

VERTICAL TIMES

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2014 Annual Report Highlights

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“Of all of our inventions for mass communication, pictures still speak the most universally understood language.”

— Walt Disney

We heard you loud and clear, and we’re keeping the printed version of the *Vertical Times*—for now! Thanks to all of you who participated in our survey. Fundamentally, it is good to know that people are reading what we put out there.

We have, however, decided to transition our annual report to a digital format. Our new report is a beautiful, graphical representation of our work in 2014, and it displays well on smart phones, HD monitors, and everything in between. Our printed versions previously went out to just a few of you, in an effort to keep costs down. We decided that telling the stories of our collective success on a medium available to everyone is important. Those of you who have traditionally received the annual report in the mail will get a postcard reminding you to check it out online. So far the response has been very positive—people are impressed both with the format and the work it represents.

And what a year it was! We supported the acquisition of three climbing areas, launched the new ROCK Project education initiative, hit a new high point in membership (more than 12,000), had the most successful Adopt a Crag and Conservation Team programs ever, and reached a new level of size and impact for the organization overall. Please take a moment to review some of the highlights in the feature article on page 8 and check out the full digital report at accessfund.org/annualreport.

We’ve been plenty busy this year as well. Just last month we closed on an incredible piece of property in Arizona that is the key access point to perhaps the best winter limestone climbing area in the country: The Homestead. This project is far from over, and we’re going to have some serious money to raise in the coming year, but we have secured the most important property that preserves access to this fantastic and relatively unknown climbing destination. It is stunningly beautiful, with conservation value as well as recreational value to us as climbers. The Homestead is yet another in our growing legacy of climbing area acquisitions—get the full story on page 11.

See you out there,

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

Brady Robinson
Executive Director

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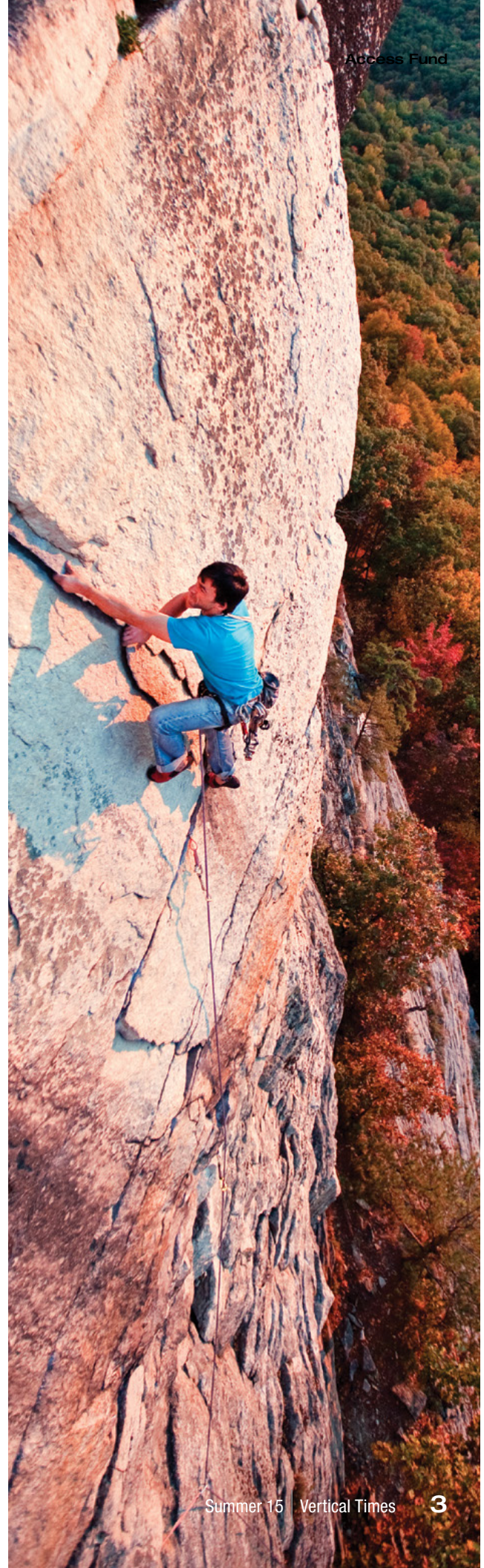
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GENERAL COUNSEL

Chris Archer



LCO 101: Now Is the Time to Get Your 501(c)(3)!

