



Protect America's Climbing

June 22, 2016

Senator Bennet
Office 261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Gardner
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Submitted via email: john_whitney@bennet.senate.gov

RE: Commemorating Two “13er” Peaks in San Miguel County for Charlie Fowler and Chris Boskoff

Dear Senator Bennet and Senator Gardner,

The Access Fund, would like to take this opportunity to advocate for the naming of two currently unnamed 13,000 foot peaks in San Miguel County, Colorado after Charlie Fowler and Christine “Chris” Boskoff. Tragically, the long-time Colorado resident Fowler and his partner Boskoff were believed to have been killed in an avalanche while climbing Genyen Peak, a 20,354 foot mountain in China in November of 2006. Fowler was a renowned climber, author, guide, filmmaker, photographer, and wilderness advocate who lived in the San Juan area for decades. Boskoff, believed by many to be America’s leading female alpinist, was also known for giving countless hours of her time to several different non-profit organizations that support the rights of porters and Sherpas in the Himalayas, and the need for the construction of girls’ schools in the Middle East.

The two unnamed peaks that are proposed for naming are two “13ers” west of Wilson Peak at the western end of Elk Creek Basin on the boundary of San Miguel and Dolores Counties, Colorado. The proposed “Fowler Peak” (13,498) is the taller of the two unnamed mountains, and sits adjacent to the proposed “Boskoff Peak” (13,123). Charlie was very active in advocating for the reopening of public access to Wilson Peak when closed by the US Forest Service and a private landowner. Both peaks offer recreational climbing and hiking opportunities, which seems fitting, considering who they would be memorializing.

Prominent Colorado organizations like The Wilderness Society, Sheep Mountain Alliance, Telluride Mountain Club, American Alpine Club, American Mountain Guides Association, and the Colorado Mountain Club support this proposal. Thank you for considering this important work to commemorate two of America's great mountaineers, Charlie Fowler and Chris Boskoff.

Best Regards,



Brady Robison

Executive Director

The Access Fund

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The Access Fund

The Access Fund is a national advocacy organization whose mission keeps climbing areas open and conserves the climbing environment. A 501(c)(3) non-profit and accredited land trust representing millions of climbers nationwide in all forms of climbing—rock climbing, ice climbing, mountaineering, and bouldering—the Access Fund is the largest US climbing advocacy organization with over 13,000 members and 100 local affiliates. The Access Fund provides climbing management expertise, stewardship, project specific funding, and educational outreach. For more information about the Access Fund, visit www.accessfund.org.