.

While the opportunities to climb expand, the styles of climbing evolve, and the number of people climbing increases, one thing remains constant: for the past 15 years the Access Fund has tirelessly advocated to keep all climbing areas open, free from restriction, and

[1986] The Access Fund formed as a committee of the American Alpine Club, to work on closures, restrictions, and development, which threaten climbing areas.

[1990] December, AF separated from the AAC

[1991] January, the Access Fund incorporates as its own organization dedicated to keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment.

First AF acquisition: Unaweep Canyon, Colorado

[1992] Model Climbing Management Plan written for use in California. South Carolina State Parks open to climbing for the first time ever.

Access Fund office moves from Los Angeles to Boulder

[1993] Access Fund grants \$30,000 to Mohonk Preserve to purchase 40 acres of private land in Shawangunks, NY.

[1994] AF Acquisition Rumney, NH.
AF Acquisition: Uncompahgre Gorge, home of Ouray Ice Festival.

[1995] North Table Mountain, CO donated to the AF Denali regulation requiring 60 day advance registration rescinded after Access Fund protest. Climber activism in Wisconsin stopped proposed regulations to ban fixed anchors at Devil’s Lake.

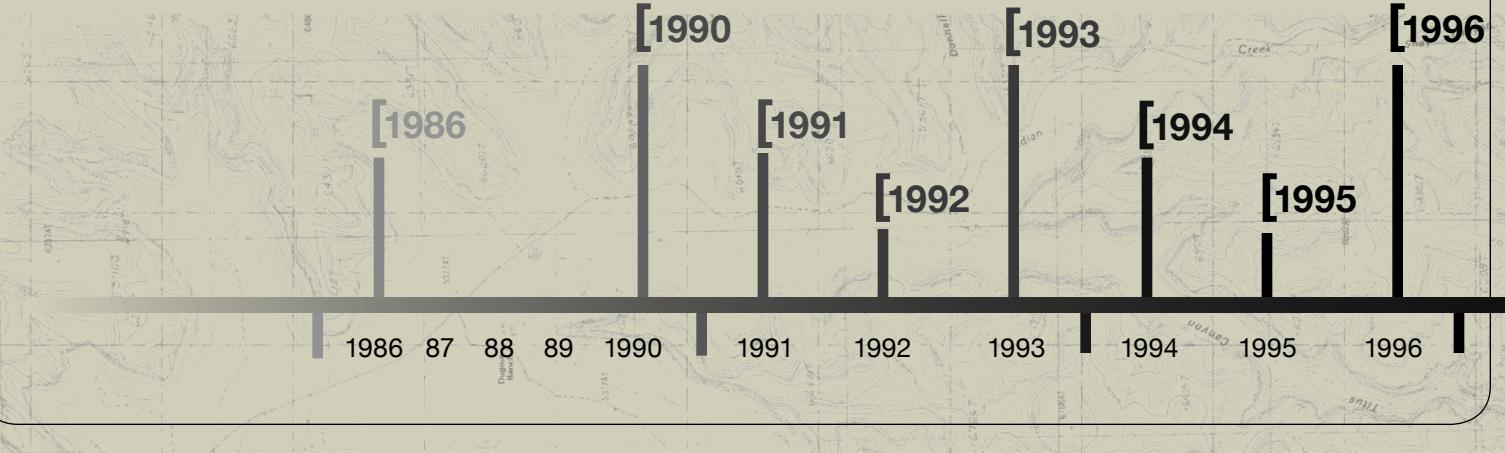
Devil’s Tower Climbing Management Plan, Wyoming approved with “volunteer closure” in June.

First AF Climber’s Activist Summit in November Woodbury, Connecticut reopens Orenaug Park to climbing

Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge reversed ban on climbing

State of Washington completes climbing management plan to guide climber regulations.

[1996] Minnewaska State Park is the first New York State Park to allow climbing.



Looking Back | The Last Fifteen Years

protected for all climbers now and in the future.

The Access Fund and its Affiliates have forged cooperative relationships with the NPS, BLM and USFS on the local, regional, and national level to ensure that areas like Yosemite, Red River Gorge and Whitesides remain the Mecca to which many of us plan our yearly pilgrimage. In 2005 The Access Fund granted \$100,000 of your membership dollars to local climbing organizations and advocates for land acquisitions like Laurel Knob, NC and Jamestown, AL, bear boxes in Yosemite, local climbing organization start-up assistance, and dozens of trail projects. And in December 2005, the Access Fund led a coalition of over 60 human powered recreation organizations, local climbing organizations and environmental groups from around the country to successfully fight mining "reform" language in the Budget Reconciliation Act that would have jeopardized access to

climbing areas nation-wide.

While the accomplishments are significant, there is much more to be done.

