



2022 Climbing Advocacy Report

SHOWCASING THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY



OUR MISSION

Protect America's Climbing

Every climber finds something different on the rock: pure joy, limitless challenge, wild freedom, like-minded community. Access Fund works to make sure all climbers have the opportunity to revel in those experiences, because every climber who does is another person inspired to care for the places we hold dear.

Access Fund was founded in 1991 to fight for legal and physical access to the places we love to climb. We've made great progress in that battle, but there will always be work to do. Today, we must also tackle the broader challenges facing the sport we love to protect access for all.

We must work to manage our impacts, instill a conservation ethic within the climbing community, and collaborate with land managers and lawmakers to ensure we are able to enjoy these places for generations to come.

Access Fund is working to ensure a sustainable future for climbing by scaling up our efforts to bring climbers together to protect climbing landscapes and the incredible experiences they offer.

OUR CAUSES

- Protect and Conserve the Land.
- Fight for Sustainable Access.
- Build a Community of Inspired Advocates.

Chasing our climbing dreams.

Our work to protect climbing access always comes back to the fact that all climbers should have the same opportunity to chase their wildest climbing dreams. This belief is what makes Access Fund tick. It's what fuels our work to protect and conserve the land, fight for sustainable climbing access, and inspire a community of climbing advocates.

In 2022, we hosted two in-person conferences that renewed our connection to the climbing community and redoubled our on-the-ground work with advocates. Our national Climbing Advocacy Conference and Future of Fixed Anchors Conference left advocacy leaders more knowledgeable and inspired than ever. Our Conservation Teams worked at 39 climbing areas, harnessing more than 10,000 hours of volunteer time and restoring more than 13,500 feet of trail. We expanded the Climber Stewards program, putting a new set of stewards in West Virginia's New River Gorge region. All told, the stewards in Indian Creek, Utah, and the New River Gorge helped thousands of climbers connect more deeply to the landscape.

Thanks to the hard work of climbing advocates, policymakers are starting to listen when we talk to them about protecting public lands and managing outdoor recreation. In 2022, we received not one, not two, but three separate invitations to the White House to represent the climbing community. Usually, we let the actions of the climbing community speak

for themselves—but when we hit the halls of power in Washington, D.C., we're stepping up to make sure the climbing community gets credit where credit is due. Our message is clear: The climbing community is an invaluable conservation partner and champion for the protection of public lands.

But this is no time to lose sight of the forest for the trees. We must continue to show up for local climbers. We must continue to advocate for climbing at the highest levels of the federal government. We must continue to deliver on our passion and our promise to care for the landscapes where we find so much joy. If we don't, we'll find ourselves in a future where climbers can't dream those dreams and can't find the outdoor spaces to live them out.

Your support is what makes this work—and all of the work you'll find in the pages of this report—possible.. Thank you.

