ACCESS FUND LAUNCHES BOULDERING CAMPAIGN P. 24



2000 ANNUAL REPORT INSIDE

CLIMBING • CONSERVATION • ACTIVISM

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Access Fund publishes new handbook to support resource protection & Climbing Areas

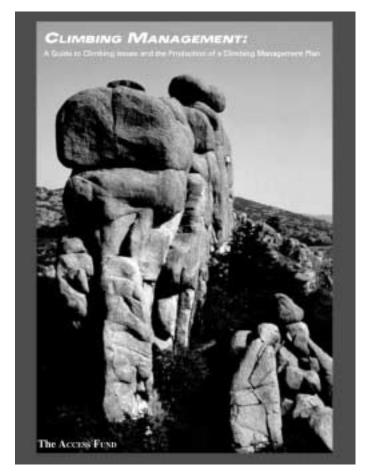
The Access Fund is proud to announce the publication of a unique 96-page handbook providing the first-ever overview of climbing issues and management approaches in the United States. Supported by a grant from Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI), *Climbing Management: A Guide to Climbing Issues and the Production of a Climbing Management Plan* draws from successful models of climbing management and local climbing organizations to create a useful tool for resource management planning.

The goal of this handbook is to share information and encourage greater consistency in climbing management. Land managers are currently drafting management plans at such popular climbing areas as New River Gorge, West Virginia; Indian Creek River Corridor, Utah; Devils Tower National Monument, Wyoming, and others. It will also provide valuable guidance to organizations tackling climbing management issues abroad.

Two years in the making, *Climbing Management* contains over 50 illustrations and previously unassembled information on topics such as climbing and cultural resource protection; bouldering; practices for mitigating impacts to vegetation, landowner liability; and education and outreach. The document also contains 30 pages of appendices and a 10-page bibliography. A summary and table of contents can be previewed at http://www.accessfund.org.

"Climbing Management was written to meet the tremendous demand for information on climbing and climbing management issues from land managers, land owners and climbing organizations in the US and increasingly from overseas," said Kath Pyke, Access Fund Conservation Director. "Given the growing popularity of climbing, it is critical that effective management practices are established to protect unique cliff habitats while allowing for diverse climbing experiences. We encourage land managers to reach for this resource before drafting plans affecting the climbing environment."

Copies of *Climbing Management* will be available to anyone working on climbing issues. A limited number of complimentary copies will be available for Access Fund regional coordinators, land managers, editorial reviewers, educators and local climbing organizations. Copies can be ordered from the Access Fund (mailto:kath@accessfund.org) for \$20.00 (shipping and handling included). Check or credit cards are accepted.





2

Pay-To-Play? An Explanation of the Access Fund's Position on the Recreation Fee Demo Program

In 1996 Congress authorized the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program ("Fee Demo") for a three-year test period. The program has been extended three times for one-year periods and it could be be extended again for four years in the Interior Appropriations Bill for 2002.

The program imposes fees on certain recreational uses of lands managed by the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Forest Service. These are not entrance fees fees for simply walking, paddling, climbing, fishing or biking on public lands.

Also, in the Senate a bill has been introduced that would give federal land managers permanent authority to impose new fees and raise existing fees.

For the past several years, the AF has been working on this issue, since use fees directly affect climbing access. The AF is a founding member of the Public Access Coalition, and has joined with groups such as the Sierra Club and the Outdoor Industry Association in pushing Congress to open up the use fees issue for public coment, to stop extending the "temporary" fee authority through federal spending bills, and to provide more money for lands agencies to support recreation and natural resource protection.

The Access Fund opposes use fees for public lands. Recreational, non-commercial access to the public domain, except for National Park Service lands, has always been free - it is part of our national heritage. America's national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, recreation areas and open spaces are the birthright of every citizen and the opportunity to experience and enjoy these lands must be preserved. Congress should provide funding for the necessary protection and maintenance of our public lands and their recreational facilities through annual budget appropriations.

