

VERTICAL TIMES

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Buying Climbing Areas: A Market on the Rise

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Protect America's Climbing

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“As I went walking I saw a sign there
And on the sign it said “No Trespassing.”
But on the other side it didn’t say nothing,
That side was made for you and me.
This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York island
From the Redwood forest to the Gulf Stream
waters. This land was made for you and me.”

– WOODY GUTHRIE

You’ve been hearing a lot from us lately about the fight to protect America’s public lands. The growing number of bills, executive orders, resolutions, and legislative rules pushing to dismantle our public lands system is unprecedented.

Just last month, Utah Congressman Rob Bishop introduced the misleadingly titled “National Monument Creation and Protection Act,” a bill that effectively guts the Antiquities Act, the bedrock public lands law that enables the President to designate national monuments. This bill threatens all national monuments and puts many climbing areas across the country at risk. And unfortunately, this is just one initiative among many we are fighting.

People often ask me what they can do in an environment like this. It can be disheartening. You may feel powerless. But there are things you can do.

- **Go to these places.** Feeling passionate about Bears Ears National Monument? Go visit! Get out and get lost in the middle of these wild places. To protect a place, it helps to know it. See and experience for yourself what is at stake, and you’ll be in a much better position to tell others what is at stake.
- **Stay informed.** In many cases, time is not our ally. Keep up with the news from sources you trust, and be ready to take action when necessary. Consider signing up for Access Fund Action Alerts.

- **Tell your friends.** Some people think posting on social media and using hashtags amounts to #slacktivism. But research shows that posting pictures, news items, and your own thoughts really does influence lawmakers. Don’t forget, they work for you. And if politicians see that there is a real political price to be paid for their decisions, they’re likely to think twice. Use social media.
- **Support the organizations you believe in.** There are a lot of organizations doing great work to support public lands. I think we’re one of them. Support your favored organizations with time and money.

As things heat up in the fight for public lands, we must not forget the critical importance of protecting privately owned lands too. Private climbing areas change hands all the time, and they can be lost in the blink of an eye to cash-ready developers. Access Fund is an accredited land trust and manages a revolving loan fund to quickly finance the purchase of at-risk climbing areas. Since 2009, we’ve used the Climbing Conservation Loan Program (CCLP) to save 24 climbing areas across the country. Our feature article in this edition of the *Vertical Times* focuses on this program and our work to protect privately owned climbing areas.

From federal, state, and local lands to privately held climbing areas, our promise to you is this: If it is important to you, it is important to us. No climbing area is too big or too small.

Thank you for your support. Don’t forget to check out our climber gift packages. They are a great gift for the gear hound in your life. And please have a great holiday season!

See you out there,



Brady Robinson
Access Fund Executive Director



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Jon Jugenheimer on an open water lead climb of HMR, an ice climb on Lake Superior at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore near Munising, Michigan. | © Aaron Peterson

New LCO in the Northeast

We're excited to welcome the new Southeast New England Climbers Coalition (SNECC) to our national network. SNECC was established earlier this year to protect, maintain, and establish climbing access across eastern Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and beyond. With a focus on stewardship, SNECC recently knocked out an Adopt a Crag at Quincy Quarry, a historic urban climbing spot near Boston.

New Local Partner in SoCal

Southern California Mountaineers Association (SCMA) joins us as a new affiliate local climbing organization. Founded in 1986, SCMA has historically provided climbing education and outings but is now expanding its work into stewardship and advocacy at climbing areas around Southern California.

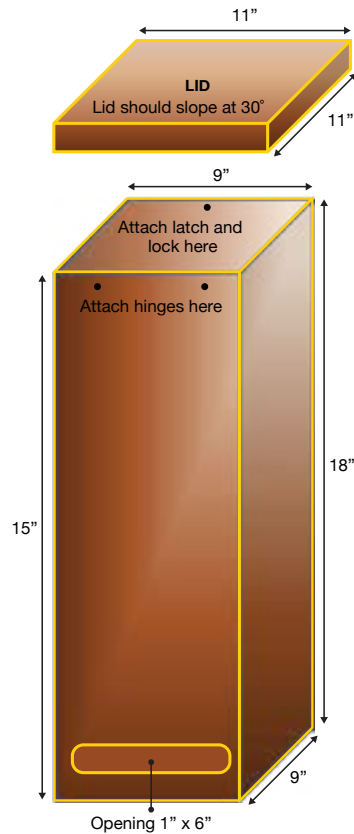


LCO 101: Poop Bag Stations

Smell that? Your climbing area has a human waste problem. More LCOs and land managers are installing poop bag dispensers to encourage climbers to pack it out. Here are some tips for planning and installation.