Take a look at the timeline and notice the ongoing work that is outlined and how it affects you- As much as things seem to change the more they stay the same. We still face many of the same issues we faced in 1991 only now, there are more of us out there climbing. We will continue what we do as long as is needed in order to keep you doing what you do.

Here's to 15 years of keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment. Thanks for all you've done to make it possible.

-The Staff at the Access Fund | www.accessfund.org

[1997] AF Raptor Handbook released

[1998] Negotiated rule making with USFS for fixed anchors in wilderness
The Access Fund sues NPS over Twin Sisters closure in City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho and loses.

[1999] National Trails Initiative bring together 23,500 volunteers
Access Fund reaches 10,000 members

[2000] Annotated Bibliography of Climbing and Natural Resource Protection published
55 acre tract purchased at Foster Falls, TN
Adopt a Crag stewardship event launches

[2001] AF Acquisition: Baldy Point, OK

Published Climbing Management Plan for all land managers

[2002] Climbers in the southeastern United States rallied to purchase Boat Rock in Georgia

"Excellence Award" received from Alaska Regional NPS for work on Denali Clean Mountain Program

[2004] Launched AF Affiliate Program to create support structure for Local Climbing Organizations
New Jersey State Parks open to climbing

[2005] MOU between AF and BLM finalized
Largest Adopt a Crag ever- 111 scheduled events in 37 states, 3,800 individuals contributed an estimated 20,000 volunteer hours

[2006] Save the Date! Come celebrate 15 years of Access with the Access Fund in Las Vegas, NV Saturday, April 29th. Climbing at Red Rocks by day and dinner and slideshow with Corey Rich that night. Details to follow in February. Please email Whitney Self at whitney@accessfund.org if you plan on attending.

[2003] Castle Rock Ranch, Idaho opens for climbing as new Castle Rocks State Park. Use of fixed anchors on US Fish and Wildlife lands approved Memorandum of Understanding established between AF and USFS

[1997]

[1998]

[1999]

[2000]

[2001]

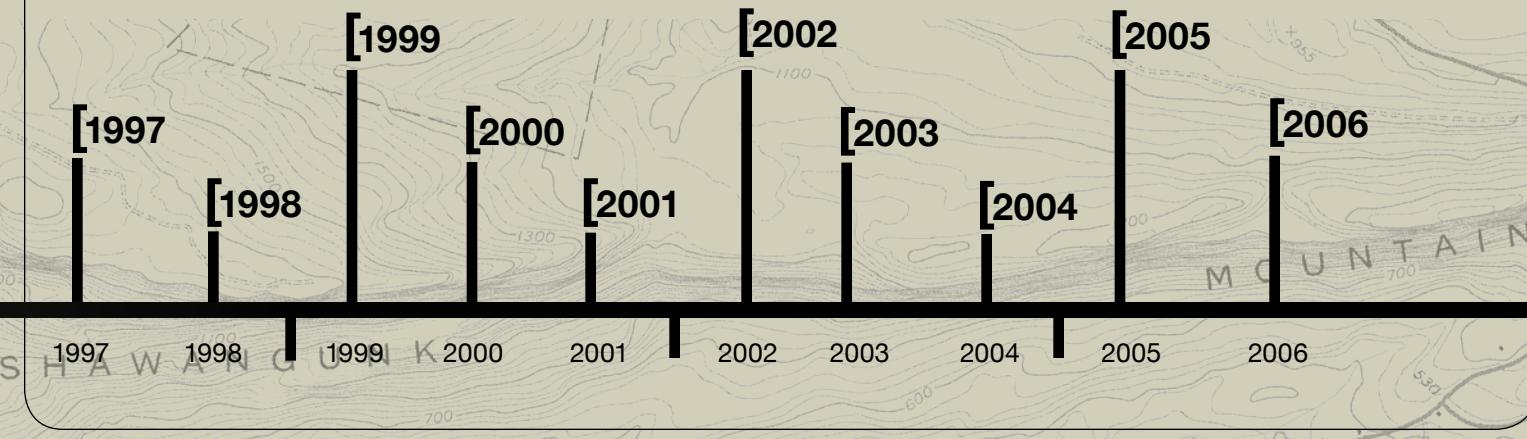
[2002]

[2003]

[2004]

[2005]

[2006]





NATIONAL FOCUS

Spotlighter

How doing a little helps a lot

On this page is an article that talks about stopping the sell-off of public lands. That happened because of you...I hope.

When you boil down the article, a few people did a lot and a whole bunch of people did a little which was exactly what was needed. That's why the Access Fund is around– to do the “a lot” part of keeping access open and conserving the climbing environment but it's hard to pull things off without the “a little” part.

There are 1.6 million climbers in the US. If every climber did a little, access issues would become a thing of the past and you could climb until you puke every day of your life anywhere you wanted (assuming you didn't have to work).