Last year the IRS made some major changes to how it handles the 501(c)(3) application. If your LCO is thinking about applying for 501(c)(3) status, there's never been a better time to apply. Here are answers to some common questions to get you started:

What is 501(c)(3)? 501(c)(3) is a tax-exempt IRS status for nonprofit, charitable organizations. Many LCOs have or are planning to obtain 501(c)(3) recognition.

Why is it important? Almost all charitable nonprofit organizations immediately or eventually obtain 501(c)(3) status. It gives your organization greater legitimacy, partnership ability, fundraising ability, and long-term financial strength. If your LCO's annual income is below the taxable threshold, you may not technically need to obtain 501(c)(3) status, but the benefits still present a compelling reason to do so.

What has changed in the 501(c)(3) application status? The old 501(c)(3) application and review process (Form 1023) was long and confusing. The review process was also very tough, and because of a massive backlog, it took forever. The new 1023-EZ Form is shorter and easier, and the review process is significantly faster. We've seen turnaround in just a few weeks.

Will Access Fund help? Yes! We can walk you through Form 1023 and potentially help with grant funding for the application fee. Contact localsupport@accessfund.org.

Solid Protection Weekend a Success!



In May, Access Fund and Patagonia hosted a national Solid Protection Tools and Strategies weekend in Colorado, convening a group of nearly three hundred local climbing advocates and conservationists. Climbing organizations from Hawaii to Maine and everywhere in between were represented. Attendees took part in lively presentations and discussions on climber education, stewardship, and advocacy. A major theme through the weekend was expanding the scope of local advocacy to include new partners and larger-scale conservation campaigns. Thanks to the presenters, attendees, and Patagonia for making the weekend successful and inspiring. We hope to see you all again next year!

Pikes Peak Climber's Alliance Going Strong



Congratulations to Pikes Peak Climber's Alliance (PPCA), who celebrated their first anniversary in April. PPCA has had a fantastic first year, working to steward and protect climbing areas like Garden of the Gods, Shelf Road, and South Platte. In March they received 501(c)(3) status, then went on to knock out a number of important stewardship projects. In April a PPCA team tackled a major chalk clean up at Garden of the Gods. PPCA also hosted a Shelf Road Appreciation Weekend, which brought over two dozen volunteers to maintain trails, build retaining walls, and close social trails. PPCA has also created a Fixed Hardware Committee to help maintain and replace bolts in the region. Keep up the great work!

Two New Joint Membership Opportunities

We are excited to welcome two new local climbing organizations into our Joint Membership Program: Bay Area Climbers Coalition in California and Western Montana



Climbers Coalition. Climbers can now support local and national climbing advocacy with a single membership to Access Fund and these two local groups. Both of these groups formed last year to steward their local climbing areas and maintain access. Joint membership brings



more resources and support to local climbing organizations and strengthens our local and national advocacy work. Visit www.accessfund.org/join to sign up.

Minimizing Noise



There is no doubt about it—music can have a powerful effect on our psyche and state of mind when we’re climbing. But blaring music at the crag or boulders can negatively impact wildlife and other people’s experiences—including other climbers and nearby landowners or managers. Be considerate of others and use headphones if you want to bring music to the crag—or leave the music at home and enjoy the sound of the wind, trees, and birds.

If you encounter music at the crag or boulders, it can be a difficult task to approach the people involved and ask them to turn it off. Practice being an upstander and *kindly* let

them know the impact of their music. A simple statement like: “Hey man, those are some pretty sweet speakers. I just wanted to give you a heads up that access to climbing [here] can be a little tricky. Land managers don’t always look kindly on loud music, since it can disturb wildlife and other users.” Even if they aren’t psyched that you pointed this out to them, chances are they will think twice the next time they head out to climb.

