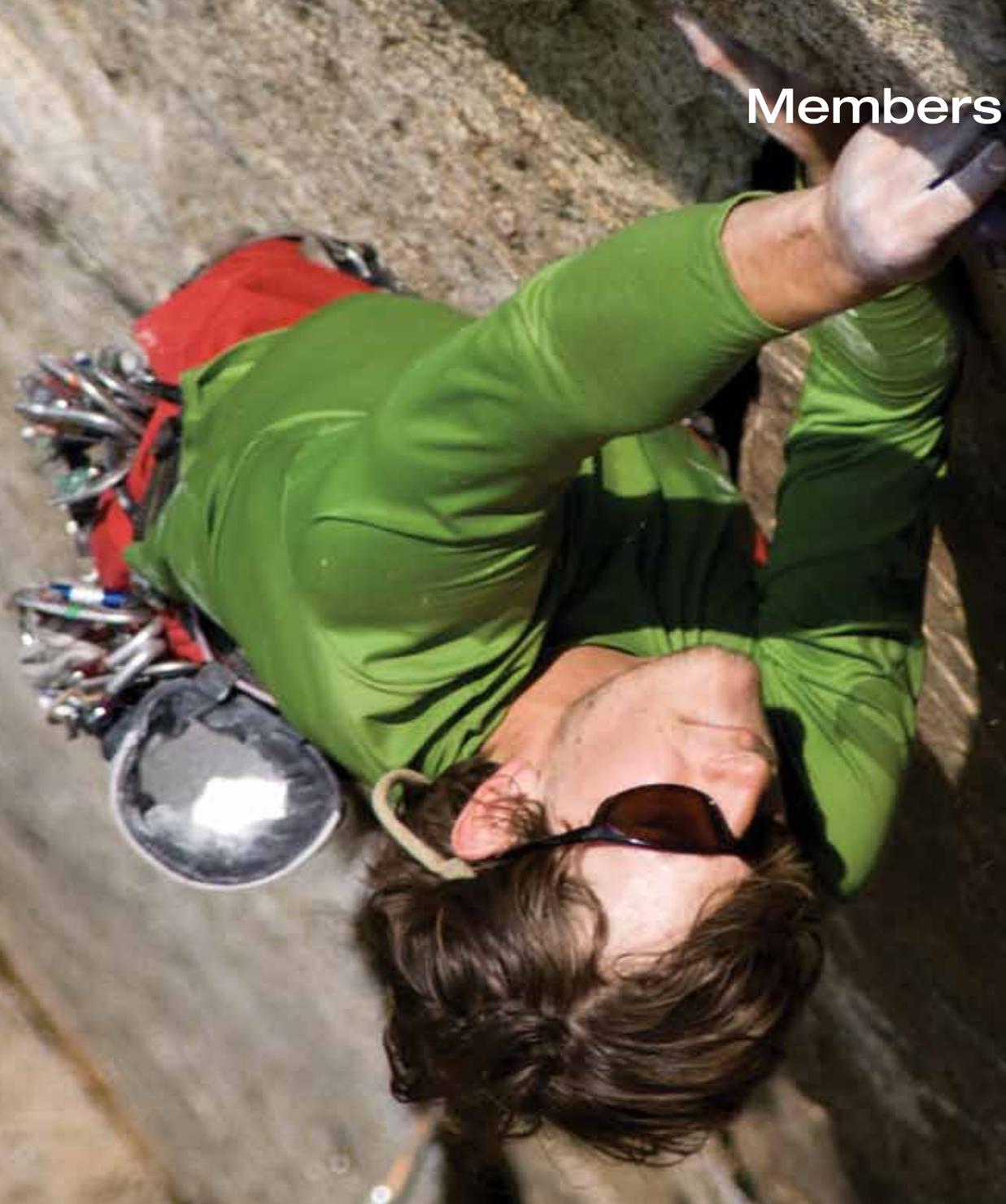


VERTICAL TIMES

The National Publication of the Access Fund
Summer and Fall 10/Volume 88
www.accessfund.org

Members Speak

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“The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value.”

