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Brink of Extinction: Climbers Help Bring Peregrine Falcons Back to El Capitan

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I love it when climbers come to visit our office.

If they've been following the Access Fund through social media, e-mail, or this publication, they probably have a good idea of the work we do. They probably know we have a powerful presence in Washington, D.C. and that we shape public policy to support climbing on public land. They may even know that we launched a new program this year in partnership with Jeep—the Access Fund Conservation Team—and that this team of professional trail builders will be consulting with local climbers and land managers across the nation, helping to create and implement long-term stewardship plans. (You can learn more about the Conservation Team on page 13.)

They would have heard about our many excellent affiliate local climbing organizations (LCOs) scattered across the country (some of whose work you can learn about in the pages of this issue), our base of 10,000 members, and the nationwide Adopt a Crag program that helps organize climbers to give back and steward the places they love. They've heard that we launched a revolving loan program to support the acquisition and conservation of privately held climbing areas, and that we have completed seven projects to date.

They may know all of these things, and that usually builds up an image in their mind of what the Access Fund office must look like. And that image is usually exaggerated.

Our office is small. No receptionist. No bronze statues. The carpet is getting shabby. None of the desks match, and a few are delaminating a bit. In spite of our recent growth and success, we're still lean and incredibly focused on one thing: keeping climbing areas open and protected.

Visitors usually leave with the impression that the Access Fund punches far above its weight class and that, in such an organization, each and every membership and donation really does matter.

Thank you for your support and generosity this holiday season. We hope you enjoy this issue of the *Vertical Times*, especially the inspiring feature article about climbers helping to bring the endangered peregrine falcon back to Yosemite.

And please do swing by to see us if you're ever in town.

See you out there,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brady Robinson".

Brady Robinson

Executive Director

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Paige Claassen climbing New Horizons at the River Wall near Lyons, CO. | © Collin Serbo

Secret Crag on Public Land

Don't get me wrong—I think asking permission is a MUST for private land. But when it comes to public land (excepting endangered species or protected fragile resources), climbers would rather take the risk of being discovered later when it seems likely they will lose access, if even temporarily, while the bureaucrats shuffle paperwork. [The secret crags article from the last issue] does not, in my opinion, give us reason to change our thinking when it comes to developing areas on public land.

— JEAN GOLDSBOROUGH, VERMONT

AF: Jean, thanks for your comment. The dreaded contention you foresee is not always inevitable, but it is more likely if a land manager stumbles upon a backwoods sport crag with grid-bolts, chains, tool-cache, fixed ropes, leveled staging areas, and sculpted approach trails (or some version thereof). Or if a third-party user group stumbles upon the crag and informs the land manager. If all this development is done in the daylight, incrementally, and with peer review, your odds are much better. Every crag and situation is different, but we've found that asking permission rather than forgiveness usually results in longer-term and higher-quality recreational access.

Darker Colors for T-shirts, Please

It'd be great to have some women's t-shirt options in darker colors. The cream-colored AF shirts I've gotten before always get dirty very quickly ... very sad.

— SHILPA REDDY, NORTH CAROLINA

AF: Shilpa, we agree ... a dirty Access Fund shirt is indeed very sad! Sometimes we're restricted on the colors that we can order due to seasonal styles. But we'll do our best to get darker shirts, or at least colors that won't show dirt as badly. This season's colors are pretty sweet, so check them out at www.accessfund.org/shop.



Support for Chimney Rock State Park

North Carolina State Parks released its revised draft of the Master Plan for Chimney Rock State Park. The revision speaks volumes to the development and vision of the park's future, which is in large part due to the well-crafted and supportive letter that the Access Fund helped us create. Thank you guys for doing so; it served its purpose and struck right on the mark!

— ANTHONY LOVE, NORTH CAROLINA

AF: Thanks for the love, Anthony. And thanks for all the hard work from the Carolina Climbers Coalition!

Alpinist Subscribers Give Back

Alpinist subscribers will give more than \$5,000 this year to support climbing access and stewardship, thanks to a generous grant from CLIF Bar. Become an *Alpinist* subscriber today at alpinist.com/subgrant and a portion of your subscription fee will go to support the Access Fund! Thanks to *Alpinist* and CLIF Bar for their support!



