

VERTICAL TIMES

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Sharp End Awards: Meet 2017's Outstanding Climbing Advocates

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Protect America's Climbing

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“Beauty, like supreme dominion
Is but supported by opinion.”

– BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

By now, most of you know that Access Fund took a legal stand late last year to protect Bears Ears in southern Utah and its exceptional climbing resources, including the world-renowned Indian Creek. This was not a decision we took lightly. We pride ourselves on working collaboratively with federal, state, and local government whenever we can, but sometimes it is necessary to take a stand. The President’s attempt to drastically reduce Bears Ears National Monument not only threatens climbing within the monument, it sets a dangerous precedent that threatens the integrity of our public lands system. Whatever your political affiliation, I hope we can all agree that the Bears Ears region is worthy of landscape-level protection. I encourage everyone who has questions to visit accessfund.org/befaq.

The support we have received from the community has been overwhelmingly positive. To those of you who took the time to write, to post and tweet, to attend a rally, or donate money to the cause, thank you! We need to keep it all up, as these threats aren’t going away anytime soon.

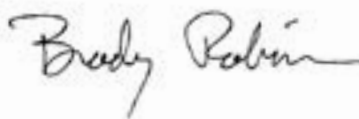
But we also need to be sure that Bears Ears and the swirling political issues we’re facing don’t overshadow the great work being done across the country to protect climbing areas. In just the last few months,

we’ve supported the acquisition of the AVP Boulders in Virginia and Bolton Dome in Vermont. We are launching a huge stewardship project in the Liberty Bell Group of Washington, and we’ve sent our three teams of master trail builders—the Access Fund-Jeep Conservation Teams—out on the road for another year-long mission of trail building, stewardship, and training. We are also ramping up our efforts to replace bad bolts, with a new series of bolt replacement trainings, which you can read more about in this issue.

One central promise of the Access Fund is this: No climbing area is too big or too small. If it’s important to you, it’s important to us. When your little piece of outdoor climbing beauty and paradise is threatened, we’ll be there to help keep it open and protected, whether it’s an iconic landscape of southern Utah or a beloved backyard bouldering area in Virginia.

The only way we are able to fulfill this promise is through our incredible network of volunteers and local advocates. Take a look at our lead story to read about the impressive work of our 2017 Sharp End Awardees.

See you out there,



Brady Robinson
Access Fund Executive Director



Become a Legacy Donor

Some of us may never develop a climbing route, put up a first ascent, write a guidebook, or climb 5.15. But there are other ways to contribute to the story of climbing in America. Making a planned gift to Access Fund is an easy way to establish your own legacy of climbing access, and give back to the climbing experience. Planned giving is not just for the wealthy or those with expertise in financial planning. Learn more at www.accessfund.org/plannedgift

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GENERAL COUNSEL

Chris Archer



New North Carolina Crag Dedicated to the Late John Myers

Little Bear Wallow Falls (aka Gerton Ice) and the surrounding cliff bands outside of Asheville, North Carolina, offer climbers consistent winter ice climbing and great summer cragging. This area was recently protected through a unique partnership among the late climbing advocate John Myers, the Carolina Climbers Coalition, and the nonprofit Conserving Carolina. More than a hundred people attended a ceremony this past December to officially open the area to climbing and hiking and dedicate the crag to Myers, honoring his many contributions to climbing and conservation in North Carolina. Myers, a former Access Fund board member, passed away in February due to ALS. Rest in peace, John. Your legacy lives on.



Minnesota's Ice Climbing Parks

Minnesota climbers are on a roll, forging partnerships with city land managers to create ice climbing opportunities and boost winter adventure tourism. Minnesota Climbers Association recently expanded its ice farming operation to create a large zone of beginner-friendly axe-swinging at Sandstone's Ice Park. And Duluth Climbers Coalition just wrapped up its second annual Duluth Ice & Mixed Fest, a festival of winter sports highlighting Casket Quarry, the city's destination ice crag. Both areas and local climbing organizations are setting great examples for successful community partnerships and well-managed urban climbing resources.

