

2010

ANNUAL REPORT

20
ACCESS FUND
YEARS

Protecting America's Climbing



About the Access Fund

Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, the Access Fund (AF) is the national advocacy organization that keeps U.S. climbing areas open and conserves the climbing environment. Five core programs support this mission: climbing management policy, local support and mobilization, stewardship and conservation, land acquisition and protection, and education.

Founded in 1991, the Access Fund supports and represents over 2.3 million climbers in all forms of climbing—rock climbing, ice climbing, mountaineering, and bouldering. We work with hundreds of corporate and community partners, 82 local climbing organizations, and 43 regional coordinators to advocate on behalf of climbers nationwide.

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This past year was pivotal for the Access Fund. The Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign (AFLCC), now in its second year, dramatically increased our capacity to fulfill the mission of conserving climbing areas through acquisition. We were also increasingly active on our policy and grassroots initiatives. This success comes from the actions of a hardworking staff and committed board as well as the backing of our members and supporters.

The AFLCC, in partnership with local climbing organizations, has revolutionized private land conservation for the climbing community. This revolving loan fund and our real estate expertise give us the ability to act quickly and definitively to help in the acquisition of climbing resources. The program supported three new projects in 2010, including a climbing and access easement for Jailhouse Rock in California. The fund continues to grow, creating a sustainable funding source for new projects each year.

We also furthered our public lands advocacy, convening the National Climbing Management Summit in Las Vegas, NV. It was attended by over 80 federal land managers from around the country. Land managers from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), and U.S. Forest Service joined climbers to tackle complicated climbing management issues related to cultural resources,

fixed anchors, sensitive species, and wilderness designations. This work sets the stage for more consistent climbing policy and fewer unnecessary climbing restrictions.

We continued our support of the grassroots network, holding two conferences to train and energize our invaluable volunteers, granting over \$35K to support local projects, and

supporting Adopt a Crag programs all around the country to get climbers involved at their local crags.

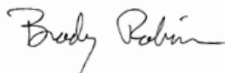
The Access Fund is dedicated to protecting access and conserving climbing areas for every climber in every region of the United States. We celebrate our 20th anniversary in 2011 and, thanks to your support,

we are stronger and more active than ever before. We couldn't have done it without you. To all of you who volunteer your time and expertise, your sweat equity, and your hard-earned dollars, we thank you for your support!

Best Regards,



Paul Fish
Board President



Brady Robinson
Executive Director

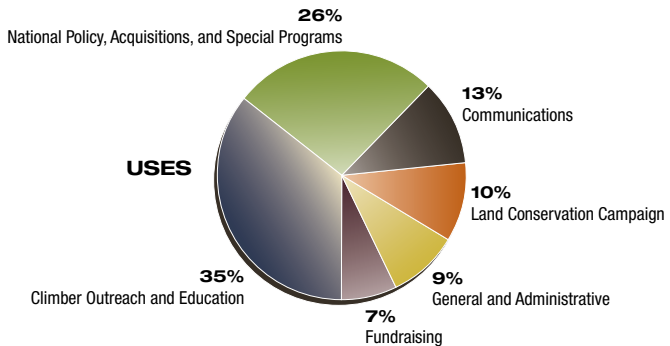
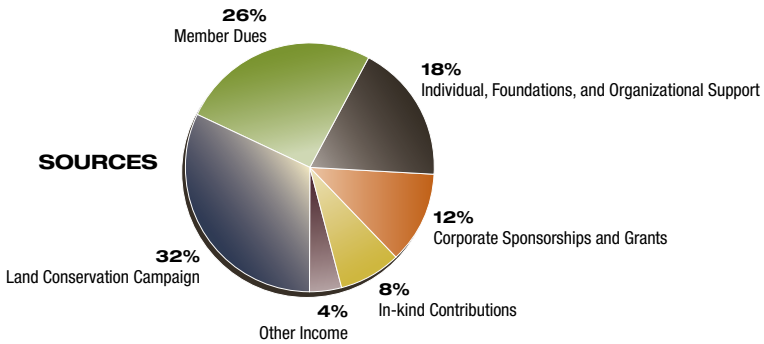
Support	Total
Individual, Foundation & Organizational Support	\$255,404
Member Dues	\$385,337
Corporate Sponsorships	\$179,484
Land Conservation Campaign	\$468,531
In-kind Contributions	\$110,440
Other Income	\$54,439
Total support	\$1,453,635

Functional expenses	Total
National Policy, Acquisitions & Special Programs	\$270,313
Climber Outreach & Education	\$368,922
Communications	\$139,569
Land Conservation Campaign	\$103,589
Fundraising	\$75,047
General & Administrative	\$96,400
Total functional expenses	\$1,053,840
End-of-Year Net Assets	\$1,103,853

2010 was a very successful year for the Access Fund financially.