The Access Fund wants to hear from you. Share your thoughts, ideas, and perspectives on access issues. Tell us what we're doing well. Tell us where we could improve. E-mail your comments to holly@accessfund.org.

Gunks Climbers' Coalition Offers Joint Membership with AF

The Gunks Climbers' Coalition has joined forces with the Access Fund for the good of climbers and climbing access along the Shawangunk Ridge and surrounding areas. You can now join both organizations at the same time and receive two sets of benefits for the cost of one! Joint membership starts at just \$35 at [www.accessfund.org/joingcc!](http://www.accessfund.org/joingcc)



Support Local Bay Area Climbers in Reopening Summit Rock

Bay Area climbers, led by Access Fund Regional Coordinator Paul Minault, are fighting to reopen Summit Rock, which Santa Clara County unjustifiably closed year round due to raptor activity in the area. You can help local climbers educate the county about raptor protections that still allow climbing access by visiting www.accessfund.org/action.

Rocky Butte Climbers

The Rocky Butte Climbing Coalition (RBCC) is working in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to clean up and maintain access to the Rocky Butte climbing area outside of Portland. Future RBCC goals include climbing management planning, trail work, and collaboration with interested stakeholders to promote Rocky Butte as a green space for recreation. RBCC and Access Fund are working together to further develop dialogue with ODOT. To get involved, go to rockybutteclimbing.com.



Datil/Enchanted Tower Access

New Mexico CRAG is working with private ranch owners at Datil to maintain access to Enchanted Tower. You can help by carpooling, not driving above 15 mph on the access road, not driving in at night, and thanking the landowners when you see them.

Local Climbing Organization 101: How to Initiate a Conservation Team Visit

The Access Fund–Jeep Conservation Team is now on the road (see page 13 for details)! You can request a visit with the Conservation Team for the following:

- Long-term stewardship planning for climbing areas in your region
- Assistance and/or leadership of Adopt a Crag stewardship events
- Training on trail-building and conservation techniques
- Meetings with land managers

When requesting a visit, have the following information ready:

- Location
- Date range for requested visit
- Description of the type of work you're requesting

The Conservation Team will be on the road from February through November every year. Visit www.accessfund.org/CTvisit to request a visit in your area!



To submit an update for your local climbing organization or area, contact Zachary Lesch-Huie at zachary@accessfund.org.

CRAG DOGS

Are dogs appropriate at the crag? It's a hotly contested topic among climbers, not far behind the "to bolt or not to bolt" debate. We aren't here to condemn or condone, but to offer some insight on when and where it's legal to bring your dog and some guidelines for appropriate crag dog behavior.

Where and how dogs are allowed

National parks—The National Park Service (NPS) requires that dogs be on a leash or "under physical restraint" at all times. Dogs are permitted in front-country areas but are prohibited from backcountry areas, with some exceptions.

Forest Service lands—The United States Forest Service requires that pets be restrained or on a leash at all times while in developed recreation areas.

BLM lands—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has the least restrictive policy concerning dogs, only requiring a leash where habitat or wildlife restorations exist.

State parks and local government lands—Policies vary, so be sure to check regulations before heading out to climb with your pup.

Private lands—Policies vary and aren't always clear. If in doubt, we recommend asking the landowner or leaving your dog at home.

