

VERTICAL TIMES

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What the New NPS Wilderness Climbing Policy Means for Climbers and Bolting

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At the time, it seemed that the tides were against us, that a complete ban on fixed anchors in all Wilderness areas was imminent.

“The NPS recognizes that climbing is a legitimate and appropriate use of Wilderness.”

— *National Park Service Director
Jonathan Jarvis*

This past May, National Park Service (NPS) Director Jonathan Jarvis issued an order explicitly stating that occasional fixed anchor use is compatible with federally managed Wilderness. The order (Director’s Order #41) ensures that climbers will not face a nationwide ban on fixed anchors in NPS managed Wilderness, though such anchors should be rare and may require local authorization for placement or replacement. This is great news for anyone who climbs in Yosemite, Zion, Joshua Tree, Canyonlands, or Old Rag in the Shenandoah, to name a few. We have always said that without some provision for fixed anchors, technical roped climbing can’t occur — and the NPS agrees.

The Access Fund has been working on this issue for decades, since even before we officially incorporated in 1991. In 1998, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) issued a ban on fixed anchors in Wilderness (see photo inset) — at the time, it seemed that the tides were against us, that a complete ban on fixed anchors in all Wilderness areas was imminent. And it could have gone that way, as it did for mountain bikes. But it didn’t, and it is incredibly gratifying to have some closure, at least on the NPS side, after all these years. We’re still waiting for the USFS to issue a final rule, though placement of fixed anchors remains legal on most USFS Wilderness, with a few exceptions.

Wilderness tends to ignite people’s passions. I believe that the vast majority of climbers agree with our position and strategy. However, we’ve also heard from climbers who say that they will never join the Access Fund because of our position on fixed anchors in Wilderness — and these folks fall on both sides of the argument. Roughly half believe Wilderness must remain absolutely pristine and free of any evidence of human passage, and the other half believe we haven’t fought hard enough for climbers’ “freedom” to place an anchor wherever and whenever they please.

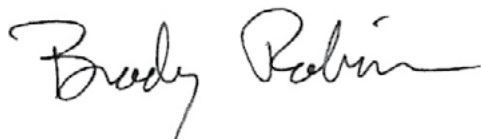
If for no reason other than the political realities surrounding federally managed Wilderness, we have to take a moderate approach. And I believe the result is good for all parties involved. On the one hand, the NPS has the authority to manage Wilderness climbing to maintain Wilderness values and characteristics.

And on the other, climbing and occasional fixed anchor use has been recognized as a legitimate use of Wilderness, which means we climbers will continue to have high, wild, and beautiful places to practice our craft.

With future generations of climbers seeking adventure in our nation's wild places, we'll have new, passionate people bearing witness to the value of Wilderness. That's where some of our most committed conservationists have come from, and I believe that will continue to be the case in the future. With access comes responsibility — we need to remember that Wilderness is special and respect that climbing there is different than climbing on other federally managed land.

We've got a great article on page 8 of this issue of the *Vertical Times* that goes more in-depth with Director's Order #41. Also, thanks to all of you who participated in our climber education survey. Your feedback has spurred a new series of education articles, the first of which is on access-friendly parking. You can find that on page 6, and we encourage you to pass it along after you've read it.

See you out there,



Brady Robinson
Executive Director





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ACCESS FUND HEADQUARTERS

STAFF

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

Holly Smolenski
Communications & Marketing Director
303.545.6772 x100, holly@accessfund.org

Jason Keith
Sr. Policy Advisor
303.545.6772 x102, jason@accessfund.org

Leici Hendrix
Development Director
303.545.6772 x106, leici@accessfund.org

Joe Sambataro
Access Director
303.545.6772 x112, joe@accessfund.org

Ty Tyler
Stewardship Manager
303.545.6772 x105, ty@accessfund.org

Hale Melnick
Membership Manager
303.545.6772 x103, hale@accessfund.org

Mandy Bishop
Office Manager
303.545.6772 x104, mandy@accessfund.org

Zachary Lesch-Huie
National Affiliate Director/Southeast Regional Director
303.545.6772 x114, zachary@accessfund.org

R.D. Pascoe
Policy Director
303.545.6772 x113, rd@accessfund.org

Claire Wagstaff
Conservation Specialist
720.310.0233, claire@accessfund.org

Eddie Wooldridge
Conservation Specialist
720.310.0233, eddie@accessfund.org

GENERAL COUNSEL

Chris Archer

Washington Climbers Coalition Brings Trail Reinforcements to Vantage

Vantage is an extremely popular climbing area in central Washington. Because it's part of a sensitive desert environment, user impacts like human waste and erosion are an ongoing concern. This past March, Washington Climbers Coalition (WCC) coordinated a major trail project with Central Washington University, Mountaineers' Everett Branch, and the American Alpine Club. The group installed stone stairs and a wall to reinforce the trail and reduce erosion. WCC is currently fundraising to install a permanent pit toilet at the area. Nice work, WCC and partners!