— Theodore Roosevelt

On April 16, 2010, I attended the White House Conference on America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) on behalf of the Access Fund (AF) and the climbing community. The goal of the conference was to launch an initiative to “promote and support innovative community-level efforts to conserve outdoor spaces and to reconnect Americans to the outdoors.” The conference attracted important conservationists, environmentalists, and leaders of the outdoor recreation community from across the country. It was an honor to attend, and a sign of the times that America’s national climbing advocacy organization had a seat at the table and an ability to impact the administration’s agenda.

The obvious question is, of course, what will actually come of the America’s Great Outdoors initiative? The administration is holding listening sessions across the country to allow public officials and private citizens to weigh in on how the federal government can promote conservation and connect the American people with the outdoors. These listening sessions should be wrapped up by late summer, with a report due to the president by November. We should expect to see some action and results of the initiative in early 2011.

According to President Obama, this is not a Washington-driven agenda but is building upon successful efforts already happening across the country. What actually happens remains to be seen. Regardless of how you feel about Obama’s politics, it is great to have a president so personally invested in promoting conservation and recreation. For more information on AGO, including a schedule of listening sessions and talking points for climbers, visit www.accessfund.org/ago.

We recently held a little listening session of our own at the Access Fund: the online membership survey. Thanks to all of you who took the time to respond! We have reported out on some of your questions and comments as well as our responses in this issue. Your input is crucial. We’re listening, and we’re doing our best to follow your advice to become the best climbing advocacy organization we can be.

Have a great summer, and I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Vertical Times*.

Sincerely,

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

Brady Robinson

Executive Director

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GENERAL COUNSEL

Chris Archer

Tim Davis plugs gear on Sikes Sickle, Rocky Mountain National Park, CO | © Craig Muderlak

Climber Impacts

Land managers understand the impact of mountain bikes, ATVs, and horses, but they have a distorted view of climbing's impacts. That's because climbers have never compiled scientific data on our sport's actual impacts. It's time the Access Fund (...) commissions these studies now, along with studies on climbing's positive impacts on local economies and individual health and well-being.

— JOHN SHERMAN,
in *Climbing Magazine*,
No. 283 March 2010

AF: *The Access Fund is committed to developing a quality source of information, research, and peer-reviewed publications related to climbing and its impacts on the environment and economy. We have some of these resources available today (see box at right for more information), and more studies are in the works. These resources play a pivotal role in the education and collaboration of the climbing community and resource managers.*

Thanks from Bishop Field Office

I wanted to thank the Access Fund for support of the Bishop Field Office for the past 10 years. With your help we have a nice toilet at the PV Pit climbers' campground, info kiosk, and ethical flyers for climbers. This year we will be putting a second toilet at the campground to help during peak periods of high use.

— SCOTT JUSTHAM,
park ranger, Bureau of Land
Management (BLM)

AF: *Our pleasure, Scott. We love Bishop and are excited to support the good work the BLM is doing there.*

Where's My Tax Letter?

I wish you guys would send out letters every January for taxes; I usually have to request one each year.

— ANONYMOUS

AF: *The member card letter that you receive each year with your join or renewal confirmation acts as your tax receipt. Please save this letter for your tax purposes. The pertinent information is at the bottom of the letter, opposite the tear-away card. If you accidentally lose track of this letter, we'd be happy to provide you another one. Just give us a call.*

Research: The Impact and Benefits of Climbing

The Access Fund has commissioned, supported, and drawn upon numerous studies on the economic benefits of climbing, as well as the sport's environmental impacts and strategies for mitigating those impacts.

These studies can be useful to climbing activists and land managers alike, and are invaluable resources for combating many climbing access issues with sound management strategies.

For more information and to review these studies, visit www.accessfund.org/research.



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.

Local Climbing Organization 101: Fundraising Tips

Whether you are trying to fund an acquisition or trail-building equipment for your next Adopt a Crag event, fundraising is an essential tool for local climbing organizations. Here are a few tips.

- **Get your local climbing gym involved.** Most gyms are willing to host an event to benefit the local climbing community. It promotes their gym at the same time.
- **Ask local legends to present a slideshow.** Give the community a chance to connect with local legends. Charge a small cover and put proceeds toward your project.
- **Ask local businesses for donations.** Ask your local brewery or gear store for donations to support an event. A gear raffle or “suggested donation” at the bar can bring in a surprising amount of money.
- **Learn from other climbing organizations.** Network with your peers! There are many local climbing organizations out there that do a great job with fundraising. Visit www.accessfund.org/lcos for a list of other climbing organizations and contact information.