To learn more about ROCK Project and responsible outdoor behaviors that protect climbing access, visit www.accessfund.org/rockproject. ■



THE INSIDE SCOOP: THE GUNKS

If you're like most climbers, you pore over guidebooks for weeks or even months when planning a climbing trip. You educate yourself on routes, descents, gear, and camping. But what about the local ethics, issues, and challenges at your destination crag? Part of being a responsible climber is knowing how to tread lightly—both socially and environmentally. In this *Inside Scoop* series, we'll connect

you with local climbing access leaders at some of the country's top climbing destinations for valuable insight into local ethics and issues.

Destination: THE GUNKS, NEW YORK

Local expert: PETE CODY, CHAIR OF GUNKS CLIMBERS' COALITION

What is the biggest challenge that you're facing right now at the Gunks?

Because of our proximity to New York City and the fact that we're a weekend destination for many East Coast climbers, overcrowding is a prominent concern. We have been working with local climbing gyms to implement a gym-to-crag transition program that helps transitioning climbers reduce their impacts when they head outside to climb.

What can climbers do to help address the overcrowding issue?

The best way for climbers to help is to follow Leave No Trace practices to reduce their impacts. But we should also think about how our actions affect the climbers on the next route over. Just be considerate of one another's experiences.

What does the access situation look like in the Gunks?

The access situation is a mixed bag. Much of the climbing in the Gunks is within the Mohonk Preserve, and we have a good relationship with those folks. However a significant number of climbing opportunities are on state park land, and most of that is closed. There is still more climbing on private

land—some open and some closed—and none that is 100 percent protected.

We recently lost access to part of the privately owned Near Trapps area, which has shown us the importance of working with private landowners to keep things open and conserved.

Are you working on any major access projects at the moment?

With Access Fund's help, we are engaged in a letter-writing campaign to encourage New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to end the climbing ban that has closed much of the Shawangunk Ridge to climbing.

How is the relationship between climbers and land managers?

Our relationship with the Mohonk Preserve is excellent. Climbing is very much a part of their culture, and we maintain a collaborative relationship with their officials. Our relationship with New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is much newer, and climbing is not yet a part of their culture. But we are looking forward to working with them in the years to come as we examine climbing opportunities at Minnewaska State Park Preserve.

What's the best way to dispose of human waste at the Gunks?

There are bathrooms at all of the open climbing areas, and visitors should use them whenever possible—even if they have to walk a ways to get to them. In emergencies, you should use a wag bag to pack out solid waste and toilet paper. We encourage all climbers to carry at least one wag bag in their packs in case they aren't able to reach a restroom in time.

Any words of wisdom for folks visiting the Gunks for the first time?

Enjoy yourself! There are classic climbs here at every grade. Please remember to use existing trails and rappel anchors, and leave the cliffs the way you found them.

How can folks support Gunks Climbers' Coalition?

Become a member or get involved in one of our Adopt a Crag events. Participating in these events not only helps mitigate impact, but also sends a strong message to land managers that we are committed to preserving the outdoor experience. Learn more at www.gunksclimbers.org. ■

AMERICA'S PUBLIC LANDS UNDER SIEGE

A battle is currently looming in Congress over the transfer of a huge swath of America's public lands in the west—putting millions of acres (and the climbing opportunities they offer) under siege.

A group of politicians have written bills proposing that individual states “take back” America's parks, Bureau of Land Management lands, national forests, wildlife refuges, and open spaces, arguing that these lands and the profits that they generate should belong to the states. In an economically choked state like Nevada, where greater than 80 percent of the state's land is owned and operated by the federal BLM, this kind of thinking is gaining traction. Imagine how profitable it would be for Nevada to sell off federally protected lands for development? Sadly, that might mean never getting to climb at Red Rocks again.