Alan Grau Named New Iowa Regional Coordinator

We are excited to welcome Alan Grau as the new Iowa regional coordinator (RC). Alan replaces Evan Fales, who served in the role while leading the Iowa Climbers' Coalition (ICC) for more than 10 years. Having climbed throughout the U.S. for nearly a decade, Alan is an avid Iowa climber and active board member of ICC. While continuing to steward Pictured Rocks in eastern Iowa, Alan also hopes to open access to some of the state's high-quality, yet unknown, limestone climbing.

Rhode Island Climbers Rally to Open Potential New Climbing Area

Rhode Island's Department of Environmental Management (DEM) completed the purchase of Rocky Point, an old amusement park on Narragansett Bay. While not yet open to the public, the land will eventually become a state park that could offer new climbing resources. Rhode Island climbers and the Access Fund have rallied public testimony and a letter of support to allow climbing in the new park. The climbing proposal was well received, thanks to the great relationship RI climbers have cultivated with DEM and other state land managers at places like Lincoln Woods.



Local Climbing Organization 101:

Organizing a Successful Adopt a Crag

Hosting an Adopt a Crag stewardship event is one of the best ways for local climbers to give back to their favorite climbing area and show land managers that climbers are responsible stewards of the land. Here are a few tips to get you started.

Contact the Land Manager: Reach out to land managers and ask how you can help. Often land managers already have a list of project ideas. If not, work alongside them as you develop ideas for Adopt a Crag activities.

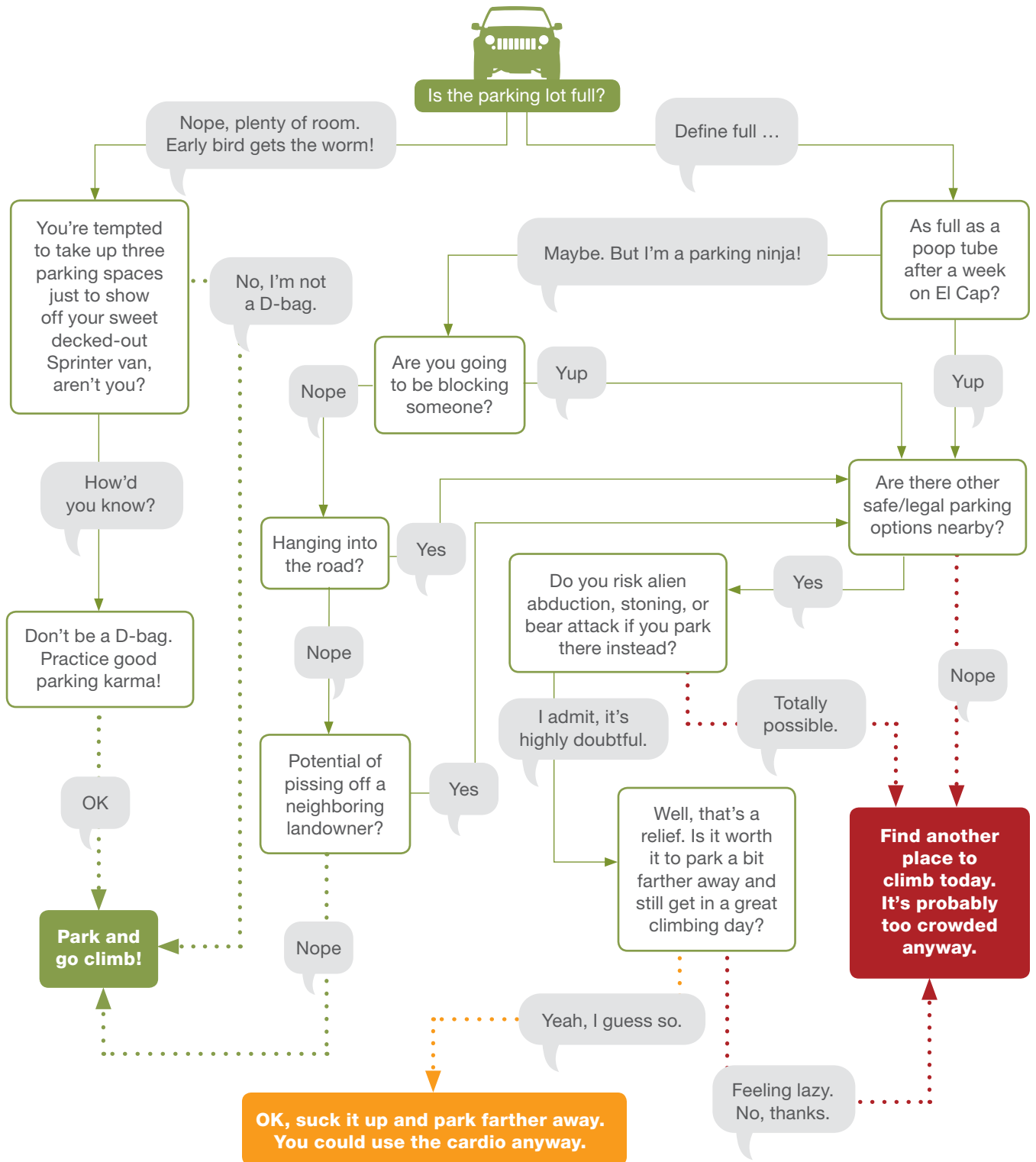
Prioritize Projects: List out your project ideas; prioritize the ones you can complete first and note which ones require further planning. Keep land managers involved in the process to greatly improve their willingness to help.