New Regional Coordinator in Arkansas

We welcome Logan Wilcoxson, president of the Arkansas Climbers Coalition (ACC), as one of our newest regional coordinators. Logan has years of experience working with public entities, and has started off the year working with the Forest Service on a new resource management plan at Buffalo National Recreation Area. He is also working to help push the construction of a pit toilet at Sam’s Throne. For more information, contact Logan at logan@lrclimbing.com.



New Access Fund Land Steward

Ben Schneider (you may know him from Fixed Pin Publishing) has taken the role of land steward to oversee the conservation efforts at North Table Mountain (aka Golden Cliffs) in Colorado. He is already organizing Adopt a Crag events to restore trails and remove invasive weeds. For more information,

contact Ben at ben@fixedpin.com.

Minnesota Climbers Association Going Strong!

Minnesota Climbers Association (MCA) and its 500 volunteers are working hard to preserve climbing access in their community. The local climbing organization (LCO)



is teaming up with the Vertical Endeavors climbing team to organize ten Adopt a Crag events this year, as well as develop an ice farming plan for Robinson Park. MCA is also working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to open up more climbing areas. For more information, visit www.mnclimbers.org.

Spurge Be Damned!

Salt Lake Climbers Alliance (SLCA) launched its first Adopt a Crag event this year at the Crescent Crack Trail in hopes of eradicating the invasive myrtle spurge and restoring trails. Over 40 volunteers attended this event and contributed more than 160 hours of volunteer service. SLCA plans to organize volunteer projects each month. Its next one will be held at Ferguson Canyon. For more information, visit www.saltlakeclimbers.org.



To submit an update for your local climbing organization or area, contact Amy Ansari at amy@accessfund.org.

POOP

Waste Disposal Strategies for Climbers

-  Desert
-  High Altitude
-  Low Altitude/Forest
-  Big Wall
-  Slot Canyon

Everybody does it. Whether you're cragging, hanging off the side of a big wall, or making your way across a glacier, poop happens. But did you know that the improper disposal of human waste can threaten access? Land managers don't look kindly on human feces coming in contact with drinking water, other recreationalists, or wildlife. Not to mention the transmission of disease-causing pathogens from human waste. Gross, right?

The best methods for human waste disposal will vary depending on what kind of environment you're climbing in. Follow these tips for taking care of business in a responsible way.

BAG SYSTEMS



There are a number of readily available bag systems on the market, including Restop, GO anywhere, and Biffy Bag. The underlying principle of all these systems is "pack it out." Do your business on the provided plastic bag, seal it, and be on your way. All

these products do a good job of sealing off odor and can be disposed of in trash receptacles.

Note: Bag systems are generally the best option for sensitive environmental areas.

CATHOLES



Select an inconspicuous site where other people are unlikely to walk or camp — at least 200 feet (about 70 steps) away from water, trails, and camps. Dig a hole 6-8 inches deep and 4-6 inches in diameter. After doing your business, cover the cathole and disguise it with natural materials. If camping in the area for more than one night, or if camping with a large group, cathole sites should be widely dispersed. Use toilet paper sparingly and use only plain, white, non-perfumed brands.

Note: Do not use this method in slot canyons where it's impossible to travel the required 200 feet from the river,



in desert environments where there are no microorganisms necessary to biodegrade human waste, or in high-altitude environments where the ground can be too rocky to dig.

POOP TUBES



A poop tube is a specially designed human waste storage container that is hauled with equipment up the climb. To make a poop tube, you'll need PVC pipe around 6-10 inches long and 4 inches in diameter, a cap for one end, and a threaded fitting and plug for the other. This method requires the climber to do business into a paper bag, sprinkle with a small amount of kitty litter to reduce odor, and place the bag into the tube. After descending, empty the contents of the tube into any vault toilet. If you use any of the bag systems mentioned above with the poop tube (instead of paper bags), then the bags may be disposed of in any conventional garbage can.