And Nevada isn't the only state attempting to seize public lands. Right now, there are bills in front of Congress that propose the transfer of public lands in Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Over 5,000 individual cliffs, containing over 29,000 climbing routes are threatened by these bills. This includes gems like Red Rocks in Nevada, Cochise Stronghold in Arizona, South Platte and Shelf Road in Colorado, Indian Creek in Utah, Liberty Bell in Washington, and Wild Iris in Wyoming, as well as countless other climbing areas on National Park Service, US Forest Service, and BLM lands.

Some bills demand that the US turn over all public lands to state governments, including national parks and Wilderness areas. Others demand that states pay large sums of money to study whether seizing public lands would be profitable. The

bills under consideration in Congress range from disturbing to downright unconstitutional—but there are some powerful and well-funded interest groups behind the legislation, including the American Legislative Exchange Council, American Lands Council, and Federal Land Action Group.

If this kind of legislation is successful, our prized public lands and climbing areas would be on the auction block. Even if an individual state didn't choose to cash in on public lands, but instead attempted to manage them for continued public enjoyment, the reality is that most simply could not afford it. A single wildfire can cost \$100 million to fight, which would bankrupt most state budgets, requiring them to sell or auction off the land. The federal government safeguards these lands for all Americans, and their collective management of public lands provides the funds and resources needed to protect those in dire need.

Even if the more extreme bills don't pass, the concept of selling off federal land could gain traction over time—unless we speak up now. Once our public lands are gone, they're gone for good, and there is no replacing them or the countless climbing and recreation opportunities they offer.

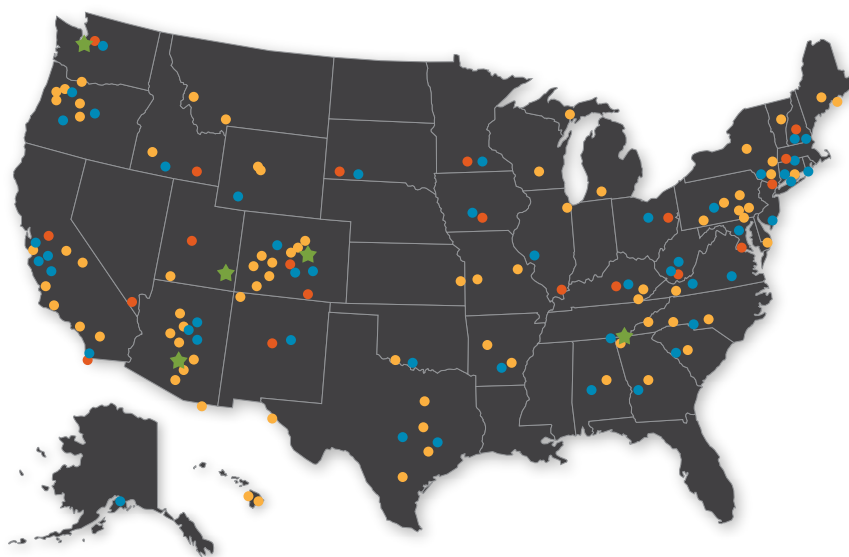
The Access Fund is working closely with our partners at the Outdoor Alliance and other recreation and conservation groups to fight this legislation and ensure our public lands remain accessible to everyone. Hunting and angling groups—including Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership—are also rallying against these bills. Keep an eye out for Action Alerts that will rally our community.

Visit protectourpubliclands.org to learn more and sign up for updates on our campaign to safeguard public lands. ■

2014 ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

In the interest of keeping our annual report fresh and timely, we transitioned to a digital format this year. We hope you've already had a chance to check it out at accessfund.org/annualreport. While the online version is pretty slick, we know that we have some diehard print fans out there, so we wanted to include some highlights of our 2014 work in the *Vertical Times* to make sure that you don't miss anything important.