New Mexico Climbing Stewardship

New Mexico Climbing Resource and Advocacy Group (NMCRA) is blazing new trail with more volunteers and stewardship projects at popular crags and bouldering areas. In the past few years, the organization has teamed up with the Access Fund-Jeep Conservation Team to clean up and rebuild climbing infrastructure at both Diablo Canyon and El Rito. NMCRA is also working with the Forest Service to plan stewardship efforts at Roy, an increasingly popular bouldering area in the Southwest. Keep it up, NMCRA!

LCO 101: Working with State Parks

State parks are home to some of our country's best climbing areas, like Hueco Tanks, Rumbling Bald, Smith Rock, Eldorado Canyon, and Cathedral Ledge, to name a few. Here are some tips for working with state parks to expand climbing access and stewardship.

Use your local status. You're a park user, state citizen, and constituent with political power. Reach out to your state representatives, contact the local mayor or county government, and work with the chamber of commerce or tourism department—educate the powers that be about the value of climbing for the economy and the health of your state's citizens.

Think like a land manager. Do your homework: Know your park, the state agency it falls under, and the policies and management plans that apply. Visitor safety, rescue planning, law enforcement, short- and

long-term maintenance, natural resource protection, recreational opportunity—these are some common top-level concerns for state park land managers. Tailor your proposal to their existing plans and priorities.

Emphasize economic benefits and increased visits. It's hard times out there for many state parks and land managers. They're under more pressure to justify their existence by showing revenue and strong visitor numbers. Make the case that climbers will boost visits and bring more money to the park and local community.

Become a management partner. Many park managers welcome support from a local climbing organization. Offer help with things like fixed anchor replacement, mapping climbing resources and trails, large-scale trail and infrastructure projects, and climber sign-in systems.



CLIMB LIKE A LOCAL: RED ROCK CANYON

Lose yourself in the dazzling Mojave Desert, and you might just forget how close you are to Sin City. Red Rock Canyon has it all—from quality boulders to adventurous 20-pitch trad routes and everything in between. And in case you're in the mood to get debaucherous, the sandstone cliffs are just minutes from Vegas.

LOCAL VIBE: You'll find trad climbers, sport climbers, and boulderers—in that order—at Red Rock Canyon. Despite the abundance of trad climbers, you'll be hard-pressed to find them when you first roll up—they're way off down in the main canyons exploring big multi-pitch terrain. The hard sport climbers (remnants of the 1980s Red Rocks sport renaissance) can be found in the Calico Hills. Wherever you're headed, get ready for a choose-your-own-adventure trip.

AVOID THE CROWDS: Red Rock Canyon classics tend to be crowded, but if you branch out from Cat in the Hat, you will be rewarded. Even a short hike will get you away from the lines. As a rule of thumb, the farther you get from the loop, the fewer people you'll run into.

LOCAL PET PEEVE: Climbing on wet rock. The sandstone here is super fragile, so it's easy to damage if you climb on it during or after rain. How do you know if the rock is too wet? If the ground under your intended route is anything but dusty, pick another spot to climb until it dries out.

WATCH OUT! Access to the 13-Mile Scenic Drive Loop, which brings you to a number of classic Red Rock climbs, is limited to daylight hours. The loop opens at 6 a.m. every day and closes at sunset (5 p.m. November through February, 7 p.m. March and October, and 8 p.m. April through September). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) does issue parking tickets, but you can avoid one by calling 702-515-5050 up to a week before your climb to secure a Late Exit Permit. Just be sure to leave all the information required, or the BLM won't issue you one.

WHO'S GOT YOUR BACK? The Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition represents the climbing community at Red Rock Canyon.

PRO TIP: "Red Rocks and sunny days go together like french fries and ketchup. While most people only visit the desert during the dead of winter, you can find plentiful shade and good climbing temperatures at Red Rocks well into April most years. Check the guidebook for north-facing crags with a little exposure (wind), and if that isn't cool enough for you, nearby limestone zones like Mt. Potosi, Mt. Charleston, and Clark Mountain are higher elevation and completely climbable even into the summer months." – Jonathan Siegrist, pro climber and Red Rock Canyon regular ■



THE FIGHT FOR BEARS EARS IS JUST BEGINNING

President Trump's December 4, 2017, proclamation to drastically reduce Bears Ears National Monument sent shock waves through the outdoor recreation community. After an in-depth analysis, Access Fund determined that we needed to take a legal stand in order to protect the Bears Ears region, all national monuments, and the Antiquities Act itself.