Guidelines for happy cragging with your mutt

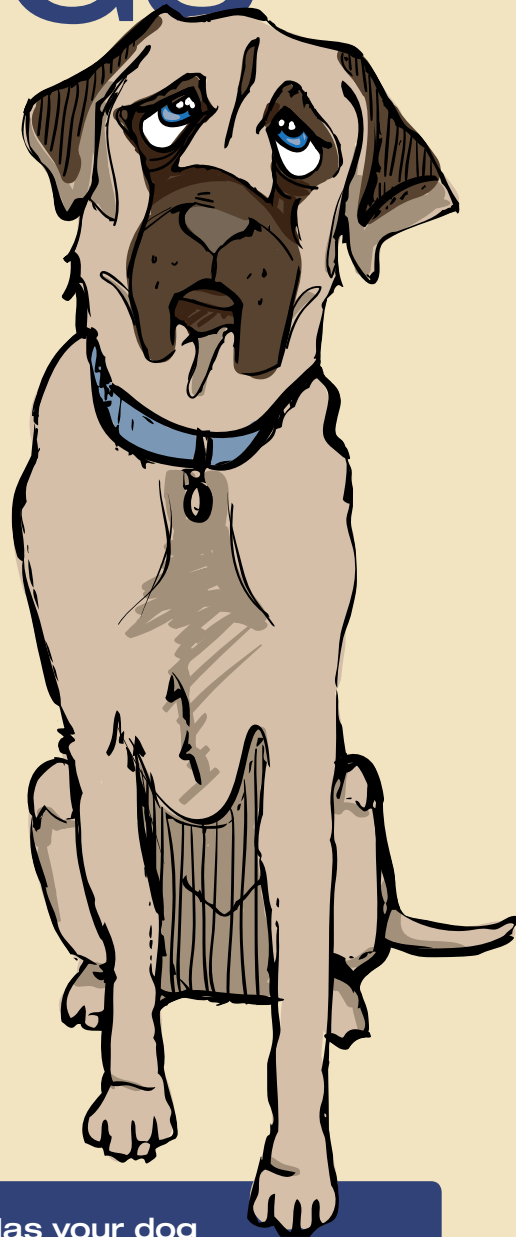
Use common sense. When visiting a popular area with lots of climbers or planning to climb long multipitch routes, or if the day is hot and the approach is long, consider leaving your pet at home.

Respect the rights of others. Tether dogs in high-use sites like bouldering areas or staging areas for climbs to keep them out of the way of spotters, belayers, and other visitors, and to prevent packs from being pilfered for food.

Respect the rights of your dog. Make sure your dog has plenty of food and water, and let others know your dog's name so they can get your dog's attention if need be.

Keep your dog under control. Be sure your dog responds to verbal commands and can be kept under control, especially around others. Train your dog to stay with your gear and not someone else's.

Clean up after your dog. Canine feces are unsightly and smelly and can become a problem underfoot. Pick it up and pack it out. ■



Has your dog reached crag dog status?

The answer may be "NO" if ...

- He barks and/or whines incessantly
- She shows any signs of aggression toward people or other dogs
- He likes to dig
- She doesn't respond to verbal commands

fighting the Woolly Adelgid in the Obed

One of the country's longest running and most successful Access Fund Adopt a Crag events takes place at the Obed National Wild and Scenic River, northwest of Knoxville, Tennessee, in a rural area of the Cumberland Plateau. Loved for its quality sandstone, immense tiered roofs, and incredibly fun and pumpy routes, the area attracts climbers from across the country—not just for the climbing, but also for the beautiful, undeveloped natural environment that earned the area “wild and scenic” status.

Organized now for twelve years by an active and tightknit community of climbers out of the East Tennessee Climbers Coalition (ETCC), the Obed Adopt a Crag has regularly demonstrated climbers' commitment to long-term stewardship. The annual effort also showcases a remarkably effective climber–land manager relationship cultivated over many years.

“We've got around 140 people showing up, willing to work, and they drive from all over,” explains Rick Bost, longtime event organizer and president of ETCC. “People come to this Adopt a Crag and they don't even climb anymore—they just come here for the community, and to give back to the place where they love to climb.”

This year's event set a high standard for community involvement, with a unique partnership among climbers, The Nature Conservancy, and the National Park Service. Working together, volunteers set out to fight an invasive pest, the woolly adelgid, that threatens to wipe out the hemlock population.



ETCC volunteers treat infected hemlocks

While hemlocks often provide welcome shade to climbers, they're critical to an entire community of flora and fauna, shading and regulating the temperature of their unique habitat. Without the cooling effect of hemlocks, streams would grow too warm for many fish and other aquatic species to survive. Fortunately for the Obed, conservationists are ahead of the curve—threat of the woolly adelgid is present, but it is still early in its infestation. The time was right to head it off before it was too late.

Recognizing that climber habitat and hemlock habitat are one and the same, ETCC brought together nearly 40 volunteers to treat a portion of the Obed's hemlocks. Spread evenly apart, small teams combed the steep hillsides, systematically treating two large stands of hemlocks—one on Nature Conservancy land under the cliff line along North Clear Creek and the other on park land under the highly popular Lily Bluff. Each tree was counted, measured, treated at its roots with pesticide, and marked for future reference and treatment.