A THRIVING GRASSROOTS NETWORK



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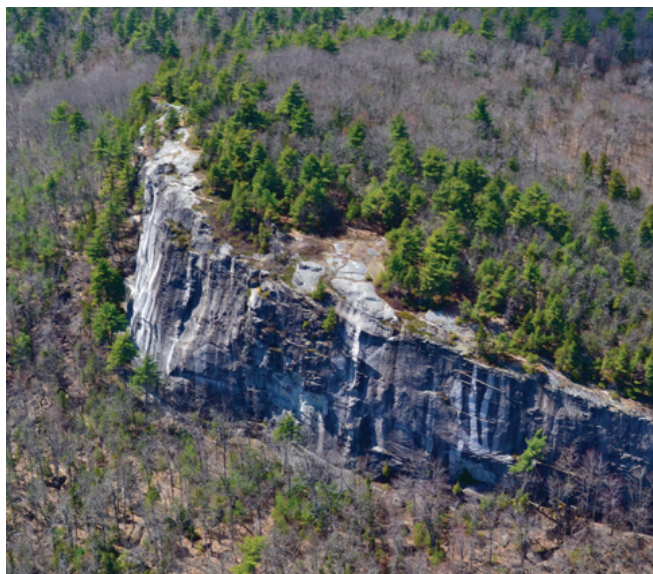
Joint Member Local Climbing Organizations

5

Regional Offices

EAGLE BLUFF SAVED!

The Access Fund and Clifton Climbers Alliance (CCA) purchased Eagle Bluff in central Maine after the owner passed away and his family closed access due to liability concerns and sought to sell. The Access Fund secured an Option Agreement to purchase Eagle Bluff and a recreational lease to reopen this incredible area. In six months, climbers and conservationists from New England and beyond raised over \$100,000, and Access Fund assigned the Option Agreement to CCA to complete the purchase. The Access Fund provided a small Climbing Conservation Loan to bridge the gap between available donations and pending grant applications. A heartfelt thanks to everyone who generously donated to keep Eagle Bluff in climber friendly hands!



AN UNPRECEDENTED 205 ADOPT A CRAG EVENTS ACROSS THE NATION

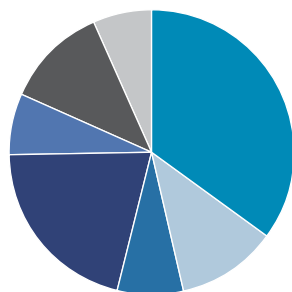
The Access Fund envisions a world where climbers are seen as stewards of the land, versus simply users of the land. The Adopt a Crag program helps climbers give back, and 2014 was a banner year for volunteer stewardship.



2014 FINANCIALS*

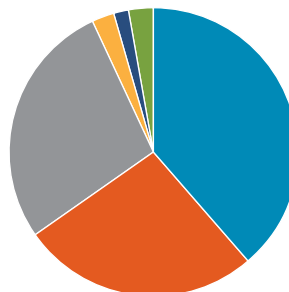
The Access Fund had another strong year in 2014. Overall, revenue increased by 5%, with 82% of revenue spent on mission-related programs. We ended the year with an 8% (or \$145,000) increase in net assets, with 51% of the organization's total assets (\$1.01 million) committed to our land conservation revolving loan program.

EXPENSES



- Stewardship and Conservation **\$547,000**
- Land Acquisition and Protection **\$177,000**
- Education **\$119,000**
- Climbing Management Policy **\$325,000**
- Local Support and Mobilization **\$105,000**
- Fundraising **\$185,000**
- General and Admin **\$100,000**

REVENUE



- Individuals, Foundations, and Organizations **\$662,000**
- Member Dues **\$452,000**
- Corporate Support **\$475,000**
- Land Conservation Campaign **\$43,000**
- In-Kind Contributions **\$28,000**
- Other Income **\$44,000**

*Based on preliminary financial data

THANKS

We continued our trajectory of programmatic and financial growth in 2014, ending the year with the largest operating budget and balance sheet of the Access Fund's 23-year history. This sets us up to make key operational investments in 2015, including a new website and modern database to add critical infrastructure and make us more efficient.