Despite a drop in membership and corporate support (-7% and -18%, respectively), operating revenues held steady with growth in individual donations and foundation support. We saw an 8% increase in revenue overall, as compared to 2009, due to the success of the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign, which brought in \$468,531, a 29% increase from last year. Also, our ability to generate revenue for special projects was enhanced in 2010, including fundraising for Jailhouse and an economic study to show the benefits of outdoor recreation in Arizona. Individual, foundation, and organizational support was up 45% from 2009.

We distributed two loans for land acquisition through the AFLCC totaling \$190,000. Operational program expenses increased 4% over 2009 to \$778,804, allocating more resources to outreach, national policy, special programs, and member communications, while reducing our fundraising and administrative expenses to \$171,447, just 16% of our total budget expenditures. End-of-year net assets were up from \$704,058 in 2009 to \$1,103,853—a 57% increase.



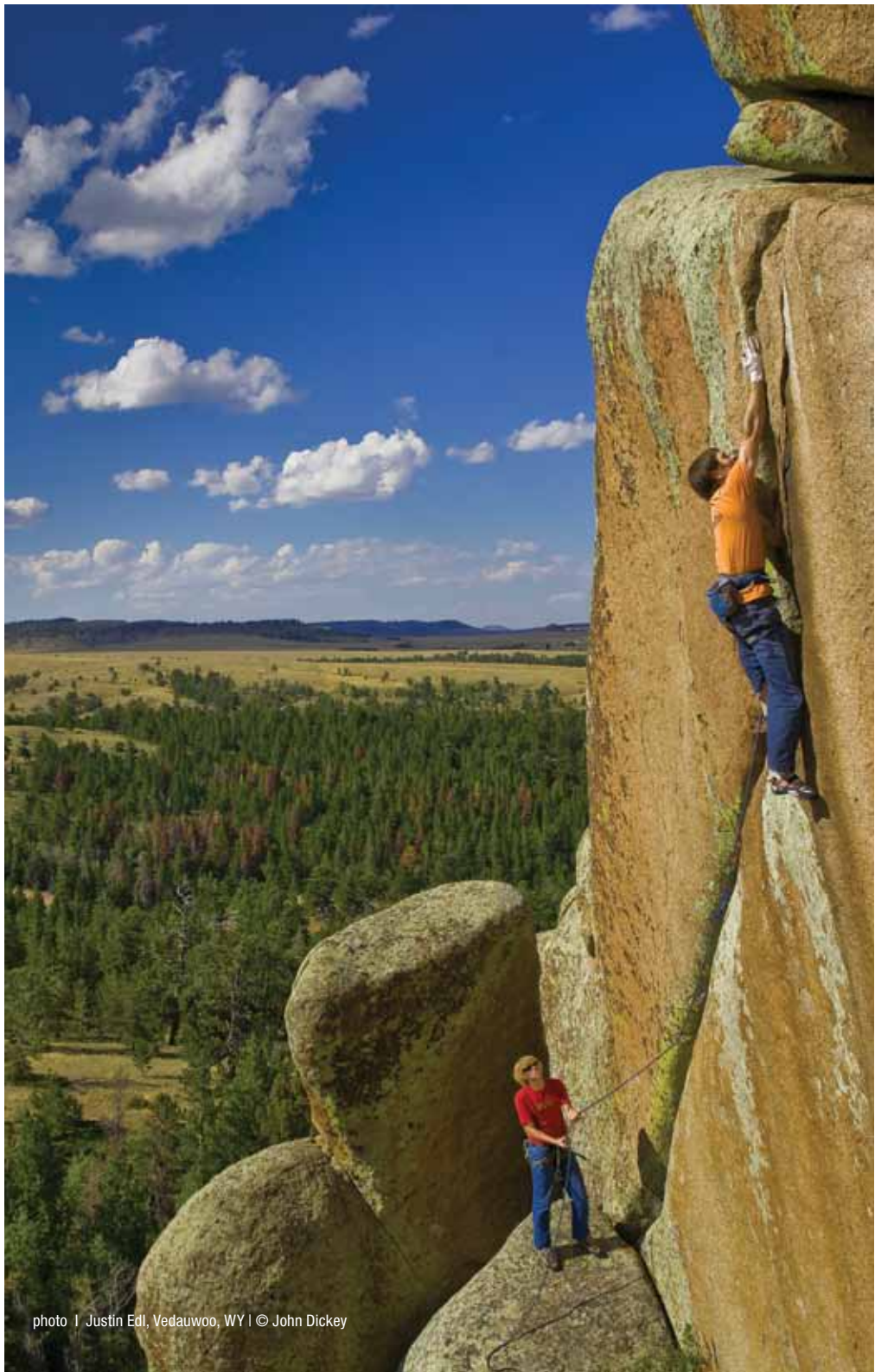


photo | Justin Edl, Vedauwoo, WY | © John Dickey

Each year, the Access Fund recognizes individuals and businesses that go above and beyond to volunteer their time and efforts to preserving climbing access and the climbing environment. These recipients stand out in their commitment to the American climbing community.

***Menocal Lifetime Achievement Award—
Rick “Rico” Thompson***

We are proud to recognize Rico Thompson with this special honor given to lifelong activists of climbing access. As a cofounding board member, Rico helped move the newly formed Access Fund from a volunteer-run group to a fully staffed national organization. He played a central role in hundreds of access victories, organized the AF’s National Trails Initiative with legendary trail guru Jim Angell, and served as president of the Access Fund Land Foundation (AFLF). He continues to serve as regional coordinator for the Colorado Front Range, and we are honored to continue working with him for many more years to come.

Bebie Leadership Award – Tom Addison

We are honored to recognize Tom Addison for his outstanding leadership in protecting Jailhouse Rock in Sonora, California. He has maintained positive relationships between climbers and landowners of Jailhouse Rock since the 1990s, and he was instrumental in securing the conservation and access easements in 2010, as well as fundraising for the Unlock Jailhouse campaign. Tom has been working to keep crags open in Stanislaus National Forest and the Sonora area for over 20 years.

