

# Vertical Times



ACCESS • CONSERVATION • ACTIVISM

JAN. 2001 VOL. 38

## ACCESS FUND DECLARES VICTORY AFTER CONGRESS ALLOCATES \$800,000 TO PRESERVE CASTLE ROCK RANCH, IDAHO

The Access Fund declares victory in its fight towards preserving climbing and recreation at Castle Rock Ranch, Idaho. In October, the longstanding project took a giant step toward completion when Congress passed the Castle Rock Ranch Acquisition Act. The document authorizes a land exchange in southern Idaho that will lead to a new state park. Rock climbing will be included in the park management plan from the beginning and the Access Fund will assist land managers in creating the plan.

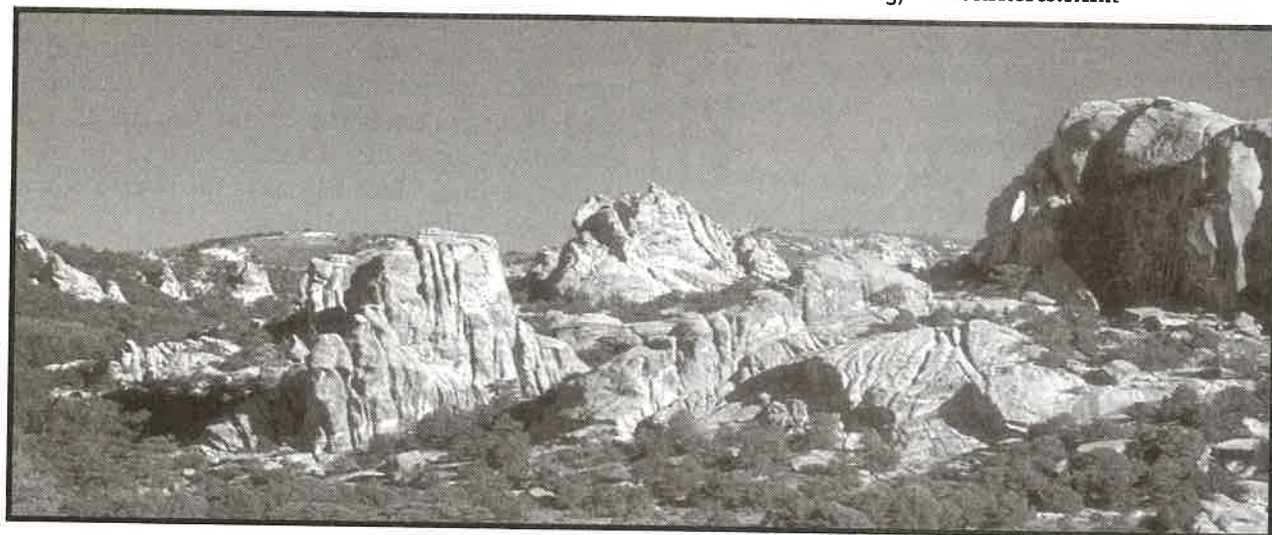
In the recently approved budget bill, Congress allocated \$800,000 to pay for the land exchange, which should be completed by the end of this year. The Access Fund and the Conservation Fund worked together to purchase the Castle Rock Ranch in 1998 to preserve it from devel-

opment. "Castles" is of interest to climbers due to the dozens of granite rock formations with climbing opportunities similar to nearby City of Rocks National Reserve.

"We have worked long and hard these past few years towards preserving Castle Rock Ranch for climbing and recreation," said Sam Davidson, Access Fund senior policy analyst. "It is such a unique and special area that the approval of this bill by Congress truly represents a victory for climbers and other outdoor recreation enthusiasts. The Access Fund will continue to work with land managers in Idaho to open the area for climbing and other recreation as soon as possible. Definitely add it to your wish list for future climbing trips."

The Access Fund and the Conservation Fund worked closely with Senator Larry Craig and Congressman Mike Simpson of Idaho to pass the necessary legislation. Their work included testifying twice at congressional committee hearings, and obtaining funds for the land exchange. The Access Fund thanks Senator Craig and Congressman Simpson for their staunch support for this project, which has been supported by local businesses, area residents, the National Park Service, and the State of Idaho.

For additional information, visit [www.accessfund.org/ActionAlerts.html](http://www.accessfund.org/ActionAlerts.html)



Rick Thompson

*In October, the longstanding land exchange took a giant step after Congress passed the Castle Rock Ranch Acquisition Act.*

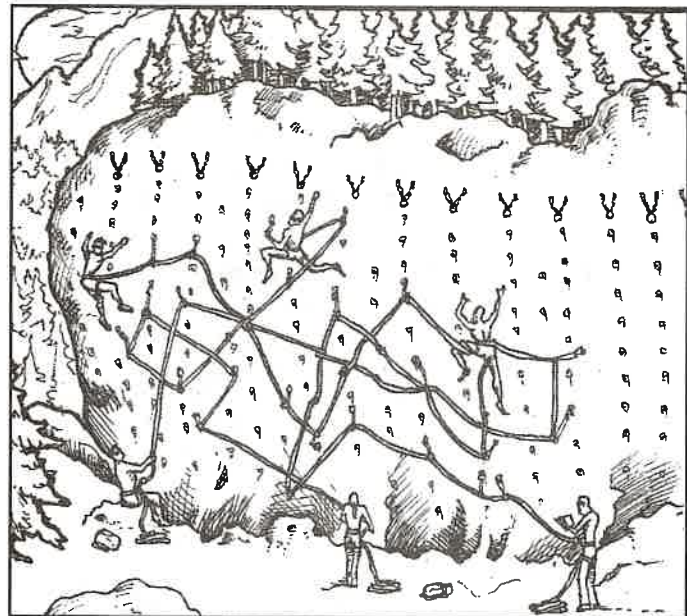
## KNOW THE DRILL

The power drill, which has initiated many wonderful climbs and climbing areas, can also be used as a force of evil that can diminish the climbing experience, obliterate climbing history, and steal climbing challenges from present and future generations of climbers. In some cases its misuse can even lead to cliff closures.

After nearly twenty years of establishing new routes, visiting hundreds of sport climbing cliffs around the globe, and publishing guidebooks, several of which solely document sport climbing areas, this is my take on responsible bolting.

### RETOBOLTING

Retobolting is the placing of bolts on established routes that didn't originally have bolts and/or the placing of extra bolts to diminish run outs on climbs that already have bolt protection. This is wrong. Once a route is climbed the challenge has been set by the first ascensionist. The challenge for subsequent climbers is to only use the established fixed protection or natural protection that was available to the first ascensionist. Adding bolts to an existing route erases our climbing history. Imagine if someone added bolts to the bold Bachar-Yerian on Medlicot Dome in Tuolumne. This would be insulting not only to the first ascensionists but to all who summoned



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Grid bolting and the inevitable plastering of the cliff with chalk looks ugly to both climbers and, importantly, non-climbers, especially land managers. For those who want routes every three feet there is always the rock gym.

the courage to repeat the route. If a climb is too bold for you, walk away and return when you're ready. There are thousands of well-protected routes. No one, not even the first ascensionist, should retrobolt a route. Climbing is about mental challenges as well as physical, and climbs that have long fall or even injury/death potential are as valid as well-protected sport routes.

### RE-EQUIPPING

This is where new beefier bolts replace existing bolts that are old and dangerous. This is good practice. Bolts need testing and replacing on a regular basis. Re-equipping has now been formalized by the American Safe Climbing Association (ASCA) who has re-equipped hundreds of routes, replacing thousands of rusted relics with new stainless steel bolts. Give them a hand.

