

VERTICAL **TIMES**

THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION OF THE ACCESS FUND



POWERED BY CLIMBERS



THE ACCESS FUND
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FALL 2008 • Volume 82

introduction

In this issue of the Vertical Times we explore a few of the key political issues which affect climbers and the climbing environment. Climbing as an activity is wonderfully apolitical, which is refreshing, especially around this time of the year. However, in order to secure our right to climb on federal lands and protect those places, we must engage the political process. Our policy director, Jason Keith and I periodically show up in Washington to educate staffers on the issues most important to us. The Access Fund has a lawyer in D.C. who regularly lobbies on our behalf. We can forget about political issues when we're on the rock, but we can't afford to ignore them altogether.

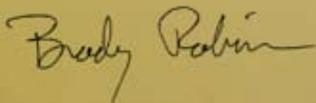
We have allies on both sides of the aisle. Democrats, Republicans, independents and others have been crucial to our success. The Access Fund is completely non-partisan and does not endorse any party or candidate. Our purpose here is to inform you of the issues we face as climbers and to encourage you to learn more about the positions of your chosen candidates and representatives.

Use this link to see where your current representatives stand on issues important to us:

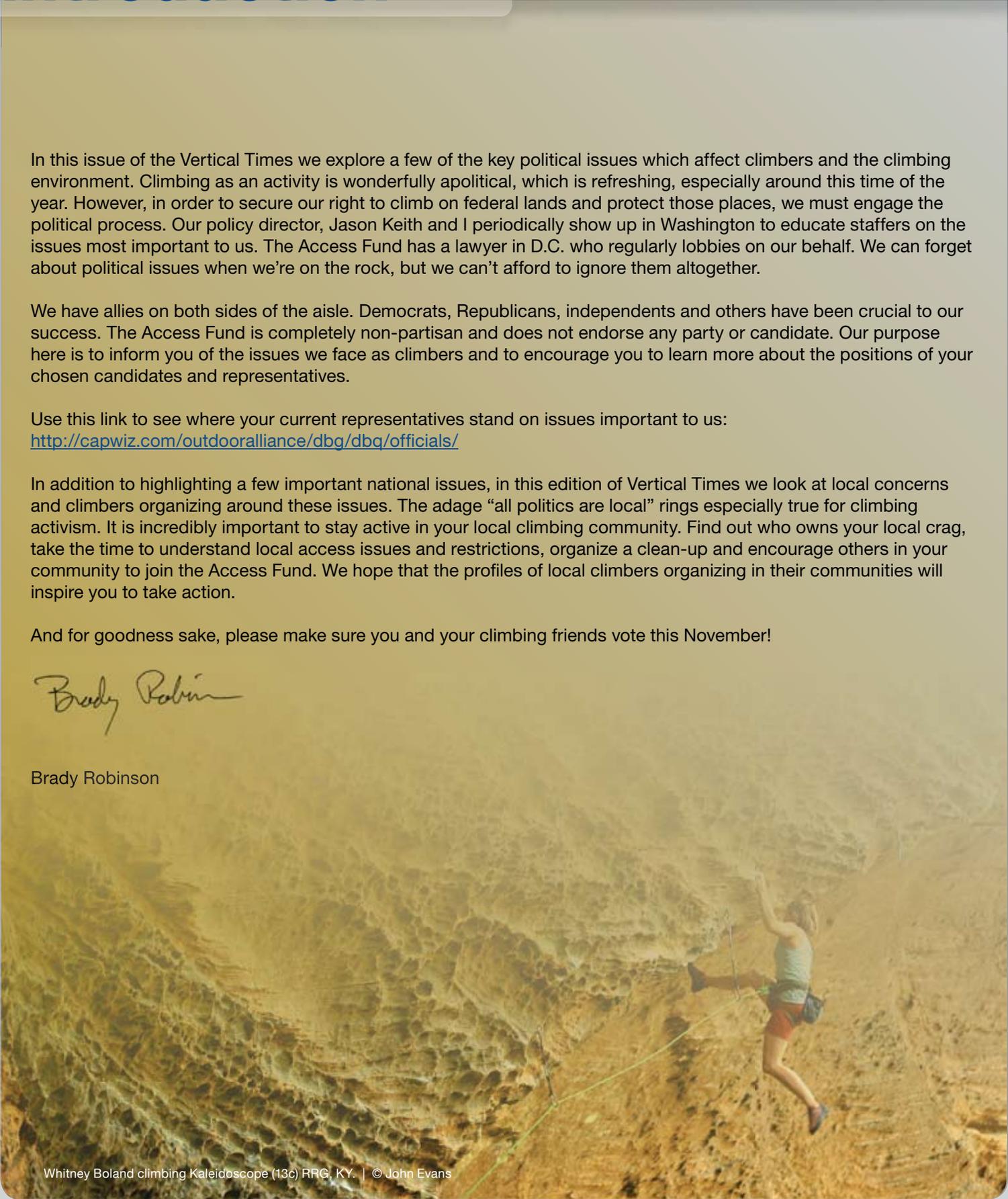
<http://capwiz.com/outdooralliance/dbg/dbq/officials/>

In addition to highlighting a few important national issues, in this edition of Vertical Times we look at local concerns and climbers organizing around these issues. The adage "all politics are local" rings especially true for climbing activism. It is incredibly important to stay active in your local climbing community. Find out who owns your local crag, take the time to understand local access issues and restrictions, organize a clean-up and encourage others in your community to join the Access Fund. We hope that the profiles of local climbers organizing in their communities will inspire you to take action.

And for goodness sake, please make sure you and your climbing friends vote this November!



Brady Robinson



Whitney Boland climbing Kaleidoscope (13c) RRG, KY. | © John Evans

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ACCESS FUND HEADQUARTERS

STAFF

Brady Robinson • Executive Director
303.545.6772 x101, brady@accessfund.org

Courtney Bartels • Membership Manager
303.545.6772x106, courtney@accessfund.org

Amy Ansari • Grassroots Coordinator
303.545.6772 x105, amy@accessfund.org

Ellen Jardine • Business & Finance Manager
303.545.6772 x107, ellen@accessfund.org

Jason Keith • Policy Director
303.545.6772 x102, jason@accessfund.org

Randy Levensaler • Media Manager
303.545.6772 x103, randy@accessfund.org

Robb Shurr • Director of Marketing
& Business Development
303.545.6772 x100, robb@accessfund.org

Jason Smith • Development Director
303.545.6772 x113, smith@accessfund.org

Access Director • 303.545.6772 x112

Judy Ware • Office Associate
303.545.6772 x104, judy@accessfund.org

GENERAL COUNSEL

Chris Archer

Second Round Grants Awarded

Access Fund Announces Second Round Grant Recipients 2008

Access Fund Gives Over \$10,000 to Support Conservation and Acquisition Projects.