Reese Martin – Jim Pinter-Lucke

We are proud to recognize California Regional Coordinator Jim Pinter-Lucke for his leadership and support at climbing areas all over southern California, including Tahquitz and Suicide, Bishop, and Williamson Rock. In 2010, Jim successfully launched a new local climbing organization, the Idyllwild Climbers Association. We look forward to working with Jim for many years to come.

Sharp End Awards

Jeff Brown – For his tireless advocacy balancing the interests of climbers with other land values and user groups in the San Diego area.

Bryan Pletta – For his leadership in the New Mexico climbing community and proactive work to maintain positive landowner relations to preserve climbing access at Datil/Enchanted Tower.

Kenji Haroutunian – For his dedicated activism to keep the rock in Joshua Tree National Park open to climbers and his longtime support of the 13th annual Friends of Joshua Tree (FOJT) Climb Smart event.

Recreational Equipment, Incorporated

(REI) – For its dedication to growing local volunteerism and long-term stewardship of climbing areas through the Adopt a Crag and TeamWorks programs.



2010

Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign

Now in its second year of operation, the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign has helped protect access to over 923 acres of land in seven different areas of the country. It's the first-ever revolving loan program that provides local climbing organizations and other agencies with the funds and expertise needed to act quickly to save threatened climbing areas from development or closure. The AFLCC provides short-term loans and transaction expertise for direct acquisitions, leases, easements, and other tactics that conserve climbing areas.



Lower Index Town Wall, Washington.

May 2009 – An option agreement gave the Washington Climbers Coalition the sole right

to purchase the 20-acre Seattle area cliff, giving them time to fundraise.



Steele Cliff Line, Alabama.

July 2009 – A short-term loan enabled the Southeastern Climbers Coalition to close on 25

acres and positioned the organization to pursue an additional parcel with more cliff line.



Rumbling Bald West Side Boulders, North Carolina.

December 2009 – A loan provided bridge financing for the

Carolina Climbers Coalition to purchase a 6.12-acre tract, saving this popular bouldering area from private development.



Farley Ledge, Massachusetts.