On December 6, Access Fund filed a legal complaint at the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. We argue that President Trump's proclamation to replace Bears Ears National Monument with two smaller units is unlawful. We assert that the President's action exceeded the authority provided by the Antiquities Act, and that it violates the Property Clause and Take Care Clause of the United States Constitution.

If the proclamation stands, the impacts to climbing and our public lands system would be far reaching:

- **About 40 percent of the climbing areas within Bears Ears National Monument would lose their national monument status,** including Valley of the Gods, Harts Draw, Lockhart Basin, and a portion of the world-class climbing at Indian Creek (see map).
- **Many sites would be opened up to new uranium claims and oil and gas leases,** including areas under and abutting the world-class climbing at Indian Creek. The two new, much smaller monument units that the Trump administration is attempting to establish are drawn explicitly to allow uranium and oil and gas exploration and development (see map).

- **Climbing will lose its acknowledged status as a valued and appropriate activity.**

Access Fund spent hundreds of hours of targeted advocacy to get "rock climbing" included in the original Bears Ears National Monument proclamation as a valued and appropriate activity, earning climbers a seat at the table during management decision-making. No such acknowledgment exists in Trump's new proclamation, meaning land managers don't need to consider climbers' interests.

- **The climbing and outdoor experience will be compromised.**

Bears Ears offers incredible opportunities to enjoy a unique outdoor, cultural, and historical experience. This presidential proclamation attempts to dismantle

the landscape-scale protections that preserve this incredibly unique region, rich in cultural and natural resources.

• **A dangerous precedent will be set.** This fight is about more than just protecting the incredible climbing at Bears Ears. Nearly 60 percent of our climbing areas are on federal public lands, and if this presidential proclamation stands, it threatens the very foundation of our public lands system. Bears Ears is a crucial battle in the greater fight for America's public lands.

We have a long battle ahead of us in our legal fight for Bears Ears, and the fight will be measured in years, not months. But our lawsuit to protect Bears Ears is only part of the battle. In addition to litigation, Access Fund is actively working to block bills that would institutionalize the reduction of Bears Ears or weaken the integrity of the Antiquities Act (such as H.R. 3990 and H.R. 4532).