Spotlighter says “doing a little” is super-easy: Stay on trails at your crag (this goes for fido, too) this cuts down on erosion and visual impacts. Greet other climbers and users- it shows climbers care and take ownership of their crag. Email your Regional Coordinator or LCO and let them know you want to be put on their email lists- check out accessfund.org for contact info. Comment and know your local Climbing Management Plan see page 5

When you need to, call an elected official in support of or opposition of an issue that will affect you (it literally takes about 7 minutes of your time but it's “a little” that adds up fast)

It's time to climb.

L8tr,
Spotlighter

Climbing Advocacy Groups Help Stop Sell-Off of Public Lands Climbing Areas

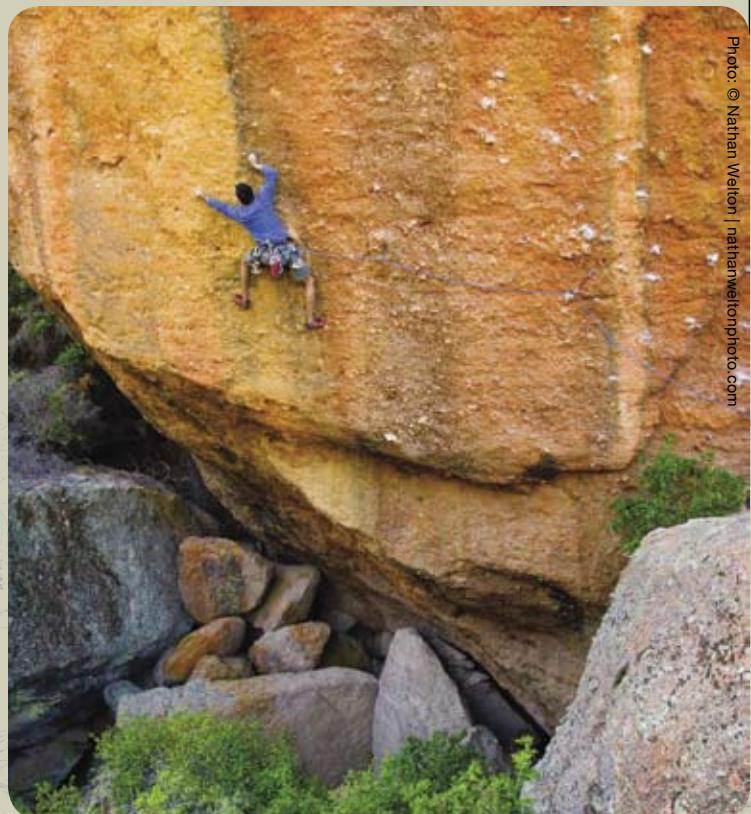
Through the work of the Access Fund, our affiliates, and members of the Outdoor Alliance, on December 13th US Congressman Jim Gibbons pulled his mining reform provisions from the Budget Reconciliation Act (H.R. 4241). These provisions would have impacted climbing areas on millions of acres of public lands across the country.

What this proposed mining provision meant for climbers is that we could have lost access to any climbing area located on or next to any existing mining claim, including the access trails to your favorite crag. Once sold, these

lands—which belong to the American people and are enjoyed by millions of private recreational users each year—could become off limits for climbing, boating, hiking, and any other recreational use. Under this provision land speculators could buy our crags for as low as \$1,000 per acre, and the land would not have to even be mined – any corporation could buy these lands and use them for any purpose. By some estimates, as much as 270 million acres could be threatened under this proposal and these sales could happen with no public input from the recreational users that frequent these special places.

“We helped stop what could have been the largest sell-off of public lands since the Homestead Acts by joining forces with other outdoor recreation groups, hunting and fishing advocates, and environmental organizations” says Jason Keith, the Access Fund’s Policy Director. See <http://www.accessfund.com/pdf/HR4241RecSignon.pdf> for a copy of the Senate letter which dozens of local climbing and recreation groups signed demanding that our public lands remain public.

This mining “reform” legislation will likely reemerge in 2006 but for now, thanks to all the people who stepped up and made their voices heard, our public lands are safe from these provisions. Stay tuned for future action alerts on this issue.





What:

Several public land management initiatives with climbing provisions will be either implemented or available for public review and comment in 2006. Making your voice heard will ensure that climber's interests are considered when management decisions are made. You need to formally communicate with the officials whose decisions will impact your climbing experience.

Contact the local land management agency offices and work with local climbing activists to ensure that climbers are given a fair shake at the following climbing areas.

Where:

Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska

Summary: Denali's Backcountry Management Plan updates and expands upon the 1976 Backcountry Management Plan and amends the 1986 General Management Plan. The new plan's goals are to provide for a range of visitor opportunities in the backcountry, to protect the resources of the park and preserve, and to manage growth so that in the long term a greater number of users can experience the park with reduced impacts.