### CRACKS

Avoid bolting cracks. Placing protection is a cherished skill. Even if the crack is at a so-called sport cliff. What's wrong with diversity? Note! The position statement of the Access Fund states that "preserving the diversity of the climbing experience is fundamental to the mission of the Access Fund." Let's not make the placing of natural protection, "a long forgotten art."

### GRID BOLTING

To establish a new route you need to be part engineer, part architect, part geologist, and part conservationist. A pinch of moderation is also required. The best bolt routes are independent of other routes, and either take lines of strength, obvious features, or lines of weakness (natural holds) up featureless walls. If a cliff is peppered with bolts and routes are overbolted and placed too close together, the climbing experience is diminished. Grid

BY MICK RYAN



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To bolt or to protect naturally? Both are equally valid. The rock and your good judgment will tell you which is appropriate.

## FIXED ANCHORS IN WILDERNESS

As reported in *Vertical Times* Vol. 37, the US Forest Service is still working on a proposed rule that will regulate the placement and use of climbing anchors in designated wilderness areas. The Negotiated Rulemaking committee convened by the agency to make recommendations for the new rule made substantial progress but ultimately could not agree on a unanimous policy recommendation. As of early December, the agency had still not decided whether the new rule would prohibit fixed anchors altogether or would allow some fixed anchors under certain circumstances.

The Access Fund has continued to work with other participants such as the AAC, REI, ORCA, The Mountaineers, and the AMGA in the Negotiated Rulemaking to encourage the Forest Service to base the new rule on the principles that the committee agree on: Wilderness is a special place which must be managed to a higher standard of protection; fixed anchors have always been, and will continue to be, part of technical climbing; the Wilderness Act of 1964 does not prohibit all use of fixed anchors; and fixed anchor use must be consistent with existing law and management objectives.

The Access Fund remains firm in our position: bolts should be the "tool of last resort," fixed anchors are a minimal intrusion on the wilderness resource but are neither necessary nor appropriate in all places, power drills should not be used in wilderness, and any regulation of fixed anchor use must preserve the climber's ability to rely on their own judgment in providing for their safety while climbing.

The Forest Service has said it will complete a draft of the new rule by the end of 2000. A public comment period will follow. It is critically important that climbers provide feedback to the Forest Service on the proposed rule. See the Access Fund Web site at [www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org) for an announcement of the draft rule and information on how to comment.

## USE FEES AND RECREATION FUNDING

A broad coalition of human-powered recreational groups has begun meeting with the goal of providing more effective feedback to the government on the controversial "demonstration program" for use fees, and to boost the amount of money Congress allocates annually for funding of recreation management in our national parks, forests, rivers, and open spaces.

The Access Fund is working with the Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America, the International Mountain Bicycling Association, the American Alpine Club, Outward Bound, American Whitewater, the American Hiking Society, and other organizations to address concerns about use fees and the need to increase funding levels.

Climbers have already felt the bite of use fees in the form of Mountaineering Fees at Denali and Mt. Rainier National Parks and for Mt. Shasta in California, in "parking fees" at areas like Rumney (NH), and in the required purchase of Forest Passes in the Pacific Northwest.

The Access Fund does not support fees for access or specific activities on the public lands, although we believe fees for use of developed facilities, such as campgrounds, may be reasonable. The Access Fund believes use fees are discriminatory

and promote the operation of public lands as a for-profit business rather than as national treasures which should be open to all citizens regardless of their ability to pay. We have argued that the temporary fee authority provided by Congress in 1996 as a "test" of the idea should be terminated and that no permanent fee authority should be approved. We believe that the fairest way to pay for public lands administration is through our federal income taxes.

However, Congress and the federal resource management agencies are well invested in use fees. The Demonstration Fee Program has been extended twice beyond its original three-year life. This fall it was extended through 2002. A bill sponsored by Senators Graham (FL) and Gorton (WA) earlier this year would establish a permanent fee authority, meaning the lands agencies could levy fees anywhere on federal public lands for almost any use and amount.

A series of meetings between the human-powered recreation community, land managers, and Congressional committee staff are planned over the next few months. The Access Fund will continue to play an active role in the debate over use fees and recreation funding. Please see our website at [www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org) or call Senior Policy Analyst Sam Davidson at 831-770-1523 for further updates.



Don Silver

A broad coalition of recreational groups has begun meeting to provide feedback to the government concerning the "demonstration program" for use fees.



**SOUTHEAST**  
RED RIVER GORGE, KENTUCKY

At the Red River Gorge in Kentucky, the Daniel Boone National Forest has been doing archeological surveys of all 97 climbing areas identified in the latest climbing guidebook. Many of the overhanging crags of interest to climbers provided shelter for early peoples, and perhaps one-third of all climbing sites at the RRG may have "significant" archeological values (spear points, earthen ovens, buried human remains). The Access Fund and the Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition, led by Regional Coordinator Shannon Stuart-Smith, have been working closely with the Forest Service to keep climbing areas open, to determine the impacts of climbing on archeological resources and educate climbers about protecting historic values. The Access Fund provided a \$10,000 grant recently to pay for a Level 2 analysis at the Military Wall, and the Forest Service has tentatively agreed to revise the Rock Climbing Management Guide (internal guidelines) for the Red, which is outdated and inconsistent with climbing management in other national forests. Contact the Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition at [rawkjock@hotmail.com](mailto:rawkjock@hotmail.com) or click on [www.rrgcc.com](http://www.rrgcc.com), call 859-269-8796 or email the Forest Service at [ritawehner@fs.fed.us](mailto:ritawehner@fs.fed.us) for more information.

**DEVIL'S COURTHOUSE, NORTH CAROLINA**

Devil's Courthouse on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Asheville has been permanently closed to climbing to reduce impacts to its natural resources. Visitors will be allowed to use the trail between the parking overlook and the rock wall at the summit; use beyond the summit will be permanently restricted. (from Gordon Wissinger, chief ranger for the National Park Service)

**THE OBED, TENNESSEE**

The Climbing Management Plan for the Obed Wild and Scenic River (Obed WSR) is being prepared. The scoping period for public comments began on November 1, 2000, and ends on December 31, 2000. During this time, the National Park Service will accept verbal and written input from all interested parties. For information call Chris Stubbs, community planner for Big South Fork NRR/Obed WSR at (423) 569-2404 ext. 231.

**NEW RIVER GORGE, WEST VIRGINIA**

A revised climbing management plan is in the works for the New River Gorge National River. The NRG offers some of the best and most diverse climbing in the United States. Your help, cooperation, and involvement is requested. A draft plan for public comment will be available in April, 2001.

**NORTHEAST**  
CRADLE ROCK, NEW JERSEY

Paul Nick, New Jersey guidebook author, provided us with this access alert for Cradle Rock. The Cradle Rock bouldering area in NJ is being fenced off and climbers are being turned away by the landowners. The New



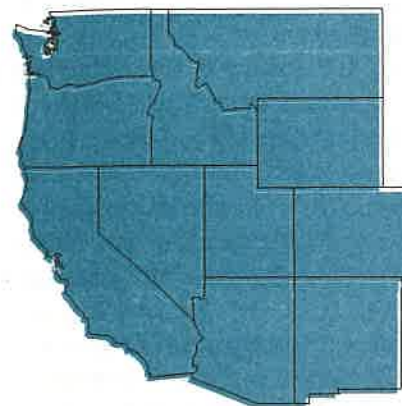
Jersey Climbers Coalition (NJCC) is working with the Access Fund and eventually other groups (Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Princeton Outdoor Club) to move forward the Preserve Cradle Rock Initiative which has the goal of preserving the area through a combination of "open space" acquisition and environmental easements. To become a member of NJCC, point your web browser to <http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/new-jerseyclimberscoalition>. Click the login link, register with Yahoo if you have not done so already, then post a message telling the group who you are, how long you have been climbing, and what climbing areas you are interested in.

