

The Access Fund's Efforts to Keep You Climbing in 2002

The Access Fund's mission is to keep climbing areas open and to conserve the climbing environment. Below is a list of actions we took in 2002 to support our mission.

Public Policy

1. Worked towards obtaining favorable climbing policy for the use, replacement, and installation of fixed anchors in Wilderness through Congressional support letters, meetings with agency officials, and networking with environmental, recreation, and industry groups.
2. Made a presentation regarding fixed anchors in Wilderness to high ranking officials from the federal land management agencies at the Arthur Carhart Wilderness Training Center.
3. Lobbied Congress to limit the unfair and arbitrary application of recreation fees.
4. Worked with human-powered recreation organizations to urge Congress to support increased funding levels for federal public land agencies regarding land management and recreation/resource protection.
5. Worked with cultural resource consultants to find positive solutions to protect archaeological and historical values at Red River Gorge (KY), Hueco Tanks (TX), Cave Rock (NV), Happy Boulders (CA), Castle Rock Ranch (ID), and other climbing areas.
6. Met with the BLM in Monticello, Utah to discuss interim management strategies pending the production and implementation of a recreation management plan for the Indian Creek corridor.
7. Wrote letters and initiated an action alert to oppose a proposed 8,400 home subdivision adjacent to the Red Rocks

National Conservation Area.

8. Hired lobbying firm in Washington, DC to work on recreation fees and funding, natural resource-recreation conflicts, and fixed anchors in Wilderness.
9. Lobbied Congress in an effort to expedite the opening of Castle Rock Ranch State Park near City of Rocks, ID.
10. Developed "Climbers for Political Action" event to be held in Washington, DC that will improve the connections between climbers and government, and galvanize climber activism in support of legislation and regulatory initiatives that benefit climbing in the United States.
11. Met with Washington State Park and Forest Service land managers in a proactive effort to address climbing related management issues before problems arise.
12. Met with federal land management agencies in Washington, DC to discuss entering into memoranda of understanding that would develop and expand a framework for a cooperative working relationship between the agencies and the Access Fund for planning and accomplishing mutually beneficial programs, projects, and climbing activities at the national, regional, and local level.
13. Submitted comments to Congress on the proposed Sacred Lands Act that could, as drafted, prohibit even the most benign recreational activities from occurring on public lands that are considered sacred.
14. Began negotiations with the Navajo Nation regarding opening limited portions of Monument Valley Tribal Park to permitted climbing.

Areas Where Access Was Restored, Preserved, or Where Our Work Continues

15. Asheboro Boulders, NC. Provided a grant to the Carolina Climbers Coalition that was used to reopen this privately owned bouldering area.
 16. Boulder Canyon, CO. Working with the city of Boulder to preserve ice climbing opportunities in Boulder Canyon.
 17. Bridalveil Falls, CO. Working with local climbers to restore access to this historic ice climb. Access to the falls crosses private land, and is currently closed.
 18. Castle Valley, UT. Provided financial and administrative support to preserve a climbing campground and access to Castleton Tower.
 19. Cave Rock, NV. Wrote letters and initiated an action alert to oppose a discriminatory closure of Lake Tahoe's premier sportclimbing crag.
 20. Flatirons, CO. Working to prevent unreasonable closures to climbing and bouldering areas in the Flatirons, currently being developed under a management plan.
 21. Horsepens 40, AL. Traveled to Alabama and met with locals seeking a solution that will ensure climbing access at HP 40.
 22. Hueco Tanks, TX. Continued to offer support to Hueco Tanks for resource protection, trail improvements, and climber education.
 23. Hyalite Canyon, MT. Working with local climbers to preserve access to ice climbing in the canyon. The Forest Service has proposed closing the road into the canyon as part of a Travel Management Plan.
 24. New River Gorge, WV. Negotiated with the NPS regarding their proposed closure of The Endless Wall to provide speculative habitat for migrant peregrine falcons.
 25. Oak Creek Scenic Overlook, AZ. Working with Northern Arizona Climbers Coalition and the Forest Service to lift a climbing ban at the scenic vista.
 26. Sprague River, OR. Opposed a discriminatory and arbitrary closure of Sprague River Picnic Area to climbing, and an ill-advised citation of a local climber charged for "illegal" bolting.
- Land Management and Planning
27. Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, OR. Submitted comments on a draft management plan that would arbitrarily prohibit climbing.
 28. Castle Rock Ranch, ID. Worked with state park officials on preliminary aspects of a climbing management

plan for this untapped climbing area adjacent to the City of Rocks National Reserve.