Agency contact: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projetHome.cfm?projectId=10016>

Access Fund regional coordinator: Wayne Fuller, climb@alaska.net

Natural Bridge, California

Summary: The Shasta-Trinity National Forest will be issuing a management document controlling the placement and use of fixed anchors at Natural Bridge.

Agency contact: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity/contact/>, southfork@fs.fed.us

Local climbing organization: Bigfoot Country Climbing Association, <http://bigfootcountryclimbing.org/>

Redwoods National and State Park, California

Summary: California State Parks and the National Park Service will begin developing a trail plan that may help resolve access concerns at Lost Rocks.

Agency contact: <http://www.nps.gov/redw/>

Local climbing organization: Bigfoot Country Climbing Association, <http://bigfootcountryclimbing.org/>

Tahquitz Rock, California

Summary: The US Forest Service at Tahquitz is looking for interested climbers to support efforts towards improving climbing access and descent trails.

Agency contact: Jim Russell, jamesrussell@fs.fed.us

Local climbing organization: Friends of Tahquitz Rock (soon to be formed)

Access Fund regional coordinator: Jonathan Eells, jweells@charter.net

Jefferson County, Colorado

Summary: Jefferson County Open Space recently completed their draft Climbing Guidelines that will form the basis of site specific management plans for Clear Creek Canyon, Cathedral Spire/Dome Rock, and Mt. Lindo.

Agency contact: Colleen Gadd, 303-271-5995.

Access Fund regional coordinator: Rick Thompson, rvtdesign@msn.com

Shelf Road, Colorado

Summary: The Bureau of Land Management is considering closing the road to Cactus Cliff (primarily due to on-going maintenance concerns and complaints from homeowners over the amount of climber use), and consolidating the parking area near The Bank. New trail work may begin in February/March 2006.

Agency contact: Royal Gorge Field Office, 719-269-8500

Access Fund regional coordinator: Rick Thompson, rvtdesign@msn.com

Castle Rocks State Park, Idaho

Summary: Last fall Castle Rocks State Park opened Zone 2 for new routes using fixed anchors. "Castles" is also developing its Master Plan that will govern access roads and other services.

Agency contact: Brad Shilling, Brad_Shilling@partner.nps.gov.

Local climbing organization: Boise Climbers Alliance, <http://www.boiseclimbers.org/>

Access Fund regional coordinator: Brian Fedigan, fedinidaho@hotmail.com

Red River Gorge, Kentucky

Summary: The US Forest Service will continue the management of heritage resources in the Red River Gorge that will provide a framework for evaluating and protecting archaeological sites that could affect climbing resources.

Agency contact: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/lac/>

Local climbing organization: Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition, <http://www.rrgcc.org>

Access Fund regional coordinator: Shannon Stuart-Smith, rawkjock@qx.net



Red Rocks, Nevada

Summary: The Bureau of Land Management will begin work on wilderness plans that will govern the placement of new fixed anchors.

Agency contact: James Sippel, James_Sippel@nv.blm.gov

Local climbing organization: Las Vegas Climbers Liaison Council, <http://www.lvclc.org>

White Mountains, New Hampshire

Summary: The forest plan revision for White Mountain National Forest has language regarding the placement of new fixed anchors.

Agency contact: Dave Neely, Acting District Ranger, (603) 447-5448 x112

Access Fund regional coordinator: Robert Parish, rparish@ecoastsales.com

Zion National Park, Utah

Summary: The National Park Service will be developing a backcountry management plan that could affect policies on much of the climbing found in the park.

Agency contact: Ray O'Neil, Zion_Backcountry_Plan@nps.gov

Great Falls, Virginia

Summary: The National Park Service has released a draft General Management Plan for Great Falls Park that calls for restricting or eliminating access to several climbing sites within the park.

Agency contact: GWMP_Superintendent@nps.gov; <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?projectId=12998&documentId=12262>

Local climbing organization: Friends of Great Falls Coalition, <http://www.friendsofgreatfalls.com>

Access Fund regional coordinator: Thomson Ling, thomsonling@gmail.com

Washington State

Summary: The Wenatchee, Okanagon, and Colville National Forests are undertaking new management plans with recreation provisions that may affect climbing access.

Agency contact: Vladimir Steblina, vsteblina@fs.fed.us

Local climbing organization: Washington Climbers Coalition, <http://www.washingtonclimbers.org/>

New River Gorge, West Virginia

Summary: Two large proposed housing development projects could impair scenic values in the New River Gorge.

Agency contact: <http://www.nps.gov/neri/pphtml/newsdetail16825.html>

Local climbing organization: New River Alliance of

Climbers, <http://www.newriverclimbing.org/>
Access Fund regional coordinator: Gene Kistler, gene@waterstoneoutdoors.com

Cooper's Rock State Forest, West Virginia

Summary: The West Virginia's Department of Forestry has released a management plan for Coopers Rock State Forest that could affect how climbing is managed.