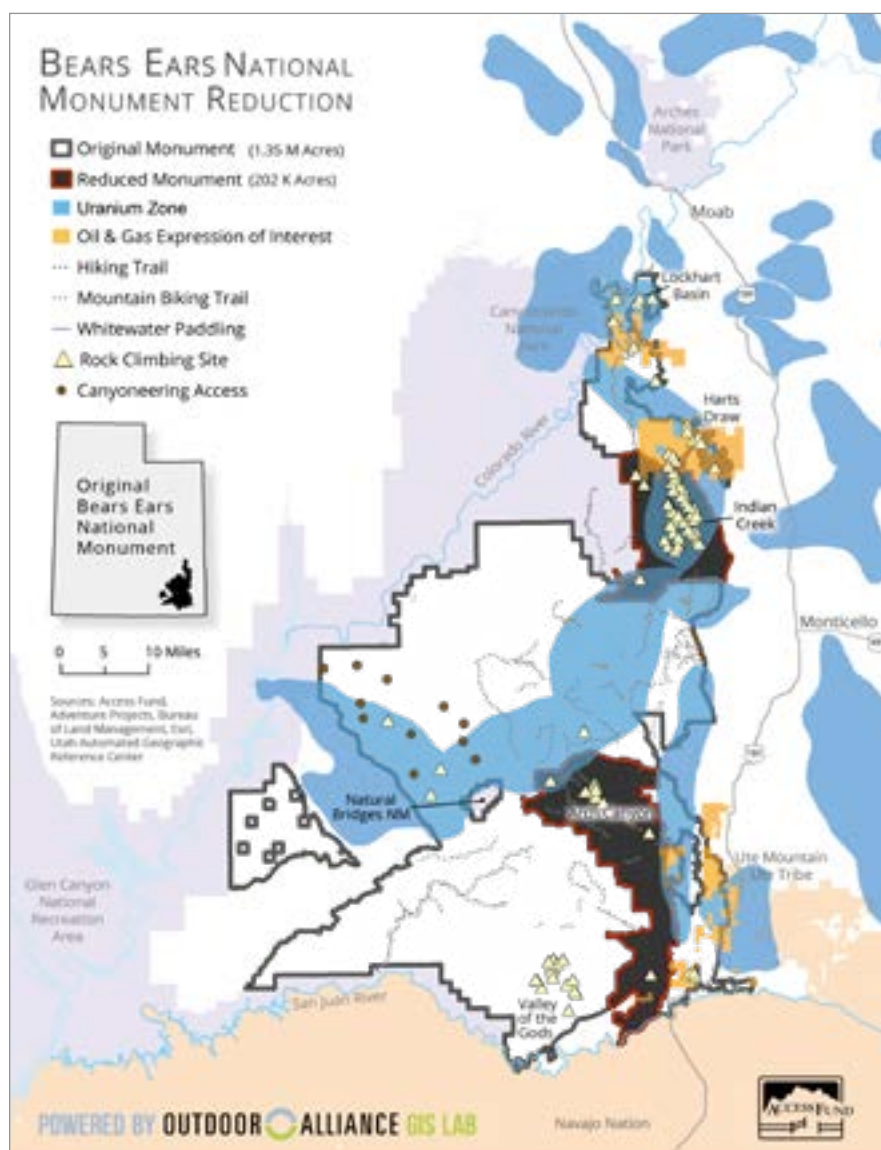
We are also working to oppose new Bureau of Land Management (BLM) policies that aim to fast track energy development at Bears Ears, making environmental reviews and stakeholder input (from climbers and others) optional. Over 1 million acres of protected BLM land lost National Monument status as a result of the the Bears Ears National Monument reduction, and over 700,000 acres were officially opened for oil and gas leasing and mineral claims on February 2 of this year. These new policies ignore BLM's legal mandate to consider multiple uses. Public lands are owned by all Americans, and the BLM is obligated

to consider all of the values that are acknowledged by federal land law—including recreation and conservation—when important decisions are made regarding leasing land to private industry.

The Bureau of Land Management is quickly moving forward on the development of a Monument Management Plan in order to help institutionalize the reduction of Bears Ears. Although Access Fund asserts

that the National Monument reduction is illegal, we will participate in the process and continue to represent the climbing community's interests at the world-class climbing areas within the reduced monument boundaries.

The stakes are high, and Access Fund is committed to fighting for Bears Ears National Monument—on all fronts—as well as for the integrity of our public lands system. And we're in it for the long haul. ■





SHARP END AWARDS

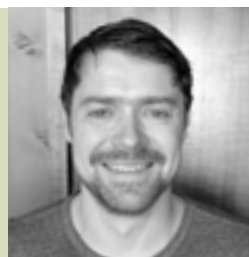
For 20 years, Access Fund has been recognizing the outstanding work of climbing advocates across the country. Among this year's honorees are rockstar local climbing organizations, bolt warriors, climbing stewards, acquisition gurus, and visionary educators. These individuals and organizations stand out in their commitment to the American climbing community.



PETER CLARK

For commitment to climbing advocacy and conservation in Massachusetts and

beyond. A board member and former president of the Western Massachusetts Climbers Coalition, Peter has worked tirelessly to steward and protect important areas like Farley Ledges and Rattlesnake Gutter. He also mobilized new local climbing organizations, such as the Monadnock Climbers Association, and his work as a cliff ecologist has helped preserve access to New River Gorge and Breaks Interstate Park, helping Access Fund create more sustainable climbing management solutions.



JOHN CONNOR

For his role in establishing the Climber Stewards program, a unique partnership

between National Park Service staff and dedicated volunteer climbers. He was instrumental in establishing the Climbing Stewards as an official nonprofit, broadening its services, and expanding it from Yosemite to Joshua Tree National Park and Devils Tower National Monument—and he has big plans to make the program available at national parks and other federally managed climbing resources across the country.