- **Get permission first.** Talk with your land manager to explain the problem and how your LCO is committed to providing materials and installing and maintaining a bag station. They may even kick in money or material to help.
- **Build it.** Bag dispensers are an easy DIY project consisting of a treated post, an extra tall birdhouse with a lid, and a slot to grab the bags. Paint it a low-key color to blend in and add an informative sign.
- **Stock it with poop bags.** While climbers should ideally pay for their own bags, many LCOs and managers provide them for free to help kickstart the habit and create a new norm. Visit Access Fund's online store to get a bulk discount.
- **Educate, educate, educate.** Pooping in a bag may be good for our climbing areas, but it's not normal. That's why it's essential to educate your climbing community about using the bags and packing it out! Spread the word on social media, your website, and with signage at climbing areas and volunteer events. Visit www.accessfund.org/poop for some new education resources.

Backcountry Waste Disposal Bag Dispenser



- Buy 3/4" treated wood
- Glue and screw panels together
- Paint it
- Mount on 4"x4" post



Designed By: Greg Sievers
Estes Park, CO
gsievers57@cs.com
May 2007



CLIMB LIKE A LOCAL: CHATTANOOGA BOULDERING

With an enormous quantity of world-class sandstone boulders, Chattanooga is the perfect base for a Deep South bouldering trip.

LOCAL VIBE: Chattanooga is the Ellis Island of climbing. It's the South's newest destination outdoor city, and the climbing scene is a big melting pot. The bouldering scene is absolutely mutant—young and super-psyched.

AVOID THE CROWDS: The climber-to-rock ratio in Chattanooga is mind blowing. While most boulderers head to Rock Town and Stone Fort (aka Little Rock City), we recommend checking out Dayton and the Cumberland Boulders as well. Alabama's Horse Pens 40 and Hospital Boulders are only an hour or two away, so Chattanooga is a great home base to check those out.

LOCAL PET PEEVE: Stepping in piles of shit. We recommend that you take your morning constitution in a bathroom or pack it out.

WATCH OUT! Most bouldering here is on private land, and local climbers like to keep a low profile to keep landowner relationships humming. That doesn't mean the culture is secretive, but it is uber responsible. If you want beta on an area, just connect with one of the super-friendly locals.

WHO'S GOT YOUR BACK? The Southeastern Climbers Coalition represents climbers in Chattanooga.

PRO TIP: If you're traveling to Chattanooga, there's a rad hostel called The Crash Pad that's conveniently located in the heart of the southside, walking distance from great restaurants, bars, and live music. – Jimmy Webb, local pro ■

THE CLIMBER'S PACT: RESPECT LOCAL ETHICS



We're all locals somewhere, but what is perfectly acceptable practice at one climbing area might not fly at another. So, how do you navigate the communities, cultures, and ethics at crags across the country?

WHAT IS THE CLIMBER'S PACT?

A promise to your fellow climbers that you'll make a few minor adjustments to your climbing practice that will help protect our outdoor landscapes and the climbing experience we love.

Each month, we'll shed light on a new topic that will raise awareness around climbing issues—everything from chalk use to pooping—and provide some easy tips to help all climbers take part in protecting our climbing areas. We started by exploring the importance of local ethics.

Learn more at: accessfund.org/theclimberspact

Learning about local ethics is a critical part of planning a climbing trip—just like knowing what gear you need, finding the right campground, and scoping out the local grocery store. Do your homework.

Every climbing area in America has its hot button issues—and they aren't just about grouchy locals. The norms and ethics of a climbing area are shaped by many factors, including land manager relations, federal laws, environmental issues, cultural resources, access issues, and bolting norms, among others.

6 TIPS FOR LEARNING LOCAL ETHICS

- Explore the area and forums on Mountain Project.
- Pick up a local guidebook, and don't skip the intro's local narrative.
- Get in touch with the LCO that represents the locals.
- Drop by the local gear shop and ask questions.
- Check out our *Climb Like a Local* series for the inside scoop on popular areas.
- Contact the land manager or visit their website to learn regulations.