The Access Fund awarded over \$10,000 to support local climbing activism and conserve climbing environments. In the second round of the Climbing Grants Preservation program, the Access Fund supported five projects proposed by local climbing and conservation organizations. Grant recipients were CRAG-VT, Utah Open Lands, Yosemite Climbing Association, and Friends of Muir Valley.

CRAG-VT will use Access Fund grant monies to assist in the acquisition of Upper West Bolton Cliff (a.k.a. Upper West) in Bolton, Vermont. Less than 30 minutes from Burlington and Montpelier, Upper West is one of northern Vermont's most popular and historic cliffs. It features 250-foot traditional climbs, ice climbs, and a boulder field. For more information, contact Travis Peckham, President of CRAG-VT, at tfpeckham@gmail.com.

Utah Open Lands received grant funds for its Castleton Tower trail and campground improvement project. After the Castleton Tower trail was severely damaged this August by a flash flood, the funds were re-appropriated for rebuilding the trail. On October 24-26, Utah Open Lands will host a three-day Adopt-a-Crag event at the base of Castleton Tower to repair the Castleton Tower access trail, trailhead, and primitive climbers' camp. For more information, contact David Erley of Utah Open Lands at dderley@frontiernet.net.

Yosemite Climbing Association will use its grant award for the five-day Yosemite Face-Lift Adopt-a-Crag. This annual Adopt-a-Crag event attracts hundreds of volunteers to the U.S.'s premiere climbing destination. For more information, contact Ken Yager, President and Executive Director of Yosemite Climbing Association, at YCA@inreach.com.

Friends of Muir Valley's grant award will contribute to the improvement of creek crossings at Muir Valley climbing area in Kentucky. Muir Valley, a newly developed climbing area, has seen increased visits in the last few years. To learn more email: Fomv.lco@gmail.com.

Funds awarded to the **Western Colorado Climbers Coalition** (WCCC) will assist the newly formed Local Climbing Organization with startup costs. The WCCC, based out of Grand Junction, Colorado, is fundraising to purchase privately owned portions of Unaweep Canyon. For more information or to donate to the Unaweep acquisition, email: western_co_climbers@hotmail.com.



YOU ARE THE ACCESS
FUND'S GREATEST ASSET!

Please help strengthen our voice by encouraging
your climbing partners to join!
Visit: www.accessfund.org/join

{ ACCESS ATLAS }

Who owns the land where you climb? Why is it important to know? Because knowing is the first step to being a conscientious climber.

There are different rules, regulations, and protocol that must be adhered to depending on who owns or manages the land. The outcome of not sticking to the rules could jeopardize access and cause you a major headache or worse.

From East to West, ownership of the land where you climb is diverse. In the East, you find many climbing areas on private land and in the West, most climbing is on public land.

The Access Fund is equipped to address private land issues through our vast Grassroots Action Network. We work diligently on public land issues through our well respected Policy Program. You, though, are a huge part of the equation. You are the first line of defense. You know the issues before they become issues, and you can help educate others who just don't understand why they need to care about taking care of the places they climb.

{ PRIVATE LAND }

Many great climbing areas are located on private land, especially east of the Mississippi River. Countless incredible crags and boulder fields lie hidden in the forests and gorges of the South. The Northeast, Texas, and much of the West are also home to numerous privately owned cliffs and boulders.

Climbers who want to climb on private property should research and understand local laws. Most states require all recreational users to have permission before climbing on private property, regardless of whether it is posted or not. It is every climber's responsibility to know who owns the land on which he or she wants to climb, what is open and closed to climbing, and whether there are any land-use restrictions in place.

For expanded information on the following, please check out <http://accessfund.org/resources/private.php>

Who Owns the Land?

Tax maps can be used to assess who owns land if you don't know. They can be found at your local county and town offices or on county government websites.

Approaching the Owner

If you've found a new climbing area, there is often a Catch-22 involved in "exposing" your private crag. Many

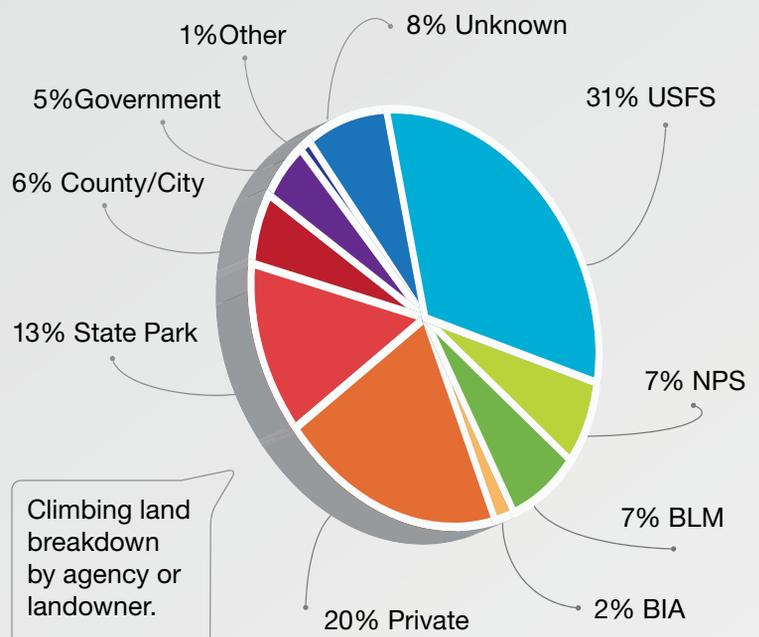
climbers put off informing the landowner until the cliff is developed and their projects are sent. This is not a good strategy. For the best chance of long-term access, contact landowners as soon as possible (most will find out anyway and be unhappy if they find out before you tell them).