We're also actively pursuing five potential climbing area acquisitions and expanding our policy shop to better support local (state and municipal) issues. We are working to expand the Access Fund Conservation Team and put trail crews in regions with high concentrations of climbers and climbing areas. Finally, we're hosting six major ROCK Project

education events across the country—all while deepening our partnerships with local communities by expanding our LCO network and joint membership offerings.

Your continued support will make this work possible. Thanks for another great year!

Be sure to check out the full digital version of our annual report at: accessfund.org/annualreport

Sincerely,

Brady Robinson
Executive Director



Save The Homestead!

Two hours north of Tucson and east of Phoenix sits an incredible backcountry limestone climbing destination known as The Homestead. The Tufa City area boasts colorful fins of calcium precipitate that provide challenging pinches and stemming, reminiscent of climbing in Thailand or Turkey. A short hike across the canyon, the Rough Rider Wall presents technical edging on classic blue-gray limestone, similar to the Verdon Gorge or El Potrero Chico. Yet the majestic stands of saguaro cactus that grace the desert skyline set The Homestead apart as its own unique destination. With over 230 sport climbs, the area has drawn climbers to its 12 limestone walls for over a decade.

In 2014, access to The Homestead was imminently threatened when Bank of America foreclosed on a key parcel of land (known as Dripping Springs Ranch) that overlapped portions of the access road, trailhead, and the first chunk of routes at the climbing area. The Homestead and its access point sit atop a veritable matrix of private land, BLM land, and state trust land. Three miles of rough and eroded road provide access to the canyon's entrance, crossing through multiple parcels of ownership. If the Bank of America parcel was sold to a non-climber-friendly buyer,

access to the entire Homestead area, including the coveted walls on BLM land, could have been lost forever.

Access Fund immediately began negotiations with Bank of America to purchase the 360-acre northern block of Dripping Springs Ranch. We brought together a team of volunteers from the Arizona Mountaineering Club, Climbing Association of Southern Arizona, Concerned Climbers of Arizona, Queen Creek Coalition, and Southern Arizona Climbers Coalition and formulated a multiphase land conservation strategy that will—with help from the climbing community—protect The Homestead from closure.

In early June, the Access Fund initiated phase one by purchasing the 360-acre parcel using \$152,000 of short-term financing from the Access Fund Climbing Conservation Loan Program to cover initial acquisition costs. We are also working with the BLM and State of Arizona to record a public right of way across state trust land and repair the most eroded portion of the access road, as well as working with another private landowner that owns a portion of the access road and the Corral camping area to provide permanent access.

The work is far from over, and we have a long road ahead to permanent protection of The Homestead, but

now is the time to step up and save this incredible backcountry limestone climbing destination.

Access Fund will temporarily hold the 360-acre property through phase two of the project—raising money to make stewardship improvements and pay back the Climbing Conservation Loan so that Access Fund can invest the capital in another threatened US climbing area.

Now We Need Your Help

Access Fund is calling on support from the climbing community, conservation partners, and the recreation community to help raise \$235,000 to cover critical costs for the acquisition, public right of ways, and estimated long-term stewardship improvements to protect The Homestead for generations to come.

DONATE AT:
www.accessfund.org/homestead

The third and final phase of the project will be to transfer the property to a suitable long-term owner who will ensure climbing access in perpetuity. Potential long-term owners might include the BLM or a local land trust that will keep the property protected as a long-term recreational resource for the Arizona community. The project's multiple phases are expected to take three to five years to complete. ■



NPS WILDERNESS CLIMBING MANAGEMENT:

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

It has been over two years since the National Park Service (NPS) issued a national-level policy that provides guidelines to individual parks on managing climbing (and bolts specifically) in designated Wilderness areas. Director's Order #41 removed the threat that the NPS would ban all bolts in Wilderness, but also tightened the screws on how climbers can place bolts. Two years ago, the Access Fund could only theorize on how individual parks would choose to interpret and implement these guidelines.

Well, the wait is over, and we are now seeing Wilderness climbing policies that fall into the spectrum of the good, the bad, and the downright ugly.