Agency contact: <http://www.wvforestry.com/coopersrockstateforest.cfm>

Local climbing organization: Coopers Rock Regional Climbers' Coalition, <http://www.coopersrockclimbers.org>

Devils Tower, Wyoming

Summary: The National Park Service will soon reissue its climbing management plan that will require some slight changes to the climber registration process, and implement some new controls on trail erosion and impacts to vegetation. The voluntary closure for the month of June will remain intact, as will the ban on new fixed anchor placements.

Agency contact: Scott Brown, Scott_Brown@nps.gov



Photo: Andrew Querner | andrewquerner.com



What You Can Do:

Here are some specific things you can do to influence how your local climbing areas are managed:

1. Know your crag. Inform yourself as much as possible about the public land in question, who the other interested parties are and why your interests are important. Are there any special management restrictions the agency is obliged to protect that may take precedence over recreation?

2. Be a partner. Meet with your land managers (find out who the best person is to talk to – do any of them climb?) and approach them cooperatively. Look first for issues you can both agree on and then figure out a way you can help them, help you, on your core issue.

3. Create a paper trail. State your concerns in writing in a professional way that will become a part of the public record. The most important time to do this is during the different phases when the agency is accepting public comments to their proposed plans. Go to their agency website (or call them) and find out their planning schedule. When writing comments, be concise and clearly ask for what you want. For examples of written comments, check out: <http://accessfund.org/advo/comments.php>. Make sure to follow up on the phone.

4. Organize. Find like-minded climbers and bring your concerns collectively to the officials that can help you keep climbing. Form a local climbing organization (LCO) or join an existing one. Even though you may not be a “joiner,” power in numbers applies to public land advocacy. See <http://accessfund.org/partners/affiliates.php> for an LCO near you.

5. Stay in the game. Be persistent if you get the cold shoulder, and avoid a negative vibe at all costs. Make sure you understand their management obligations before making any demands. The first rule of advocacy is “show up and don’t leave.”

6. Do what you say, say what you do. Make sure to fulfill your promises (to talk with other climbers, do a cleanup day), and remind officials of the positive contributions of the climbing community. Keep the communication flow going, if even just a phone call touching base. Make sure to be there (e.g., at public meetings) when it matters most—you can’t win if you don’t play.

For more information about how to work with your local land manager and contribute to climbing management plans, take a look at: <http://accessfund.org/resources/landmgr.php>

Williamson Rock, California

Closed to Climbing

Troy Mayr, Friends of Williamson Rock

On Tuesday, December 27th, the U.S. Forest Service temporarily closed access to approximately 1,000 acres in the area north of the Angeles Crest Highway (SR 2) in the vicinity of Cooper Canyon in order to protect critical habitat of the mountain yellow-legged frog, this includes Williamson Rock. At the request of the Angeles National Forest, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) locked the gate at Cedar Springs (near milepost 62 on SR 2), east of the turn-off to Buckhorn Campground and west of the tunnels.

Friends of Williamson Rock (FoWR) has been formed to address and react to any access issues that may arise at Williamson Rock. FoWR has been working in conjunction with the Access Fund, the USFS, USGS, and Department of Fish and Wildlife toward solutions of present and future issues that may arise regarding climbing access and activity at Williamson Rock. We have been in constant contact with the USFS throughout this process, we have attending various meetings, toured the area with a trail expert hired by the Access Fund and staff of the public agencies involved to investigate potential trail solutions, and formed the FoWR to act as a liaison on behalf of the climbing community. If you are a local climber and are interested in helping out, please sign on “Friends of Williamson Rock” and we will contact you. For more information or to get involved, visit: williamsonrock.org

If you have already signed on ‘Friends of Williamson Rock’ just wait for further instructions.

As we get organized and proceed through legal issues we will contact you with news, fundraising queries, letter writing, petition signing and or phone in campaigns. If you haven’t joined sign up now.

Photo: © Nathan Welton | nathanweltonphoto.com





SOUTHEAST

Regional Focus



NORTHEAST

Regional Focus

Daniel Boone National Forest and Red River Gorge, KY

Bill Strachan, Executive Director Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition

During the summer and fall of 2005, a Resource Inventory was conducted by Forest Service backcountry rangers and trained volunteers as part of the Red River Gorge Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process. Using Global Positioning System (GPS) units, backcountry rangers mapped and assessed areas of recreational use including trails, destination points, rockshelters, and climbing areas. The results of this work were presented in a December 2005 LAC meeting attended by climbers. In 2006, climber involvement in the LAC process will be crucial as standards defining the Limits of Acceptable Change (i.e. impacts) and Opportunity Zones (what level of recreational opportunities will be allowed and where) will be determined. Climbers, the Access Fund, and the Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition continue to monitor this process. The final Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) concerning archaeological resources in the Gorge was also presented at the December 2005 meeting. The MOA retained language concerning the Military Wall Cliffline project where the use of a geo-textile mat is proposed to protect artifacts and allow climbing to be reopened in most of the currently closed portion of this area. A Forest Service decision on the Military project is expected by December 2006 with implementation proposed for August 2007. Red River Gorge Forest Service news is regularly updated on the www.rrgcc.org website.