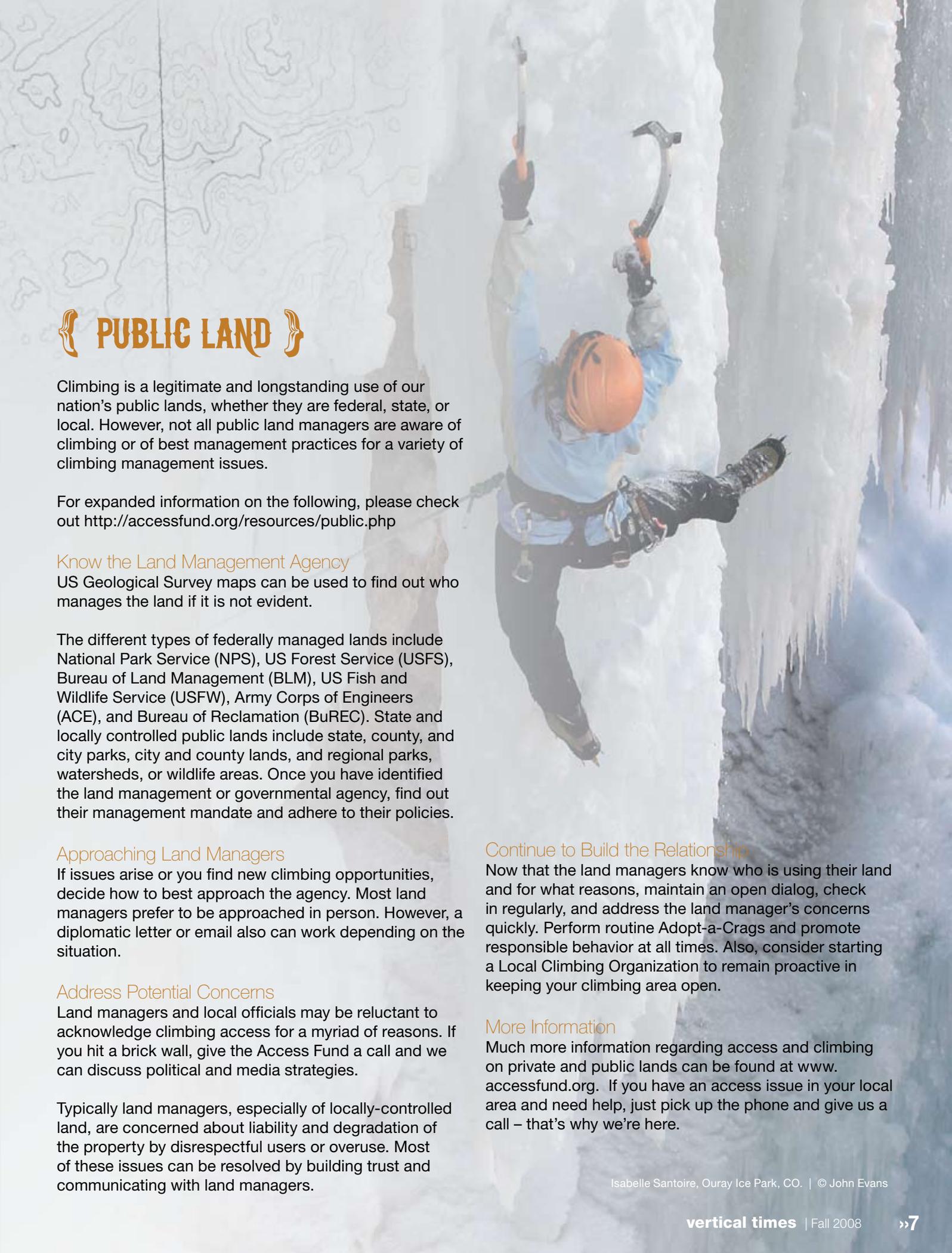
Address Potential Concerns

Landowners are reluctant to open their land to public use for many reasons. Often the landowner is concerned about liability, degradation of the property by disrespectful users, or privacy and personal safety. Most of these issues can be resolved by being proactive and reaching out to the land owner.

Keep the Landowner Happy

Even if you've approached the landowner, established a relationship, and addressed fears about liability and impacts, your continued efforts are key to keeping the area open.





{ PUBLIC LAND }

Climbing is a legitimate and longstanding use of our nation's public lands, whether they are federal, state, or local. However, not all public land managers are aware of climbing or of best management practices for a variety of climbing management issues.

For expanded information on the following, please check out <http://accessfund.org/resources/public.php>

Know the Land Management Agency

US Geological Survey maps can be used to find out who manages the land if it is not evident.

The different types of federally managed lands include National Park Service (NPS), US Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW), Army Corps of Engineers (ACE), and Bureau of Reclamation (BuREC). State and locally controlled public lands include state, county, and city parks, city and county lands, and regional parks, watersheds, or wildlife areas. Once you have identified the land management or governmental agency, find out their management mandate and adhere to their policies.

Approaching Land Managers

If issues arise or you find new climbing opportunities, decide how to best approach the agency. Most land managers prefer to be approached in person. However, a diplomatic letter or email also can work depending on the situation.

Address Potential Concerns

Land managers and local officials may be reluctant to acknowledge climbing access for a myriad of reasons. If you hit a brick wall, give the Access Fund a call and we can discuss political and media strategies.

Typically land managers, especially of locally-controlled land, are concerned about liability and degradation of the property by disrespectful users or overuse. Most of these issues can be resolved by building trust and communicating with land managers.

Continue to Build the Relationship

Now that the land managers know who is using their land and for what reasons, maintain an open dialog, check in regularly, and address the land manager's concerns quickly. Perform routine Adopt-a-Crags and promote responsible behavior at all times. Also, consider starting a Local Climbing Organization to remain proactive in keeping your climbing area open.

More Information

Much more information regarding access and climbing on private and public lands can be found at www.accessfund.org. If you have an access issue in your local area and need help, just pick up the phone and give us a call – that's why we're here.

Isabelle Santoire, Ouray Ice Park, CO. | © John Evans

MINING AND CONGRESS

Do Your Federal Representatives Support Reform?

Old laws often fail to consider modern practices. Even though our current mining law has not seen a meaningful legislative reform in over 136 years, mining practices have changed dramatically. Picks and shovels have given way to house-sized earth-movers, cyanide leaching—a process that can have enormous and long-lasting effects on the environment—and other damaging techniques.

The Access Fund acknowledges that climbers and all Americans rely on hard rock metals in our daily lives, but we feel that the mining industry should play by the same Leave No Trace rules that all human-powered recreational users practice on public lands.

However, it's up to Congress to force reform on an industry guided by metal prices and quarterly shareholder profits, not environmental responsibility. Mining reform is one of the political litmus tests that climbers can use when wondering—with the elections just around the corner—whether their Congressional representatives share the same values with regard to public land management.

Mining reform is an issue of unique interest to climbers. In addition to some of our rocks actually being mined (Oak Flat in Arizona and Lost Horse Canyon in Montana, for example) many climbers reside in or frequent mining communities that are close to climbing areas. Often these areas are littered with carnage left behind by mining companies.

It's up to Congress to force reform on an industry guided by metal prices and quarterly shareholder profits, not environmental responsibility.