First, the good. Joshua Tree issued its first Wilderness bolting permit in November 2013—ending a longstanding moratorium on new bolts in Wilderness. Then-Superintendent Butler issued a policy that allows the authorization of new bolts to prevent damage to vegetation. As a result, the first J-Tree bolt permit was issued so that the tree above the classic crack *Room to Shroom* could be saved.

Now, the bad. Lake Mead National Recreation Area recently issued a Wilderness Management Plan that calls for the assessment of “bolt-intensive” routes in Wilderness and outlines a process for evaluating

the removal of bolted routes due to impacts to Wilderness character, natural resources, and cultural sites. This process will include the NPS, Native American tribes, and the climbing community. You may be thinking...how is this not the ugly? Consider that an earlier draft version of this plan proposed a *wholesale* removal of bolted climbing routes with no input from the climbing community. This nuance is substantial, because it recognizes the need for the NPS to include climbers in decisions about fixed anchor management, instead of making unilateral decisions.

Finally, the ugly. North Cascades National Park has ignored the majority of the guidelines provided in DO #41 and issued an unsubstantiated Wilderness bolt moratorium. The park not only bans new bolts, but can also remove existing bolts without any public process or notice to the climbing community. DO #41 provides park superintendents with the authority to prohibit bolts after they have established that bolts result in unacceptable impacts and have conferred with NPS climbing specialists and the climbing community. The Access Fund invoked the Freedom of Information Act to investigate what type of analysis North Cascades actually conducted prior to issuing their bolt moratorium

policy. The answer: none. The spirit of DO #41 was to create balanced policies that consider natural resources, Wilderness character, and recreation opportunities, but North Cascades based its policy on a philosophical conviction without any assessment, or public process. We continue to fight this ban.

The inconsistency in the implementation of the NPS Wilderness climbing management guidelines is a problem and is one of Access Fund's top policy and advocacy priorities. We are working this issue through three main strategies:

- 1. Encouraging the National Park Service** to improve DO #41 implementation.
- 2. A Fixed Anchor Policy** that outlines our position on fixed anchors and guides our work with parks.
- 3. Convening a working group of climbing and conservation organizations**, including Access Fund, American Mountain Guides Association, American Alpine Club, Wilderness Society, and National Parks Conservation Association, to develop and advance a strategy to improve NPS Wilderness climbing management policy.

Stay tuned for updates as we continue to address these issues. ■



PAY to PLAY?

Why We're Encountering More Fees at Climbing Areas

It's November and you're headed to Indian Creek for the weekend. The weather is splitter as you cruise through Moab to fill up your tank and head for your favorite spot at the Creek Pasture campground. The last couple of times you've been there, you've noticed the improvements in the area—a new shelter, a group site, vault toilets, picnic tables, and a new kiosk at the campground entrance. This time you pull in, and there's a sign informing you that it's time to pay.

A camp fee? In Indian Creek?!

This isn't today's reality, but could be one day soon. And it's not just Indian Creek. Places like Joe's Valley and Ten Sleep are faced with the same issues. And fees have also increased at Yosemite National Park and Joshua Tree National Park.

So what's the deal? Why the increases in fees, and why are places that have always been free all of the sudden charging a fee?

As the popularity of climbing continues to increase and more and more climbers flock to our crags and boulder fields, land management agencies like the BLM, US Forest Service, and National Park Service are compelled to manage the impacts that we bring with us. Human waste, plant degradation, cultural resource protections, and overall visitor experiences are major concerns that they are legally obligated to manage.

Climbing is no longer a fringe activity, and our swelling numbers require more facilities and infrastructure—like campgrounds and vault toilets. And these facilities come at a cost. A single vault toilet can cost up to \$30,000 for installation, not including annual costs of maintenance, pumping, and stocking toilet paper. And campgrounds require regular cleanup and maintenance. As federal land management budgets continue to get squeezed, the only way to cover the majority of these costs is to ask the users to contribute.

Climbing is no longer a fringe activity, and our swelling numbers require more facilities and infrastructure.