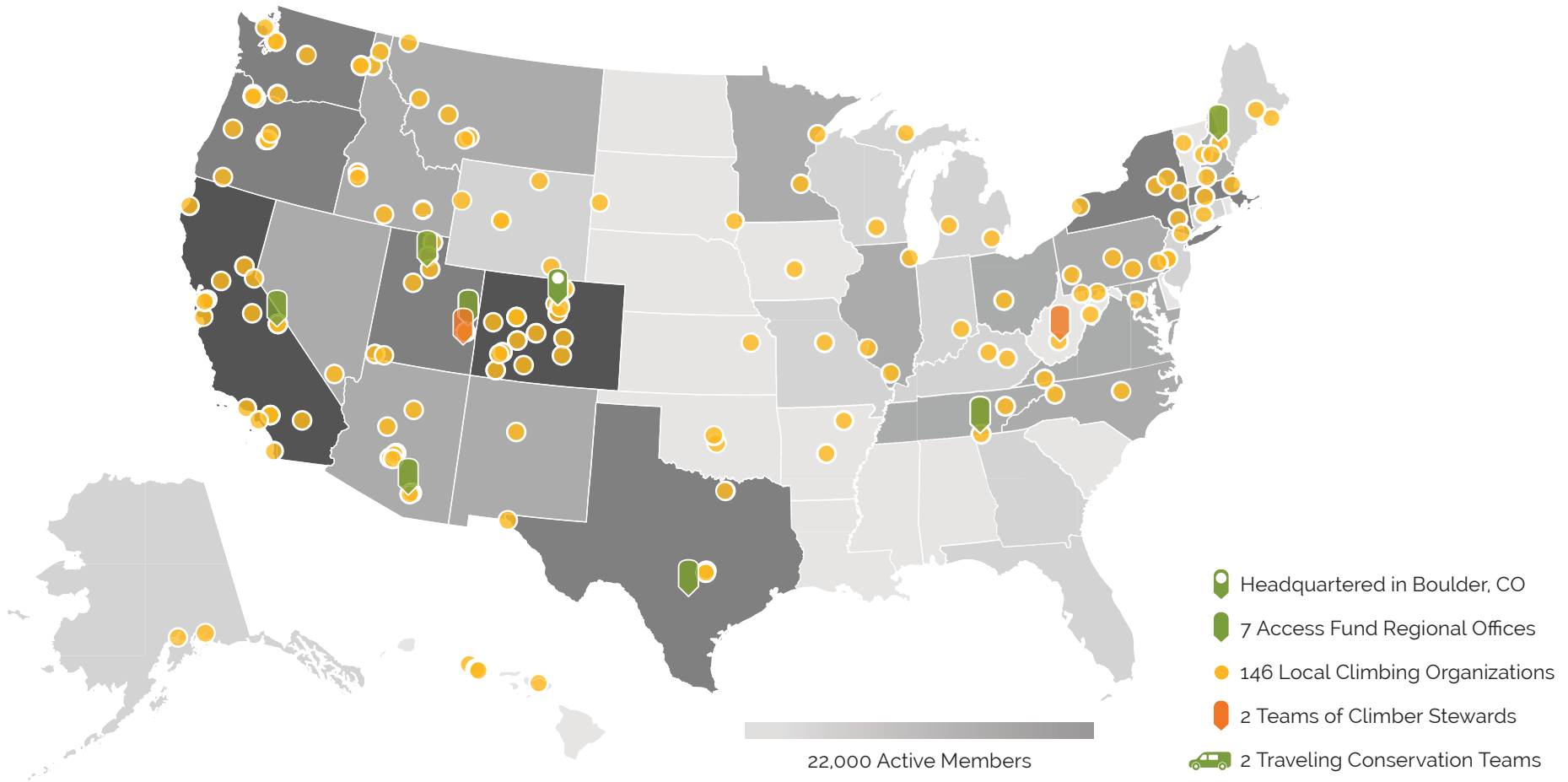


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Chris Winter
Executive Director, Access Fund

A Thriving Network of Climbing Advocates

As the climbing advocacy movement continues to gain momentum, more and more climbers are taking action to protect the lands and outdoor experiences we love. More than 146 local climbing organizations and 22,000 Access Fund members are helping to protect America's climbing in every corner of the nation.



Protecting America's Climbing Areas

In 2022, Access Fund and our incredible network of local climbing organizations worked together to preserve sustainable access to 239 climbing areas across the country and to open two new or previously closed areas to climbing.