Note: In many popular big-wall climbing areas, such as Zion and Yosemite National Parks, it is mandatory to contain human waste by carrying a poop tube. ■



GALS: Do not bury feminine products. They don't decompose readily and animals may dig them up. Pack them out in a sealed bag. Pre-pack your sealed plastic bags with aluminum foil on the inside for added discretion.



Climbers from across the nation gather for the Access Fund's *Opening the Gates on Public Lands* summit.

SUMMIT FEVER

40 Climbers Gather in Vegas

This spring, 40 climbers from over 20 local climbing organizations around the nation descended upon Red Rock Canyon outside of Las Vegas, NV, for a three-day Access Fund summit on strategies for opening and maintaining climbing access on public lands.

“These summits are one of the most important ways the Access Fund can support local climbing organizations.”

Each year, the Access Fund hosts at least one educational summit and invites leaders and activists from around the country to learn and share best practices in conserving climbing access. “These summits are one of the most important ways the Access Fund can support local climbing organizations,” explains Amy Ansari, grassroots coordinator for the Access Fund. “They give activists the opportunity to share their knowledge and strategies with the larger grassroots

network of climbers, helping their peers find a fresh approach to ongoing access issues and new opportunities to protect threatened climbing areas.”

The group gathered for three days of presentations and panel discussions focused on strategies for opening and maintaining climbing access on public lands, including:

- How to utilize the public commenting process to strengthen the voice of climbers in the land management process.
- How to navigate the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Freedom of Information Act.
- Trends in fixed anchor management in wilderness-designated areas.
- Collaboration with land managers on reasonable raptor protection strategies.

Representatives from local climbing organizations across the southeast, mid-Atlantic, and western regions

also shared tips on building and strengthening local climbing organizations. “I was impressed with how far these local organizations have come,” says Jonathan Knight, chair of the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance.

Here at the Access Fund, we have made it our mission to help empower local climbing organizations across the country to organize, learn, and network with their peers. We sincerely hope that all the activists walked away with new tools and information to be successful in opening and maintaining access in their local areas.

We thank the Las Vegas Climber Liaison Council for hosting and all the presenters and panelists for sharing their expertise and experiences. The next Access Fund summit will take place in October in the New River Gorge and will focus on climbing access strategies for private land. For more information on Access Fund summits, contact Amy Ansari at amy@accessfund.org. ■

members *speak*

In May, we asked you — our members — for feedback to help the Access Fund grow and continue to serve our mission in a meaningful and efficient way. You responded in force, and we are happy to report that the vast majority of you (97%, to be exact) are satisfied with your membership and the direction of the organization.

Thanks for the love!

Along with the love, however, we were eager to get constructive feedback from our independent-minded membership. You did not disappoint!

We picked a handful of your comments (representative of trends among the group) to have our staff respond to. We hope this gives you better insight into our programs and the operations of the organization.

Ways to Get Involved

Please disseminate information regarding nearby climbing area cleanups (most of us don't mind driving a few hours). It is a great way to show people on the ground how to become involved and get them excited. I wish to see more of this.

Many of you are interested in hearing more about local events in your area. We are going to start sending e-mails to inform people about volunteer events happening near them. If you're not already a part of our e-mail list, please sign up today at **www.accessfund.org/enews** so you don't miss these important updates.
– Amy Ansari, *grassroots coordinator*

Is there an organized way to volunteer for the Access Fund? Giving money helps, but giving time would feel better. With a full-time job it's hard to take the initiative and get creative on organizing my volunteer efforts. However, I would like to get more involved in conservation and access since it is becoming an increasingly vital issue to climbing.

Yes! There are lots of different ways to get involved — from volunteering at a local Adopt a Crag event to representing the Access Fund at a local event, or helping our staff with special projects that you might have a unique skill set in. If you're interested in volunteering with the Access Fund, you can sign up through our volunteer registration at **www.accessfund.org/volunteer. Tell us how you're interested in getting involved and we'll be in touch.**

– Amy Ansari, *grassroots coordinator*

Reaching Youth Climbers

I think involving younger climbers in the organization is important. We need to stress to them how important it is to be involved in preserving access to climbing and environmental stewardship of the lands they are using. Perhaps by encouraging climbing teachers and guides (at climbing gyms, universities, YMCAs, etc.) to impart the relevance of the Access Fund to their young students, we might help encourage earlier involvement in supporting the Access Fund's mission.