Develop a Plan: The success of your Adopt a Crag comes down to how well it is planned. Pick a date, advertise wherever possible (Access Fund website, gyms, social media), obtain materials, and choose project leaders and familiarize them with the objectives.

Host Your Adopt a Crag: Once the event has arrived, remember a few key points to ensure success: cover important safety topics, prepare your team leaders, share the event's schedule and objectives with volunteers, make time for food and water breaks, and thank your volunteers throughout, especially before they depart.

For more Adopt a Crag planning resources, visit www.accessfund.org/adopt.

HOW TO PARK LIKE A CHAMP AND PRESERVE ACCESS



SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL ADVOCACY



Access Fund National Affiliate Director Zachary Lesch-Huie was fortunate to catch up with Gabe Miani of the Torne Valley Climbers Coalition (TVCC) for our *Spotlight on Local Advocacy* series. TVCC is a newly formed Access Fund affiliate local climbing organization (LCO) that has been working tirelessly alongside local and state officials to secure access to the Powerlinez climbing area in Ramapo, NY.

ZACHARY: *TVCC is a newer LCO. How did the organization come into being?*

GABE: Well, after the publication and distribution of the Powerlinez guidebook in 2010, visitation to the area spiked. Problem was no one had taken the time to figure out just whose property we were climbing on. This sent up red flags to the various landowners, and the word went out in the fall of 2011 that they were closing things down. By the end of the year, the guidebook author spearheaded a public meeting at the local gym for concerned climbers to discuss the situation and begin formulating the path ahead. From there, a talented core team of individuals coalesced, and we took the torch and ran with it.

ZACHARY: *Congrats on recently getting Powerlinez reopened! Are you all celebrating, or still focused on the work to be done?*

GABE: A little bit of both. We've had an explosion of activity that could only be described as celebratory. But there's always more to be done, isn't there? We're working out the bugs that come with opening the area back up, from handling the waiver system to the typical growing pains associated with an influx of visitors. As that visitation increases, we will have increasing pressure on the land, which will need constant monitoring to prove our stewardship and maintain positive relations with all of the landowners.

ZACHARY: *And land ownership at Powerlinez is pretty complex, isn't it? What's it like working with such a wide-ranging group of land managers, and how were you successful?*

GABE: The land that the climbing is on is all publicly owned property, with separate tracts managed by a New York state park, a local municipality, and the regional utility company. Each owner has a different perspective on climbing and unique concerns. In fact, some areas remain closed at this time, as we have yet to reach an agreement with the local municipality. That said, the majority of the climbing is within Harriman State Park, which is managed by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC). Fortunately for us, they also manage Peterskill, a climbing area of Minnewaska State Park. The positive experience and relationship PIPC has with climbers there helped pave the way for us. We were successful, in part, because of our open-format communication, emphasis on team continuity, and well-conceived objectives that kept us focused and moving forward.