The Fee Demo program raises serious questions regarding societal impacts, funding priorities, forest economics, and industry subsidies.

The Access Fund does not oppose paying fees for developed facilities and services (such as campgrounds), but we cannot support a "tollgate" charge for the privilege of simple recreational activities that require little if any infrastructure.

The Access Fund recognizes that many federal land managers currently rely on funds from Fee Demo to support infrastructure, maintenance and critical resource management programs. However, the amount of money collected through Fee Demo can easily be offset by a small adjustment in Congressional spending priorities.

Before the American public is required to pay for the simple privilege of parking a car on national forest lands, Congress should end all subsidies for timber harvesting, mining and grazing on public lands. The Access Fund believes we should not institutionalize funding for public lands management through use fees, but rather support our land managers through income taxderived funds already available in the federal budget. Contact your legislators **now** and tell them that you support full funding for our public lands – but through the appropriation process rather than through discriminatory and unnecessary use fees.

For more information, e-mail Jason Keith, Access Fund Policy Analyst at jason@accessfund.org.



"The Access Fund opposes use fees for public lands. Recreational, non-commercial access to the public domain (except for National Park Service lands) has always been free. It is part of our national heritage. Contact your legislator today to prevent the extension of the Fee Demo program this fall!

SOUTHEAST

HORSE PENS 40 IS CLOSED

(report provided by http://www.seclimbers.org)

On August 7th, The park at Horse Pens 40, a prime bouldering area in Alabama, was officially closed. The closure stems from issues unrelated to climbing. There are interested parties who are trying to lease the park and continue business as usual (climbing included), but nothing has been finalized.

The park is now for sale for a whopping \$978,000. Even so, park developer Adam Henry said he thinks the closure is not long-term and that the park should re-open by fall. The Access Fund is working with its Regional Coordinators and the Southeastern Climbers Coalition to restore access as soon as possible. Check



71 volunteers completed trail work at Rocktown, Georgia and raised \$2900 for the Access Fund, Southeastern Climbing Coalition, and the Jeff Wingo Scholarship Fund.

http://www.seclimbers.org and http:www.southernslopers.com for updates on the park's status and information on how you can help.

ROCKTOWN, GA TRAIL DAY

On May 5, 71 volunteers joined together to complete trail work and maintenance on Rocktown Trail on Pigeon Mountain in LaFayette, Georgia. They collected trash at the overlook bluff and collected climbing schwag through give-a-ways and a raffle that raised over \$2900 for The Access Fund, he Southeastern Climbers Coalition, and the Jeff Wingo Scholarship Fund at Berry College!

SPEEDERS BEWARE ROCKTOWN, GA

The DNR staff at Pigeon Mountain is constantly receiving complaints about drivers going too fast on Rocky Lane. The arrests that have been made in response to these complaints have all involved rock climbers. The posted speed limit is 20 MPH. Remember, the climbing opportunities in the Walker County Jail are limited. The Georgia State Patrol is assisting with the traffic control on this state property. They have a blue and grey four-wheel-drive truck with a new laser gun. Go slow when visiting Rocktown!

RED RIVER GORGE, KY

The Red River Gorge Climber's Coalition (RRGCC) is proud to host the "Signs-of-the-Times" Project in conjunction with the Access Fund's nationwide Adopt-a-Crag Day during the weekend of September 8-9. Climber volunteers will be installing important informational signs at parking areas, trailheads and crags to help protect natural and cultural resources at climbing areas in the Red River Gorge (RRG).

This project is intended to protect sensitive resources and inform visitors how they can help. The signs explain the need to avoid camping and campfire building in rock shelters and at the base of climbing routes. Recent surveys by Forest Service personnel have revealed that camping and fire building in rock shelters pose one of the greatest threats to sensitive resources at the RRG. This project is part of the RRGCC's commitment to "promoting responsible climbing" through cooperation, initiative, and self-awareness.