UNIVERSAL HOT BUTTON ISSUES

In nearly all the communities we surveyed nationwide, four issues were most common:

- Don't top-rope off anchors.
- Don't climb on wet sandstone.
- Don't retro-bolt without permission of first ascensionist or community consensus.
- Don't hang ropes and bogart an entire section of routes.

Getting the beta on the local climbing culture and ethics is a crucial part of protecting America's climbing. ■



Photo: Shortoff Mountain, Pisgah National Forest | © Bryan Miller, Fixed Line Media

Trump's Quest for Energy Dominance Weakens Public Lands Process

In late June, President Trump announced his interest in establishing America's energy dominance. He stated, "Under the previous administration, so much of our land was closed to development. We're opening it up. The right areas, we're opening it up."

Not wasting any time on this agenda, Trump issued an executive order (EO 13783) asking the Department of Interior (DOI) to figure out how to remove regulations, policies, and guidelines that serve as burdens to energy development on our public lands. And the DOI, as well as some members of Congress, have been aggressively pursuing this directive. Secretary of Interior Zinke has even hired oil and gas industry executives for top-level DOI positions.

While energy development is one valid use of our public lands, it's not the only one. Our national parks, forests, and other federal lands are owned by the public and managed by the federal government. We all share in the ownership, and there are laws—such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act—that mandate a balanced approach to land and resource management as well as opportunities for all stakeholders to provide federal land managers with input on how our collective lands should be managed.

However, the Trump administration has made several regulatory changes (shortsighted in our view) to advance the energy dominance agenda at the expense of balanced land management. The DOI recently issued an order that dramatically shortens the NEPA process to fast track

infrastructure projects. It also instructed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to limit stakeholder participation in order to advance energy leasing and drilling permits.

Congress also repealed a crucial BLM planning rule, limiting the public's ability to be involved in land management planning. It is also advancing the Federal Lands Freedom Act, a bill that proposes a transfer of authority on hundreds of thousands of acres of federal oil and gas leasing parcels to individual states. This massive transfer of power would allow states to bypass federal public process—the same process that gives Americans a voice on how our public lands are used.

Public lands should be managed for balanced use. For climbers, there is a lot at stake—nearly 60% of climbing areas are on federal public lands. Climbers don't have laws that explicitly protect our climbing opportunities. Federal planning processes are sometimes long, cumbersome, and seemingly redundant. However, significantly reducing opportunities for comment and input effectively eliminates climbers and many others from the decision-making process. We must rely on federally mandated public processes—the ones currently being dramatically reduced—to advocate for the protection of climbing access and our climbing environment.

Sign up for our monthly Policy Digest email to stay on top of issues that impact climbing on our public lands:

www.accessfund.org/policy-digest. ■



Buying Climbing Areas: **A MARKET ON THE RISE**

With Access Fund's help, Central Appalachia Climbers Coalition is poised to purchase AVP Boulders in Grayson Highlands, VA. | Photo courtesy of © Kai Böttcher

Sometimes the only way to save a threatened climbing area is to buy it.

Access Fund has been helping local climbers purchase at-risk climbing areas since 1990, beginning with Peshastin Pinnacles, a collection of tilted sandstone slabs in Washington State. The newly formed Access Fund (then still a committee of the American Alpine Club) helped purchase the slabs to restore climbing access.

But when the recession hit in 2008, Access Fund saw a surge in private property going on the market, and many treasured climbing areas were hanging in the balance. Some, like Rumbling Bald and Laurel Knob, would have been lost to cash-ready developers had climbers not stepped in to save them.

Over the previous decade, Access Fund had been investing heavily in helping local climbers organize into sustainable LCOs for the region. The goal was for LCOs to be the first line of defense when an access issue occurs in their region. Today, we have a strong network of over 110 grassroots local climbing organizations across the country.

“Our focus on grassroots advocacy meant we had boots on the ground all across the country,” says Brady Robinson, Access Fund Executive Director. “But these local climbing organizations rarely have the money or the resources to buy these climbing areas—especially when a developer comes to the table with cash in hand. We knew our next big challenge was to empower LCOs to save private lands,” says Robinson.



Since 2003, Access Fund has helped grow the network of LCOs by 153%.