29. Devils Tower, WY. Provided scoping comments for the upcoming revision to the existing Climbing Management Plan.

30. Foster Falls, TN. Provided comments on the climber-drafted Foster Falls Climbing Management Plan.

31. Happy and Sad Boulders, CA. Work with the Bishop Field Office of the BLM on climbing related issues and the development of a Resource Management Plan.

32. Obed Wild and Scenic River, TN. Drafted comments to the National Park Service on a Draft Climbing Management Plan for the Obed.

33. Lumpy Ridge, CO. Drafted comments and attended public meetings regarding a NPS plan that will relocate the Twin Owls & Gem Lake Trailheads, which access the Lumpy Ridge area of Rocky Mountain National Park.

Conservation Program

34. Listing of 2002 wildlife closures on Access Fund website and in membership newsletter; regular updating of this information on Access Fund website through the spring raptor-nesting season.

35. Awarded a \$2,100 grant to support research on human disturbance and the guidelines used in managing raptor closures. This research will aid in limiting arbitrary closures.

36. Obed Wild and Scenic River, TN. Awarded a research grant to the National Park Service. Research will be conducted by the Univ. of TN on the use, demographics, and economic impact of climbing at the Obed.

37. Dedicated \$18,000 and carried out trail projects at Quartz Mountain, OK; Little Si and Frenchman Coulee, WA; Enchanted Tower and El Rito, NM.

38. Provided a \$5,500 grant to Denali National Park for the "Clean Mountain Can" program. Portable "cans" will be used to reduce human waste impacts and eliminate the need for high altitude toilets on Denali.

39. Provided \$12,000 in grants for trail and impact mitigation projects at Indian Creek, UT; Cathedral Ledge, NH; Flatirons, CO; and Quincy Quarries, MA.

40. Human waste management projects received \$4,000 to support toilet installation or maintenance at Jacks Canyon, AZ, North Table Mountain, CO, and the Happy Boulders, CA.

Support for Advocacy and Climber Education

41. Provided a \$1,500 grant to support the formation of the Pennsylvania Alliance of Climbers. The group is dedicated to working on statewide access issues.

42. Provided a \$1,000 grant to the grassroots climber advocacy group, the Minnesota Climbers Association. The group will represent climbers in the region and provide a forum for communication between government officials and climbers.

43. Produced and distributed an interim educational brochure for recreational users of the Indian Creek corridor pending planned BLM management initiatives. This educational/informational brochure was supported through partnerships with the BLM, Black Diamond, Petzl, The Nature Conservancy, and the Rocky Mountain Field Institute.

44. Produced educational posters, provided grant funding for acquisitions, and completed stewardship projects as part of our nationwide "Bouldering Campaign" to preserve access and natural resources at America's diverse bouldering areas.

45. Provided a \$1,000 grant to the Pisgah Climbers Association for an information kiosk at Looking Glass, NC.

46. Provided a \$1,500 grant to assist in the formation of the Tucson Climbers Association. The group will represent climbers in the region by working on southern Arizona access issues.

47. Published a "Hueco Tanks Survivor's Guide" designed to assist boulderers in negotiating Hueco's complicated tangle of restrictions and reservations requirements.

48. Provided a \$2,000 grant to support the formation of the Climber's of Hueco Tanks. The group will focus on climber education and stewardship projects at Hueco.

49. Provided a \$500 grant for an informational kiosk at McConnells Mill, PA.

Land Acquisitions

50. Castleton Tower, UT. Provided ongoing support along with a \$20,000 grant to Utah Open Lands for the acquisition of land adjacent to Castleton Tower. Acquisition will protect access to the Tower and preserve the historic climbers campground.

51. Boat Rock, GA. Provided a \$10,000 grant to the Southeastern Climbers Coalition to support their acquisition of the Boat Rock boulders near Atlanta. Acquisition of this historic area prevented the land from being sold to developers.

52. Parley's Canyon, UT. Provided a \$1,500 grant to the Trust for Public Land to support the acquisition of a key parking and trailhead parcel.

53. Quartz Mountain, OK. Exercised an option on property adjacent to climbing area that completed this two-year acquisition effort.

Adopt-A-Crag Day

54. Supported 86 Adopt-a-Crag Day events in 34 states, and one event in British Columbia. Climbers gathered at their favorite crags and boulders for trail construction, litter clean-ups, and visual impact mitigation.