ZACHARY: *Y'all are a great example for other climbing advocates. Tell us, if you could impart three pieces of wisdom to someone facing an access closure, what would they be?*

GABE:

- 1. Do your homework.** Learn everything you can about the area — property ownership, laws and regulations, history, environmental concerns, and other groups that use the land.
- 2. Build a strong team.** Surround yourself with motivated, passionate, and intelligent individuals. Establish your goals early and make them concise to keep everyone on track.
- 3. Get ready for the long haul.** The pace of an access battle can be painfully slow — remain positive and focused, and apply pressure strategically. Work to keep everyone in the climbing community interested and engaged.

ZACHARY: *Any other thoughts that you'd like to share with the climbing advocacy community?*

GABE: Thanks for everything you do! I now have a full appreciation for what a few passionate volunteers take on to keep our crags available for the greater community. The proliferation of climbing gyms and overall awareness and recognition of climbing as a legitimate pastime bring both pros and cons to our work. The onus is on all of us to make it work. ■



WHAT THE **NEW NPS WILDERNESS CLIMBING POLICY** MEANS FOR CLIMBERS AND BOLTING

For decades, the future legality of fixed anchor use in Wilderness areas remained uncertain. Some national parks and forests banned new bolt placements, and a few land managers even removed commonly used rappel anchors and proposed the wide-scale removal of existing climbs. The threat of a national ban on bolts in Wilderness areas has always lingered, with the potential for significant climbing restrictions at places like Yosemite, Black Canyon, Canyonlands, and Red Rocks. Would parks decide to ban all new bolts? Do they have the authority to remove anchors they consider an unacceptable impact to Wilderness character? And what about the thousands of existing anchors out there that need maintenance? Because land management agencies

had no national guidance to assist local planners and managers, each local park and national forest was left to interpret the Wilderness Act—as it pertains to fixed anchors—on its own, and with wildly varying results.

In 2007, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued its policy, which answered many of these questions and reflected the longstanding management framework agreed to long ago by most members of a national stakeholders group that included land managers, Wilderness advocates, and climbing groups such as the Access Fund. But the 2007 BLM policy only addressed Red Rocks outside of Las Vegas (where 95% of the BLM's Wilderness climbing is located), and everywhere else remained in play—until last month when the National Park Service

issued Director's Order #41. The order clarified the agency's policy for the management of Wilderness climbing, including the placement (and replacement/removal) of fixed anchors.

New Rules Require Prior Authorization

The good news: gone is the longstanding threat that NPS officials could ban all bolts and fixed pitons as illegal “installations” under the Wilderness Act. However, it is important to understand that climbers must now have prior authorization to install new bolts in NPS managed Wilderness (the use of existing bolts is not affected), and it is your responsibility to know whether you are in a Wilderness area.

Parks may grant prior authorization on a case-by-case basis or “programmatically” approve (for

example, by zone) fixed anchor placements through a park plan. Always check with your park first to be certain of the rules in place. Parks that currently have plans with fixed anchor rules include Zion, Rocky Mountain, and Joshua Tree. If a park does not have a plan that includes fixed anchor authorizations, DO #41 directs that climbers may approach park officials for case-by-case “interim” authorizations via permit or other specific approval.

The bottom line is that if you hope to place a new anchor in a national park Wilderness area, you should contact the park and ask whether it has a plan in place that allows for new fixed anchor placements. Also ask whether the new DO #41 policy includes any changes that climbers should be aware of (that is, whether the park’s existing plan is in compliance with the new policy).

If your park has no existing plan controlling the placement of fixed anchors in Wilderness (as is the case with most parks), ask the park about its intent to develop a plan that includes a process for providing new fixed anchor authorizations. If you want to place a new fixed anchor in the “interim” period (before the park completes such a plan, which could take several years), ask the park how to request an interim authorization (a permit) for your specific new fixed anchor proposal—again, this only applies to new placements in Wilderness, not replacements.

Nailing Routes and Leave No Trace Ethics

Direct aid “nailing” routes, such as on El Capitan, that require removable pitons are not governed by this policy, which defines “fixed anchor” as a bolt

or permanent piton. However, DO #41 addresses all Wilderness climbing impacts, not just fixed anchors. And if frequent removable piton use results in cumulative impacts that are considered “unacceptable” (an impact standard that applies to all Wilderness users, not only climbers), parks may restrict or otherwise manage the use of removable pitons. Thus, clean climbing should be the norm in Wilderness, and climbers should use Leave No Trace ethics.