By the end of the day, park staff proudly reported that approximately 500 trees were treated. “To my knowledge, this is the largest volunteer effort of this size combating the woolly adelgid on National Park Service land,” says Justin Coffey, biological science technician for Obed wild and scenic area. “It was a fantastic day, and we hope hemlock treatments can be a part of this great annual partnership in the future.”

After the work was done, volunteers retreated to Del and Marti's Lilly Pad, the local climbers' spot and rustic campground, for a cookout and entertainment. With everyone gathered, Niki Nicholas, park superintendent, personally thanked climbers for their hard work, describing the ETCC's work and the annual Adopt a Crag as an important part of the cultural history of the park and a vital effort to preserve not just a tree but an essential piece of the Obed's wild and natural character. ■

Brink of Extinction:

Climbers Help Bring Peregrine Falcons Back to El Capitan

By Sarah Stock, wildlife biologist, Yosemite National Park

Have you ever heard the rush of feathers when a peregrine “stoops” or dives from high above? Or witnessed a peregrine strike its prey in midair with a sharp blow? If so, you’re probably a climber, for peregrines are attracted to the same vertical landscapes. Clocked at more than 200 miles per hour, the peregrine has evolved to be the fastest animal in the world. Climbers and peregrines both push the boundaries of physical prowess and share an intimate knowledge of a mostly pristine realm. On more than one occasion, a climber has run up to me, full of excitement, to relay an amazing experience just shared with a peregrine. One time the climber finished his story by exclaiming, “You need to close that area!”

Admiration for this raptor and awareness of its plight during the last few decades led to recovery efforts that, today, are regarded as among the most

successful in the history of endangered species conservation. What drove peregrine falcons to the brink of extinction? Between about 1940 and 1970, a potent insecticide called dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) was used to reduce the threat of malaria and to protect crops from insect devastation. Hailed as a wonder invention, more than 1.3 billion pounds of DDT was applied in the U.S. before it was banned. As it turned out, this wonder invention was not only an extremely potent killer of insects, but it was also toxic to a wide range of animals, particularly predatory birds. By passing through the food chain, DDT became more concentrated in peregrine falcons than in most other animals in the same environment. By the 1970s, peregrines had disappeared completely east of the Mississippi

River and were barely hanging on in the west, with only about 10% of the population remaining in California.

Thankfully, legislation was on the peregrine’s side. In 1972, DDT was banned in the United States. In 1973,

After a 16-year absence, peregrine falcons are nesting once again on El Capitan in Yosemite National Park.

the peregrine falcon was listed as an endangered species under the newly established Endangered Species Act. Led by nonprofit groups such as the Peregrine Fund and the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) Predatory Bird Research Group, biologists, falconers, and climbers teamed up to save the species.

Climbers help recovery efforts

The National Park Service called upon the technical skill of climbers to reach the peregrines’ nests to examine possible causes of nest failure. Climbers invariably found that all that remained in the nests were thin eggshell frag-



ments, which they collected for biologists to test. Biologists determined that high DDT levels in the birds were causing the eggshells to break and the embryos to die at an alarming rate, rapidly driving the birds toward extinction.

In an attempt to remedy the problem posed by eggshell thinning, climbers scaled the cliffs to access the nest sites, removed the DDT-laced eggs, and swapped them out with artificial “dummy” eggs for the adults to incubate. Then climbers helped swap out the dummy eggs with chicks that were safely hatched in laboratory conditions for the adults to brood and raise as their own. This was no easy task. “There’s nothing more terrifying than invading a peregrine’s nest ... you look up to see the bird tucking its wings and coming at you flying over 100 mph only to flare off above your neck. They could easily take a climber out, but they don’t know this yet,” says longtime Yosemite climber Ken Yager.

With climbers’ help, these captive breeding programs successfully released over 1,000 young peregrines back into the wild. The peregrine falcon was removed from the list of endangered and threatened species in August 1999. A decade later in 2009, the peregrine was removed from California’s endangered species list; however, peregrines remain a fully protected species in California.