The next time you pass through Moab or Telluride, check out the mountains of tailings left behind for taxpayers to deal with. These piles continue to pollute our valuable lands and waters (ever wonder why, when you ice climb in Ouray, the Uncompahgre River is orange-brown?). These are but a few examples of mining pollution. As climbers, we have a strong interest in cleaning up abandoned mines and mills, and ensuring that future mining projects are more closely scrutinized.

In addition to cleaning up the half-million abandoned mines that continue to pollute our favorite places, mining reform should also focus on the current mining boom. A recent report (www.ewg.org/sites/mining_google/US/analysis.php) shows an 80 percent increase in hard rock mining claims across the West over the past five years, including an explosion of uranium claims that could affect dozens of climbing areas on the Colorado Plateau and elsewhere.

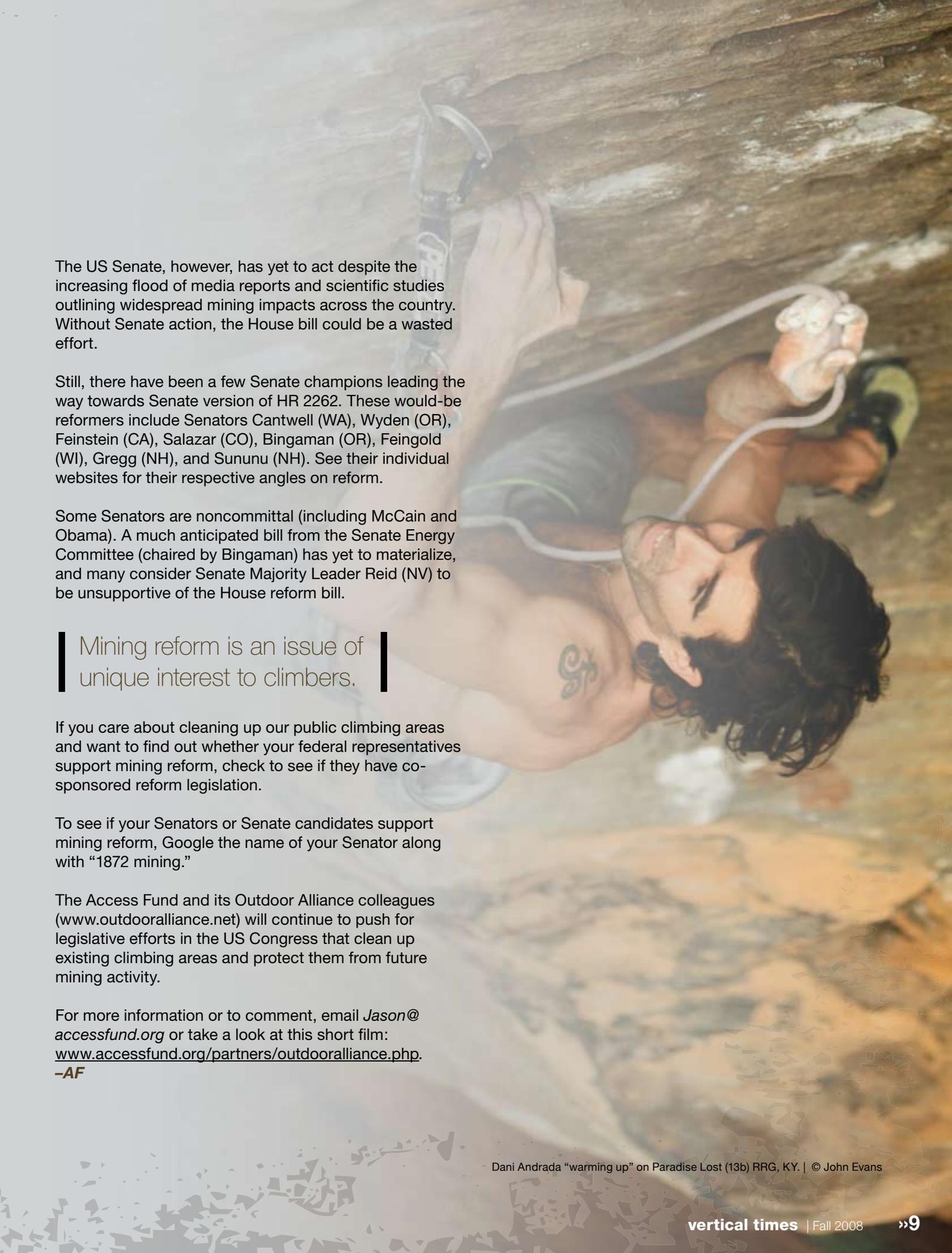
If you care about cleaning up our public climbing areas and want to find out whether your federal representatives support mining reform, check to see if they have co-sponsored reform legislation.

Climbing at Arches, Zion, or Yosemite this fall? See this map illustrating how the explosion of new claims could affect your favorite climbing area: www.ewg.org/sites/mining_google/US/.

In addition to its environmental and recreational impacts, mining poses a number of threats to human health.

CONGRESSIONAL REFORM OF THE 1872 MINING LAW

Last fall the US House of Representatives passed a bill (HR 2262) that protects sensitive areas from mining impacts, institutes a royalty system (as used by the coal and oil/gas industries) to fund the cleanup of abandoned mines, prevents the “undue degradation” of public lands and waters (the EPA states the over half the western headwaters are so polluted that cleanups could take 50-plus years), and assists local economies reeling from boom-and-bust cycles.



The US Senate, however, has yet to act despite the increasing flood of media reports and scientific studies outlining widespread mining impacts across the country. Without Senate action, the House bill could be a wasted effort.

Still, there have been a few Senate champions leading the way towards Senate version of HR 2262. These would-be reformers include Senators Cantwell (WA), Wyden (OR), Feinstein (CA), Salazar (CO), Bingaman (OR), Feingold (WI), Gregg (NH), and Sununu (NH). See their individual websites for their respective angles on reform.

Some Senators are noncommittal (including McCain and Obama). A much anticipated bill from the Senate Energy Committee (chaired by Bingaman) has yet to materialize, and many consider Senate Majority Leader Reid (NV) to be unsupportive of the House reform bill.

Mining reform is an issue of
unique interest to climbers.

If you care about cleaning up our public climbing areas and want to find out whether your federal representatives support mining reform, check to see if they have co-sponsored reform legislation.

To see if your Senators or Senate candidates support mining reform, Google the name of your Senator along with “1872 mining.”

The Access Fund and its Outdoor Alliance colleagues (www.outdooralliance.net) will continue to push for legislative efforts in the US Congress that clean up existing climbing areas and protect them from future mining activity.

For more information or to comment, email Jason@accessfund.org or take a look at this short film: www.accessfund.org/partners/outdooralliance.php.