CENTRAL APPALACHIA CLIMBERS COALITION

For the successful purchase of the AVP Boulders at Grayson Highlands and remarkable success in preserving and protecting climbing areas across the Central Appalachia region. Working with Access Fund, CACC led careful negotiations to subdivide and purchase a small portion of the landowner's property, which contained the AVP Boulder and adjacent blocs. CACC's board members have also opened major new climbing areas in the region—Breaks Interstate Park and Flag Rock Recreation Area—by partnering with local towns and state parks to show that climbing and outdoor recreation are good for both the economy and the health of local communities.

Meet 2017's Outstanding Climbing Advocates



YASMEEN FOWLER

For leadership of Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition (RRGCC).

Under her leadership,

the coalition paid off loans on its Miller Fork Recreational Preserve property and purchased Bald Rock Recreational Preserve, securing access to the Motherlode, Chocolate Factory, and other renowned crags. Under Yasmeen's forward-thinking guidance, RRGCC also increased protections on 1,000-plus acres of climbing by partnering with Access Fund to establish permanent easements on all three of their climbing preserves.



RUSTY GEORGE

For support and mentorship of young adults in the importance of stewardship and

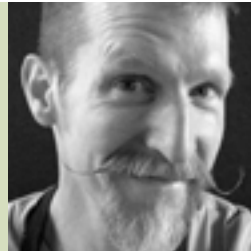
volunteerism. For years, Rusty has brought his high school students from Montrose, Colorado, to help build sustainable trails throughout Indian Creek in Utah. Each year his students spend two to three days moving building material (like large sandstone blocks) to create sustainable climbing access trails. Rusty's dedication and support have left a lasting legacy at Indian Creek.



MATTHEW GANT

For leadership of the Southeastern Climbers Coalition (SCC) and his dedicated work to

preserve and protect climbing areas in Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee. During Matthew's eight-year presidency, SCC successfully acquired three properties, including the Hospital Boulders, access to Deep Creek, and the landmark Denny Cove. Matthew has also led over 100 trail days at local climbing areas and helped grow SCC into a sustainable local climbing organization.



GREG GERMAN

For dedication to advancing standards and techniques in fixed anchor replacement

at the national level and work as a volunteer with the Action Committee for Eldorado (ACE). Greg has been volunteering with ACE since 2012 on the Fixed Hardware Review Committee for Eldorado Canyon State Park. He also spends a great deal of time replacing bad bolts. Greg's curiosity and ingenuity coupled with his dedication to fixed anchor replacement led him to develop cutting-edge techniques in the like-for-like replacement of aging fixed hardware.



GEIR HUNDAL

For work with the Climbing Association of Southern Arizona (CASA) and for dedication

to advancing standards and techniques in fixed anchor replacement at the national level. Geir has dedicated countless hours to replacing aging fixed anchors at crags across southern Arizona. He also developed the Hurley Jr. and Hurley Sr. bolt removal devices and works with Access Fund to make the tools available to volunteers across the country.



TOUCHSTONE CLIMBING

For leadership in promoting responsible outdoor climbing practices by mentoring

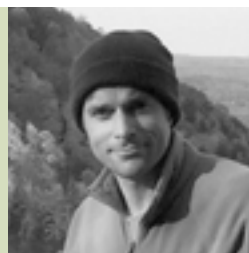
new climbers and educating its members on threats to climbing access. Touchstone consistently provides its community with opportunities to get involved and give back, and also supports Access Fund's work as a member gym.



ERIC SOPHIEA

For leadership in founding the Climbing Association of Southern Arizona (CASA) to

steward and protect Tucson climbing areas. Eric has led bolt replacement and stewardship projects at climbing areas across the region, and he helped establish a Youth Stewardship Day to get young volunteers more involved in the community. Eric received a 2017 Cox Conserves Heroes award for his founding leadership and received a \$10,000 award to invest in CASA.



MIKE WHELAN

For opening John Boyd Thacher State Park in New York to climbing.

Mike identified the massive potential for single-pitch rock and ice climbing on Thacher's extensive limestone, founded the Thacher Climbing Coalition (TCC), and worked with Access Fund and the park on a climbing management plan that allowed for responsible route development of the new area. Mike's years of effort paid off last year when TCC joined Thacher State Park in celebrating the park's official opening to climbing.