December 2009 – Refinancing of a loan on the cliff saved the Western Massachu-

setts Climbers Coalition thousands in interest and fees that can now be reinvested into the Massachusetts climbing community.



Pendergrass-Murray, Kentucky.

June 2010 – Refinancing the loan on the property enabled the Red River Gorge

Climbers' Coalition to pay off the seller-financed loan and eliminate the risk of losing the property to a private third party.



Jailhouse Rock, California.

November 2010 – Acquisition of a conservation easement and access easement

on the property saved access to the cliff line from being blocked by private development. Fundraising efforts will also help establish a new access point and trailhead facilities.



New River Gorge, West Virginia.

December 2010 – A loan to the American Alpine Club assisted with the purchase

of 40 acres, enabling a future campground, permanent parking access for Junk Yard Wall, and walking access to other popular crags.



photo | Climbing activists from around the country gathered for the Access Fund's Private Land Conservation summit

2010

Local Support & Mobilization

When a local access issue occurs, the best lines of defense are almost always local climbers who are familiar with the area and the issues. That is why a critical piece of the Access Fund's work is encouraging, organizing, and supporting local climbers to join together. Each local volunteer adds to the strength and voice of our climbing community. The Access Fund helps pull individual volunteers and organizations into a grassroots network that not only increases climbers' influence on national policy issues, but also acts as a channel for extending climbing advocacy and stewardship work.

Some highlights from the grassroots network:

- Access Fund announced new land steward role to officially oversee conservation efforts at Access Fund-held properties. Welcome to Ben Schneider overseeing North Table Mountain in Golden, CO; Regina O'Conner overseeing Handley Rock in the San Francisco Bay Area; the Western Colorado Climbers Coalition overseeing Unaweep Canyon in Grand Junction, CO; and the Telluride Mountain Club overseeing Society Turn in Telluride, CO.
- Welcomed new regional coordinators Jane Sabin-Davis and Eric Sorenson in Oregon, Logan Wilcoxson in Arkansas, Leif Faber in Illinois, Mark Pilate in Minnesota, Erik Eisele in New Hampshire, and Dana Seaton in Rhode Island.
- Access Fund hosted two conferences in 2010—a Public Lands Summit at Red Rocks and a Private Land Conservation Summit at the New River Gorge. Over 25 local climbing organizations were represented at the conferences, giving members of the grassroots network the opportunity to share their stories and strategies in protecting climbing areas.

The Access Fund helps protect climbing resources by providing financial support through the Access Fund Climbing Preservation Grants Program. These grants help fund a wide array of projects that preserve or enhance climbing access and opportunities throughout the United States. In 2010, the Access Fund awarded over \$34,000 in grants to 11 worthy projects.

Crag-VT

Carcass Crag Acquisition

Acquisition of three acres of cliff line, known as Carcass Crag, adjacent to the Bolton Quarry to ensure public access.

Idaho State University Outdoor Adventure Center

Ross Park Sunny Side Restoration

Trail work at the popular Ross Park Sunny Side climbing area to eliminate social trails and create one access point.

Climbers of Hueco Tanks

Cleanup and Trail Work

Trail project at the maze area and cleanup of over 40 acres at the state historic site.

Colorado Mountain Club

Lincoln Icefall

GIS mapping to address access issues at Lincoln Falls, an area complicated by private parcels and access points.

Peter Clark of West Virginia University

New River Gorge Sustainable

Climbing Assessment

Baseline study of cliff flora in the New River Gorge to evaluate and compare flora populations in areas of different climbing use (trad, sport, top roping).

National Park Service

Exit Strategies Conference

Funding to assist with the 2010 conference on exit strategies of human waste.

Madrone Wall Preservation Committee

Madrone Wall Trail System

Construction of a trail system at Madrone Wall, a requirement before the county will open the area to public access.

Arkansas Climbers Coalition

Sam's Throne Vault Toilets

Purchase and installation of two vault toilets at Sam's Throne to combat growing environmental damage at the site.

Southern Colorado CRAG

Organizational Start-up

Assistance with the local climbing organization start-up costs.

Muir Valley Nature Preserve

Emergency Access and Maintenance Road Improvements

Improvement of the emergency access and maintenance road, which was washed out by flash floods in recent years.

Yosemite Climbing Association

2010 Yosemite Facelift

Funding to support stewardship efforts at the 2010 Yosemite Facelift.