Increased fees are never easy to swallow. But it's a small price to pay to protect the integrity of our climbing areas so that they don't become overrun with trash, human waste, erosion, and a multitude of other issues.

So over the coming years, as you roll in to your favorite climbing destinations and encounter fees, remember that the overwhelming majority of this money covers the restrooms, camping facilities, sustainable trails, information kiosks, and improved parking areas that are necessary to manage our impacts and protect our climbing resources into the future. ■

Corporate Partners

Founded by Yvon Chouinard in 1973, Patagonia is an outdoor apparel company whose mission is to build the best product, cause no unnecessary harm, and use business to inspire and implement solutions to the environmental crisis. Patagonia recently partnered with the Access Fund to host the Solid Protection Summit for climbing advocates, providing them with real-world tools, strategy, and inspiration to care for the climbing landscapes we love. We thank Patagonia for its commitment to connecting climbers to the greater conservation movement.



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+

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles LLC

TITANIUM - \$50,000+

Black Diamond Equipment, LTD
Clif Bar & Company
Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)

DIAMOND - \$25,000+

Mountain Project
The North Face
Patagonia
Planet Granite
Touchstone Climbing, Inc.

PLATINUM PLUS - \$15,000+

Archer Law Offices, P.C.
Earth Treks Climbing Centers
Mountain Hardwear
Outdoor Research
Petzl

PLATINUM - \$10,000+

eGrips Climbing Holds
GORE-TEX® Products
Jason Keith Consulting
prAna
Stanley
Stonewear Designs
Trango

GOLD PLUS - \$7,500+

Thermarest

GOLD - \$5,000+

SCARPA North America
Sender Films
The Spot Bouldering Gym

SILVER - \$2,500+

Adidas Outdoor
Arc'teryx
Avery Brewing Company
BlueWater Ropes
Falcon Guides
Mammut
Marmot
Metolius
Mountain Gear
Osprey
Outdoor Retailer
Portland Rock Gym
Rock'n Jam'n
La Sportiva
Sterling Rope Company
Stone Age Climbing Gym
SuperTopo.com

MAJOR - \$1,000+

Call of the Wild Adventures
CAMP USA
The Crash Pad
Drive Current
Evolve Sports
Goal Zero
High Point Climbing and Fitness
Jagged Mountain Brewery
Liberty Mountain Climbing
Louder Than 11
Moosejaw
Mountain Khakis
New Belgium Brewing Company
Pacific Edge Climbing Gym
Phoenix Rock Gym
RAEN Optics
Treasure Mountain Inn
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Ute Mountaineer
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Clockwise: Brett Lowel on Greater Than, Westchester, NY | Paul Jung on Chaotic Stability, The Gunks, NY | Ronnie Jenkins on White Noise, Dayton, TN.
© Tomás Donoso

Tomás Donoso

Tomás Donoso is a Chilean born photographer and filmmaker based out of Chattanooga, Tennessee. He has been producing top-notch adventure photos and stories for the climbing industry since 2009. His passion for image making and climbing has taken him all over the United States, where he has gained a deep appreciation for the American landscape.

“Climbing has taken me to some of the most beautiful places in America. These spectacular landscapes and how we interact with them as climbers stimulate a great deal of my creativity as a photographer. I think it’s important we protect these areas to inspire new generations of conservation-minded artists.”

To learn more about Tomás and his work, visit www.tomasdonoso.com. ■



Protect America's Climbing

The Access Fund
207 Canyon Blvd., Suite 201S
Boulder, Colorado 80302



Access Fund and Black Diamond Equipment have taken the stoke on the road with the 2015 ROCK Project Tour, a six-stop event tour to US climbing hot spots. Professional athletes, indoor climbing gyms, and local climbing advocacy organizations are teaming up to host a series of multiday events, including climbing clinics, presentations, stewardship projects, and parties. There are still three stops left on the tour:

Seattle
Sept 18–20

Denver
Oct 2–4

Atlanta
Nov 6–8

Limited availability. Reserve your spot today at www.accessfund.org/rockprojecttour.