EAST TENNESSEE CLIMBERS COALITION

For the successful acquisition of the parking and access trail to Clear Creek, one of the Obed area's most popular climbing areas. ETCC rallied a grassroots fundraising effort to purchase the property and secure climbing access. For more than a decade, ETCC's all-volunteer board has maintained an excellent partnership with local land managers in the Obed region.

CRAG DOGS: ACCEPTABLE OR NOT?

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 rather to offer some guidelines for appropriate crag dog behavior and to let you know where and how it's legal to bring your dog.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY DOG IS ALLOWED?

Dogs are not allowed at every climbing area, so know the rules before you go. Do some online sleuthing and figure out who owns the climbing area. Know the guidelines for public lands.

National parks are the most restrictive when it comes to our four-legged companions. Dogs are prohibited from backcountry areas (with some very rare exceptions), and are allowed in front-country areas (like developed campsites, parking lots, roads, paved paths, and scenic overlooks) only if they're leashed or "under physical restraint" at all times.

Forest Service lands typically allow dogs in developed recreation areas and on interpretive trails, but they must be leashed at all times.

Bureau of Land Management lands have the least restrictive policy concerning dogs, requiring leashes only where habitat or wildlife restorations exist.

State parks and local government lands vary wildly, but typically require your dog to be leashed. Check regulations before heading out to climb with your pup.

Federally designated wilderness areas usually allow leashed pets, unless the area is inside a national park or restrictions are posted.



Photo: © Steph Davis

WHEN TO LEAVE YOUR DOG AT HOME

- If you're climbing multi-pitch routes and can't be on the ground to supervise your dog and make sure its needs are met.
- When you're visiting a popular climbing area with lots of other climbers, confined staging areas, or known wildlife concerns (rattlesnakes, bear, bees, etc.).
- If the land manager prohibits dogs or if you can't get a clear answer on whether they are allowed.
- If the day is hot and the approach is long. Dogs who bake in the sun typically dig down to cooler soil, creating increasing levels of erosion at climbing areas.
- If you or your dog aren't ready, based on the Crag Dog Quiz below.

CRAG DOG QUIZ: ARE YOU AND YOUR DOG READY?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have checked the rules and regulations ahead of time to make sure my dog is allowed at the climbing area. | <input type="checkbox"/> My dog responds consistently to verbal commands and can be controlled around other people and dogs. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a leash or tether to restrain my dog if needed or if land rules require it. | <input type="checkbox"/> My dog shows no signs of aggression toward people or other dogs. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am committed to keeping my dog out of the way of belayers, spotters, and other people's gear. | <input type="checkbox"/> My dog doesn't bark and whine incessantly. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have adequate food and water for my dog's day out. | <input type="checkbox"/> My dog doesn't dig or chase wildlife. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have plenty of poop bags and plan to clean up after my dog and pack it out. | |



Addressing the Problem of Aging Bolts

Most climbing areas in the United States have bolts and other forms of fixed anchors to provide protection on routes or simply a straightforward means of descending without damaging cliff-top vegetation. Many of these bolts were installed decades ago, using subpar materials that were not meant to withstand the test of time.

So far, examples of bolt catastrophes have been mercifully rare, but they happen—rusty bolts break, corroded hangers crack, bolts installed in incorrectly sized holes pull out, and over-tightened bolts snap. As the huge number of bolts placed during

the '80s and '90s begin to reach their 20th or 30th birthdays, the stories of failure are sure to increase.

Access Fund has begun to dedicate programming and resources to help local climbing communities address the problem of aging bolts. In 2016 we launched a series of educational content and videos to provide the most up-to-date information on bolt replacement techniques and tools. And our Anchor Replacement Fund, administered in partnership with American Alpine Club, helps fund bolt replacement initiatives.

We've also been working alongside innovative members of the climbing community—Geir Hundal of Tucson,

Arizona, and Greg German of Boulder, Colorado—to improve bolt removal devices. Today, we are manufacturing and distributing, free of charge, the Hurley Jr. and Hurley Sr. devices. These simple-to-use, lightweight devices have brought sustainable bolt replacement within reach of a much broader audience, and the response from the community has been enthusiastic, with tools flying off the shelves.