**CONNECTICUT**

Climbing at Orenaug Park in Woodbury is currently under a partial closure. The central section of the crag is affected, including the most popular routes in The Viewing Wall area. The adjacent landowner has closed the section of the cliff base trail that crosses his property. Although the actual cliff faces are owned by the town of Woodbury, the landowner has been asking climbers to leave and has called the police to remove climbers if they do not leave voluntarily. The closed area is bounded on the southern (pond) end of the crag by a short stone wall and a concrete marker. The northern boundary of the closure is the route "20th Century Fox". Routes outside this area are still open. The RMF and the Access Fund are trying to work

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out a compromise. In the meantime, while negotiations continue, please avoid climbing on the closed section of the crag. For more info click [www.raggedmtn.org](http://www.raggedmtn.org)



**WEST**  
LUMPY RIDGE, COLORADO

Rocky Mountain National Park received over 200 responses during the public comment period to the Draft Environmental Assessment for construction of the Twin Owls & Gem Lake trailhead parking. The Park's preferred alternative is to use one of two parcels of land purchased by NPS in 1983 for a new parking lot that would accommodate approximately 100 vehicles. A portion of the existing Twin Owls parking lot would be retained as a drop-off area but no visitor parking would be permitted. The existing Gem Lake parking lot would be closed and the area restored to natural conditions. If the Park's preferred alternative were chosen, an additional 0.7 mile would be required to access the Twin Owls rock formation and other formations west of Twin Owls from the new parking lot. Management staff will now review public comments and present a recommendation to the Superintendent sometime in the next few months.

**RED ROCKS, NEVADA**

The BLM is currently working on the Rock Climbing Management Plan for Red Rocks and will be hosting a three day Climbing Management workshop this March for land managers from around the country. The goal of the workshop is to share information and discuss climbing specific issues. Among the topics covered will be current management strategies, Wilderness and WSA issues pertaining to climbing, management of commercial rock climbing, search and rescue, and liability. There will be guest speakers from the AMGA, the Access Fund and Wilderness Specialists. The BLM also hopes to establish a national network of land managers dealing with rock climbing related issues.

**MAPLE CANYON, UTAH**

The Sanpete Ranger District of the Manti-La Sal National Forest is proposing to reconstruct most of the campground features in Maple Canyon Campground. This campground has become a popular destination due to its proximity to the rock climbing opportunities found throughout Maple Canyon. Proposed work would include replacing worn out site features, decommissioning four of the campsites to provide additional parking, and adding five additional campsites just above the campground adjacent to Forest Road #066. A complete list of proposed changes can be obtained from the Sanpete Ranger District office in Ephraim.

**CALIFORNIA**

The **Final Yosemite Valley Plan** has been approved by the National Park Service. While some interest groups remain opposed to this plan, the Access Fund believes it is a rea-

sonable effort to address serious problems with traffic congestion, development, and resource impacts. Unfortunately, some decisions in this plan will significantly affect climbers: all roadside parking in the lower Valley will be eliminated which means climbers will have to use a shuttle to access crags like the Cookie Cliff, Arch Rock, and Pat & Jack Pinnacle. Shuttle stops may not be close to the crags, and the shuttle's hours of operation create an inconvenience for climbers. Over one-quarter of existing campsites will be removed or not restored, resulting in a major reduction in camping opportunities. Meanwhile, developed lodging facilities will be upgraded. The Access Fund continues to work with the National Park Service to make sure climbers' needs and preferences are addressed. Contact Regional Coordinator Paul Minault at [pminault@earthlink.net](mailto:pminault@earthlink.net) for more information.

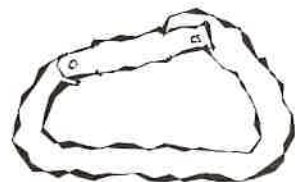
The Access Fund has provided comments on the **Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement** for the Ansel Adams, John Muir, and Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Areas in the Inyo and Sierra National Forests in California. These wildernesses include phenomenal climbing resources such as the Mt. Whitney region, the Palisades, the Minarets, and the Incredible Hulk. While the proposed new management direction does not include restrictions specific to climbing, it does provide for an increase in trailhead quotas (limits on number of people) which could affect climbers. A permit is required for overnight camping throughout these wilderness areas, and a day use permit is required for hiking or climbing Mt. Whitney. See the Access Fund website at [www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org) to view our formal comments letter.

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**MIDWEST**  
**IOWA**

As a result of efforts by members of the Eastern Iowa Climbers Coalition, no bolts will be removed at the Pictured Rocks and Indian Bluffs climbing areas for the time being. As reported in the last issue of the *Vertical Times*, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources recently announced an intention to remove all fixed anchors at both Indian Bluffs and Pictured Rocks. Because the rock is limestone with very few natural gear placements, a removal of fixed anchors would eliminate all bolted lead climbs. Officials with Iowa DNR have stated that bolt removal is a consequence of "complaints" from top-ropers as well as other climbers who have contacted DNR to register for fixed anchor placement. To learn more, visit the Eastern Iowa Climbers Coalition website at: <http://geocities.com/eiowacc>



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Adam Johnson and Dana Griffin "access" the Sundance Butress, Lumpy Ridge, Colorado. photo: John Heisel

PLEASE NOTE: The Virtual Times does not replace the Vertical Times but complements it to keep you informed!

President's letter from p. 16...

protection and climber education at Hueco Tanks and imposed new restrictions on climbing. Given Hueco's importance as a climbing resource, we are not giving up, and continue to discuss opportunities for cooperation with park rangers and local climbers.

For 2001, many of these challenges will continue. We are also working on several new acquisitions and conservation projects. The "demonstration" program for recreational use fees is drawing more attention from others in the outdoor recreation community; the Access Fund got a jump on this issue by helping to form the Public Access Coalition two years ago, and has participated in an ongoing dialogue with Congress and the federal lands agencies.

We are also in a period of transition since Sally Moser, our executive director, has decided to return to the world of publishing. The Access Fund has grown significantly in many ways during Sally's tenure, and the Board thanks Sally for her many efforts and contributions. Change can be difficult, but it can also provide new opportunities. We are fortunate to have a dedicated and professional staff with the ability and drive to take the Access Fund to even greater heights over the next ten years. It's an exciting time for us, and we look forward to showing all of you how much more we can do to preserve the climbing opportunities and resources that we all value so greatly.

Hope to see you out there, and thanks for your continuing support—Happy New Year!

*Betsy Hall*

**Access Fund**  
Meet the

WE'RE HERE TO KEEP YOU CLIMBING

**LESLIE BROWN**

**NEW BOARD MEMBER**

Leslie began climbing twelve years ago and quickly became an activist to improve public access to Connecticut's traprock cliffs. The Appalachian Mountain Club tapped Leslie as co-chair for its Ragged Mountain Committee, and she built an extensive array of contacts among climbers, state officials, and the conservation community. As it became apparent that the CT AMC would not accept title to Ragged Mountain, she creatively sought alternative means to ensure guaranteed access to Ragged Mountain.