Rescue Cache At Lake Willoughby Vermont

Matthew Elliott and David Powers, Northeastern Vermont Climber's Alliance

Earlier this winter, nine volunteers installed a first aid litter at the base of the cliffs on Mount Pisgah. The shelter and rescue sled were hiked in, and installed in the woods between Left Tablet and Zephyr/Crazy Diamond ice routes. A second cache is in the works, and will be put in the vicinity of The Last Gentleman amphitheater. The rescue sled, and the materials for the shelter were purchased with donations made by climbers from all over the Northeast, organized by Massachusetts climber and Access Fund Regional Coordinator Richard Doucette. The fundraising covered the cost of two litters, materials to build shelters to house them and first aid supplies for each. Additional funds remain for future repairs and replacement.

The rescue caches and shelters will be maintained by the Northeastern Vermont Climber's Alliance, a fledgling organization still working on a mission statement, but generally looking to advocate for climbers and maintain climbing resources in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. Thanks to all who helped make the rescue cache a reality! Look for more news and good things from NEVCA soon.

Madrone Wall Saved!

Portland, Oregon

Keith K. Daellenbach, Madrone Wall Preservation Committee

On January 31st, the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners (BCC) unanimously accepted the Clackamas County Parks Advisory Board (PAB) recommendation that the Hardscrabble property (a.k.a. Madrone Wall) become part of an area for Clackamas River Watershed Protection and that it should not be sold to a private interest or mined.

Closed since 1997, countless climbing and recreational activist has worked tirelessly over the past nine years to save from mining and reopen this climbing and recreation resource outside of Portland, Oregon. This compact site contains an uncommon stand of Pacific madrone and the only geologic feature of its kind in the northern Willamette Valley, a natural cliff face of Boring basalt soaring over 100 feet. Views over the nearby Clackamas River are stunning. This public site has a diverse and intact ecosystem including over 100 plant species with a few remaining old-growth Douglas fir and native wildflowers. It is the source of drinking water for nearby citizens and a clear, cool tributary stream supports the endangered salmon habitat in the Clackamas River designated as a National Wild and Scenic River. Please continue to respect Clackamas County's current "No Trespassing" posting at the Madrone Wall until the site is opened as a park.

Photographer Profile | Andrew Querner



Photography is a powerful communicative tool that can move someone to action. Initially I found purpose in making pictures that would, hopefully, inspire others to go climb. Now I find that I wish to speak to a more general audience. I think photography of climbing can be used to expose the general populous to climbing's true nature—a complex, esoteric lifetime pursuit through which a great deal of personal growth can occur. Often, this side of the story is misunderstood or more likely, never seen.

I believe that photography is a good medium through which to tell this story. After all, climbing is one of only a few 'sports' that allows the participants to document the activity in which they are engaged in. Accordingly, the photographer has an opportunity to record climbing from an insider's perspective. This can only lead to more intimate pictures of the environment and the individuals involved.

A photograph, by its very nature is capable of evoking feelings on multiple levels simultaneously, without the limitations of language. It communicates the spectrum of emotions brought forth by climbing. Just like the climbing game itself, a picture is open to interpretation—it holds different meaning for different people. For me, realizing the role that photography plays in climbing has become as rewarding as the climbing experience itself.

Please visit Andrew's site to learn more about his work.
www.andrewquerner.com



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prAna — 1995

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Archer Law Offices P.C. — 2003