Buck's Pocket State Park, AL • The Citadel, AL • Hospital Boulders, AL • Little River Canyon, AL • Noccalula Falls, AL • Painted Bluff, AL • Valdez, AK • The Homestead, AZ • Oak Flat, AZ • Windy Point, AZ • Hawk Creek, AR • Hudson Mountain, AR • Luther Spires, AR • Mount Magazine State Park, AR • Rock Creek, AR • Alabama Hills, CA • Bishop, CA • Buttermilks, CA • Donner Summit, CA • Echo Cliffs, CA • Gold Wall, CA • The Grotto, CA • Handley Rock Park, CA • Holcomb Valley Pinnacles, CA • Inyo National Forest, CA • Joshua Tree National Park, CA • Kudos Cliff, CA • Lover's Leap, CA • Malibu Creek State Park, CA • Mayhem Cove, CA • Old Camp Bluff, CA • Owens River Gorge, CA • Phantom Spires, CA • The Pie Shop, CA • Pine Creek, CA • Ring Mountain, CA • Riverside Quarry, CA • Stinson Beach, CA • Stoney Point, CA • Tahoe Basin, CA • Tahquitz, CA • Tollhouse, CA • Truckee River Canyon, CA • Volcanic Tablelands, CA • Yosemite National Park, CA • Avalon, CO • Boulder Canyon, CO • Cascade Canyon, CO • Cathedral Spires, CO • Clear Creek Canyon, CO • Colorado National Monument, CO • Dalla Mountain, CO • Denny's, CO • Eldorado State Park, CO • Etive Slabs, CO • Flatirons, CO • Never Winter Wall, CO • North Table Mountain, CO • Red Rock Canyon, CO • Tan Corridor, CO • Thumb Open Space, CO • UnawEEP Canyon, CO • Cathole, CT • West Rock, CT • Ocala, FL • Currahee Mountain, GA • Jake's Woods, GA • Lost Wall, GA • Tallulah Gorge State Park, GA • Kapena Falls State Park, HI • Mokule'ia Wall, HI • Black Cliffs, ID • City of Rocks/Castle Rocks State Park, ID • The Fins, ID • Laclede, ID • Salmon-Challis National Forest, ID • Sheridan Ranch, ID • Swan Falls, ID • House Boulders, IL • Lehigh Park, IL • Pictured Rocks, IA • Big Sinking, KY • Coal Bank, KY • Muir Valley, KY • Red River Gorge, KY • Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition Lands, KY • Barren Mountain, ME • Bucks Ledge, ME • Bureau of Parks and Lands, ME • Camden Hills, ME • Fletcher Bluff, ME • Great Ledges, ME • Jockey Cap, ME • Parks Pond Bluff, ME • Ragged Mountain, ME • Shell Pond, ME • Tumbledown Dick Mountain, ME • Twitchell Pond, ME • Northwest Branch, MD • Dorset Drive Crag, MA • Farley Ledges, MA • Hanging Mountain, MA • Rose Ledge, MA • AAA Walls, MI • Grand Ledge, MI • Silver Mountain, MI • Slugg's Bluff, MI • Sugarloaf-Winona, MI • Devil's Elbow, MN • He Mni Can (Red Wing), MN • Bitterroot National Forest, MT • Bozeman, MT • Helena, MT • Lost Horse Canyon, MT • Rattler Gulch, MT • Red Rock Canyon, NV • Band M Ledge, NH • Cathedral Ledge, NH • Eagle Mountain Crag, NH • Holt's Ledge, NH