—AF

Dani Andrada “warming up” on Paradise Lost (13b) RRG, KY. | © John Evans

ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION: A CLIMBER ISSUE?

What do The Needles in California, Cochise Stronghold in Arizona, and the Wind River Mountains in Wyoming all have in common? They are either located in or look directly into a Roadless Area that could be impacted by road building in coming decades—roads that typically lead to areas sought by extractive industry.

WHY SHOULD CLIMBERS CARE ABOUT ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION?

The Needles, Cochise, and the Winds are all places known not only for their exceptional climbing, but also for their matchless natural environments. By maintaining these areas in their Roadless condition we protect the quality of the recreational experience by preserving land and water quality and maintaining riparian buffers that are often characterized by old-growth forests. In addition, protecting these unspoiled US Forest Service areas presents an ideal balance between environmental protection and recreational access. In other words, climbers can benefit from pristine wilderness-like mountain environments that are not regulated to the same extent as designated wilderness areas.

These wild, backcountry areas need the help of those who enjoy them most

Another reason you might care about these places is that they support other outdoor recreation pursuits. Whether it's paddling the Forks of the Kern, climbing Liberty Bell in the North Cascades, bouldering in the La Sal Mountains, mountain biking on the Maa Daah Hey Trail, hiking the Pacific Crest or Continental Divide Trails, or skiing the backcountry terrain of Copper Mountain in Idaho, the human-powered outdoor recreation community loves their backcountry adventures. Now, more than ever, these wild, backcountry areas need the help of those who enjoy them most.

Over the last few years, debate has raged among federal agencies and competing federal courts whether and how these unique areas should be protected. The Access Fund believes that federal lawmakers should support the scope of the initial 2001 rule.

In 2001, hundreds of thousands of Americans wrote to urge the U.S. Forest Service to protect Roadless Areas. Since that time various court rulings and agency rulemaking have upheld the 2001 rule, while others have sought lesser protections. This past summer Colorado sought a state-based petition to be exempt from federal rulemaking around the issue as federal legislation to protect Roadless Areas is pending before the US Senate and US House of Representatives.

Roadless Areas include scenic landscapes, ancient forests, and wild rivers

The Colorado petition seeks to obtain a lower level of protection than the federal legislation, which is seen as a step backwards by the Access Fund. Currently, the Access Fund and the Outdoor Alliance are hard at work to try to get Colorado on the same page as the federal Roadless Area Conservation Act.

Often located at lower elevations, Roadless Areas include scenic landscapes, ancient forests, and wild rivers. Backcountry areas that remain road-free support intact ecosystems and have plenty of clean air, water, and wildlife.

These areas are also great for the economy—approximately 85% of the revenue generated from National Forests comes from recreational activities. Of the 192 million acres the US Forest Service (USFS) manages, 58.5 million is roadless. That is, two-thirds of our national forests are already carved up by roads that service clear-cuts, mines, and other industrial sites.

It's important to note that our USFS roads help maintain access to trailheads and climbing locations across the country. The proposed agency regulations and Congressional bills would not remove roads (the strategic decommissioning of USFS roads is following a different administrative process). Rather, Roadless Area protection seeks to prevent the construction of new roads in areas where there currently are none.



David Graham hucks a big move on Phantom
Fighter (V8) Big Bend Boulders, Moab, UT.
| © John Evans

OK, so where are these Roadless Areas located? Nearly everywhere National Forests exist. Take a look at these maps to find one near you: <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/maps/usmap2.shtml>.

THE ROUTE TO ROADLESS PROTECTIONS

If you are a climber and you support Roadless Area protections, take a look at the positions of your federal Senators and Representatives to determine if they share the same values that would keep roads out of some of the most unique climbing destinations in the country. The best gauge for whether Congressional representatives really support this issue is revealed by whether they are a co-sponsor of legislative protection of Roadless Areas.

To find out whether your Senator or US Representative is currently a cosponsor of the Roadless Area Conservation Act, see: <http://capwiz.com/outdooralliance/issues/>

Climbers should take into account whether the folks they send to Congress to represent their views share their values when it comes to protecting our public land climbing areas.

For more info on Roadless Area protection, see this film <http://accessfund.org/partners/outdooralliance.php>, the US Forest Service website: <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/>, or email Jason@accessfund.org.

QUOTAS: MORE CLIMBERS...MORE MEMBERS

It's a scene we have probably all experienced before—your local climbing area overrun with other climbers. It's annoying. Who are these people and where did they come from? Don't they know you've been climbing here for years?

Unfortunately, as more people come into the sport, overcrowding at climbing areas is a reality we are going to have to learn to live with.

Notably, overcrowding is not limited to urban crags. Increasingly, destination climbing areas like Yosemite, California's High Sierra, and Hueco Tanks are tackling the impacts of overcrowding by limiting visitors through quota-systems. Not everyone appreciates the merits of a quota system, but like overcrowding, it's a reality climbers have to deal with.

Getting involved in issues at your local climbing area, staying informed through Access Fund's E-News and Vertical Times and encouraging new climbers to become Access Fund members are important forms of political activism that can have a lasting effect on your climbing experience.

Getting involved in issues at your local climbing area, staying informed through Access Fund's E-News and Vertical Times are important forms of political activism that can have a lasting effect on your climbing experience.

And that is where the Access Fund, aided by your membership dollars, comes in. The Access Fund is actively working to represent climbers' interests as land management agencies, such as Yosemite National Park, develop quota systems. In March, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Park failed to adequately address limits on public use near the Merced River, which is listed as a Wild and Scenic River and thus subject to restrictions. The Court ordered the Park to develop a new management plan that sets numeric limits for visitors in Yosemite. Depending on how these numeric limits are implemented, camping, climbing, and hiking access in the Park could be severely limited.

So next time you want to curse the other climbers crowding your area, first remind them to become members of the Access Fund. As our numbers continue to grow it's more and more important that we have a seat at the table when land management agencies make decisions about the areas where we love to play.

Said Belhaj staying focused on Free Will (13c) Squamish, BC. | © John Evans

THE AF SPEAKS WITH CRAG VT PRESIDENT TRAVIS PECKHAM:

AF: How long has CRAG VT been around?

TP: In 1999, Derek Doucet brought together a group of us to address a climbing closure at the Bolton Quarry. He'd been chased off by a neighboring land owner and wanted to see what we could do to iron things out. The group met semi-formally over beers at Derek's for a few years before moving to incorporate as a 501(c)3 in 2002. The outreach, stewardship, newsletter, community events, acquisitions, and other accomplishments continue to gain momentum from that point forward.

AF: What are some of your major accomplishments?