So, in 2008, in the worst economy that most of us have lived through, Access Fund began quietly fundraising for the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign—since renamed the Climbing Conservation Loan Program—to provide LCOs with the funds and expertise to quickly save threatened climbing areas. The revolving loan program was launched in 2009, with just over a million dollars earmarked to save private climbing areas. Over the last 11 years, Access Fund has used the loan program to help save 24 climbing areas across the country.

“We provide local climbing organizations with short-term loans and expertise to quickly protect at-risk climbing areas, giving them the opportunity to raise money over a longer period of time,” says Joe Sambataro, who runs the program as Access Fund’s Access Director. “Once the loan is paid back, we use those same dollars to protect another threatened climbing area.”



The revolving nature of the loan program has allowed Access Fund to use the original \$1,053,000 in cash to protect \$2,513,000 in private land, turning every dollar donated to the CCLP into two and half dollars’ worth of climbing areas conserved.

But the story doesn’t end there. The network of LCOs continues to grow, and these local groups are getting more sophisticated every year.

“The revolving nature of the loan program has allowed Access Fund to use the original \$1,053,000 in cash to protect \$2,513,000 in private land, turning every dollar donated to the CCLP into two and half dollars.”

“More and more local climbing organizations are turning to land acquisition as a tool to save their local crag,” says Zachary Lesch-Huie, Access Fund’s National Affiliate Director. “Sometimes it’s strategic, and sometimes an opportunity falls into their lap and they have to step up. The LCOs are leading the charge, but Access Fund needs to be there to support them.”

The Red River Gorge is a perfect example of the need for the Climbing Conservation Loan Program: There’s an extraordinary amount of climbing on private land, land prices are relatively low, and qualified LCOs are ready to step up to preserve the Red’s next favorite crag.

“The Access Fund’s loan program completely changed the way we think about access around the country. Save for the fortunate few organizations that had angel donors, purchasing property was beyond the reach of most every LCO, which effectively left access up to temporary terms or, more often, no access at all,” says Paul Vidal, former president of the Red River Gorge Climber’s Coalition (RRGCC). “The Access Fund Climbing Conservation Loan Program changes that—like a mortgage gives families the opportunity to buy a house, the CCLP gives climbers the ability to create and protect their home cliffs. In the Red River Gorge, this has meant that more than 1,100 acres and more than 1,000 routes have been secured permanently.

Feature Story

These successes never would have been dreamed of before the CCLP. The program completely changed the way we thought about our options.”

Over the last seven years, Access Fund has partnered with RRGCC to secure three climbing areas through the loan program—Pendergrass Murray Recreational Preserve, Miller Fork Recreational Preserve, and Bald Rock Recreational Preserve, totaling \$490,000 in loan funds.

“Beyond the obvious success—securing climbing—the second- and third-level impacts of these projects continue to help our organization. Climbing in the region is viewed not as an unprofitable burden on or liability to landowners but as opportunities for the community to utilize ‘wasted’ cliffline, create jobs, and transition to a more sustainable economy,” says Vidal.

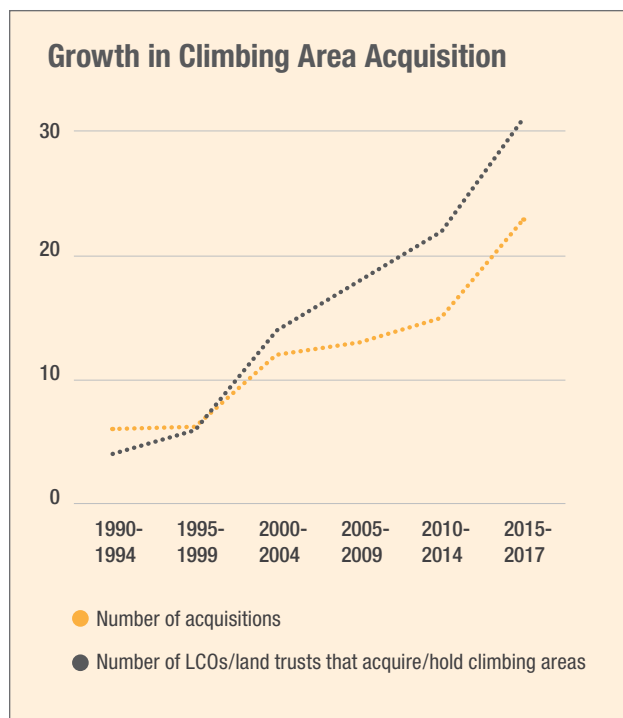
“Like a mortgage gives families the opportunity to buy a house, the CCLP gives climbers the ability to create and protect their home cliffs.”