Recognizing that success depended on a wide base of support, she solicited the support of the climbing community to form the Ragged Mountain Foundation and gained the endorsement of state officials, conservation groups, the Access Fund and recreational groups. After long negotiations and a trial period, The Nature Conservancy deeded Ragged Mountain to the Ragged Mountain Foundation.

The RMF is a credible grassroots non-profit organization with 300 members, a very active trails building program, trail and roadside clean-up program, member benefits, and a strong record of activism. They have successfully prevented closures, reversed closures, and gained recognition in state regulations of rock and ice climbing as authorized recreational activities on state property. In the RMF's ten year history, Leslie has served as an officer - President or Treasurer - nearly every year. She was honored as the recipient of the Access Fund's Mark Bebie Award in 1999.

Both the RMF and Access Fund grew up at the same time. Leslie worked closely with her counterparts at the Access Fund since its inception and served as a regional coordinator. Together they learned the ropes for building an organization, working with volunteers, and solving problems. She enthusiastically embraces the Access Fund's formula for success - provide the support, information, guidance and tools for the local organizations to succeed.

While not being the sharpest leader on a rope, Leslie has other extensive leadership skills for the team. She and her husband, Claude, guided for 5 years for Eastern Mountain Sports in the traprock region and teach downhill skiing. She has directed road races and held officer positions in a variety of recreational organizations. She has three children. She and her husband recently moved to Yacolt, Washington where she works as Vice President of Finance and Planning at Electric Lightwave, the fifth largest internet backbone provider.



Colleen Ruelson

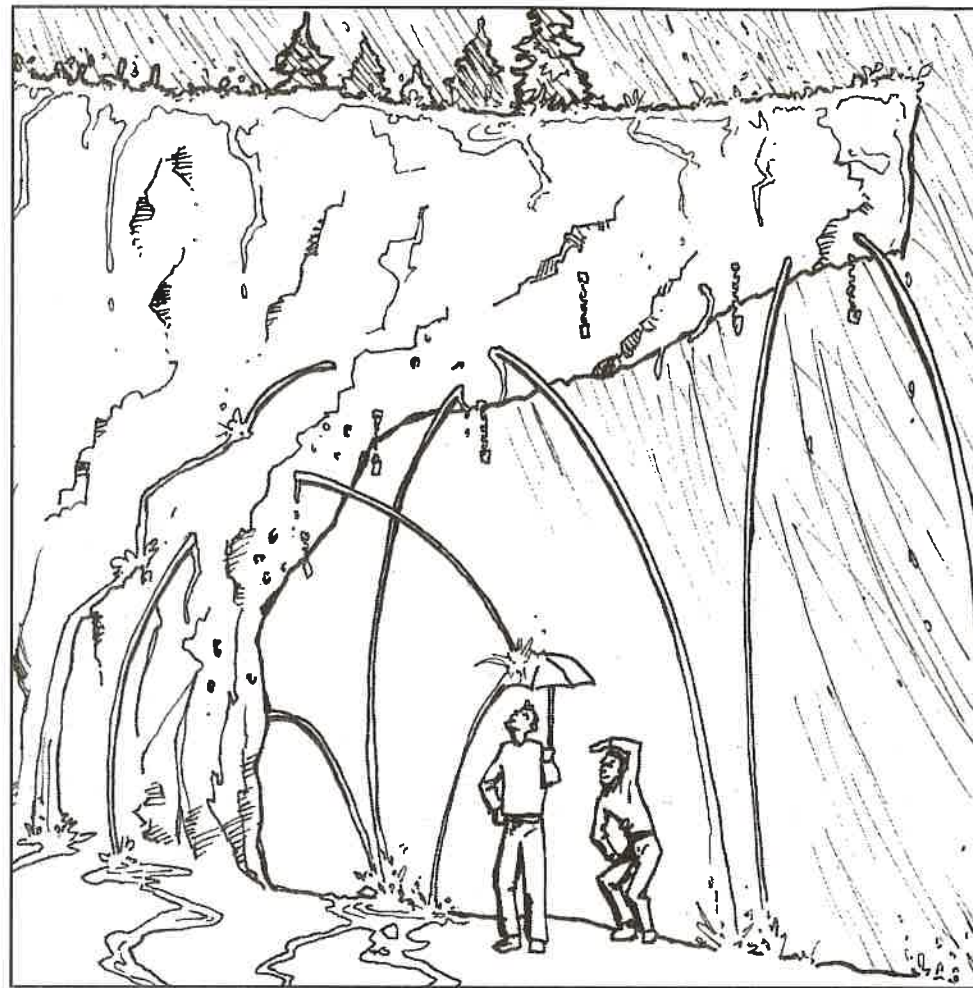
Leslie Brown, new Access Fund board member, climbing on her home turf at Ragged Mountain in Connecticut. Brown founded the Ragged Mountain Foundation and won the prestigious Mark Bebie Award in 1999.

bolting looks ugly to both climbers, non-climbers, and especially to land managers. For those who want routes every three feet, there is always the rock gym.

**DRILLING/CHIPPING HOLDS**

In its strictest definition free climbs utilize only holds that nature has presented to us. Many of the 5.14s that you read about in the magazines should have the aid-climbing prefix A0 added to their rating. There are exceptions, and some of the coolest young climbers of today such as David Graham, Tommy Caldwell, David Hume and Chris Sharma are anti-chipping. Their routes, among the hardest in the USA, are 100% natural. Less talented climbers find it necessary to chip the rock down to their level, using excuses such as, "it will never go, we need more hard routes, other climbers do it," as their justifications. They are also driven by the desire to see their names in the magazines and financial "5.14" bounties from their sponsors. Chipping steals from talented climbers of today and the future, and as a by-product may cause access problems. Land managers do hear about climbers chipping and as a result have banned bolting at certain cliffs. Chipping is a sign of disrespect to the climbing environment. It is vandalism. For those who want to design their own routes there is always the rock gym.

As climbers, we are custodians of the cliffs: we do not own them. We must practice responsible development that protects the aesthetics and ecology of the cliff environment and safeguards our freedom to climb. We must not let our selfish desires dictate our actions. Above all, we must agree upon bolting guidelines within the climbing community, not outside of it.



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Chipping steals from talented climbers of today and the future, and as a by-product may cause access problems. It also makes cliffs leaky. For those who want to design their own routes there is always the rock gym.

Mick Ryan is owner of Rockfax guidebooks based in Bishop, California. He has been involved in access work both in the UK and the USA for the last twelve years. His latest titles are *Islands In The Sky*, a definitive guide to Las Vegas and Great Basin Limestone, and *Bishop and Eastern Sierra Bouldering*. Both are due in early 2001. Land managers and the Access Fund are intimately involved with the Access sections of both guides. Mick is compiling a list of climber comments on bolting practice at his website [www.rockfax.com](http://www.rockfax.com), if you want to comment on issues from this article then email him at [rockfax@yahoo.com](mailto:rockfax@yahoo.com).

Ian Poirier has been climbing for three years. Originally from Rhode Island he now lives (and boulders) in Bishop, California. He has been a graphic artist for five years and has produced a series of access cartoons which are displayed at the Bishop climbing areas.

The opinions in Spray are not necessarily those of the Access Fund

Resource  
date UP

**SPRING RAPTOR RESTRICTIONS APPROACHING**

Spring (Raptor Season) is almost here. This is a checklist of climbing areas with seasonal restrictions to protect raptors.

Every spring we publish this update so that climbers have information on which areas may have some form of closure to protect cliff-nesting raptors. The list is not exhaustive; dates and details can change even during circulation of this newsletter. However, it should give an idea of what's going on where, and how to find out more information.