After a 16-year absence, peregrine falcons are nesting once again on El Capitan in Yosemite National Park. The return of the peregrine to this iconic cliff symbolizes the recovery of a species that was once nose-diving toward extinction. Climbers have played an important role in this recovery and continue to play a key role



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in protecting peregrines by respecting seasonal closures and helping to monitor nests.

Yosemite’s temporary closures

Yosemite National Park represents the highest documented peregrine falcon nesting density in the Sierra Nevada. On several occasions, I have been asked why Yosemite protects peregrines when they seem to be versatile enough to nest in cities. Unlike cities, national parks are intended to conserve natural ecosystems. Thus, Yosemite takes a proactive approach to managing and protecting peregrines in their natural environment. Over the last three years, Yosemite biologists have been actively searching for and monitoring up to ten peregrine nests each season. To help the peregrines’ nests succeed, the park closes climbing routes that are directly adjacent to and within the immediate viewshed of the nesting pair during the critical nesting period (March 1 to August

1). The closures are set in place to prevent incidents that have happened in the past. For example, in 2002 the NPS instituted experimental voluntary climbing closures that were minimally respected, which most likely contributed to the nest failure on the Rostrum that year.

At the peak of closures, 97% of established climbing routes in Yosemite Valley are still open. And for seven months of the year, 100% of routes are open.

Active monitoring and temporary seasonal closures are a win-win situation for climbers, NPS management, and peregrines. Closures are implemented March 1 in areas where nesting occurred in the previous two years. During March, peregrine pairs are courting one another, strengthening their pair bonds, and selecting the most ideal ledge to raise their young. In mid-March, daily monitoring commences to determine where and when



Access Fund's Jason Keith and Yosemite biologist Sarah Stock monitoring nesting activity on Elephant Rock.

the birds will begin nesting. By mid-April, most of the breeding pairs are incubating eggs. April is a key month for narrowing down the climbing closures, i.e., lifting closures where there are no indications of breeding activity, and, in some cases, implementing new closures where peregrines have chosen an alternate or new nesting location. Around the first week of May, the eggs hatch; and the adults protect their nestlings from the elements (heat and cold stress) and potential predators, and keep them nourished with ample prey (e.g., swifts, robins, flickers, and pigeons).

“This is an amazing success story, and it is my hope that climbers recognize the significance of the comeback that the peregrines have enjoyed in Yosemite.”

Fledging usually occurs by the end of June when the young are about 42 days old. Closures remain in effect through August 1 to give the young a chance to learn how to fly and hunt on their own.

Throughout the closure period, as survey observations reveal new information, there may be several amendments to the closure notice. In 2010, the notice was revised twice, resulting in one closure lifted and one new closure implemented (at El Capitan). In 2011, the notice was revised three times, resulting in four closures lifted and no new closures. Each year

is different. Some years are good reproductive years and other years are poor; and the closure amendments reflect the birds' success (see p. 6 in the Summer 2011 issue of *Vertical Times* for a discussion on climbing restrictions). Working closely with biologists, Yosemite Climbing Ranger Jesse McGahey advises the specific route closures, communicates closure information to climbers (via online forums, information boards, notices at the base of climbs, coffee Sunday, and more), and enforces the closures.

Are seasonal closures too high a price to pay to protect and experience this amazing animal in its native habitat? While the closures are temporary for climbers, they have a lasting positive impact on peregrines. Says McGahey, “This is an amazing success story, and it is my hope that climbers recognize the significance of the comeback that the peregrines have enjoyed in Yosemite. Through the climbing community's respect for this incredible bird, and their cooperation with the National Park Service, we have helped the peregrine soar again as it continues to recover from the brink of extinction.”

Even though I'm one of the people who implements and lifts the climbing closures in Yosemite, I'm looking forward to the day when the peregrine no longer needs specific protection and we no longer have to manage ourselves. In the meantime, we will continue to do all we can to make sure this bird is here to stay in its rightful place on El Capitan and the other famous cliffs in Yosemite. ■

Pay to Play:

The Debate Over Access Fees on Public Land



© Corey Rich/Aurora Photos

The Access Fund has long represented the voice of climbers in debates over access fees to recreate on federal public land. Just last fall, word spread that the National Park Service was set to dramatically increase fees for the 2012 mountaineering season at both Denali and Rainier.