2010

Climbing Management Policy

The Access Fund is the leading voice of the climbing community in both political and land management arenas. Much of the Access Fund's policy work takes place in Washington, D.C., where we meet with government officials to address issues important to climbers, including recreational access, conservation initiatives, and budgeting. We also work with land managers to mitigate and solve climbing-specific problems through the creation of effective climbing management plans.

National Policy Work

The Access Fund continues to advocate in Washington, D.C., on climbing management issues of national significance. Some highlights of this work in 2010 include:

- **Advocated for a reasonable National Park Service policy to manage fixed anchors in wilderness.** This proposed National Park Service policy has wide implications because it will influence NPS-managed wilderness areas at Yosemite, Zion, Black Canyon, Joshua Tree, Rocky Mountain, and Grand Tetons, among others.
- **Held an Access Fund National Land Manager Summit** attended by D.C.-based officials and field-level recreation management staff from the Forest Service, Park Service, and BLM to resolve typical climbing problems, bring more consistency to policy and enforcement, and impose fewer unnecessary climbing restrictions.
- **Worked with our Outdoor Alliance partners on national public land issues,** such as the Forest Planning Rule, roadless area protection, and support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System.

Local Climbing Management Plans

The Access Fund advocates for the interest of climbers in local communities throughout the country. The following highlights are just a few of the areas where the Access Fund and the local climbing community have been fighting for climbing access and conservation.

- **Yosemite National Park, CA** – Collaborated with the park and other stakeholders regarding the Merced Wild and Scenic River Plan, advocating for resource protection that does not significantly restrict climbing access and camping in Yosemite Valley.
- **Denali, AK, and Rainier, WA** – Protested unfair and unnecessary mountaineering fee increases at both parks and advocated for an open public process. Collaborated with climbing community and NPS officials to better understand the mountaineering programs and suggest improvements that would have the least impact on user fees.
- **Minnewaska State Park Preserve, NY** – Worked with the Gunks Climbers Coalition to successfully ease climbing access restrictions at the park.
- **Draper's Bluff, IL** – Continued advocacy work with Illinois-based climbers to provide more legal protections for climbing on private land.
- **Arches National Park, UT** – Advocated for the protection of the unique and historic climbing opportunities at the park and provided feedback on a National Park Service climbing management plan concerning fixed anchors, new routes via permit, access trails, resource protection, group sizes, and commercial guiding.
- **Castle Rocks, ID** – Appealed a 400-acre climbing closure of BLM property at Castle Rocks, protesting that the closure area is overboard and unnecessary and affects nonsensitive areas.



photo | Winning TeamWorks team, the Mountain Goats, celebrating their victory

2010

Stewardship & Conservation

The Access Fund envisions a world where climbers are seen as stewards of the land, versus simply “users” of the land. To this end, we advocate for a balance between recreational access and environmental conservation, and we encourage climbers to respect the places they climb and honor the policies that govern them. Our two signature stewardship programs—Adopt a Crag and TeamWorks—get climbers involved in taking care of the places we climb.

TeamWorks Awards

REI and the Access Fund are honored to recognize the top three teams from this year’s TeamWorks competition. These kids embody everything that is good about young climbers today—lots of heart, energy, and a sense of responsibility for the places they play. We’re proud to have them in the Access Fund’s corner and look forward to seeing what they’re made of in the 2011 competition.

Golden Toothbrush

Mountain Goats climbing team of St. Paul, Minnesota

Second Place

Adrenaline climbing team of Suwanee, Georgia

Third Place

Urban Core climbing team of Atlanta, Georgia

Each year, the Access Fund and its sponsors honor those organizers who went above and beyond. We are excited to present the 2010 Adopt a Crag awards to a deserving group of volunteers. We want to thank everyone who hosted or participated in an Adopt a Crag this year—it starts on the ground with your commitment and dedication to make this program a success.

Adopt a Crag of the Year Award

New River Alliance of Climbers

REI and the Access Fund are proud to present the 2010 Adopt a Crag of the Year Award to the New River Alliance of Climbers (NRAC) for its incredible work cleaning up and rebuilding the approach to Junk Yard Crag. The name says it all—in previous decades, climbers had to scramble down a garbage dump to reach the popular crag. After 50 volunteer days, a set of stairs now replaces the garbage heap as the approach to the crag.