**TO GET THE LATEST INFORMATION:**

1. ALWAYS check signs or brochures at parking lots, trailheads and approach routes. Birds can shift nest sites, which means restrictions may be lifted early!
2. IF you need more detailed info BEFORE visiting an area CHECK THE ACCESS FUND WEBSITE ([www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org)). This site names individual cliffs affected and provides website links and contact telephone numbers. If you do call the agency contact number listed, remember that some agencies have better staffing arrangements to respond to your inquiries than others!

**THE SITES**

Note: All of the sites listed have had some form of restriction in the past 3 years. However, because in some areas birds alternate sites, or do not nest in a particular year, a closure may have been lifted entirely, or established in a new area. The Access Fund website gives more detailed information about each area, but always check signs on site for

the latest update.

**Arizona**

- Cochise Stronghold: 1 restriction. Call (520) 364-3468.
- Granite Mountain: 1 restriction. Call (520) 445-7253.
- Thumb Butte: 1 restriction. Call (520) 445-7253
- Mount Lemmon: 4 restrictions. Call (520) 749-8700

**California**

- Corte Madera, San Diego area: 1 restriction. Call (619) 673-6180
- Joshua Tree: 2 restrictions. Call (760) 367-5568 Web: [www.nps.gov/jotr/](http://www.nps.gov/jotr/)
- Lover's Leap: 1 restriction. Call (916) 644-2324
- Pinnacles National Monument: 5 restrictions. Call (408) 389-4485 [www.nps.gov/pinn/](http://www.nps.gov/pinn/)
- Yosemite: 4 restrictions (Note: not Half Dome or El Cap). Call (209) 372-0767, [www.nps.gov/yose/home.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/home.htm)

**Colorado**

- Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Painted Wall: 1 restriction. Call (970) 249-1914
- City of Boulder Open Space department, The Matron, Mickey Mouse

- Wall: 2 restrictions. Call (303) 441-4060 x 420 <http://openspace.ci.boulder.co.us/>
- City of Boulder Mountain Parks: 8 restrictions incl. The Third Flatiron. Call (303) 441-4060 x 420
- Eagle Rock, Boulder Canyon: 1 restriction. Call (303) 291-7142 <http://ci.boulder.co.us/bmp/>
- Colorado National Monument: 1 restriction. Call (970) 858-3617
- Eldorado Canyon State Park: 1 restriction. [www.dnr.state.co.us/eldorado/climbing](http://www.dnr.state.co.us/eldorado/climbing) Call (303) 494-3943
- Garden of the Gods: 1 restriction. Call (719) 634-6666
- Lover's Leap/Mt. Lindo: 1 restriction. Call (303) 271-5986
- Lumpy Ridge: 5 restrictions. Call (970) 586-1206
- Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest: 2 restrictions. Call (970) 638-4516
- South Platte, Cathedral Spires: 1 restriction. Call (303) 838-5860
- Unaweep Canyon: 1 restriction. Call (970) 244-3000 or (970) 248-7175

**Idaho**

- City of Rocks: 1 restriction. Call (208) 824-5519
- Black Cliffs, Boise: 2 restrictions Call (208) 465-8465

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**WHICH RAPTOR??**

Wildlife protection efforts are targeted at the cliff-nesting raptors, peregrine falcons, prairie falcons, and golden eagles, which are protected under state and federal laws.

**WHEN?**

Restrictions run from early spring through to mid summer when birds are raising their young. Typically, this is from February to August but may be earlier or later depending on climate, elevation or type of raptor.

**WHY?**

Seasonal wildlife closures give our cliff wildlife the protection it needs at its most vulnerable time. With climbers' support, such arrangements demonstrate that climbing can coexist with wildlife protection efforts.

**AND THANKS....**

Once again the Access Fund thanks climbers for their support in protecting cliff-nesting raptors during their most vulnerable time.

## Resource Update Continued...

### Maine

-Acadia National Park: 3 restrictions.  
Call (207) 288-3338

### New Hampshire

-Cannon Cliff and The Eaglet,  
-Cathedral Ledge,  
-Eagle Cliff, Franconia,  
-Frankenstein Cliff, Harts,  
-Holts Ledge, Lyme,  
-Mt. Webster,  
-Mt. Willard,  
-Painted Walls and Square Ledge,  
Albany,  
-Rattlesnake Mountain (main cliff),  
Rumney,  
-Whitehorse Ledge and Square Ledge.  
Call (603) 224-9909 ext. 317 for  
restrictions at all New Hampshire  
areas.

### New Mexico

-Sandia Mountains: 4 restrictions.  
Call (505) 281-3304

### New York

-Adirondack State Park: 6 restrictions.  
Call (518) 891 4050

-Shawangunks,  
Millbrook Wall:  
1 restriction. Call  
(914) 255 0919

### North Carolina

-Devils  
Courthouse -  
closed. Call (828)  
271-4779  
-Whitesides  
Mountain:  
1 restriction.\*  
-Linville Gorge: 1  
restriction.\*  
-Looking Glass Rock: 1 restriction.\*  
\*www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/recre-  
ation/ROCK.HTML or call (828) 652-  
2144 for updates on restriction at  
these sites.

### Oregon

-Smith Rock State Park:  
3 restrictions. Call (541) 548-7501  
-Eagle/Rattlesnake Rocks, Acker  
Rock, Umpqua National Forest: 2  
restrictions. Call (541) 957-3471



A peregrine falcon feeds its young. Cooperation by climbers helps protect cliff-nesting raptors from disturbance at their most vulnerable time.

-Rabbit Ears & Rattlesnake, Rogue  
River National Forest: 1 restriction.  
Call (503) 560-3475  
-Jurassic Park, nr. Roseburg:  
1 restriction. Call (541) 957-3471

### Utah

-Zion National Park and Kolob  
Canyon: 5 restrictions:  
www.nps.gov/zion/ or Call (801)  
772-3256.  
-Airport Tower, Canyonlands  
National Park. 1 restriction.  
Call (435) 259-4351

### Vermont

2 restrictions, incl. Deer Leap &  
Bristol Cliffs. Call (802) 457-2779

### Washington

-Beacon Rock State Park: 1 restric-  
tion. Call (509) 427-8265.  
-Royal Columns, Oakcreek Wildlife  
Recreation Area: 1 restriction. Call  
(509) 653-2390  
-Tumwater Canyon . 1 restriction.  
Call (509) 548-6977

### Wyoming

-Devils Tower: 1 restriction:  
www.nps.gov/deto or call (307) 467-  
5283  
-Garnet Canyon: 1 restriction. Call  
(307) 739-3488

### BE SMART ABOUT RAPTORS

1. Keep informed....  
- Check out signs and brochures on  
site for latest updates.  
- Read up in the Access Fund  
spring newsletter.  
- Browse the Access Fund web site  
www.accessfund.org for more  
details on cliff closures, agency  
contacts and background informa-  
tion on climbing and wildlife pro-  
tection programs.
2. Tell us if we've got it wrong....  
The Access Fund needs your feed-  
back to work with managers. With  
over 90 wildlife restrictions on  
Access Fund files it's a big task  
updating records. If you have con-  
cerns about a closure arrangement  
or see information that is mislead-

ing or out of date, please call us.  
Contact Kath Pyke at the Boulder  
office Tel: (303) 545-6772 x104 or  
E-mail: kath@accessfund.org.  
3. Get involved....  
If your local crag has a raptor  
restriction, there may be ways you  
can help out resource managers,  
such as raptor monitoring, wording  
for signs or brochures, identifying  
the best places for wildlife signing,  
and providing observations on rap-  
tor sightings or unusual behavior.  
Sometimes climbers have assisted  
managers on raptor banding pro-  
jects, where climbing skills are  
required to access cliff edges.  
Contact the biologist or park man-  
ager listed for your area and ask  
about volunteer opportunities.