Boulder Rock Club &

Colorado Mountain School — 1996

GORE-TEX® products — 1991

Nalgene — 1992

Outdoor Research — 1999

GOLD — \$5,000+

American Bouldering Series — 2000

Big Up Productions — 2003

Campmor — 1991

La Sportiva — 1994

Mammut USA — 1991

MSR/Therm-a-Rest — 1995

New England Ropes - Maxim — 1992

Omega Pacific — 1992

The Spot Bouldering Gym — 2003

Trango USA & Stonewear Designs — 1992

Weathered Stone — 1999

SILVER — \$2,500+

All Terrain — 2003

Arc'teryx — 1998

BlueWater — 1992

FalconGuides — 1998

Gregory Mountain Products — 1993

Marmot — 1999

Metolius — 1991

Misty Mountain Threadworks — 1994

Mountain Hardwear — 1996

New Belgium Brewing Co. — 2000

Sterling Rope — 1994

Touchstone Climbing Inc. — 1998

MAJOR — \$1,000+

Amedeus Consulting Group — 2004

Asolo — 2003

bluetropic consulting — 2003

CAMP USA — 2004

Cloudveil — 1998

Crazy Creek Products — 1992

Exum Mountain Guides — 2005

Gripped: The Climbing Magazine — 2004

Lowe Alpine Systems — 1991

Montrail — 2002

Phoenix Rock Gym — 1997

Planet Climbing Gyms — 2004

Redpoint, Inc. — 2000

Rock and Snow, Inc. — 2003

Schwartz Communications, Inc. — 2003

SuperTopo.com — 2003

Thule — 2003

Vertical World — 2006

Yates Gear — 1993

CONTRIBUTING — \$500+

Advanced Base Camp — 1992

Adventure Guide Pakistan — 2005

Alpine Ascents International — 1998

Avery Brewing Company — 1998

AZ on the Rocks — 2003

Bearing Images — 2000

Climbing Rope Bracelets — 2005

ClimbingBoulder.com — 2001

Eagle Creek — 2005

Excalibur DMM/Wild Country

Extreme Engineering — 2004

Five Ten — 2004

Flannel Design — 2001

Fox Mountain Guides &

Climbing School — 2005

GearEXPRESS.com — 2003

Higher Ground Roasters — 2003

Julbo — 2005

JustRopes.com — 2004

Kind Coffee — 2003

Kristin Carpenter

Public Relations — 2003

Matrosch Inc.- AustriAlpinUSA — 2005

Moonstone Mountain Equipment — 2003

Mountain Tools — 1991

Mountaineers Books — 1992

Mountainsmith — 2003

NEice.com — 2005

Nemo Equipment — 2005

Nicros — 1997

Osprey — 2003

Outdoor Retailer — 1991

Pacific Edge Climbing Gym — 1995

PMI — 1991

Portland Rock Gym — 2005

Real Cheap Sports — 2003

Sherrill Tree & Climbing Supply — 2005

Sickle Climbing — 2001

Stone Age Climbing — 1997

Stone Moves — 2005

Tom K. Michael, D.D.S., P.S. — 2000

Travel Country Outdoors — 2002

MEDIA PARTNERS

Alpinist — 2003

ASANA PackWorks — 2005

Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine — 1997

Camp4.com — 2002

Coreyography — 2002

Dan Bailey Photography — 2002

DrTopo.com — 2003

GetBeta.com — 2004

Integrity 7 Productions — 2004

Lenticular Pictures — 2005

Michael Clark Photography — 2004

Nathan Welton Photography — 2005

Ousley Creative — 2001

Patitucci Photo — 2003

Second Chance Films — 2004

Sender Films — 2005

Sharpend Publishing — 2004

She Sends — 2004

SNEWS — 2002

Stark Contrast Photography — 2005

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED PARTNER

Editor's Note: Each edition we will highlight a partner that has gone above and beyond in keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment.



40 years of innovation and pushing the limits of what can be done in the mountains has made The North Face a leader in outdoor performance apparel, equipment and footwear.

Known for a wide reaching product line, The North Face reaches just as wide to the US and national climbing, skiing, and ultra running communities funding athlete expeditions to the far corners. But it's not just a climbing trip for the athletes-each funded expedition has an important humanitarian objective at its center. Currently AF Ambassadors/TNF Athletes Conrad Anker, Heidi Wirtz, and Timmy O'Neil are among a group of climbers teaching at the Khumbu Climbing School in the Everest Region of Nepal. Here the team teaches English and technical climbing skills to Nepali students who otherwise receive little formal training but serve as the backbone for the extensive guiding and trekking industry in the area.

The North Face knows that's it not just about the climb, it's about the journey. We hope they never stop exploring.

Find out more at www.thenorthface.com

Check out the new The North Face Access Fund hats in the MemberSHOP at www.accessfund.org



MOUNTAIN GEAR

The Third Annual Red Rock Rendezvous

03/24–03/26 Las Vegas, NV.

The Red Rock Rendezvous climbing festival will return to the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area near Las Vegas to benefit the Access Fund.

For the first time in the event's history, this year's festival will offer a Friday "Intro to Climbing" clinic day for less experienced climbers and climbers who have never experienced the difficulty levels of the Red Rock Canyon. The goal of the "Intro" day is to introduce 50-100 people to the great sport of rock climbing. There will also be an optional gear package that will include a harness, helmet, shoes, belay device, carabiner, chalk bag and a membership to the Access Fund. Participants can get this great gear package, plus the Friday "Intro" day and the rest of the weekend for only \$299.00. <http://www.mgear.com/RR06/>



Boulder Adventure Film Festival And Dirt Days

04/15–04/17 Boulder, CO

From the vertical to the deep to extremes realms of exploration, come see The Boulder Adventure Film Festival and Dirt Days, April 15th, 16th, &17th in Boulder CO. Visit www.BoulderAdventureFilm.com for details.