With local climbing organizations, land managers, and volunteers motivated and ready to tackle the problem of aging bolts, Access Fund recognized that in-person trainings were the next step in elevating bolt replacement standards across the country. So, in 2017, we teamed up with Petzl to launch a new series of workshops called Bolt Trip: Vertical Stewardship. These workshops are designed to bring land managers and bolt replacement volunteers together to share best practices for sustainable bolt replacement. Last year, we hosted two Bolt Trips, one at Mohonk Preserve in New York and one in Chattanooga, Tennessee. This year, we're taking the Bolt Trip to Tucson, Arizona (April 2-6) for a special workshop tailored to federal land managers; Breaks Interstate Park on the Virginia-Kentucky border (April 13-15); and Salt Lake City (October 12-14).

Access Fund is committed to empowering local communities to manage and address the problem of aging bolts. Stay tuned as we continue to expand our bolt replacement programming. ■

ACCESS RESTORED at New Hampshire's Band M Ledge

Just outside of Conway, New Hampshire, nestled high on a hillside overlooking Ledge Pond, sits Band M Ledge—a sunny and quiet granite cliff with 50 routes ranging from 5.5 to 5.13, with most falling on the upper end of the grade range.

Despite its long history of climbing, the privately owned Band M Ledge was closed in 2011 due to the landowner's concerns about managing public access alongside an active quarry operation.

In 2017, Access Fund hired a Northeast regional director to begin working with local climbing advocates to expand and protect climbing access in the region. Mike Morin, now based in North Conway, had just retired from three years on the road as a conservation specialist with the Access Fund-Jeep Conservation Team. A Maine native, Mike was eager to settle back in the Northeast, and with 10 years of experience as a park ranger and recreation manager, he was uniquely qualified for the role.

One of Mike's first projects was to team up with Friends of the Ledges to establish a relationship with Band M Ledge's landowner, Alvin J. Coleman & Son, Inc., a family-owned New Hampshire company. Working together, they formalized a climbing management agreement with the Coleman family, providing them with necessary risk management and insurance provisions that address the liability concerns that contributed to the 2011 closure. Access Fund currently holds the three-year climbing management agreement with the landowner, and there is an option to renew in three years and assign it to Friends of the Ledges.

"We don't have a ton of rock in the Northeast, compared with other areas, so what we have is really important," said

Friends of the Ledges board member Sam Bendroth, who worked with Access Fund and the Coleman family on the new agreement.

With the climbing management agreement in place, Band M Ledge is once again open to climbing—from the Steps Area to Bandit Area. In order to maintain public access, the climbing community must be respectful of the property and commit to stewarding the site. Visiting climbers are encouraged to educate themselves on the terms of the climbing management agreement, which are posted near the trailhead.

ACCESS DETAILS

- Climbers must not enter any part of the quarry.
- Climbers must park and access the cliff from the new access point off the old Class VI Whitten Ledge/Gumb Quarry Road.
- Access is day-use only.
- No commercial activity is allowed at the site.
- Follow trail signs, and do not venture off the established access trail when approaching the cliff.
- Limit all recreation to the area around Band M Ledge.

"This is a great win for local climbers and demonstrates what can be accomplished when partnerships are forged among local climbing organizations, Access Fund, and private landowners," says Morin. "We are excited to play a role in reopening Band M Ledge and could not have done it without local leaders and the willingness of the Coleman family to work with us." ■

Corporate Partners

For over 20 years, Clif Bar & Company has supported the Access Fund in its mission to protect and conserve America's climbing areas. As a sponsor of the Access Fund-Jeep Conservation Team and the Adopt a Crag programs, Clif helps us conserve and steward hundreds of climbing areas across the country each year.

And the company feeds many hungry volunteers who join us on the trail.

Access Fund would like to thank Clif for two decades of partnership in climbing conservation.



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 Access Fund and you. We encourage you to support them!