With Access Fund’s help, LCOs are well positioned to save private climbing areas and boost economic benefits for local communities. And the demand for Climbing Conservation Loans has never been higher.

Right now, Access Fund has \$832,000 out on loan, actively working to secure 10 threatened climbing areas. That leaves the available balance of the loan fund at just under \$100,000 for new projects.



Access Fund purchased a critical access point to the Homestead in central Arizona to save it from indefinite closure. | © Joe Sambataro



“Right now, we have ten potential climbing area acquisitions in the pipeline, five of which are ready to go when we have the funding,” says Sambataro. “With nearly all of the money out on loan in 2017, we are doing our best to negotiate the timeline of projects without losing the opportunity to protect these important climbing areas.”

The \$1M Climbing Conservation Loan Program fund is no longer large enough to keep pace with the threats and opportunities to protect private climbing areas. Access Fund will be calling on the climbing community in the coming months to help us bolster this critical program. ■

SPECIAL THANKS TO *the founding partners of the CCLP, who made the loan program possible: Black Diamond Equipment, Mammut, MSR, Mountain Gear, Outdoor Research, Petzl, prAna, The North Face, and Therm-a-Rest, as well as major partners Marmot and Osprey and supporting partner Metolius.*



CHANGES COMING TO JOE'S VALLEY

This fall, the climbing community will begin to see major changes throughout Joe's Valley in central Utah. Over the last decade, Joe's has gone from a relatively obscure bouldering area with few visitors to one of the biggest bouldering hot spots in the country.

We know that many regulars to Joe's Valley appreciate the unregulated feel of the area, with limited infrastructure. But Joe's simply cannot withstand the sheer number of climbers visiting the area. We are already seeing extreme environmental impacts caused by increased traffic, and they will threaten access if not addressed.

One of the biggest concerns is human waste from visiting climbers, which has the potential to contaminate the local water supply because the bulk of climbing and camping lies alongside seasonal creek beds that feed the surrounding communities.

Heavy foot traffic and constant pad placements have caused extremely eroded and unstable landing areas, as well as a network of braided trails that are stripping soils of their native plants, making the area even more exposed to impacts.

In 2012, Access Fund teamed up with Salt Lake Climbers Alliance to begin planning for much-needed upgrades to the area, including installation of permanent toilets, established approaches, and hardened landing zones. After five years of discussions and collaboration with Emery County, the BLM, and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land managers, Access Fund has secured the approvals, funding, and resources to begin building out infrastructure

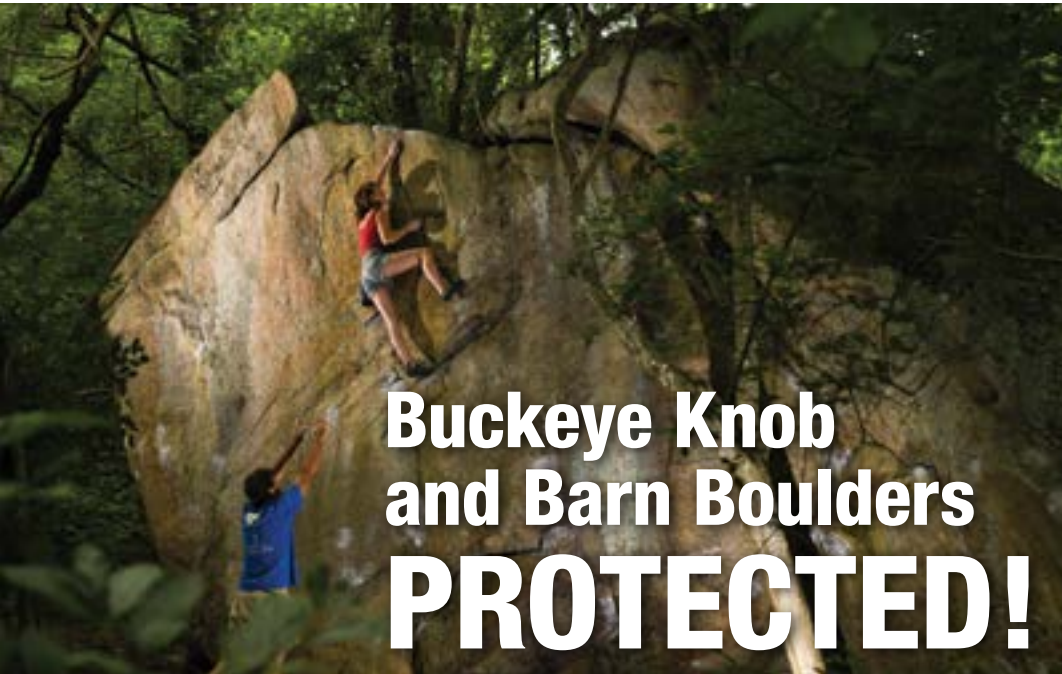
at Joe's Valley that will dramatically improve the long-term sustainability of this popular climbing destination.