Conservation Award

Greg Sievers and Rocky Mountain National Park

CLIF Bar and the Access Fund are honored to present the 2010 Conservation Award to Greg Sievers for his long-standing leadership organizing the Annual Lumpy Trail Day. This year marked the 10th anniversary of the event, and Rocky Mountain National Park led a dedicated group of 60 volunteers to improve over 500 vertical feet of approach trails. Over the last decade, the partnership has provided over 560 participants and 4,400 hours of service work at Lumpy Ridge.

Stewardship Award

Will Buckman and Devils Tower National Monument

REI, CLIF Bar, and the Access Fund are proud to present the 2010 Stewardship Award to Will Buckman and Devils Tower National Monument for work restoring approach trails to popular staging areas and routes along the base of the tower.

A League of Their Own Award

Ken Yager and the Yosemite Climbing Association

We are once again honored to present the 2010 League of Their Own Award to Ken Yager and the Yosemite Climbing Association for their unsurpassed seventh annual Yosemite Facelift. The event was an incredible success, with 1,001 volunteers who dedicated 17,000 volunteer hours to collect trash across 160 miles of roadway, 100 miles of trails, and 20 miles of river corridors. The Yosemite Facelift is an inspiration to the climbing community and a testament to land managers that climbers are stewards of our climbing resources nationwide.

Above the Clouds \$10,000+

Anonymous (1)
King & Tracy Grant
Dan & Amy Nordstrom
Brian Palmer
Steven Russell
Dirk, Nancy, Tucker & Brittany Tyler
Doug & Maggie Walker

Granite \$9,999-\$2,500

Anonymous (2)
Rick Accomazzo
Yvon Chouinard
Mark Clancy
Ed Diffendal
Jeff Elfont
Paul Fish
Alexander Friedman
Matt Hyde
Bradley Johnson
Michael & Julie Kennedy
Kyle & Cindy Lefkoff
James McNally Jr
Peter & Kathleen Metcalf
Sean Patrick
Corey & Marina Rich
Mark Synnott
Beaver & Pam Theodosakis
Carter & Michelle Thomas

Limestone \$2,499-\$1,000

Anonymous (11)
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Andrew Allan
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Thea Leonard & Andy Beerman
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John Catto
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Quartzite \$999-\$500

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Ken Wagers
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Peater Wilkening
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Louise Wu

Sandstone \$499-\$250

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Mark Baum
James Bennett
Bill Berkley
Dave & Kerstin Berneis
Deric Bert
Matthew Brodeur
Thomas Brooks
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R. J. Campbell
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 Mark & Karen Weiser
 Rick & Pam Winberg
 Lee Woolley
 Gordon Wright
 Frank Wu
 Nancy Zahniser

Memorials

Marc Appling
 Stephen Durler
 Michael Tucker
 Josh Warves

Foundations/Organizations

Blue Ridge Charitable Trust
 CLIF Bar Family Foundation
 Community Foundation of Acadiana
 East Tennessee Foundation
 Idaho State University Outdoor
 Adventure Center
 J.F. Maddox Foundation
 McKee Family Foundation
 New River Alliance of Climbers
 Southern California Mountaineers
 Association
 Texas Mountaineers
 The Bungie Foundation
 The Lightner Sams Foundation of
 Wyoming, Inc.
 Western Conservation Foundation
 Winston-Salem Foundation

The Access Fund would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to the AFLCC's founding and supporting partners who have made the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign possible.

Founding Partners



Black Diamond



Your Adventure Starts Here
MOUNTAIN GEAR



THERMAREST

Major Partners



Supporting Partners



Individuals

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Cindy & Kyle Lefkoff
McKibben/Merner Family Foundation
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Pam & Beaver Theodosakis
Doug & Maggie Walker

Major Gifts

Matt Hyde & Lisa Beaudreau
Ed Diffendal
Jim Collins & Joanne Ernst
King & Tracy Grant
Anne Watson & Tom Isaacson
Sally & Warren Jewell
Michael Kennedy
Armando Menocal

Peter & Kathleen Metcalf
Robert M. Price
Marte Lightstone & Richard Sertich
Dirk & Nancy Tyler

Special Gifts

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Leslie Brown
Tony Bubbs
Sallie Smith & Jim Butterworth
Tommy Caldwell
Andrew & Nancy Carson
Mark Clancy
Keith Cole
Matt Compton
Rose & John Evans

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Above the Clouds - \$100,000+