TP: The acquisition of Lower West Bolton Cliff and the Bolton Quarry are some of our most significant accomplishments. These are great mainstay rock and ice climbing areas within a short drive from our most populous areas (the greater Burlington area has about 100,000 people).

We have worked with the State of Vermont on developing their land management and recreation policies. This has included essential talks to ensure climbing access on State lands with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

We have been active in peregrine falcon restoration projects and many CRAG-VT members have assisted in banding and monitoring programs with the National Wildlife Federation and the Vermont Institute of Natural Science.

In addition to the accomplishments we've made on our current Upper West Bolton land transfer project, we've also recently been involved in permanently ensuring climbing access at another fantastic climbing area near Burlington. We can't formally announce it yet, but this is clearly as significant a development as any of our previous accomplishments. Stay tuned...

AF: What are you working on right now?

TP: CRAG-VT is currently trying to broker a deal in which Upper West Bolton cliff, currently private property, will be moved into the public domain with enduring protections for rock and ice climbing. Over the past year we have worked with the landowners, the Vermont Land Trust, and the Town of Bolton to arrange a plan in which the boundary lines on the land surrounding the cliff will be redrawn to transfer the cliff into the town's adjoining 406 acre Preston Pond conservation area. We've received a

very generous grant from our longtime partners, the Access Fund, to help fund this project and this gets us started on capital we will need to complete this project. CRAG-VT is actively looking for contributions to help us complete this project and we will be doing a lot of events and fundraising in the months to come. To get in a shameless plug, visit www.cragvt.org where you can learn more about us and make a contribution online.

AF: How do you get community members to volunteer on CRAG VT's projects?

TP: Getting volunteer help can be a challenge, but we've been around long enough now that we have a great network with the greater community. We've benefited from a great deal of pro bono work from local law firms (it seems a lot of lawyers like to climb) and this has helped us in our acquisitions. We've also had some amazing contributions from graphic designers, web developers, photographers, gear reps, and local businesses; the list is long.

We've also managed to make a lot of careful decisions to ensure that we don't polarize our community. For many years now we've enjoyed a blissful calm where boulderers, sport climbers, trad climbers, and ice climbers are coexisting peacefully. In fact, Vermont is a place where many of us find ourselves in all of the climbing subcultures.

AF: What are the top three routes a climber should not miss with visiting Vermont?

TP: Only 3 routes? How about 3 climbing areas? Lake Willoughby, Bolton, Mt. Wheeler, Marshfield, and Smuggler's Notch. Sorry that's 5. You ask the impossible. I did my best.

Travis Peckham on The Rose Crack (5.10a) Bolton, VT. | © Pete Warner

yosemite facelift

THE AF SPEAKS WITH KEN YAGER FROM THE YOSEMITE CLIMBING ASSOCIATION:

AF: What is the Yosemite Face-Lift?

KY: The Yosemite Facelift is a 5-day, Park-wide cleanup that focuses on the high-use areas throughout Yosemite National Park.

AF: How long has it been around?

KY: This year will be the fifth annual Yosemite Facelift.



AF: How has it changed over the years?

KY: The first year it was a 3-day event. Every Facelift since then has been a 5-day event. Attendance has basically doubled every year. With such a large work force we have taken on special projects, such as helping NPS remove abandoned infrastructure that they don't have the funding for.

AF: What is the most difficult part of organizing such a big event?

KY: The logistics of getting compliance from NPS, organizing sponsors, the free camping, and the coordination of work.

AF: What is the oddest item of trash you have removed?

KY: Either a TV that had been thrown down a hill off the side of the road or a wrecked 1951 Nash.

AF: How has the Facelift affected climbers' relationship with Park officials?

KY: It has helped break down the barriers between NPS and the climbers that have been a problem for many years. NPS is realizing that the climbing community really

cares about the Park and is willing to take the initiative and be role models in land stewardship.

AF: Where do you see the Face-Lift going?

KY: The Facelift has been so successful that I hope 50 years from now, when I am long gone, that it will still be happening. I would like to see other areas organize similar events using the Facelift as a role model. I think communities as well as Public Lands can benefit from these types of programs. It is not only educational but helps instill pride and a sense of involvement in the areas where we live.

AF: What advice do you have for a first-time Adopt-a-Crag organizer?

KY: Make it fun! And make it easy! I organize evening programs and a daily raffle for the participants. When it is over, reward everyone with a reception. The Facelift reception includes free food and beverages, a final raffle, and live music. NPS offers some free camping to the Facelift volunteers. Maybe you can get free camping for your participants. Local businesses are often very willing to offer raffle prizes. Most important is to reach out and include other users of the area you are cleaning. Reach out to the park officials and partners of the area, contact the hikers, the fisherman, the photographers, local school, children's groups, and anyone else you can think of. This will not only increase your attendance but will help open future dialog between the climbing community and other users of the area. We have to remember that others besides climbers enjoy these areas.



Ken Yager has been continuing the tradition since 2006.



The Rock Climbing Center, Colorado Springs, CO.

When the Access Fund announced its new stewardship competition for youth climbing gym teams in January, the Rock Climbing Center in Colorado Springs pounced. While the team is smaller than most (only 20 members) it has already hosted two Adopt-a-Crag events and has plans for a third. AF talked with gym manager Lara Groshong and a few of the team members about their experiences.

THE AF SPEAKS WITH TEAM MANAGER

LARA GROSHONG:

AF: How many team members do you have? What is their age range?

LG: We have about 20 members on our team ranging in age from 8 to 45.

AF: Looks like your team has been involved in 3 Adopt-a-Crag events this year. Can you tell us a little bit about the events?

LG: We've done 2 events so far and have 1 more to go on September 13. Our first event was at a local area called Ute Valley Park. It's a very cool little area that's pretty removed from the rest of the park. The only people that go there are climbers and, apparently, drinkers of beverages in glass bottles. We spent a lot of time doing micro-cleaning there—down on our knees, picking up shards of glass. We had about 30 people at that event which was on May 31. The next event was June 28 at Castlewood Canyon State Park. There were closer to 20 people at that event, and we did trash pickup as well as some trail trimming. We sent volunteers off the trails to find the major trash piles and they came back with bags of beer cans and bottles. On September 13, we're going to host a climbing competition and clean-up in Red Rock Canyon. We're working closely with the Friends of Red Rock Canyon to plan our project there because we expect a pretty big turnout and want to make sure we can put the effort to good use.

AF: You have had a pretty good showing from friends and family, what was your trick?