Combined Federal Campaign

Are you a federal employee? Did you know you could donate to the Access Fund through the federal government's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)? Federal employees, including federal civilians, military personnel, and U.S. Postal Service workers, can now donate to the AF through the federal government's CFC. The CFC is a charitable fundraising program where you give to the Access Fund through automatic payroll deductions.

If you are a federal employee, please look for the Access Fund (agency # 2361) in the official CFC listing of eligible donors. You can also make your contribution online by going to: www.conservenow.org, click on Search for a Charity, type in the Access Fund and make your contribution there.

If you have additional questions on these programs please contact Whitney Self at whitney@accessfund.org.

Register Your Event

Make the AF part of your event . If your event qualifies, membership materials and swag will be sent. The deadline for event registration is one month prior to event. Register at: <http://www.accessfund.org/events/index.php>

Special Thanks

To Chris David and Dave Wilson for their astute legal expertise.

To Omega Pacific for hosting a fundraiser-party at this winter's Outdorr Retailer show where all donations went to the Access Fund.,

To Beth Siron for organizing all the Rockreation staff and Rai Farrelly for volunteering at The AF booth during this winter's Outdoor Retailer show.

To Chris Sharma for signing boulderProject posters at the Outdoor Retailer Show.

Local Climbing Organizations and Affiliates

A local climbing organization (LCO) is an organization, association, or access committee working primarily or exclusively to keep climbing areas open, conserve the climbing environment, and promote responsible climbing. LCOs are the liaison between the climbing community and their local land managers and land owners. Affiliates (*) are LCOs who have joined the Access Fund Affiliate Program. If you are an LCO listed below and not an Access Fund Affiliate, please contact Deanne Buck, grassroots coordinator, at 303-545-6772 x112 or deanne@accessfund.org

AL Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	CT Ragged Mountain Foundation*	NC Boone Climbers Coalition* Carolina Climbers Coalition* Pisgah Climbers Association* Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	SC Carolina Climbers Coalition* Pisgah Climbers Association* Southeastern Climbers Coalition*
AR Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	GA Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	NH Rumney Climbers Association*	SD Black Hills Climbers Coalition*
AZ Arizona Mountaineering Club* Friends of Queen Creek* Northern Arizona Climbers Coalition* Prescott Climbers Coalition* Tucson Climbers Association*	IA Eastern Iowa Climbers Coalition*	ID Boise Climbers Alliance* Kootenai Climbers*	TN Southeastern Climbers Coalition*
CA Bigfoot Country Climbers' Association* Cragmont Climbing Club Eastern Sierra Climbers Coalition* Friends of Joshua Tree* Friends of Pinnacles San Diego Alliance of Climbers* Southern Sierra Climbers Association*	IL Illinois Climbers Association	IL CRAG-New Mexico*	TX Central Texas Mountaineers* Climbers of Hueco Tanks* Texas Mountaineers
CN Climbers Access Society of British Columbia*	KY Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition* Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	NV Las Vegas Climbers Liaison Council*	UT Friends of Indian Creek* Salt Lake Climbers Alliance*
CO Action Committee for Eldorado* Colorado Springs Climbers Alliance* Flatirons Climbing Council* Northern Colorado Climbers Coalition*	MA Appalachian Mountain Club Boston Chapter* Western Massachusetts Climbers Coalition*	NY Gunks Climbers Coalition*	VA Friends of Great Falls Coalition* VT CRAG-VT*
MI Grand Ledges Climbers Coalition	MI Grand Ledges Climbers Coalition	OH Ohio Climbers Association*	WA Washington Climbers Coalition*
MN Minnesota Climbers Association*	OK Chandler Park Climbers Coalition* Wichita Mountains Climbers Coalition*	WI Wisconsin Outdoor Access*	WV Coopers Rock Regional Climbing Coalition*
MO Climbers Alliance of Mid- Missouri*	PA Kansas City Climbing Club*	OR AAC - Oregon Section, Access Committee*	New River Alliance of Climbers* Southeastern Climbers Coalition*
MT Southwest Montana Climbers Coalition	PA Lancaster Climbing Club - Access Project*	PA Mazamas Smith Rock Group*	
	PA Pennsylvania Alliance of Climbers*		



The Access Fund
PO Box 17010
Boulder, CO
80308

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CLIMBING FUTURE
& KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP ACTIVE
TO RENEW, CALL 1-888-8MEMBER
OR VISIT ACCESSFUND.ORG/SUPPORT**

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