The Access Fund–Jeep Conservation Team (West) will lead this stewardship effort, with a focus on maintaining the historic character of Joe's Valley climbing while making it sustainable for the long haul. Throughout October and November, the Conservation Team is working alongside AmeriCorps conservation crews from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and American Conservation Experience (ACE). Funding for this work has come from Access Fund, the Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation, the BLM, and the USFS. The Conservation Team will return in February 2018 to continue this work.

Visiting climbers can expect to see new approaches, retaining walls, rock staircases, and structures near their favorite climbs in both Left and Right Forks. The USFS and BLM have also begun installing vault toilets to help manage the growing human waste concerns.

Climbers can also expect to see changes to camping and parking areas. The BLM plans to build two new campgrounds—one by New Joe's and one in Right Fork—and turn the historic Mansize camping area into a day-use-only area. These changes are expected to begin at the end of this year and be implemented slowly over the next few climbing seasons.

Keep an eye on the Conservation Team's Facebook page for regular updates and opportunities to volunteer: [facebook.com/conservationteam](https://www.facebook.com/conservationteam). ■



Buckeye Knob and Barn Boulders PROTECTED!

Located just outside of Boone, Buckeye Knob and the Barn Boulders are home to problems ranging from V1 to V14 and host some of North Carolina's hardest boulder problems. Thanks to the nature of the stone and the fantastic landings, there is also a circuit of problems from V1 to V3 that has been the start of many ongoing bouldering obsessions among Carolina climbers.

Buckeye Knob was privately owned by the Highland Forestry Land and Timber company, and local climber Joey Henson approached the company about selling the property to climbers. The Carolina Climbers Coalition (CCC) and Access Fund joined forces to support this project, and working collaboratively with the timber company, they reached a deal to purchase the 55-acre tract for \$145,000 for permanent climbing access and conservation. The purchase was made possible with a \$120,000 loan from the Access Fund Climbing Conservation Loan Program.

The Barn Boulders sits on private land adjacent to Buckeye Knob. After seeing climbers come forward to purchase Buckeye, the owners of the Barn Boulders offered to make climbing access official and protected through an access easement onto their property. The easement also provides official access to parking and trails.

"These two properties together represent the best granite bouldering in the Boone area, with amazing lines and perfectly flat landings," says Joey Henson, who has developed and stewarded the area for years. "The rock is an extremely solid granitic gneiss with an ideal variety of sizes and shapes—cracks, aretes, roofs, and slabs. Short walls and large, round freestanding boulders are strewn across the mountain slope, offering over 500 boulder problems on 180 boulders just 10 miles west of Boone."

"Buckeye Knob is the second largest purchase by dollar amount in the CCC's history and the largest by acreage," says Brian Payst, CCC

President. "We are beyond excited to permanently protect not only the bouldering but also the unique character of the forest where the boulders are found. This is truly a treasured area in a part of the state that is home to a lot of high-quality climbing on public lands. The project would not have been possible without the support of the Access Fund."

Local climbers and visitors alike will now have access to this fantastic area, which is the first climber-owned property in North Carolina's High Country region. Buckeye Knob joins Laurel Knob, Hidden Valley, and the Rumbling Bald West Side Boulders in the CCC's portfolio of protected areas. Trail days will be organized soon to shore up the existing trails and start work on a new trail system.