239 CLIMBING AREAS – ACCESS PRESERVED
2 CLIMBING AREAS OPENED

• Jackson Ice Mill, NH • Longstack Precipice, NH • Orange Crush, NH • Pawtuckaway, NH • Rumney, NH • Whitehorse Ledge, NH • Mount Tammany, NJ • Carson National Forest, NM • Cibola National Forest, NM • Lincoln National Forest, NM • Taos, NM • Tunnel Springs, NM • Adirondack Park, NY • Ant Lion, NY • Beer Walls, NY • Flatrock Boulders, NY • Ice Pond, NY • Potash, NY • Powerlinez, NY • Thacher State Park, NY • Zoar Valley, NY • Asheboro, NC • Bald Mountain Creek Preserve, NC • Big Lost Cove, NC • Blue Ridge Parkway, NC • Buckeye Knob, NC • The Gulch Boulders/Whiteside Cove, NC • Linville Gorge, NC • Maibauer Boulders, NC • Nantahala & Pisgah National Forests, NC • Village of Chimney Rock Boulders, NC • Mad River Gorge, OH • Mill Creek, OH • Sawyer Quarry, OH • The Callahans, OR • Central Cascades Wilderness, OR • The Honeycombs, OR • Klinger Spring & Pete's Pile, OR • Madrone Wall, OR • Bauer Rocks, PA • Birdsboro, PA • Boxcar Rocks, PA • Breakneck, PA • Coll's Cove, PA • Donation Rocks, PA • Ghost Town, PA • Haycock Mountain, PA • Mocanaqua, PA • Ohiopyle State Park, PA • PA DCNR Properties, PA • Palisades State Park, PA • Tilbury Knob, PA • Bee Rock, TN • Black Mountain, TN • Castle Rock, TN • Deep Creek, TN • Denny Cove, TN • Dogwood West, TN • Foster Falls, TN • Jellico Crags, TN • Laurel/Buzzard Point, TN • Leda, TN • Lilly Bluff Overlook, TN • Monterey Crag, TN • Obed, TN • Reel Cove, TN • Stone Fort, TN • Sunset Rock, TN • Walden's Ridge State Park, TN • Wauhatchie Boulders, TN • Woodcock Cove, TN • Continental Ranch, TX • Hueco Tanks, TX • Inks Ranch, TX • Medicine Wall, TX • Reimers Ranch, TX • Crowdad Canyon, UT • Donelly, UT • Hurricave, UT • Joe's Valley, UT • Little Cottonwood Canyon, UT • Lone Peak, UT • Manti-La Sal National Forest, UT • Ruth Lake, UT • Supercrack, UT • Zion National Park, UT • Black Mountain, VT • Bolton Dome, VT • James River, VT • Ben's Branch Cliff, VA • Breaks Interstate Park, VA • Grayson Highland State Park, VA • Guest River Gorge, VA • Beacon Rock, WA • Cushman/McCleary Crags, WA • Deception Crags, WA • Equinox, WA • Farside, WA • Gold Bar, WA • Icicle Canyon, WA • Lower Town Wall, WA • Mount Washington Crags, WA • Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, WA • Ryan's Wall, WA • Substation, WA • Wayne's World, WA • Devil's Lake, WI • Bridge Buttress, WV • Bubba City, WV • Hawks Nest State Park, WV • Seneca, WV • Summersville Lake, WV • Fossil Hill, WY • Fremont Canyon, WY • Hoback Shield, WY • Rodeo Wall, WY • Sinks Canyon, WY • Ten Sleep Canyon, WY • Wild Iris, WY •

Protect & Conserve the Land

Whether we're seeking adventure at a backyard boulder or a towering cliff in America's vast wilderness, climbers love the land and all of the natural wonders that make it unique. Access Fund works to protect and conserve all the beautiful places that make the climbing experience so special. That means showing up in Washington, D.C., to protect public lands and advance climate action. It means buying threatened climbing areas that are about to be sold off to build trophy homes. And it means rolling up our sleeves and working in the dirt to build sustainable trails and climbing areas. Access Fund is here for all of it and more. Job number one is to protect and conserve the amazing lands that give so much to climbers.

OUR 2022 WORK AT A GLANCE

- \$176,000 loaned out to acquire threatened climbing areas.
- 39 climbing areas stewarded by Conservation Teams.
- \$3.6 billion secured for public lands conservation.
- 10,000 volunteer hours to restore climbing areas.
- 13,836 feet of sustainable trail constructed or restored.