We are working every day to expand our TeamWorks youth stewardship program, which teams with coaches to help young gym climbers make the transition to responsible outdoor climbing. The TeamWorks program gets kids outside, working side by side with the older generation of climbers doing stewardship work. One of our goals for 2010 is to expand beyond gym climbers and reach out

to local Boy Scout and Girl Scout programs, as well as experiential education groups. To learn more, visit www.accessfund.org/teamworks.

– Amy Ansari, *grassroots coordinator*



Team Adrenaline at Sand Rock Adopt a Crag

Member Services

You guys do amazing work and always have, but I encountered a membership issue last year that was never resolved. An erroneous mass mailing meant I ended up re-upping my membership twice. I realize the AF isn't in the business of customer service — saving the crags is no doubt much more important. However, in this case, I've felt myself frustrated and a bit disillusioned.

We sincerely apologize to our members who experienced frustration with membership renewals and donations in 2009. Last year was a transitional year for the Access Fund's membership program — we implemented a new backend database to better manage our membership records. However, there were some serious hiccups in the migration of data to the new system. This resulted in many of our members getting mailings that they

shouldn't have and other members not getting mailings at all. We are happy to report that after a rocky year of transition these problems have been resolved and we are back on track. We aim to serve our members in a timely and responsible manner. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly if you have any issues or questions.

– Leici Hendrix, membership & development manager (303-545-6772 x106, leici@accessfund.org)

Please make memberships payable month to month for those who would like to give more but can only afford so much at one time.

Good news: You can pay your membership dues monthly. Simply select “Recurring gift” on the online renewal form instead of “One-time gift” and tell us how much you'd like to give each month. Visit www.accessfund.org/renew.

– Leici Hendrix, *membership & development manager*

New Land Acquisition Program

I'm not sure that nonprofits owning massive outdoor areas is the answer — these places need to be owned publicly (and subsequently managed responsibly) by the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), state parks, etc.

Numerous conservation strategies are necessary to protect climbing areas. Our new Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign (AFLCC) employs a technique called “hold and transfer,” whereby the AF or a local climbing organization helps purchase the land from a private owner, creates a climbing management plan for the property, and then transfers it to a public agency for long-term ownership and management. This is our preferred solution; however, there are cases where there is no public entity to purchase the land, and it must be held privately to ensure continued access.

– Joe Sambataro, *access director*

National and Local Policy

If you do not have a place at the table, you may be on the menu.

Absolutely true. That's why the AF signed memos of understanding with all three national land management agencies (U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management) to make sure that we have a seat at the table and are in the loop on any plans that could affect climbing. Your point is also one of the reasons we helped form the Outdoor Alliance (OA) — to combine our voice with other human-powered recreation groups with similar interests. Our work with the OA has significantly increased our clout with policy makers and federal land management agencies on Capitol Hill. Climbers definitely have a place at the table.

– Jason Keith, *policy director*

Feature Story



Access Fund Executive Director Brady Robinson and Policy Director Jason Keith on a lobbying trip in D.C.

My continued membership depends on the amount of movement I see happening in regard to the Williamson Rock closure.

We share your frustration with the Williamson closure. Despite years of work with the Friends of Williamson Rock (FoWR), the Angeles National Forest (ANF), and members of the California Congressional delegation, Williamson remains closed. Just last year, due to letters from LA-based climbers and our lobbying in Washington, D.C., we successfully convinced the ANF to begin studying an alternate approach trail that could avoid an endangered frog habitat (the purpose of the closure) yet still allow some level of climbing. Unfortunately, massive forest fires last year destroyed critical habitat for the same frog elsewhere in the ANF, making the Williamson habitat that much more important to protect. Because of this, ANF officials have put the Williamson trail project on the back burner. This setback is one