# Letters

ACCESS FUND MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

## TAKING A STAND

I just wanted to drop you  
guys a quick note and say that I am  
proud of the Access Fund's new posi-  
tion on manufactured routes. It's  
good to see you taking a stand,  
especially when one of the worst  
areas ("Sport Park") is in your back-  
yard.

I was out in Boulder this summer  
and was disgusted by the blatant  
drilling in that area. I was pissed  
about the fact that a bunch of  
climbers out there apparently don't  
mind that those routes (which  
aren't that good) have destroyed the  
rock. It's good to see you take a  
stand!

Kevin Vowles

*EDITOR'S NOTE: See the "Action Alerts"  
page of the Access Fund website at  
www.accessfund.org/ActionAlerts.html for  
the complete "Position Statement on  
Irresponsible Climbing."*

## BAN THE BOLTS

I have been a lifelong climber,  
hiker and mountaineer [now age  
55]. Although I have placed a few  
bolts in the distant past, I feel very  
strongly that they should be banned  
as new equipment except in emer-  
gency situation. It is very hard to  
support the environment and then  
advocate the use of a permanent  
destructive device.

A large number of climbers of my  
acquaintance, all of whom are life-  
long climbers, agree with me. I do  
not think that you can consider  
yourself as representing the climbing  
community unless you include that  
a large number of climbers are total-  
ly opposed to bolts. I would add  
that when I see ads in climbing  
mags for Bosch power drills with  
bolt kits they remind me of ads for

snow machines except they are  
worse.  
James Sprott

*Sam Davidson, policy staff member,  
Responds*

*You're certainly not alone among  
climbers in thinking that bolting should be  
limited to emergency situations. I think an  
equally sizeable faction of climbers believes  
that there should be few if any limits on  
bolting. Since there is no unanimity among  
climbers about where and how bolting is  
appropriate, the Access Fund has tried to  
approach this issue as objectively as possi-  
ble. It is our position that bolts should be  
"the tool of last resort," that is, placed  
only when no other type of safety anchor is  
possible, and that bolts should never be  
placed purely for the climber's convenience.  
On the other hand, bolts have proven useful  
as a management tool in some areas, help-  
ing to reduce cliff-top erosion and other  
resource impacts. We believe that bolts are  
a part of climbing but that they are neither  
necessary nor appropriate for all areas.  
Climbers should take it upon themselves to  
limit bolts as part of our collective support  
for Leave No Trace principles and the exam-  
ple set by many of our climbing pioneers.*

## WHO CARES?

I heard this self-described trad  
climber proclaim that the sporties  
were getting their comeuppance  
from the Forest Service over Military  
Wall. He sounded happy to hear that  
the 'clip-n-go set' were finally get-  
ting their just deserts for all the  
access ills that they had unfairly  
brought down on climbers. "Let the  
Forest Service close Thirsting Skull.  
Who cares?" he concluded, "I'm  
going back to my crag, Dip Wall." I  
thought the guy had a good point.  
Who should care if some over-hyped,  
over-climbed, testosterone testpiece  
is lost? Good riddance to the noise,  
the spray, the chalk, and the

crowds. Yeah, I have climbed the  
thing, but it wouldn't hurt my feel-  
ings if I never saw it again. And it  
certainly wouldn't hurt my feelings  
to see the crowds go away. Besides  
what about that \$10,000 to save the  
damn thing anyway, isn't there some  
better use for that money? So yeah,  
who cares?

If the truth is painful, then this  
is really going to hurt. The rules of  
the access game have changed. From  
the Forest Service's new perspective,  
it no longer matters whether there  
is a single piece of metal within 100  
yards of a climbing route. Trad  
routes, with or without anchors,  
sport routes, mixed routes, aid  
routes, projects, and boulder prob-  
lems ARE NOW ALL THE SAME. No  
rope is required. The Forest Service  
has finally done something for  
climbing that climbers have been  
trying to do for years — parity.  
We're now all equally discriminated  
against.

What, the hell?! You ask. Yep. The  
joke is on us. While each of us may  
have secretly been feeling smug  
about those 'other climbers' being  
the bad guys—those bumbles stand-  
ing in endless lines to climb the  
same lame climb weekend after  
weekend, or those lycra-clad, snooty  
5.12 sport climbers blowing more  
than chalk in everybody's face, or  
how about those self-proclaimed  
"keepers-of-the-faith" trad climbers  
who are the REAL climbers to all us  
phonies, or those drill wielding, the-  
rules-be-damned, egotistical, first  
ascensionists who keep getting the  
rest of us in hot water with the  
Forest Service, or those out-of-state  
losers running around looking for  
top ropes when they should go home  
and learn how to climb first! The  
truth is we are all the same, at least  
according to the Forest Service. Trad,

• continued on next page

## Letters Continued

sport, or bouldering, hard or easy, anchors or no anchors, bolts or no bolts... It makes no difference. It's not what we do on the rock that matters to the Forest Service anymore. The great equalizer is WHAT HAPPENS ON THE GROUND. And nobody is exempt from that. Nobody.  
Shannon Stuart-Smith  
Lexington, KY

### NOTES ON USE FEES IN AMERICA

[1] Is using ANY public land a privilege and not a right? I don't think so. Access to any public land should only be restricted when there are compelling reasons such as roadways-safety, natural areas-wildlife protection etc. It is our land isn't it?

[2] Okanogan NF has been charging for parking ANYWHERE in that forest, not just trailheads, since the beginning

[3] If it's natural, nature can do a much better job of designing and maintaining than the FS will ever do.

[4] This is essential to any bureaucracy's survival. Survival being priority #1 and stated legislated purpose being #2. If you understand this, then policy decisions past and present will make sense to you. The governments present goal is to produce revenue from wherever it can so that as many agencies as possible can financially stand-alone. The pressure for agencies to stay in the black will only get heavier in the next 4 years. A large part of government's function is to support many things that by their nature will not bring in money to cover their costs.

When you want to bring more money into your park you ask climbers to pay far more than they will accept. You get two things, public paying for use and an acceptable dollar amount. You don't have to look far for many more examples. Each agency will use public comment, meetings and letters- not to reevaluate their goals, but to find a way to make their goals palatable. User fees are the perfect example. We are arguing over dollar amounts when just a few years ago the thought of charging at all seemed unacceptable. NO one I've talked to wants user fees, but they're here. In the public meetings I attended about Denali, the public, local agencies-rescue, the U.S. Sheriffs association and others- were 100% against user fees, and look what we got. I asked the superintendent of McKinley NP if fees on Denali and Rainier were trial balloons. He looked me in the eye and said no. Hmm, better to listen to experience than to public employees. Are we forgetting, these people work for US. When Jim Donini and others formed Open Ranier in 1985 to guide

Donini and others formed Open Ranier in 1985 to guide on the mountain, they played by the park service rules and got the runaround. They put in a lot of energy and got nowhere. Jim's later advice was "don't bother, they wont listen". Up until the early 70s access to Denali and Rainier was severely restricted using many methods. Climbers decided to deal with the problem and ignore the park service, actions lead and rules followed. We all own this land and now ANYONE can climb these peaks. Anyone who thinks that what we do in the mountains can be described in a word as small as "play" needs to be educated. Our Freedom of the Hills is evaporating. We need to take a stronger stance. The rules will follow.  
Steve Ricker

To submit a letter for the Access Fund Vertical Times send an email to [info@accessfund.org](mailto:info@accessfund.org) or write to Vertical Times, PO Box 17010, Boulder, CO 80308.