Eastern Bighorn Mountains, Wyoming. Ancestral lands of Tsésthó'e, Očhéthi Sakówinj, and Apsáalooke. © Eric Fallecker.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Climbers Buy New Boulder Field in North Carolina

Sometimes, the only way to save a climbing area is to buy it. At North Carolina's Maibauer Boulders, we partnered with the Carolina Climbers' Coalition (CCC) to save a field of high-quality granite boulders and 32 acres of hardwood forest. Climbing at the Maibauer Boulders dates back to the 1990s, so when the area's owners decided to sell their property, CCC and Access Fund worked quickly to secure permanent, sustainable climbing access. CCC purchased the property using a \$99,000 Access Fund conservation loan, protecting the forested mountainside from development and providing sustainable recreation access to an area of the state without many climbing destinations.



Maibauer Boulders, North Carolina. Ancestral lands of Keyauwee, Cheraw, Catawba, and Yesan. © Jim Horton.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Local Advocates Restore Beloved Iowa Crag

When the Conservation Team rolled into Pictured Rocks, Iowa, they were blown away by the small-but-mighty climbing community they found. With the help of dozens of volunteers over the course of three sweltering weeks, they completed an ambitious project that was 10 years in the making. The heavily eroded belay areas of the Comic Gallery crag were little more than a deteriorated slope. Restoration of the area called for heavy-duty stonework to build stairs and retaining walls. Iowa Climbers Coalition (ICC) rallied its community to make sure the Conservation Team never worked alone. At the end of the Conservation Team's time there, ICC was able to celebrate the conclusion of this years-long stewardship effort.



Pictured Rocks County Park, Iowa. Ancestral lands of Ioway, Sauk, Fox, Ojéthi Šakówir, and Kickapoo. © Raud Kashef.



Fight for Sustainable Access

At Access Fund, we believe that sustainable access to climbing is good for people and good for the environment. But climbing access isn't guaranteed. It's something we have to work hard for. It's hundreds of hours negotiating with lawmakers in D.C. and land managers at parks and forests around the country. It's thousands of climber advocacy letters to Congress. It's partnerships with Tribal governments. It's helping private landowners manage risk and liability. It's maintaining bolts. And it's developing smart climbing management strategies that protect the plants, animals, and Native values that share these incredible landscapes.

OUR 2022 WORK AT A GLANCE

- Access secured at 2 new climbing areas.
- 3 White House visits to represent climbers.
- 2,803 actions taken by climbing advocates.
- Engaged on 26 management plans.
- 2,900 bad bolts replaced thanks to anchor replacement grants.

Left: The Buttermilks, California. Ancestral lands of Nüümü, Newe Sogobia, and Nüümü Witü. © Eric Fallecker.

Right: Erik Murdock, Tommy Caldwell, and Chris Winter outside the White House with Brenda Mallory, chair of the Council on Environmental Quality. Ancestral lands of Nacotchtank (Anacostan) and Piscataway. © Access Fund.

Far Right: Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness. Ancestral lands of Tsésthó'e, hinono'eino' biito'owu', and Nüu-agma-tınvırı. © Jon Glassberg.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Climbing's Political Influence Ascends to New Heights

As climbing grows, so does our ability to influence decision-makers at the highest levels of government. Every year, Access Fund devotes hundreds of hours to public lands policy and advocacy, and this year the fruits of that labor were more evident than ever. Access Fund was invited to represent the climbing community at the White House on three different occasions. While there, staff met with key federal leaders, including Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, National Park Service Director Chuck Sams, and White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Brenda Mallory, among others. All of these officials have important roles to play in protecting public lands and promoting sustainable climbing access. These meetings result in better outcomes for climbers and represent the growth of our political influence—and they're just the beginning of a new era of climbers in the halls of power.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Protecting Wilderness Climbing

In 2022, Access Fund launched a two-pronged advocacy strategy to protect Wilderness climbing. A small but growing faction of land managers is attempting to make fixed anchors in Wilderness areas fundamentally prohibited. We activated our Action Alert network to speak out against these misguided policies when they appeared in climbing management plans in Joshua Tree and the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. To prevent this language from making it into climbing management plans in the first place, we're advocating with the administration for national-level guidance on fixed anchor management. We're also working on a legislative fix to this threat and have placed language in the bipartisan America's Outdoor Recreation Act (AORA) that would protect Wilderness climbing. We'll continue pushing AORA in Congress in hopes of seeing it written into law in 2023.