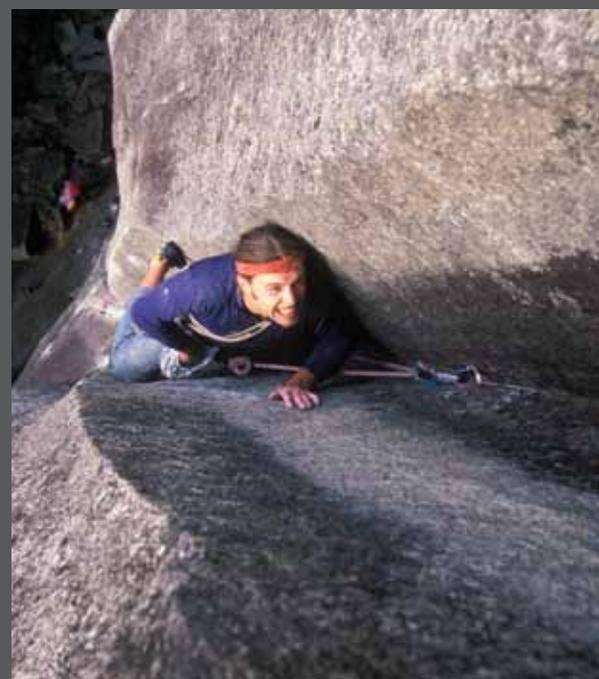
of many that the Friends of Williamson Rock and the Access Fund have contended with, but we're not done by a long shot. Stay posted to the FoWR website at www.williamsonrock.org for updates.

– Jason Keith, *policy director*

I wish the Access Fund had better success in battling closures, such as Cave Rock and Twin Sisters. In less contentious situations, the Access Fund does well. Working with and building collaborative partnerships with public land management agencies is a good and necessary step, which I support. I remain disappointed, however, at the relative impotence of the Access Fund when battling climbing closures advocated by cultural concerns, particularly tribal. I am hoping for the best in the appeal of the recent closure by BLM, in response to tribal preferences, of Castle Rocks (BLM ownership).

You hit on one of the most difficult climbing access issues we deal with here at the Access Fund — how to balance climbing access with cultural resource protection. As you note, climbers have lost access to Cave Rock, Twin Sisters, and now potentially the BLM's Castle Rocks property in Idaho. These places are not only outstanding climbing areas (the AF continues to push for obvious reasonable compromises at Twin Sisters and Castle Rocks), they also have significant importance culturally (archaeological resources, sacred sites, National Registry listing). Thus, they are governed by several federal laws that don't affect most climbing areas. Climbing is unique in these situations because we tend to climb on these resources while other activities like hiking and biking are much more transient. Because of this, we are often the focus of attention when land managers are faced with tough decisions. Still, we believe that climbing and cultural resource protection can coexist and that federal land managers should be more consistent in implementing their own policies, which restrict climbing only within 50 feet of identified cultural resources. The good news is that there are many locations around the country where the Access Fund has successfully worked with land managers to design reasonable management policies that balance climbing with cultural resources. These include Indian Creek in Utah, Red Rocks in Nevada, Devils Tower in Wyoming, Red River Gorge in Kentucky, Bishop in California, Hueco Tanks in Texas, and many more.

– Jason Keith, *policy director* ■



Photos courtesy of Ben Gillison

Index. If you haven't heard about the amazing work happening at this Washington cliff, offering spectacular granite crack climbing, then we're guessing you've been living under a rock. Or in your van. Or maybe out of the country?

Back in May 2009, the Access Fund helped the Washington Climbers Coalition (WCC) secure an option to buy Lower Index Town Wall to save it from a quarrying operation. A \$15,000 loan from the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign bought an 18-month option agreement, temporarily protecting the cliff. But the real work was yet to be done.

The WCC set an aggressive fundraising goal of \$300,000 to purchase the 20-acre tract of land and to solve sanitation and parking issues at the popular crag. With a deadline of December 2010 to raise the funds, local climbers stepped into high gear, organizing bouldering competitions, slideshows, and major donor requests to raise the funds.

"Acquiring Index has been the single most inspiring bit of access work I have been involved in," states Jonah Harrison of the WCC. "The community response has been incredible. The challenge with Index was not, as we had originally thought, getting people together to work and donate to the cause. It was how to channel all the talent, enthusiasm, and funds people offered."

At the time we went to print, WCC had raised over \$293,000 in donations and pledges — an average of over \$1,000 raised per day! The climbing community is well positioned to exercise the option agreement and acquire the Lower Index Town Wall before the end of the year.