## TICK LIST WINNERS

The Access Fund has collected thousands of actions from the TICK LISTs mailed to our National Office. The winners received great gear from The North Face and other companies such as tents, sleeping bags and packs. The big winners from the Fall are:

### SEPTEMBER DRAWING:

Kimberly Brower, Carbondale, IL  
TNF Peregrine Tent

Michael Nozel, Vancouver, WA  
Gregory Petit Dru Pro Pack

Phyllis Fahey, Eldorado Springs, CO  
Mammut Robson Jacket

### NOVEMBER DRAWING:

Hampton Uzzelle, Waterbury, VT  
TNF Peregrine Tent

Jenifer Hilton Hawkins, Austin, TX  
BD Ice Pack

Stuart Rudolph, Dodgeville, WI  
Nicros Warrior Board

## Events

### AMERICAN BOULDERING SERIES

From October 2000 through March 2001 the American Bouldering Series will be held at climbing gyms all over the continent. There will be raffles to support the Access Fund at most of the 100+ events.

Check out [www.rockcomps.com](http://www.rockcomps.com) or call (888) 944-4244 for more info.



## Calendar

### JANUARY

1/12-1/14 Ouray, CO - Ouray Ice Festival, Chad Hilliard, (303) 258-7916

1/13 Keene Valley, NY - 5th Annual Adirondack Mountaineering Festival, The Mountaineer, Vinny McClelland, (518) 576-2281

1/16-1/20 Ouray, CO - Jeff Lowe's Master Ice Seminar, Jeff Lowe, (303) 258-7916

1/20 Enchanted Rock State Park, TX - Enchanted Rock Trail Build- meet at 8am at the Crescent parking area, Central Texas Climbing Committee, Mike Lewis, 210-695-3046

1/26 Boulder, CO - Boulder Climbing Series, Boulder Rock Club, Matt O'Conner (303) 447-2804

### FEBRUARY

2/10 Orem, UT - Wasatch Ice Festival, High Adventure, Dallen Ward, (801) 226-7498

2/10 Saint Paul, MN - 8th Annual Passin' for Flashin', Vertical Endeavors, Jason Noble, (651) 776-1430

2/11 Mammoth Lakes, CA - ASCA Bolt Replacement Clinic: Joshua Tree National Park, American Safe Climbing Association, Greg Barnes, (760) 924-2408

2/17 San Antonio, TX  
Enchanted Rock Trail Build- meet at 8am at the Crescent parking area

Central Texas Climbing Committee, Mike Lewis, (210)-695-3046

2/23 Boulder, CO - Boulder Climbing Series, Boulder Rock Club, Matt O'Conner, (303) 447-2804

2/24 Boulder, CO - Access Fund Steering Committee Meeting

### MARCH

3/3 Torrance, CA - Stoney Point Clean up and comp, Brie Scott and Jeff Wells, (310)-214-9028

3/13 Berkeley, CA - Marmot Mountain Works, Armando Menocal Cuba Libre slide show, (510) 849-0773

3/15 Santa Clara, CA- Western Mountaineering, Armando Menocal Cuba Libre slide show, (408) 984-7611

3/30 Boulder, CO, Bouldering National, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Boulder Rock Club, Matt O'Conner, (303) 447-2804

3/31 Boulder, CO - Bouldering National- Elite, Boulder Rock Club, Matt O'Conner, (303) 447-2804

### APRIL

4/6 Scottsdale, AZ - 18th Annual Phoenix Bouldering Contest, Jim Waugh, [jnw@primenet.com](mailto:jnw@primenet.com), (480)-775-9874

4/21 Access Fund Board Meeting, Las Vegas, NV

## EVENTS

### PINNACLE

THESE EVENTS WERE THE TOP FUNDRAISING OR MEMBERSHIP BUILDING EVENTS FOR THE ACCESS FUND THIS SUMMER. THANKS TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED, ORGANIZED OR PARTICIPATED.

ED VIESTURS SLIDE SHOW TOUR - \$5,492

CLIMB SMART 4 - ADVENTURE 16 - SAN DIEGO, CA \$4,500

KURT SMITH SLIDE SHOW TOUR \$ 3,110

7TH ANNUAL HOUND EARS BOULDERING COMP - MISTY MOUNTAIN THREADWORKS - BANNER ELK, NC \$2,640

TOUCHSTONE PRO-AM - BERKELEY IRONWORKS, BERKELEY, CA \$1,500

FOREARM FRENZY - SUN & SKI SPORTS - \$1,310

AMERICAN BOULDERING SERIES - ADVENTURE ROCK, INC - PEWAUKEE, WI \$529

HORSETOOTH HANG - FORT COLLINS, CO \$500

ANNUAL MEMBERS PARTY - PACIFIC EDGE SANTA CRUZ, CA \$325

## ACCESS FUND DIRECTOR RESIGNS

Sally Moser recently announced her resignation from the position of executive director, effective January 1, 2001. Moser, who has been with the Fund since 1992 and has led the organization since 1996, is returning to the publishing field. During her tenure, membership doubled to 11,000 climbers and the Access Fund's budget nearly doubled to \$1,000,000. "I'm proud of what I've accomplished here, but it's time for me to seek out new challenges and have some time to climb again," Moser said. "I am confident the Access Fund will continue to build on its many successes and continue to protect climber's interests."

Access Fund President Becky Hall said, "The Access Fund is well-positioned to address the challenges the climbing community continues to face — we're stronger financially, more effective, and better known than ever before." The Board of Directors recognizes and thanks Sally for her many contributions over the past eight years, and wishes her all the best in her new endeavors.

For more information about the position, interested applicants should contact The Forest Group at 415-421-3300 (phone), 415-421-3350 (fax) or [adrienne@theforestgroup.com](mailto:adrienne@theforestgroup.com). The Forest Group is an executive search firm specializing in the outdoor industry.

### STAFF TRIBUTE TO "SAL"

It was a shock to all of us here at the Access Fund when Sally Moser announced recently that she would

resign. Sally has been the heart and soul of the AF for eight years and I suppose we figured she was a lifer.

Still, knowing that she was returning to the publishing world — perhaps the only thing Sally loves as much as climbing and the Sunday New York Times crossword puzzle — made the news easier to digest.

Major strength of character is required to last very long as the person in charge of a national, non-profit advocacy group — for climbers, no less. To begin with, your constituency is relatively unorganized, occasionally fractious, and only rarely disposed to laying out big sums of money for the cause. You don't get paid as well as in the private sector. The public thinks your constituency is suicidal or shiftless or resents you because of the myth that rescues of climbers are costing the American taxpayer big ducats. Many land managers try to close or restrict areas to climbing as the first response to perceived problems. But Sally had the skills, and the commitment to the cause, to take on the myriad challenges of our work and to succeed in preserving climbing freedoms and the natural world climbers enjoy so uniquely.

The other day at a staff meeting we were reflecting on Sally's legacy. There were the "clothing optional" hot springs visits, to which the men on staff were never invited. There were the snowy day forays into Eldorado for aid practice. There were the long hours at trade shows, waking to Jimi Hendrix at the Phoenix Bouldering Contest, and Sally's epic retreats from backcountry peaks. And most of all, there was Sally religiously in the office, keeping the ship afloat and keeping our spirits light with her infectious laugh.