LG: Each of our events is a climbing competition paired with the clean-up. It's a nice combination because sometimes people aren't interested in doing the competition but they like to watch and feel like they're a part of the event. The clean-up is great for that because it gives everyone a way to contribute. I think climbing

outdoors just inherently appeals to the whole family too. It's not hard to persuade folks to go outside on a beautiful Colorado summer day to enjoy the outdoors and give back to the environment.

AF: Do you have any big plans for your next event?

LG: We're working hard to turn our Red Rock Redpoint Outdoor Climbing Competition and Clean-up into an annual climbing festival. This year we're hoping to introduce an adventure race as well. The park is the newest climbing area in Colorado Springs and it has been built by climbers for climbers, so it's a very cool spot. It also integrates well with the other parks and trails in the city so it's well-suited to all kinds of outdoor activities.

AF: What was your favorite part of organizing an event?

LG: The Front Range Climbing Company partners with us on all these events. They handle the rating of routes and print up guidebooks for the event. We handle the organization and behind-the-scenes stuff. Then we get together on the day of the event and enjoy the fruits of our labor. The Front Range guides have helped establish many of the local areas so they have a lot of credibility and knowledge to offer to people just getting into the sport. I also love to educate people about the importance of caring for our resources and get them excited about collecting trash.

AF: What was the hardest part of organizing an event?

LG: I had this vision of every member of the team being at every event. I realized early on that, given the variety of summer travel plans and events, that wasn't going to happen. Next year we'll start planning earlier so our events take priority and are already on everyone's calendars long before summer approaches. I'm still holding out hope for September - all the kids are back in school so we can find them more easily. either one does.

John Evans

Photographer, Climber, Advocate, Father

John has a hard time figuring out where climbing stops and work begins. An award winning photographer, Access Fund Board member, and in charge of Petzl's marketing and corporate giving program, John's life revolves around climbing.

But it's not all fun and games. Sometimes he has to really work.

In his ten years at Petzl, John has worked closely with Utah Open Lands on the Castleton Tower Initiative, brought Roc Trip to the Red River Gorge helping to raise \$33,000 towards buying a local climbing area, worked closely with Friends of Indian Creek, was the recipient of the 2007 Power of One Award from HERA Woman's Cancer Foundation, and plays an influential role as a member of the Access Fund Board of Directors.

"I'm fortunate that the climbing life is integral to my job at Petzl. It sounds cliché, but what I find most rewarding is the work I do with people who are out there making a difference in the climbing community", says John.

When John isn't working or climbing with his wife Rose, you'll probably find him getting in trouble with his twin boys in the mountains above their Salt Lake City home.



Camping under the stars. Indian Creek, UT. | © John Evans

2007 Member Profile:

William (Bill) Ramsey

Profession: University Professor

Local climbing area: Red Rocks and Mt. Charleston, NV

Climbing background: I've been climbing for over 30 years. During that time, I've climbed extensively in Oregon, California, Utah, Colorado, Kentucky, and Nevada.



Why did you join the Access Fund: I believe it is important for climbers to support organizations that not only fight to preserve our access to the cliffs, but also help climbers become better resource users. Supporting the Access Fund is one of the best ways for climbers to give something back to the sport that they find rewarding.

How have you seen the Access Fund at work in your climbing community: When the Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition was a nascent, struggling advocacy group at the Red, the Access Fund assisted with several projects and helped it gain some clout. By working with the Access Fund, locals at the Red formed one of the most powerful, pro-active local climbing organizations in the country.

In your opinion, what aspect of the Access Fund's work is the most vital: Developing support networks with local organizations because the locals are the first to know about problems in their areas. But locals often don't have the financial or legal resources to deal with problems, and that is where the Access Fund can really make a difference.

Any final thoughts on the AF: It should be remembered that climbers sometimes compete with other outdoor users and there are also those who, for a variety of reasons, want to limit our access to the rock. Our interests are not always properly represented to land managers and that is why we need a strong advocacy organization, like the Access Fund, that will fight on our behalf to maintain our access, or even better it.

Each year 15,000+ Access Fund members, friends, corporate partners, and volunteers give their time and financial support to keep climbing areas open and to conserve the climbing environment. The impact of each of these individuals and groups can be seen at climbing areas throughout the country. We want to thank you for your support.

As you're planning your support for 2008, listed below are three ways you can help make a difference today.

- Become a monthly donor. Give a little each month to make a bigger impact.
- Give a memorial gift in memory of a friend or family member. Memorialize that person's love for climbing and their interest in keeping climbing areas open.
- Check with your employer to see if you are eligible for your company's matching gift program. Many companies will match your charitable contributions to select organizations.

Support in any capacity is greatly appreciated. For more information on ways to support the work of the Access Fund, visit our website at: www.accessfund.org or contact our Development Director, Jason Smith at: smith@accessfund.org or (303) 545-6772 x113.

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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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Black Diamond Equipment - 1991

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REI - 1991

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Climbing - 1991

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prAna - 1995

PLATINUM — \$10,000+

CLIF Bar - 1995

The North Face - 1995

GOLD PLUS — \$7,500+

Archer Law Offices P.C. - 2003

ASHA Carpets - 2007

Boulder Rock Club &

Colorado Mountain School - 1996

GORE-TEX® products - 1991

Mountain Khakis - 2006

Nalgene - 1992

Outdoor Research - 1999

Patagonia - 1992

Touchstone Climbing Inc. - 1998

Trango USA &

Stonewear Designs - 1992

GOLD — \$5,000+

American Bouldering Series - 2000

Big Up Productions - 2003

Campmor - 1991

La Sportiva - 1994

New England Ropes/Maxim - 1992

SCARPA North America - 2006

SmartWool - 2008

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Blue Ridge Mountain Sports - 2007