"This project is a perfect example of how a local climbing organization, with the support of the Access Fund, can move quickly to preserve and protect a treasured resource," says Sambataro. "The CCC and Access Fund have a long history of successful and sustainable projects, and we are excited to support a great conservation victory for the region."

The local climbing community has responded with fundraisers and over \$10,000 in donations to help fund the acquisition and reduce the size of the loan. The CCC will be fundraising to pay off the remaining loan balance, allowing Access Fund to reinvest those dollars to save another climbing area.

You can support the protection of Buckeye Knob and the Barn Boulders by making a tax-deductible donation to the Carolina Climbers Coalition at carolinaclimbers.org/projects/buckeyeknob. ■



THE LEGACY SOCIETY

ADD YOUR STORY TO THE LEGACY OF AMERICA'S CLIMBING

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.

Planning a deferred 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. Rather, it can be a very simple way to leave behind a gift of any value to help protect America's climbing.

Making a legacy gift to Access Fund helps ensure that the vitality and tradition of climbing live on—and that our treasured climbing areas remain protected for the next generation.

There are myriad ways that you can leave assets or a portion of your estate to Access Fund. Whether it's through bequests, life insurance, a retirement plan, charitable trusts and annuities, or donation of your van.

Over more than 25 years, Access Fund has built a legacy of protecting climbing areas in America. Let us help you add your legacy to this story. We are ready to help you identify and craft a plan to ensure that your legacy gift is invested in Access Fund's mission, according to your personal and philanthropic goals.

Learn more about planning a deferred gift at www.accessfund.org/legacysociety ■

JENNIFER'S STORY

An Access Fund Legacy Gift

Jennifer loves climbing and is a longtime member of Access Fund. She is 50 years old and has two children. Her estate contains personal possessions, an insurance policy, and a sizable retirement account. Upon her death, Jennifer wants to provide for her children but also wants to give back to the sport of climbing by donating to Access Fund.

To achieve both goals and minimize her tax obligations, Jennifer decides to name Access Fund as a beneficiary of a portion of her retirement account, allowing those funds to pass to Access Fund free of any income tax obligation. Jennifer's children will benefit from the remainder, as well as any other assets in her estate that are free of income taxes. Access Fund will be able to use Jennifer's legacy gift to protect and conserve climbing areas for years to come.

LET'S CONNECT

Please contact us for more information on planning a deferred gift to Access Fund:

📞 303-545-6772

✉️ development@accessfund.org

Touchstone Climbing owns and operates 11 climbing gyms throughout California, making it the largest indoor climbing company in the world. Touchstone has been an Access Fund member gym since 2011 and recently doubled its support. Touchstone also has been instrumental in promoting responsible outdoor climbing behaviors.



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+

Jeep® Brand/Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, LLC

TITANIUM - \$50,000+

Clif Bar & Company
Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)
Touchstone Climbing

DIAMOND PLUS - \$40,000+

Black Diamond Equipment, LTD
Outdoor Research

DIAMOND - \$25,000+

The North Face

PLATINUM PLUS - \$15,000+

Archer Law Offices, P.C.
La Sportiva
Petzl
Planet Granite

PLATINUM - \$10,000+

Google
Jason Keith Consulting
Metolius
Mountain Project
Osprey
The Colorado Health Foundation
Therm-a-Rest
Yakima

GOLD PLUS - \$7,500+

eGrips Climbing Holds
prAna
Sterling Rope Company
Stonewear Designs
Trango

GOLD - \$5,000+

37.5
Brooklyn Boulders
CouponCause.com
Earth Treks Climbing Centers

Entre Prises Climbing Walls
EVO Rock + Fitness
FrictionLabs
Louder Than 11
Mountain Gear
Mountain Hardwear
Seattle Bouldering Project
Sender Films
The Spot Bouldering Gym

SILVER - \$2,500+

ABC Kids Climbing
adidas TERREX
Avery Brewing Company
Beeline Bikes
Bison Designs
Boulder Rock Club
Christopher Intellectual Property Law
Clif Family Winery
ClimbTech
Falcon Guides
Five Ten
Flash Foxy
HydraPak
Macpherson and Associates Inc.
MARCAT Group, LLC
Movement Climbing + Fitness
Network for Good
Omega Pacific
Outdoor Retailer
Pacific Edge Climbing Gym
Peter W Gilroy
Phoenix Rock Gym
PromoCodeWatch.com
Sea to Summit
SCARPA North America
Scienzia Collective
Stone Age Climbing Gym
Stone Gardens
Thrive Tribe