Bolt Replacements

The new DO #41 policy states that the replacement of fixed anchors in NPS Wilderness “may” require prior authorization, so climbers currently do not need an authorization to replace anchors requiring maintenance (unless existing local rules apply; check with your park). If authorization is required to replace fixed anchors, the onus is on the NPS to publicize the requirement through a park plan or by issuing notification of a site-specific restriction.

Wilderness Climbing and Conservation

The NPS policy states that bolt-intensive “sport climbs” are incompatible with Wilderness and in every case using power drills is prohibited. The new NPS policy also states that maintaining Wilderness character requires that climbers accept a higher level of risk in Wilderness areas and exhibit a respect for the resource and a “willingness to accept self-restraint in demanding access to it.” This means that bolting for convenience or to develop bolt-intensive face climbs is not an acceptable Wilderness activity. Climbers can look to the standards in existing NPS Wilderness

THE BOTTOM LINE

- The new NPS policy ensures that climbers will not face a nationwide ban on fixed anchors in NPS managed Wilderness.
- Prior authorization for the placement of new fixed anchors is now required in all cases. If authorization is not provided in a park plan, climbers must request permission on a case-by-case basis.
- Authorization is not required to replace anchors in need of maintenance (unless existing local rules apply; check with your park).
- The vast majority of climbers are not likely to experience a significant change under this policy.
- The policy does not allow for the removal of existing routes and anchors without public input through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.
- The policy will not lead to a proliferation of bolted climbs in Wilderness.

plans for examples of when it may be appropriate to place a new anchor, such as the following Backcountry and Wilderness Plan from Rocky Mountain National Park:

The use of removable and fixed anchors, as well as other climbing equipment, is appropriate in Wilderness. However, fixed anchors must be placed judiciously and closely managed in order to prevent the degradation of Wilderness resources and character. Where anchor points are necessary for



climber safety, the use of removable equipment is desired and highly recommended. Fixed anchors should not be placed merely for convenience or to make an otherwise “unclimbable” route climbable.

The placement of new fixed anchors may be allowed when necessary to enable a safe rappel when no other means of descent is possible, to enable emergency retreat, during self-rescue situations. The infrequent placement of new fixed anchors is allowed when ascending a route to connect terrain that is otherwise protected by removable anchors (e.g., one crack system or other natural feature to another) or when

there are no features which will accommodate removable equipment but the occasional placement of a fixed anchor may provide a modicum of safety during the ascent (e.g., traditional face climbing). New, bolt-intensive climbing routes (e.g., sport climbs, bolt ladders) are not appropriate in Wilderness and should not be created.

What It All Means

This new policy ensures that climbers will not face a nationwide ban on fixed anchors in NPS managed Wilderness. This is good news for climbers! The vast majority of climbers are not likely to experience a significant change under this policy because it

will not lead to the rampant removal of existing routes and anchors or a proliferation of bolted climbs in Wilderness, as some have suggested. Most climbers are not in the habit of placing fixed anchors at all, and this segment of the community can rest assured that they will have plenty of Wilderness climbing routes to enjoy for many years to come.

For those who place new fixed anchors, DO #41 does dictate a new management approach in that the placement of new fixed anchors in NPS Wilderness requires prior authorization in all cases. In some parks, authorization may require less red tape than in others—especially if parks have Wilderness climbing policies outlined in a plan already. But other parks may need to develop management plans that provide for new fixed anchor authorizations. Either way, if you need to place new rappel anchors or a few bolts to connect naturally protected terrain on a new route, contact your local park first to ask how this new Director’s Order affects the local management policies and procedures.

Remember, this policy applies only to new fixed anchor placements in National Park Service Wilderness areas. You can use existing bolts everywhere that climbing is allowed. The Access Fund will continue working with the NPS and the land management agencies to ensure that this new policy is workable for both climbers and land managers. For more information, read the entire Director’s Order #41 and its associated Reference Manual #41, on the Access Fund website, or email Jason@accessfund.org. ■

This new policy ensures that climbers will not face a nationwide ban on fixed anchors in NPS managed Wilderness. This is good news for climbers!



A New Gem IN THE RED

Over 300 acres nestled in the heart of the Red River Gorge, boasting several miles of undeveloped sandstone cliff line. This was the gem offered up for purchase to the climbing community following a local tourism conference in Beattyville, Kentucky, this January. Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition (RRGCC) President Paul Vidal and Access Fund Southeast Regional Director Zachary Lesch-Huie were at the tourism meeting, along with local business leaders and public officials, to discuss recreational tourism in this part of rural Kentucky.