BlueWater - 1992

Boston Rock Gym - 2006

FalconGuides - 1998

Gregory Mountain Products - 1993

Mammut USA - 1991

Marmot - 1999

Metolius - 1991

Misty Mountain Threadworks - 1994

Mountain Hardwear - 1996

MSR/Therm-a-Rest/Platypus - 1995

New Belgium Brewing Co. - 2000

Sterling Rope - 1994

MAJOR — \$1,000+

bluetrope consulting - 2003

CAMP USA - 2004

Cloudveil - 1998

Crazy Creek Products - 1992

EVOLVE Sports - 2006

Exum Mountain Guides - 2005

Flannel Design - 2001

Mad Rock - 2007

Montrail - 2002

Native Eyewear - 2007

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Outdoor Retailer - 1991

Phoenix Rock Gym - 1997

Planet Granite Climbing Gyms - 2004

RESTOP - 2006

ROCK'n & JAM'n - 2007

Royal Robbins - 1992

SuperTopo.com - 2003

Trailspace.com - 2007

Treasure Mountain Inn - 2006

Vertical World - 2006

Weathered Stone - 1999

Yates Gear - 1993

YourClimbing.com - 2006

CONTRIBUTING — \$500+

Advanced Base Camp - 1992

Alpine Ascents International - 1998

Ascent Adventure Consultants

LLC - 2008

Avery Brewing Company - 1998

Eagle Creek - 2005

Eastern Sierras Medicus

Anodynos Corp — 2006

Eldorado Wall Company — 2008

Excalibur DMM/Wild Country - 1995

Fox Mountain Guides &

Climbing School - 2005

GearEXPRESS.com - 2003

Higher Ground Roasters - 2003

Julbo - 2005

JustRopes.com - 2004

Mountain Madness - 2007

Mountain Tools - 1991

Mountaineers Books - 1992

NEice.com — 2005

Nicros - 1997

Pacific Edge Climbing Gym - 1995

PMI - 1991

Real Cheap Sports - 2003

Rock and Snow, Inc. - 2003

Schwartz Communications - 2003

Sickle Climbing - 2001

Smith Optics - 2007

Stone Age Climbing - 1997

Tom K. Michael, D.D.S., P.S. - 2000

Travel Country Outdoors - 2002

Untraditional Marketing - 2007

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MEDIA PARTNERS

Andrew Burr Photography - 2006

Andrew Kornylak Photography - 2006

Andrew Querner Photography - 2006

ASANA PackWorks - 2005

Aurora Photos — 2007

Brian Solano BS Productions - 2007

Camp4.com - 2002

Corey Rich Photography - 2002

CragCam Productions - 2006

Dan Bailey Photography - 2002

Dawn Kish Photography - 2007

DrTopo.com - 2003

Emilie Lee - 2006

Eric Draper Photography - 2007

GetBeta.com - 2004

Griz Guides - 2006

Harrison Shull Photography - 2006

Integrity 7 Productions - 2004

Jay Beyer - 2008

Jeremy Collins - 2007

Jonathan Copp - 2006

John Evans Photo - 2007

Jim Thornburg - 2008

Keith Ladzinski - 2006

Kevsteele Photography - 2008

Lenticular Pictures - 2005

Michael Clark Photography - 2004

Mike Tea Illustration and

Design - 2006

Momentum Media - 2007

N'East Magazine - 2006

Nathan Welton Photography - 2005

OC Green Guide - 2008

Patitucci Photo - 2003

Pixel Print Graphics - 2007

Rockclimbing.com - 2006

Second Chance Films - 2004

Sender Films - 2005

Sharpend Publishing - 2004

She Sends - 2004

Simon Carter: Onsite

Photography - 2007

SNEWS - 2002

Stark Contrast Photography - 2005

summitjournal.com - 2006

Thoos - 2006

Tom Frost - 2007

Verde PR & Consulting - 2003

give the gift of access

Yep. The Holidays are just around the corner and we want to make sure that you remember you can get the ultimate stocking stuffer for any climber on your list right here.

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While supplies last! Access Fund reserves the right to substitute products with a product of equal or greater value. Additional \$10 shipping & handling fees for non-US orders; Colorado residents will be charged sales tax.

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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 landmanagers and landowners. 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 Amy Ansari, Grassroots Coordinator, at 303.545.6772 x105 or amy@accessfund.org.

Alabama

Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

Arkansas

Arkansas Climbers' Coalition*
Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

Arizona

Arizona Mountaineering Club*
Friends of Queen Creek*
Northern Arizona Climbers Coalition*
Prescott Climbers Coalition*

California

Allied Climbers of San Diego*
California Mountaineering Group*
Cragmont Climbing Club
Eastern Sierra Climbers Coalition*
Friends of Joshua Tree*
Friends of Pinnacles
Friends of Williamson Rock*
Southern Sierra Climbers Association*
Yosemite Climbing Association*

Colorado

4 Corners Climbing Coalition*
Access Colorado*
Action Committee for Eldorado*
Colorado Springs Climbers Alliance*
Flatirons Climbing Council*
Roaring Fork Climbers Coalition*
Western Colorado Climbers' Coalition*

Connecticut

Ragged Mountain Foundation*

DC

Mid-Atlantic Climbers*

Georgia

Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

Iowa

Eastern Iowa Climbers Coalition*

Idaho

Boise Climbers Alliance*
Kootenai Climbers*

Illinois

Chicago Mountaineering Club*
Illinois Climbers Association*

Kentucky

Friends of Muir Valley*
Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition*
Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

Massachusetts

Appalachian Mountain Club
Boston Chapter*
Western Massachusetts Climbers Coalition*

Maryland

Mid-Atlantic Climbers*

Michigan

Grand Ledges Climbers Coalition

Minnesota

Minnesota Climbers Association*

Missouri

Climbers Alliance of Mid-Missouri*
Kansas City Climbing Club*

Montana

Bitterroot Climbers' Coalition*
Southwest Montana Climbers Coalition

North Carolina

Boone Climbers Coalition*
Carolina Climbers Coalition*
Pisgah Climbers Association*
Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

New Hampshire

Rumney Climbers Association*

New Jersey

Access NJ*

New Mexico

CRAG-New Mexico*

Nevada

Las Vegas Climbers Liaison Council*

New York

Adirondack Mountaineering Coalition*
Gunks Climbers Coalition*

Ohio

Ohio Climbers Association*

Oklahoma

Chandler Park Climbers Coalition*
Wichita Mountains Climbers Coalition*

Oregon

AAC - Oregon Section, Access Committee*
Madrone Wall Preservation Committee*
Mazamas
Smith Rock Group*

Pennsylvania

Climbing Conservancy of Central Pennsylvania*

South Carolina

Carolina Climbers Coalition*
Pisgah Climbers Association*
Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

South Dakota

Black Hills Climbers Coalition*

Tennessee

Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

Texas

Central Texas Mountaineers*
Climbers of Hueco Tanks*
Concho Valley Climbers Association*
Texas Mountaineers

Utah

Friends of Indian Creek*
Moab Area Climbers' Alliance
Northern Utah Climbers Coalition
Salt Lake Climbers Alliance*
Southern Utah Climbers' Coalition

Virginia

Friends of Great Falls Coalition*
Mid-Atlantic Climbers*
Shenandoah National Park Climbers Alliance

Vermont

CRAG-VT*
Northeastern Vermont Climber's Alliance

Washington

Washington Climbers Coalition*

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Outdoor Access*

West Virginia

Coopers Rock Regional Climbing Coalition*
New River Alliance of Climbers*
Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

Canada

Climbers Access Society of British Columbia*

» To contact your local LCO or to view a LCO website go to: www.accessfund.org/partners/affiliates.php

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