MAJOR - \$1,000+

Advanced Specialty Care, PC
Arc'teryx Stanford Center
ASANA
ASCEND Pittsburgh
BlueWater Ropes
Boulderdash Indoor Rock Climbing
CAMP USA
Carabiner Coffee Co.
Carhartt
Evolv Sports and Designs
Experience Momentum
Film Festival Flix
Goal Zero
GSI Outdoors
High Point Climbing and Fitness

Liberty Mountain Climbing
Mammut
Maxim Ropes
Mesa Rim Climbing Centers
Mick Tresemer Rope Art
MontBell
Mountainsmith
Mountain Tools
Mystery Ranch
Neptune Mountaineering
Onsight Gear
Pacific Edge Climbing Gym
Phoenix Climbs Events
Polar Bottle
Rock and Resole
ROCK'n and JAM'n
Spire Climbing Center
The Warrior's Way
Vital Climbing Gym
Voltaic Systems

CONTRIBUTING - \$500+

Apex Climbing Gym
Boulder Adventure Lodge
Clean Designs
Doylestown Rock Gym
Duct Tape Then Beer
Golden Mountain Guides
Level 8 Sales
Local Independent Charities of America
Moosejaw
NOCO Gear
Onsight Chiropractic of Berkeley
Onsight Rock Gym
Primus
Real Athlete Diets
Redfin
RESTOP
Rockreation
Rock Mill Climbing, Yoga, and Fitness
RockQuest Climbing Center
RoKC
Sender One LAX
Sharp End Publishing
SLO-Op and The Pad Climbing
SMC Gear
Sports Basement
Stone Summit Climbing & Fitness
Sublime Climbing
Tahoe Oral Surgery & Implant Center
Tenkara USA
The Mountain Hideaway
Tom Michael D.D.S., P.S.
TOPO Designs
Urbana Boulders
Vertex Climbing Center

Vertical World Climbing Gyms
West Arete
Zeal Optics

Supporting - \$250+

Altra Running
Ascent Studio Climbing & Fitness
Avid4 Adventure
Bliss Bouldering and Climbing Complex
Bookyourdata
Climb-On Maps
ClimbMax Climbing Center
CWR SEO
Dog Patch SF
Flying Dog Brewery
First Ascent Mountain School
Gneiss Apparel Supply Co.
goTenna
Granite Arch Climbing Center
HARNES Marketing
Hotel Boulderado
It's American Press
Joshua Tree Skin Care
Lost Soles Climbing Center
Magic Valley Gear Exchange
MyClimb App
Nadia von Magdenko & Associates, PLLC
NOLS: National Outdoor Leadership School
New Orleans Boulder Lounge
Nite Ize
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Rock Fitness
RockSport Climbing Gym and Outdoor Guide Service
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Treasure Mountain Inn
Vertical Adventures Ohio
X-treme Rock Climbing Center
YETI Coolers

IN-KIND PARTNERS

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



Clockwise: Jon Jugenheimer on an open water lead climb of HMR, an ice climb on Lake Superior at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Michigan. | Ice bouldering along the frozen shores of Lake Superior on Michigan's Upper Peninsula. | Ice climbing at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. © Aaron Peterson

Aaron Peterson

Aaron Peterson is a photographer and filmmaker based near Lake Superior on Michigan's Upper Peninsula. For over ten years, he's been bringing the rugged landscape and unique way of life of his region to the world stage. Along the way, his work has appeared in publications like *Outside*, *National Geographic Adventure*, *Outdoor Life*, and many more. Today, Peterson and his young family live close to the land on a 100-year-old Scandinavian farmstead near Marquette, Michigan. See more of Aaron's work at aaronpeterson.net. ■



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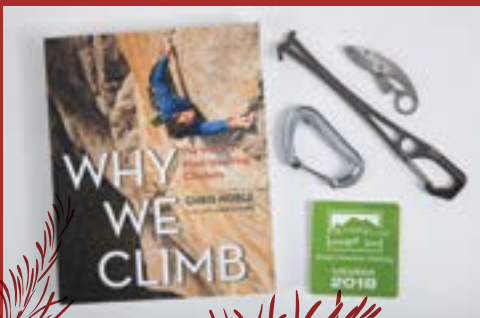
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