Mountain Gear
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Alpinist Magazine
Climbing Magazine
Dead Point Magazine
Marmot
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Platinum Plus - \$15,000+

Clif Bar & Company
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Platinum - \$10,000+

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USA Climbing

Major - \$1,000+

Asolo
Avery Brewing Company
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Contributing - \$500+

Adventure Inn Moab
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Gunks Climbers' Coalition

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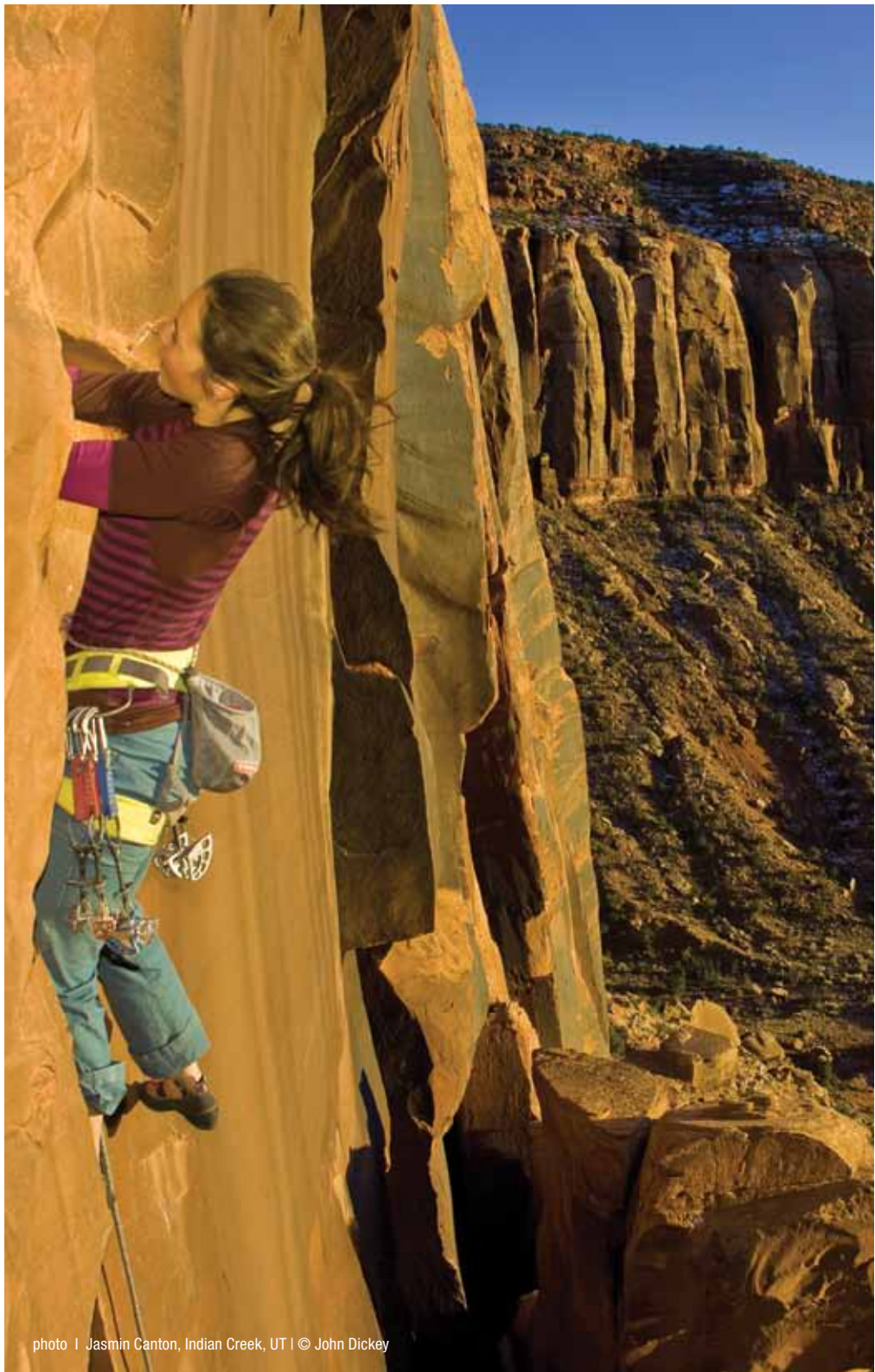


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ANNUAL REPORT



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