The parks announced their intention to raise mountaineering fees—from \$30 to \$50 at Mount Rainier and an unprecedented 150% increase at Denali, taking the price from \$200 to \$500. The intent to raise the fees was announced without an open public process to determine their need or an assessment of the mountaineering programs and budgets for either park.

Left unchecked, fee increases can set a dangerous precedence of federal agencies unfairly shifting more of the burden of the budget onto climbers, or

using the increase to support services that were not required or wanted by climbers. We want to avoid a “pay to play” model where “playing” costs the agencies nothing, and climbers are priced out of their own national parks and recreation areas.

In the case of Denali and Rainier, the Access Fund teamed up with the American Alpine Club and the American Mountain Guides Association to protest the proposed unilateral fee increase and push the Park Service to open a public process to determine the validity. After many months of working with the parks, National Park Service officials in Washington, D.C., members of Congress, and concerned climbers, the NPS initiated a public input process, reconsidered its position and instituted fee increases that were significantly lower than originally proposed. The increase for Rainier

landed at \$43 (a \$13 increase), and the fee increase for Denali landed at \$350 (a \$150 increase).

The Access Fund supports user fees on public lands in many situations, such as where services are provided or agency budgets are substantially burdened by climbing access. The excellent public education and search and rescue program in Denali National Park is one such example. However, the Access Fund will continue to push agencies to be transparent and include public input before making significant changes to recreation fee programs. The Access Fund will also continue to actively oppose recreational use fees where administrative support is neither required nor desired by climbers and where climbing impacts do not significantly impose on agency budgets or degrade the environment. ■

Permadraws:

Access Issue or Not?

If you read the climbing magazines, then you've likely heard the recent debate.

Fixed quickdraws, otherwise known as permadraws, have brought climbers from both sides of the table to determine appropriate use at their local crags.

So where does the Access Fund stand? Our position on matters of style has been consistent since our inception: The local climbing community needs to address issues of ethics and aesthetics. But climbing communities do need to proactively recognize when permadraws can threaten access or lead to a closure. On private land, climbing is a privilege, and landowners may have different preferences regarding permadraws with regard to factors such as safety, aesthetics, and liability.

At many crags with overhanging sport routes, climbers leave their draws up for the day, week, or even months while they work their projects. When the van is packed up for the next destination, the draws may stay. At other areas, some see permadraws as a necessary component of developing and outfitting a new route. Quickdraws, slings, and chains hang like icicles on an otherwise formidable cave. To many climbers, permadraws are seen as a convenience. But what happens when others come along and see these permanent fixtures on the skyline as an eyesore?

Permadraws are not a product of the new millennium. Rifle and Jailhouse featured fixed draws starting in the early 90s. But as climbing and climbers both evolve, permadraws are on the rise across the nation. And it's not just a matter of aesthetics. With this rise comes an increased safety concern. At the Red River Gorge last year, a carabiner worn sharp on the first permadraw of a climb cut

through a climber's rope, sending him tumbling to the ground.

Today's lightweight aluminum carabiners, while streamlined, wear more than 10 times faster than steel, especially from the sharp rope angle of the first clip or a narrow bolt hanger. The t-profile of our nano-sized biners can turn a smooth lip into a knife after only 2 mm of wear. (Remember those old oval biners on our first rack? Those were safe with up to 5 mm of wear.) Safety-conscious climbers may remember to inspect the biner at each clip as they fight a growing pump, but do they consider checking whether the quicklink on the bolt hanger is gouged? Or whether the nut holding the hanger is loose on the bolt? At some point, one has to wonder if the convenience of a permadraw is worth it when weighed against the time it takes to safely inspect for multiple points of failure.

Some climbers recognize these safety concerns and actively work to replace worn slings and aluminum draws with safer, longer-lasting permadraws such as the steel Climb Tech PermaDraw. This was the case recently at Shagg Crag in Maine and Rifle in Colorado. Whereas Rifle climbers largely considered the replacement a blessing, there was an initial lack of climber consensus and land manager involvement at Shagg. In the end, a compromise was reached—some routes saw the removal of permadraws entirely, while the fixed draws on steeper lines received a safety upgrade. And still other crags, like Roadside Crag in Kentucky, were closed due in part to the landowners' growing concern over the presence of permadraws.