Paul and Zachary's interest was immediately piqued by the landowners' description of the untouched cliff line and their offer to sell. The following day, the landowners drove the pair down a muddy road to the property, allowing them to hike around, bushwhacking through thick rhododendrons to explore the cliffs. And much to their delight, they verified the reports of multiple hollers and steep sandstone walls. This was a find.

Named Miller Fork Recreational Preserve, the property is located just seven miles from the popular Pendergrass-Murray Recreational Preserve (PMRP) in Lee County,

Kentucky. And acquisition of this property would create a brand new destination for climbers in the region, helping to relieve the access pressures and climber impacts on other crags in the Red River Gorge.

After being presented with the opportunity to purchase the cliff line, RRGCC worked with the Access Fund to navigate the hurdles of acquiring the extensive property. The two organizations finalized the purchase in May, with the Access Fund providing both a \$10,000 grant and a \$200,000 loan from the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign, the revolving loan program that provides LCOs with the funds and expertise needed to quickly save threatened climbing areas. The RRGCC also pulled from its own funds to make up the difference and purchase the property for \$245,000.

"Miller Fork is going to change the game in the Red," says Vidal. The purchase of the Miller Fork Recreational Preserve is another step in securing access for climbers, and it advances the RRGCC's mission of ensuring open, public access to ample, quality rock-climbing opportunities.

The RRGCC will own and manage the property in perpetuity, just as it does with the PMRP.

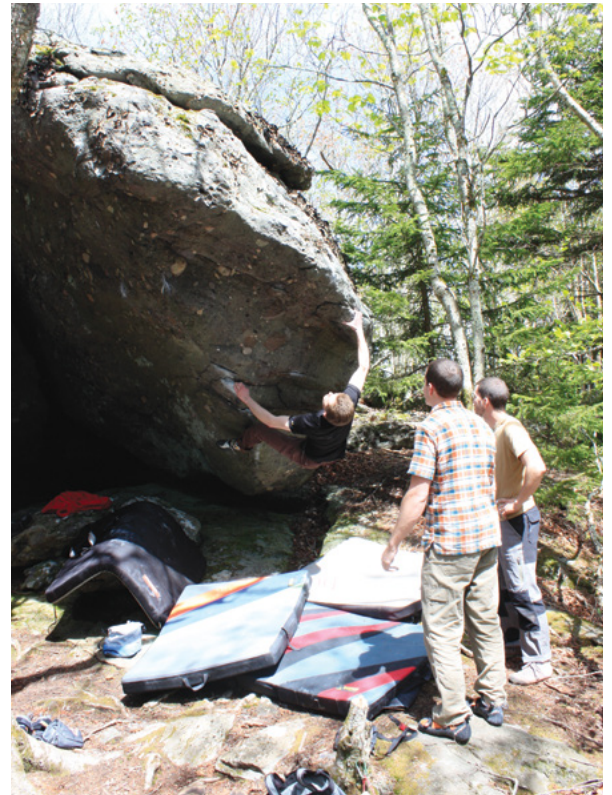
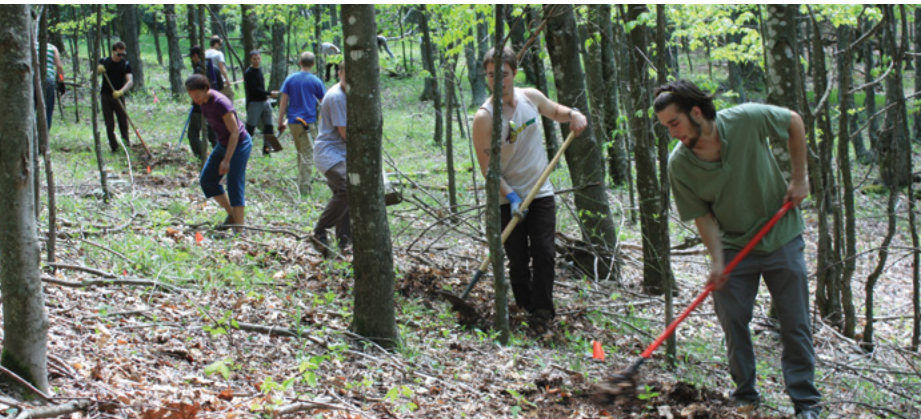
The Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition has spent years building trust and goodwill with local landowners and the community at large, which not only led to this new opportunity at Miller Fork but also served as a driving factor in the PMRP acquisition. Landowners

could have sold the PMRP to an oil company for hundreds of thousands more, but they liked and trusted climbers. And they saw the long-term benefit of growing tourism.