ABOVE THE CLOUDS - \$100,000+

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Earth Treks
La Sportiva
Outdoor Research
Taxa Outdoors
The North Face
Planet Granite

PLATINUM PLUS - \$15,000+

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SCARPA North America
Sciencia Collective
Stone Age Climbing Gym
Stone Gardens
Vertical World Climbing Gyms

MAJOR - \$1,000+

Altos
Ascend Pittsburgh
Ascent Studio Climbing & Fitness
Austin Bouldering Project

Avery Brewing Company
Bison Designs
BlueWater Ropes
CAMP USA
Carabiner Coffee Co.
Carhartt
Evolv Sports and Designs
Film Festival Flix
Float Apparel
Goat's Beard Mountain Supplies
Good To-Go
GSI Outdoors
High Point Climbing and Fitness
Mesa Rim Climbing Centers
Mick Tresemer Rope Art
Movement Climbing and Fitness
Mystery Ranch
Neptune Mountaineering
Onsight Gear
Pacific Edge Climbing Gym
Polar Bottle
RESTOP
Rock and Resole
Rock Gym Pro
ROCK'n and JAM'n
Sender Films
Spire Climbing Center
Sublime Climbing
Tenkara USA
TRUBLUE Auto Belay by Head Rush
Upslope Brewing
Urban Ascent
Vertical Adventures
Vital Climbing Gym
Voltaic Systems
The Warrior's Way

CONTRIBUTING - \$500+

Armaid
Boulder Adventure Lodge
Boulder Denim
Cheeky Climber
CityROCK Climbing Center
Climbing Zine
Dealspotr Online Shopping
Factory Bouldering
The Gravity Vault
Hidden Woods Media
Liberty Mountain
Macpherson and Associates Inc.
Mad Rock
MontBell
Moosejaw
My Climb App

Nite Ize
NOCO Gear
Onsight Chiropractic of Berkeley
Onsight Rock Gym
Real Athlete Diets
Rock and Snow
RoKC
RoofNest
Sender One LAX
SLO-Op and The Pad Climbing
Sports Basement
Stone Summit Climbing
Tom Michael D.D.S., P.S.
Vertex Climbing Center
Ubergrippen Indoor Climbing Crag

SUPPORTING - \$250+

Altra Running
Avid4 Adventure
Bliss Bouldering and Climbing Complex
Bookyourdata
Carbon Five
Climb-On Maps
Connect Climbing
Dog Patch SF
Feathered Friends
Flying Dog Brewery
Gearheads Inc
Gneiss Apparel Supply Co.
Hotel Boulderado
It's American Press
River Rock Climbing
Rover.com
Santa Fe Climbing Center
Sierra Nevada Adventure Company
SMC Gear
Spangalang Brewery
Sticker Art
Strada Advertising

IN-KIND PARTNERS

Alpinist Magazine
California Climber
Climbing Magazine
The Climbing Zine
Dead Point Magazine
Rakkup
Rock & Ice Magazine
Schoeller
Wolverine Publishing



Clockwise: Max Barron on Reckless Abandon, New River Gorge, West Virginia | Ben Hanna on Coal Train, New River Gorge | Max Barron on Reckless Abandon, New River Gorge, West Virginia

Daniel Gajda

Daniel is a photographer and climber based in Boone, North Carolina. He has been behind a camera most of his life, but only discovered climbing two years ago. Since then, he has been on a mission to show the world the incredible places and perspectives that climbers have the privilege of experiencing. When he's not climbing the world-class boulders in Boone, you can find Daniel in the New River Gorge. To see more of his work, follow him on Instagram at [@gajdaphotography](https://www.instagram.com/gajdaphotography). ■



Protect America's Climbing

The Access Fund
PO Box 17010
Boulder, CO 80308



CONSERVATION TEAMS HEAD OUT ON 2018 TOUR

And they're off! Our three Access Fund-Jeep Conservation Team crews hit the road in February to care for climbing areas across the country. Conservation Team National will focus on stewardship and community engagement, kicking off their tour in the Southwest. Conservation Team West will kick off their tour with extensive work at Joe's Valley in Utah before heading west, then north. And Conservation Team East will begin in the Southeast before heading north to New England this summer. Keep an eye out for one of the Conservation Teams in your area, and be sure to stop and say hello if you run into any of these hard-working crews. They love to hear from Access Fund supporters, and they are always up for making new friends. Big thanks to our 2018 Conservation Team Sponsors: Jeep, Clif, REI, Therm-a-Rest, La Sportiva, Yakima, and YETI. ■