Whether a question of safety or aesthetics, the use of permadraws should be approved by both the local climbing community and land managers. Each crag deserves its own analysis. Climbers should engage in rational discourse and come to agreement before pulling land managers into the fray. In the end, a closure affects all climbers, whether the draws are fixed or not.

Let us know what you think. Email us at info@accessfund.org. ■



Conservation Team HITS THE ROAD!

While y'all were out climbing this summer, the staff here at the Access Fund was working hard to launch the new traveling Conservation Team, powered by Jeep® brand. And on October 4, our humble little staff of 13 gathered in the parking lot outside the office to wave goodbye to the crew as they headed out for their first assignment in the Red River Gorge. We couldn't be more excited to take our conservation mission on the road.

The Access Fund–Jeep Conservation Team's mission is to travel to climbing areas throughout the United States and help local climbers assess their conservation needs and provide

training on planning and stewardship best practices to keep their climbing areas healthy. With thousands of climbing areas in the United States, the brunt of the impact still occurs on several hundred of the most popular areas. And as our sport continues to increase in popularity, unacceptable levels of impact are trending up, ultimately leading to loss of access. Even with a vast network of dedicated volunteers, many of our treasured climbing areas are in desperate need of expert trail building and multiyear stewardship plans.

Dave Montgomery and Jeff Young are heading up this effort as the Conservation Team crew, traveling the

country full time for 10 months of the year in a brand new 2011 Jeep Patriot. Their goal is to help local leaders and volunteers create and execute multi-year stewardship plans. The program has a strong educational focus aimed at teaching volunteers how to think about climbing areas holistically, recognize areas of concern, and address them before issues become dire.

We are currently taking requests for the Conservation Team 2012 tour schedule. If you know of an area in need of our expert Conservation Team, visit www.accessfund.org/CTvisit to submit a request.

See you out there! ■



The Conservation Team is made possible by the generous support of Jeep, REI, Outdoor Research, CLIF Bar, and MSR/Therm-a-Rest.

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Momentum Media PR
Outdoor Retailer
Schoeller
Sterling Rope Company
SuperTopo.com
Rothschild
USA Climbing

MAJOR - \$1,000+

Asolo
Avery Brewing Company
CAMP USA
Clear Future Markerboards
Climb Max Mountaineering
Drive Current
Fixed Pin Publishing
Fox Mountain Guides & Climbing School
Lowe Alpine
Moosejaw
Mountain Khakis
New Belgium Brewing Company
Pacific Edge Climbing Gym
RESTOP
Spadout.com
Treasure Mountain Inn
Upslope Brewing Company
Vertical World, Inc.
Yates Gear Inc.

CONTRIBUTING - \$500+

Adventure Inn Moab
Aiguille Rock Climbing Center
Alpine Ascents International
Amarillo Rock Climbing House