WCC has also been working with Washington State Parks to secure access across the railroad tracks and determine the location of parking improvements and toilet facilities. These improvements will provide legitimate public access and eliminate years of human waste issues.

After the acquisition is complete, the goal is to transfer the land to a public entity for long-term climber-friendly management. At this time, both Washington State Parks and Snohomish County Parks are willing landowners. With neighboring cliff line and the Upper Index Town Wall protected under Forks of the Sky State Park, adding this parcel to state park ownership is the logical approach.

Project Index serves as an inspirational example of the will and spirit of the climbing community to protect one of its best resources. We are thrilled to see our first AFLCC project coming to a successful conclusion and are proud of the work of the Washington Climbers Coalition and everyone who helped make this project possible.

For more information or to donate to the Index fund, visit www.washingtonclimbers.org. For more information about the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign, visit www.accessfund.org/aflcc. ■

the buzz GET UP TO SPEED IN ONE PAGE

Access Fund appeals BLM's decision to ban climbing on 400 acres in Castle Rocks Recreation Area, which is more restrictive than any other BLM climbing area in the country. www.accessfund.org/news



The NPS proposes to pull bolts within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area in southern Nevada, risking several remote desert climbs found at Christmas Tree Pass. Access Fund and local activists get NPS to postpone decision and solicit climber input. www.accessfund.org/news



America's Great Outdoors hosting "listening sessions" all across the country this summer. Visit www.accessfund.org/ago for a session near you.

TAKE ACTION NOW! →

Hundreds of Illinois climbers speak out in support of restoring broad liability protection to landowners who open their land to climbing, in hopes of regaining access to Draper's Bluff. www.accessfund.org/news

Access Fund awards over \$23,000 to support local climbing activism and conservation of the climbing environment in its first round of Climbing Preservation Grants for 2010. www.accessfund.org/news



Artist Erica Lyon to design new Access Fund t-shirt. Look for new Joshua Tree design in September.



LAND CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

Placing land in climber friendly hands

Washington Climbers Coalition pays off its AFLCC loan on Index, returning funds to the Access Fund's revolving loan program.

Notorious Vegas developer threatens Red Rocks viewshed with massive housing development planned for Blue Diamond Hill. www.accessfund.org/news



Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition refinances its loan on 750 acres of Pendergrass Murray property through Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign, saving the organization \$10,000 to put toward other projects. www.accessfund.org/news

Access Fund and Clear Creek County working together on site plan to improve parking at Catslab in Colorado. www.accessfund.org/news



Osprey signs on as the 11th company to support the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign and its mission to put land in climber-friendly hands. www.accessfund.org/aficc

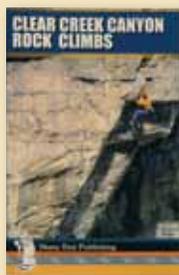
Access Fund Launches ONLINE GUIDEBOOK STORE

We have teamed with your favorite guidebook publishers to offer a selection of titles for climbing areas that the Access Fund has helped conserve. When you purchase your guidebook from the Access Fund, all profit goes directly to keeping climbing areas open!

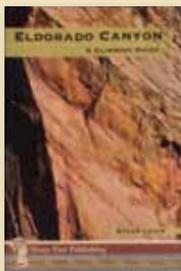
Visit www.accessfund.org/guidebooks to purchase a title and learn about the Access Fund's role at each of these areas. More titles available online.



**Central Washington
Bouldering**
by Kelly Sheridan
\$25.00



**Clear Creek Canyon
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by Darren Mabe
\$28.00



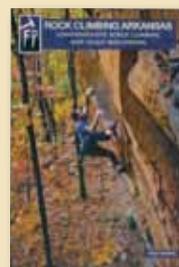
**Eldorado Canyon:
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by Steve Levin
\$39.95



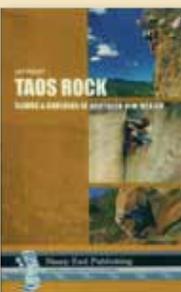
**Indian Creek:
A Climbing Guide
2nd Ed.**
by David Bloom
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**North Table Mountain:
Rock Climbs at the
Golden Cliffs**
by Jason Haas and
Ben Schneider
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Rock Climbing Arkansas
by Cole Fennel
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**Taos Rock: Climbs and
Boulders of Northern
New Mexico**
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\$19.95



Oklahoma Select
by Tony Mayse
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Upslope Brewing Company
Vertical World Inc.
Yates Gear Inc.