OUR WORK

Build a Community of Inspired Advocates

Every day, climbers all across the country are taking action to protect the lands and outdoor experiences we love. At Access Fund, our job is to make sure you're the most effective climbing advocate you can be—whether that's elevating your voice to lawmakers on urgent conservation and access issues, providing grants for local projects and rebolting efforts, connecting you with volunteer opportunities at your local crag, or helping you minimize your environmental impacts. We are climbers, and we are a powerful force for protecting the places and the sport we love. Each of us has an incredible opportunity to influence the future of climbing and the greater conservation movement.

OUR 2022 WORK AT A GLANCE

- \$93,330 total grant money distributed to support local climbing conservation projects.
- Sent \$85,000 back to local climbing organizations through joint membership program.
- Climber Stewards recorded more than 9,000 total interactions with climbers.
- Hosted 8 educational webinars with 320 total registrants to strengthen local advocates.
- Helped 4 new LCOs get off the ground and start protecting their local climbing.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Climber Stewards Program Expands to New River Gorge

Following on the success of the Indian Creek Climber Stewards, Access Fund deployed a second team of Climber Stewards in the New River Gorge (NRG) region of southern West Virginia. Over the course of more than five months, the Climber Stewards provided visiting climbers with information and resources to help minimize their impacts at this popular climbing destination. They spent 115 days in the field and interacted with almost 5,000 climbers, helping educate visitors and showcasing climbers as good stewards of the land.



Climber Stewards at the New River Gorge, West Virginia. Ancestral lands of S'atsoyaha, Tutelo, and Moneton. © Access Fund.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Advocates Come Together to Learn, Share, and Build Community

Access Fund was thrilled to convene more than 150 climbing advocates this year for the national Climbing Advocacy Conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and, with the support of Petzl, the Future of Fixed Anchors Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. Climbing advocates came together from every corner of the country to put their heads together on challenges they're facing, like working with land managers, how to run an effective rebolting program, and strategies to rally the community. Access Fund also partnered with Petzl on its inaugural REBOLT Trip event, which provided gear and training to volunteers to support the replacement of aging fixed anchors in the southeast.



*The 2022 Climbing Advocacy Conference, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Ancestral lands of ᏇᏍᏍᏍᏍ Tsalaguweti, S'atsoyaha, and Miccosukee.
© Caleb Timmerman.*

Build a Community of Inspired Advocates

2022 Climbing Conservation Grants

Our Climbing Conservation Grants Program awards funds to local climbing organizations and other partners working to protect and conserve climbing areas around the country.



■ Acquisitions and Access	\$19,000
■ Parking Solutions.....	\$17,491
■ Anchor Replacement.....	\$15,000
■ Trail Work and Stewardship	\$14,500
■ Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion.....	\$10,000
■ Education Signage and Kiosks	\$6,000
■ Research	\$5,000
■ LCO Startup Costs.....	\$3,839
■ Human Waste Management.....	\$2,500
TOTAL	\$93,330



Volunteers putting grant dollars to work in Aspen Glades, Wyoming. Ancestral lands of Neue Sogobia, Apsáalooke, Tsésthó'e, Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla. © Lee Powell.

Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI) in Climbing Advocacy

To protect the future of climbing, we need all climbers to feel like they have an important role to play in caring for the land and advocating for sustainable access. That's why Access Fund is proud to lift up the incredible work and vision of the many affinity and advocacy groups working to make climbing and our community more diverse, inclusive, and equitable from the ground up. In 2022, our programmatic work included JEDI-focused grants in the climbing community; a partnership with the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps; and support of 12 affinity group events, including the Adaptive Climbers Fest in Red River Gorge, Kentucky, and Blk Out Fest in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

OUR JEDI WORK AT A GLANCE

- Awarded \$10,000 in grant funding for JEDI climbing initiatives.
- Two partnerships with Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps in Indian Creek, Utah.
- Supported ongoing efforts to implement adaptive approach trails in Estes Park, Colorado, and North Conway, New Hampshire.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Conservation Team Partners with Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps

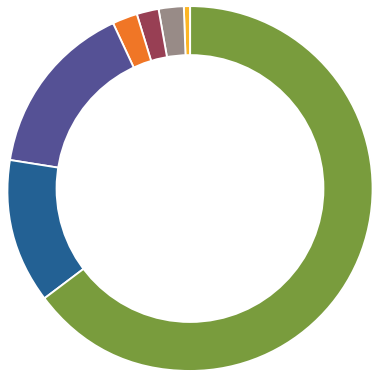
In spring and fall of 2022, Access Fund partnered with the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps (ALCC) to bring trail crews to Indian Creek, Utah, to work alongside our Conservation Team crew on stone staircases, switchbacks, and retaining walls. ALCC partners with Tribal communities and land managers on conservation service projects, providing youth from Acoma Pueblo, Navajo Nation, Zuni Pueblo, Hopi-Kykotsmovi, and Albuquerque the opportunity to experience conservation fieldwork. The partnership enabled the Conservation Team to complete ambitious projects and offered ALCC crew members a unique technical training opportunity to work on climbing access improvement projects.



Indian Creek, Utah. Ancestral lands of Navajo, Ute, Ute Mountain, Hopi, and Zuni. © Access Fund.

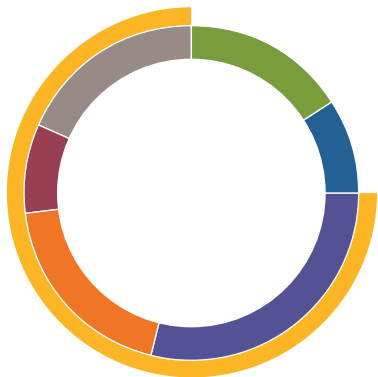
By the Numbers

In 2022, revenue from individuals, foundations, organizations, and member dues grew by an unprecedented 74% to \$2.9M, allowing Access Fund to continue to protect and conserve America's climbing.



REVENUE

■ Individuals, Foundations & Organizations	\$2,455,000
■ Member Dues	\$488,000
■ Corporate Support	\$579,000
■ Stewardship Contract Revenue & Project Funding	\$88,000
■ Events	\$75,000
■ In-Kind Contributions	\$85,000
■ Other Income	\$14,000
Total	\$3,784,000



OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

■ Philanthropy	\$590,000
■ General and Administration	\$336,000
■ Program Expenses	
■ Stewardship	\$1,072,000
■ Policy	\$706,000
■ Acquisition & Access	\$310,000
■ Local Support	\$676,000
Total	\$3,690,000

HIGHLIGHTS

- 75% of expenses dedicated to mission-related programs.
- \$1,072,000 spent stewarding climbing areas.
- \$706,000 spent on policy initiatives.

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Our partners put their money where their mouth is to support the future of climbing. Please consider the contribution these partners make to your climbing future. They support Access Fund and you—and we encourage you to support them.

TITANIUM - \$50,000+

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*Devil's Tower, Wyoming. Ancestral lands of Apsáalooke, Tsésthó'e, and Očhéthi Šakówiŋ.
© Jack Plantz.*

Individual and Foundation Donors

Every contribution Access Fund receives advances our work to protect and conserve America's climbing. These individuals and organizations made especially generous contributions in 2022. We do our utmost to ensure that all donors are recognized properly. If you find an error on this list, please accept our apologies and contact philanthropy@accessfund.org to make a correction. Thank you for your support!

\$100,000+

Freyja Foundation
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*Eldorado Canyon, Colorado.
Ancestral lands of Tsésthó'è and
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