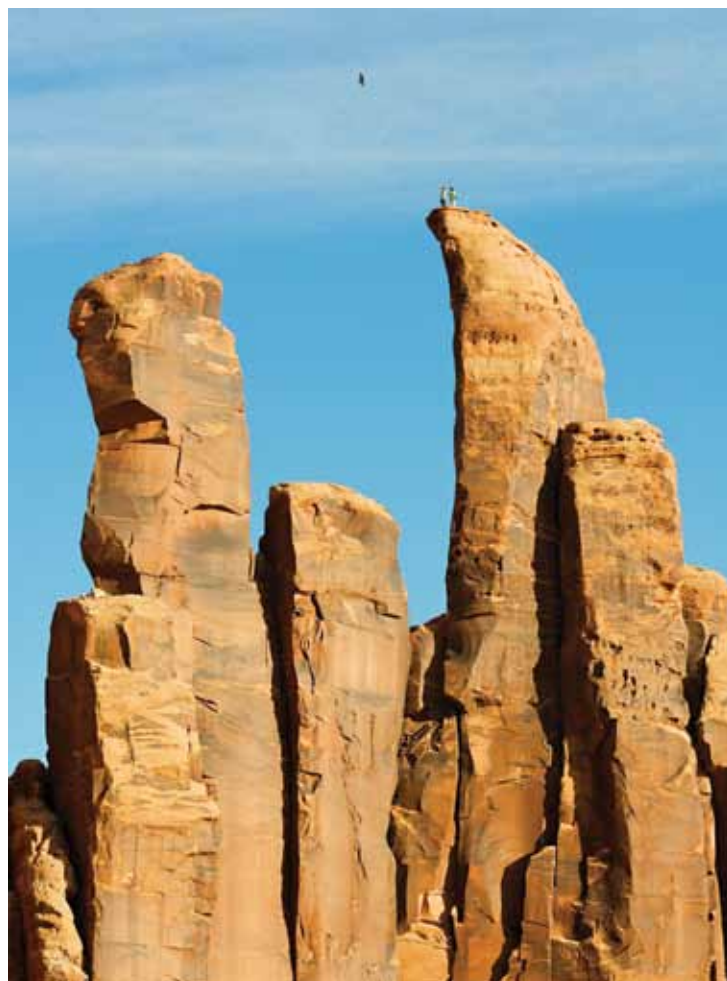
DMM Excalibur/Wild Country/
Red Chili
Desert Rock Sports
Eddie McStiffs
Evolve Sports
Footprints, Inc.
GearEXPRESS.com
Geezer, Inc.
Got it! Real Estate & Development
Gregory Mountain Products
Haven Housewrights, LLC
Higher Ground Roasters
Julbo
KNS Reps, Inc.
Liberty Mountain Climbing
Love Muffin Café
Moab Half Marathon
Mountain Project
Mountain Tools
Neptune Mountaineering
Oskar Blues Brewery
Outdoor Utah Adventure
PMI
Poison Spider Bicycles
Redpoint Nutrition
Redwood Creek
Rocks and Ropes of Tucson
Silltech
Stone Age Climbing Gym
Times Independent Publishing
Tom K. Michael, DDS, PS
Trailspace.com
Vandalion Restaurant
Verde PR & Consulting
Wes & Gold

SUPPORTING - \$250+

Alpine Endeavors
Boulder Rock Club/
Colorado Mountain School
Climb Nashville
Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS)
Hilleberg the Tentmaker
Omega Pacific
Intelligentsia
Mesa Rim Climbing Center
Pagoda Climbing
Rock & Snow
The Law Firm for Non-Profits
Wild Country
Zeal Optics



Carhartt is a new partner to the Access Fund this year, and they have stepped up in a big way to support climbing access and conservation. Carhartt has been raising money to keep climbing areas open at the Outdoor Retailer Trade Show through special product sales that benefit the Access Fund. For 120 years, Carhartt has manufactured premium workwear known for exceptional durability, comfort, quality of construction, and fit that you can feel in the fabrics and see in the performance. We appreciate Carhartt's generosity and commitment to protecting America's climbing.



Clockwise from top left: Chris Weidner takes a break from the punishment in Fremont Canyon, WY; Chris Weidner and Lauren Lee climbing the Witches Thumb on Green River Towers in Labyrinth Canyon, UT; Chad Peele ice climbing in Box Canyon near Ouray, CO. © Celin Serbo

Celin Serbo

My introduction to photography came in 1992 when an influential friend gave me a manual medium format camera shortly after I graduated from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. Having lived in and around Sedona, AZ much of my life, the unique landscapes of the area are what initially sparked my appreciation for natural surroundings and outdoor activities such as climbing, skiing, and biking.

After a brief stint in the “real world,” I spent several years working as a mountain guide. This allowed me incredible opportunities to travel and document my adventures with photographs. As this hobby slowly transformed into a profession, I am still most inspired by the pursuit of capturing outdoor adventure and the lifestyle surrounding it.

Celin is currently based in Boulder, CO, and is available for commercial and editorial assignment work. His stock images are represented through Aurora Photos. Visit www.serbophoto.com to see more. ■



The Access Fund
 P.O. Box 17010
 Boulder, Colorado 80308

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- Osprey DigiStow pack accessory to keep your camera safe
- Two packs of Sterling Rope Wash
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- CLIF Shot Bloks



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Photo shows the SUPER Holiday Package



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