CONTRIBUTING - \$500+

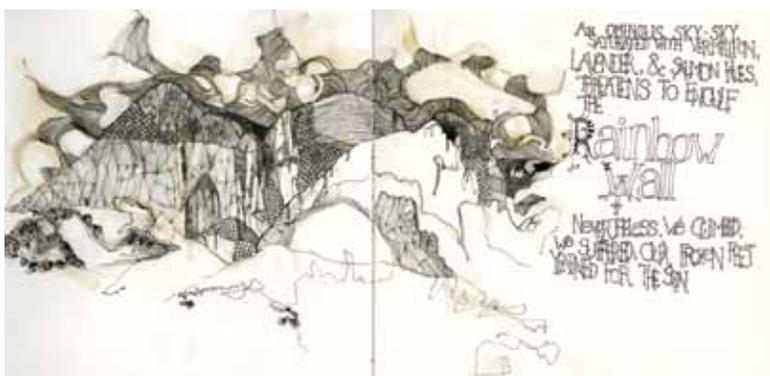
Alpine Ascents International
DMM Excalibur/Wild Country/
Red Chili
Evolve Sports
GearEXPRESS.com
Got it! Real Estate & Development
Haven Housewrights, LLC
Higher Ground Roasters
Julbo
Liberty Mountain Climbing
Mountain Tools
Oskar Blues Brewery
Outdoor Utah Adventure
PMI
Rab
Redpoint Nutrition
Redwood Creek
Rocks and Ropes of Tucson
Stone Age Climbing
Tom K. Michael, DDS, PS
Verde PR & Consulting
Wes & Gold

SUPPORTING - \$250+

Alpine Endeavors
Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS)
Omega Pacific
Pagoda Climbing
Rock & Snow
Wild Country
Zeal Optics

STANLEY
THE LEGENDARY VACUUM BOTTLE

The Access Fund is excited to welcome Stanley as a new platinum level corporate partner. Stanley, the maker of rugged food and beverage gear since 1913, is producing a new stainless steel water bottle for the Access Fund! The bottle will be available this fall exclusively at Adopt a Crag events and then through the Access Fund membership program in 2011. To be the first to get a new Access Fund water bottle, volunteer at an Adopt a Crag in August, September, or October!



From left to right: Campfire in Indian Creek, UT; Juniper; Rainbow Wall; Jens Holsten completes single-day redpoint of Moonlight Buttress in Zion, UT | © Craig Muderlak

Craig Muderlak

My father taught me to draw as soon as I could hold a pencil. Art helped foster my passion for adventure, teaching me to appreciate the world for what it is, enjoy the moment, and to create emotional connections to my environment.

It wasn't until 2004 that I considered photographing my experiences. In fact, until then I avoided the camera, finding it cumbersome and frustrating. Today I justify the burden of cameras with the philosophy that photography is my opportunity to document my experiences in hopes of fostering in others an interest in adventure — something that I feel is a human necessity often lost in this day and age.

I'm not concerned with photographing the world's strongest climber on the most challenging route. I aim to capture the emotions elicited during intimate climbing experiences. I am fond of "lifestyle" images because of their ability to successfully capture the impact of climbing in my life. For me, adventure is not found solely in one activity, but rather an entire lifestyle that I have nurtured through both outdoor adventures and art.

Craig lives in Boulder, Colorado, where he continues to travel and work for National Outdoor Leadership School, photograph adventure sports, write music, and draw. To see more of Craig's work, visit www.muderlakphoto.com. ■



The Access Fund
P.O. Box 17010
Boulder, Colorado 80308

PASS IT ON

We need your help to spread the word.

<1% of American climbers are
Access Fund members

As a member, you recognize the value of the Access Fund's mission to keep climbing areas open and conserve the climbing environment. But chances are some of your climbing partners don't even know about our work.

When you're done reading this issue of the *Vertical Times*, please pass it on to your climbing partner and tell them about our mission to keep climbing areas open and conserve the climbing environment.

Or better yet, buy them a gift membership at www.accessfund.org/shop for their next birthday. ■