Sally always makes the right



Access Fund Collection

"I'm proud of what I've accomplished here, but it's time for me to seek out new challenges," said Sally Moser, executive director, who resigned from the Access Fund.

choice when the options are a pedestrian clip-up or a thought-provoking trad route. I like to think Sally's preferences and talents as a climber are part of what made her successful as leader of the AF: she is good at problem-solving, she can be bold when necessary and she understands better than most the importance of teamwork and what it takes to be a good partner.

The Access Fund improved in every way under Sally's steady belay. Thanks to Sally, we on the staff are very confident that our efforts to keep climbing areas open, conserve the climbing environment and be the most effective voice for climbers will be even more successful in the years to come. The climbing community can be confident, too.

Sam Davidson,  
Senior Policy Analyst

## TO ALL WHO'VE HELPED US ACHIEVE OUR MISSION

# Thank you

**CLIMBING COMPS** - American Bouldering Series- Go Vertical, Adventure Rock, Granite Arch, Rocksport, Petra Cliffs, Vertical World, Wall Crawler, Cynthia Hotujec, Goose Kearse, Jim Horton, Tollhouse Face-Off, Central Sierra Climbers Co., Cam Donahoo, Chris Bloch, Debra & Mark Melvin, Grand Valley State University, Galyan's, CRAG, James Wilson, Sun & Ski Sports- Houston, Tulsa, Austin, San Antonio, Cincinnati

**HOSTING OR GIVING A SLIDE SHOW** - Pete Takeda, Ed Viesturs, Kurt Smith slide show tour - Pacific Edge, OKC Rocks, Dyno Rock, Stone Age, Summit Hut, ClimbMax, Desert Rock, REI San Diego, Rockrecreation, Smith Rocks Group, Yosemite Mountain Shop, Granite Arch, Planet Rock, Exposure Rock, Paradise Rock Gym, Mike Libecki, Peter Carrick, Tyler Stableford, Go Vertical, Backpackers Supply, U of Puget Sound, Erik Weinhenmayer, Jason Boone, Armando Menocal, Patagonia, NY, John Kim, Rock & Snow,

**FESTIVALS, DEMOS AND MEMBERSHIP PROMOS** - Adventure 16!!, Teresa Hukari, Jim O'Brien and everyone who made ClimbSmart 4 a success, U of Wyoming, Cyrus Anderson, Craig Luebben, Hans Florine, Vertex Climbing Center, Janet Wells

**VOLUNTEERS-** Anita Engel

**FOR JUST BEING AWESOME-** Prairie Walls, Campmor, Cecily Buck, Laura Biddle and Ramsey Outdoor Store, Miami University, Julie Versteeg, Michael Kennedy, and Fran Allison

### 2000 CORPORATE PARTNERS

The Access Fund sends great thanks to industry members and like-minded businesses who partnered with the AF in 2000.

## P L E A S E S U P P O R T T H E M

#### Diamond Partners \$20,000+

- Black Diamond Equipment
- Bibler/Scarpa
- Climbing
- Galyan's
- REI
- Rock & Ice
- The North Face/A5

#### Platinum Plus Partners \$15,000+

- Hothouse Design & Advertising
- Omega Pacific Mountaineering

#### Gold Plus Partners \$7,500+

- Eagle Creek
- Patagonia
- Polartec/Malden Mills

#### Gold Partners \$5,000+

- Campmor
- Five.Ten
- La Sportiva
- Mammut
- Nalgene
- Petzl America
- Trango USA & Stonewear Designs

#### Silver Partners 2,500+

- Advanced Base Camp
- BlueWater
- Boreal
- Boulder Rock Club
- Clif Bar
- Climb High

- Corplan
- Crazy Creek Products
- Entre Prises USA
- Falcon Publishing
- Lowe Alpine Systems
- Metolius
- Maxim Ropes
- New Belgium Brewing CO.
- Prana
- Weathered Stone

#### Major Partners 1,000+

- Altrec.com
- American Bouldering Series
- Arc'teryx
- Cascade Designs
- Cordless
- Gregory Mountain Products
- Hi-Tec Sports
- Jansport
- Marmot
- Misty Mountain Threadworks
- Mountain Gear
- Mountain Hardware
- Mountainzone.com
- Outside
- Outdoor Research
- Phoenix Bouldering Comp
- Phoenix Rock Gym
- PMI
- PowerBar
- PüR
- Royal Robbins
- Sport Chalet
- Sterling Rope
- Wild Country USA
- Yates Gear

#### Contributing Partners \$500+

- All Terrain
- Alpine Ascents International
- American Ref-fuel
- Bearing Images
- Cloudveil Mountain Works
- Excalibur DMM
- Free West Rock Guides
- Gravity Kills Company
- Greischar Dungan Architects
- Jackson Hole Mountain Guides
- Jagged Edge Mountain Gear
- Joshua Tree Rock Climbing School
- Mountain Madness
- Mountain Tools
- MountainWoman.com
- Nicros
- Planet Outdoors.com
- Ropegun
- Seattle Manufacturing Corporation
- Sickle Climbing
- Soma Entertainment
- Stone Age Climbing
- Sun & Ski Sports
- Ushba Mountain Works
- Verve
- XDOGS.COM
- ZuluSports.com
- Media Partners**
- Apex
- Blue
- Elevation
- Freeskier
- Indoor Gym Climber



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The Access Fund is a national, nonprofit dedicated to keeping climbing areas open & conserving the climbing environment. Since its incorporation in 1990, the Access Fund has provided more than \$1 million for climbing conservation and education across the US. We've paid for land purchases, climbers' campgrounds, educational brochures, toilets, signs, and scientific research on climbers' impact on birds of prey and cliff-dwelling plants. For more information call us at:

**888-863-6237**

**click on our website:**

**[www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org)**

**or write:**

**P.O. Box 17010, Boulder, CO 80308**

Vertical Times is the membership newsletter of the Access Fund and is published six times a year in January, March, May, July, September and November. Authorizing organization: the Access Fund, 2475 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80304. This issue date: January 1, 2001. Volume #38. Price: \$30/yr. Editorial Director: Sally Moser; Editor: John Heisel; Policy Analyst: Sam Davidson.

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT BY BECKY HALL

With each New Year, we have a wonderful opportunity to review the past and plan for the future. Last year, the Access Fund celebrated its tenth year anniversary. This alone is a great accomplishment, and one of which we are very proud. But in addition to simply surviving ten years, the Access Fund has prospered and climbers have benefited directly from our success.

We reached an all-time high of over 11,000 members, as well as new levels of effectiveness in public policy and climber advocacy. The U.S. Forest Service Negotiated Rulemaking over Fixed Anchors in Wilderness was a particular highlight. Seizing the opportunity to articulate a new vision of how climbing will be done in Wilderness, the Access Fund took the lead in working with other climbing organizations, outdoor industry representatives, land managers, and conservation groups to build consensus and attempt to

resolve this contentious issue. As a result, the Forest Service and environmental community knows it is not climbers who refuse to compromise, and the Access Fund continues to work with these partners to influence the final rule.

We also played a major role in securing climbing access to Castle Rock Ranch in Idaho. This new acquisition will become a state park and will be managed for climbing under a plan drafted with the assistance of the Access Fund. In addition, we are on the brink of completing the preservation of the "Tuolumne of the Midwest"—Quartz Mountain, a great climbing resource in Oklahoma. The Access Fund will acquire the property and transfer it to Oklahoma State Parks for permanent management as a climbing resource.

Some important issues remain unresolved. The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department turned down our offer of \$100,000 for trails, resource

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