"Local communities like Beattyville are coming around to the fact that climbers are a benefit," says Lesch-Huie. "With more and more climbers visiting the area, more dollars are being spent at campsites, cabin rentals, gas stations, local eateries, and the like."

The RRGCC is now calling on the community to show its support for this ambitious purchase by donating at www.rrgcc.org. Stay tuned for details on upcoming trail work in Miller Fork during the annual Johnny and Alex Trail Day in early August. ■

"Miller Fork is going to change the game in the Red."



CONSERVATION TEAM CUTS NEW TRAIL AT GRAYSON HIGHLANDS

In the heart of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, Grayson Highlands State Park hosts a virtual mecca of boulders, with over 700 developed problems. It was recently profiled in *Climbing Magazine's* article "Uncharted Territory: Six of America's best new crags and boulderfields," and the sheer quantity of boulders and routes in the park is yet to be fully recognized.

Over the week of May 22 to 26, Eddie and Claire, the Conservation Team crew, had the pleasure of climbing all over the park and seeing firsthand how remarkable this place truly is. The rock spans from smooth metamorphic sandstone highballs to sharp conglomerated rhyolite. "It was unlike any place we have visited, with 360-degree views of the Appalachian countryside, complete with wild ponies roaming amidst the boulders," says Claire.

The team enjoyed working alongside local climber and park employee Aaron Parlier, who walked them through plans for a mile of new loop trail they were to cut from the parking lot to a nearby meadow, establishing access to new boulders. Envisioning multiple user groups hiking on the trail, they designed it to be suitable for climbers as well as anyone wanting to take a gentle walk through this beautiful park.

With prep work completed on Friday, the Team had their work cut out for them. To be successful, they'd need a good volunteer turnout at their two-day Adopt a Crag over the upcoming Memorial Day weekend.

They were in luck. Over 25 volunteers showed up on Saturday morning of the holiday weekend, ready to dedicate two days to sculpt the new trail. Volunteers helped chop, dig, and shape the line of the new trail. By the end of day one, the entire trail was roughed in. After, they broke for food and sunset bouldering, followed by an evening of bluegrass music, courtesy of the Redleg Husky band.

Even more volunteers turned out for the second day. They divided into groups and cut backslopes, dug drainages, and cleared brush, making final touches on the 1.3 miles of the new Splitrock Trail.

"We had a blast working with this amazing group of volunteers and hope that we were able to make a lasting mark at this epic new bouldering area," says Eddie. Thanks to Aaron, Grayson Highlands State Park, and the many volunteers who dedicated their Memorial Day weekend to helping build this new trail! ■



birthdays

Wish for Climbing Access This Year

Remember your best birthday ever? Bring that feeling back by donating your next birthday to protecting America's climbing.

One in five climbing areas in the United States is threatened by an access issue—whether by landowners afraid of liability or public land managers starved for resources. Each year you renew your membership, you put your money where your mouth is to support climbing access and conservation—thank you!

New this year, you can pledge your birthday to protect the climbing areas that you love and help us spread the word about climbing access and conservation. Instead of receiving presents, drinks, or a nice dinner from your family and friends, ask them to support climbing access in honor of your birthday. It couldn't be easier, and 100% of the money raised from your birthday campaign goes to support climbing access and conservation.



Pledge your birthday.

Simply pledge your birthday at www.accessfund.org/birthdays, and share your pledge to let the world know you care about climbing access.



Start a campaign.

When your birthday approaches, we'll remind you to create a fundraising page and ask your friends and family to donate.



Protect America's climbing.

We'll use 100% of the money you raise to fund climbing access and conservation projects that keep climbing areas open.

There are 2.3 million climbers in the United States. Imagine if just 25% of those climbers each pledged a single birthday to protecting America's climbing.

Ready to take the pledge?

Whether your birthday is next week or six months away, it's not too early to pledge. www.accessfund.org/birthdays

Win free gear!

Each quarter (four times a year), the Access Fund will choose one inspiring birthday fundraiser to win a \$500 gear grant to CAMP USA!

* Winners will be chosen based on three criteria: 1) total amount raised through birthday campaign, 2) total number of donors reached, 3) his or her birthday story.



Birthday All-Stars



BETH RODDEN

Beth pledged her 33rd birthday to support climbing access, raising over \$800 to support her sport. Thanks, Beth!



KEVIN JORGESON

Kevin pledged his upcoming 29th birthday to climbing access. Kevin will be on El Cap on his birthday on October 7. Wish him luck!



JONATHAN SIEGRIST

Jonathan has pledged his upcoming birthday to support climbing access. He will turn 28 on August 27 and will celebrate by asking his friends and family to donate to climbing access and conservation. Thanks, JStar!

Corporate Partners

CAMP is a 123-year-old, family-owned Italian brand that eats, sleeps, and breathes a true authentic mountain culture and leads the industry in lightweight, innovative climbing gear. This year, CAMP has generously offered to donate four \$500 gear grants for the Access Fund to award to four climbers who donate their birthday to climbing access and conservation (see previous page for details). We thank CAMP for their dedication to protecting America's climbing.



These partners are businesses that put their money where their mouth is to support the future of climbing. Please consider the important contribution these partners make to your climbing future. They support the Access Fund and you. We encourage you to support them!

ABOVE THE CLOUDS - \$100,000+

Jeep® Brand/Chrysler Group, LLC
Mountain Gear
Outdoor Research
prAna
The North Face

TITANIUM - \$50,000+

Black Diamond Equipment, LTD
CLIF Bar & Company
Mammut
MSR®
Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)
Petzl
Therm-a-Rest®

DIAMOND - \$20,000+

Alpinist Magazine
Climbing Magazine
Dead Point Magazine
Marmot
Patagonia
Planet Granite
Rock & Ice Magazine
Touchstone Climbing, Inc.
Urban Climber Magazine

PLATINUM PLUS - \$15,000+

Osprey

PLATINUM - \$10,000+

Archer Law Offices, P.C.
Big Up Productions
eGrips Climbing Holds
GORE-TEX® Products
Jason Keith Consulting
La Sportiva
Mountain Hardwear

Mountain Project
Sender Films
Stanley
Stonewear Designs
Trango

GOLD PLUS - \$7,500+

Carhartt
Rock/Creek
SCARPA North America
Sterling Rope Company

GOLD - \$5,000+

Cause & Effect Productions
ROCK'n & JAM'n
The Spot Bouldering Gym
Xcel Energy

SILVER - \$2,500+

Arc'teryx
Avery Brewing Company
BlueWater Ropes
Campmor
Falcon Guides
Liberty Mountain Climbing
Mad Rock
Metolius
Outdoor Retailer
SuperTopo.com

MAJOR - \$1,000+

Backwoods
CAMP USA
Climb Max Mountaineering
Drive Current
Evolve Sports
Fixed Pin Publishing
Louder Than 11
Moosejaw
Mountain Khakis
New Belgium Brewing Company
Professional Climbers International (PCI)
Sea to Summit
Treasure Mountain Inn
Upslope Brewing Company
Yates Gear Inc

CONTRIBUTING - \$500+

Adventure Inn Moab
Aiguille Rock Climbing Center
Alpine Ascents International
Alpine Endeavors
Amarillo Rock Climbing House
Armaid
DMM Excalibur/Wild Country/Red Chili
Desert Rock Sports
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Gregory Packs
Julbo
KNS Reps, Inc.
Love Muffin Café
Moab Half Marathon
Mountain Tools
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Clockwise: A climber ascends the basalt columns of Trout Creek, Oregon | Matt Vojdansky pulls through a sport route at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Nevada | Kaare Iverson on the third pitch of the classic tower climb Ancient Art at Fisher Towers, Moab, Utah | © Dan Holz

Dan Holz

After spending the first 25 years of his life in rural New Jersey, Dan packed up his truck and headed west. Two essentials were on the front seat next to him (and still are)—his haul bag and his camera. In 2009, his passion for climbing and photography inspired him to take an indefinite sabbatical from the daily grind and embark on an international climbing and image-making adventure with his partner in crime, Lisa. They visited well-known destinations like Hampi and Tonsai, but also ventured off the beaten path to discover new/hidden/unknown crags in India, Nepal, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia.

Over the last four years, Dan has established himself as a professional active lifestyle and mountain sport photographer based in Seattle, Washington. When his growing client base doesn't have him out tackling remote assignments, Dan can be found climbing in Washington state's legendary backcountry. Learn more about Dan's work at www.danholzphotography.com. ■



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