4

NORTHEAST



WILLOUGHBY STATE FOREST, VERMONT LONG-RANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN IN THE WORKS

(Report provided by Heather Hibbard, Vermont Regional Coorinator)

CRAG-VT members Alden Pellett, Will Mayo, Jim Shimberg, and Access Fund Regional Coordinator Heather Hibbard attended a June 13 public hearing held by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (DFPR) concerning the long range management plan for Willoughby State Forest. According to Gary Sabourin, who is spearheading the planning effort, there has previously been no representation from the climbing community despite the wellknown recreational use of Mt. Pisgah, Wheeler Mountain, and Mt. Hor for world-class ice and rock climbing.

There is a high potential for climbing access to be constrained in the area. CRAG-VT will work with the State of Vermont during this planning process and seek collaborative solutions that will preserve the history and integrity of climbing in this area.

General comments regarding the stewardship of Willoughby State Forest will be accepted throughout the planning process. You can learn more by logging on to: www.state.vt.us/anr/fpr/lands/ willoughby Climbers are urged to direct all inquires and comments to:

Gary Sabourin-State Lands Forester Vermont Department of Forests Parks and Recreation 1229 Portland Street, Suite 201 Saint Johnsbury, VT 05819

MIDWEST



BALANCED ROCK, WI

(report submitted by Steve Frye, Wisconsin Regional Coordinator)

The Access Fund/Wisconsin Outdoor Access Balanced Rock Trail Project is now complete. A \$500 grant given to the Friends of Devil's Lake group will be matched by the state of Wisconsin and FDLG for a total of \$1500 to be donated towards new signage throughout the park.

Last year a great group of climbers over 30 strong moved rocks the size of surfboards into place across a boulder scree slope just below Watermarks Wall and the Balanced Rock Trail. The Conservation Corp trail ran directly below the climbing wall and led to safety concerns and was a constant source of irritation for climbers and hikers alike.

On June 16, WOA finished the project by reworking the steps. The "bypass" is already proving popular. So much Booty was donated by Wheeler's Campground and Climbing Shop in Baraboo that everyone who volunteered received something. Now the hikers will have their views of the lake and the rocks

• continued on next page



On June 16, volunteers finished the Access Fund/Wisconsin Outdoor Access Balanced Rock Trail Project by reworking the steps. The project diverted the trail away from the Watermarks Wall to benefit hikers and climbers.

Area Reports Continued...

as they pass and the climbers can belay in peace.

Special thanks to Jim"Big Air Crash" Switzer who took time off from riding and work to mason a great entrance wall off the new entrance from the existing Balanced Rock Wall Trail.

Also, thanks to the volunteers who risked life and limb finishing the trail in fine fashion.

WEST



LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON, UT QUARRY RESTORATION

Climbers are urged to avoid trampling revegetated slopes and to stay out of the restoration area in the vicinity of Gate Buttress in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Utah Regional Coordinator Allen Sanderson has been working with the Church of Latter Day Saints and the county to create a formal trail system that will alleviate erosion problems. The new trail system will parallel the one on the south side of the canyon with switchbacks to climbing areas. Trail building is expected to take several years.

MT. LEMMON, AZ

(Report provided by James DeRoussel) Climbers in the Tucson area have expressed concern that road construction on the Mount Lemmon highway will close or permanently alter classic areas such as Chihuahua Power and New Wave Wall. Local activists James DeRoussel and Andrew Kornylak report that although many crags are close to the highway, access should not be affected permanently. While the cliffs may be temporarily affected during the construction, the contractors and Forest Service have agreed to take the necessary steps to ensure post-



Road construction on the Mount Lemmon, highway in Arizona may close climbing at the classic areas of Chihuahua Power and the New Wave Wall.

construction access. In some cases, access may actually be improved due to construction of additional parking pullouts. Furthermore, the integrity and aesthetics of the rock should not be adversely affected in the long-term.

Construction is expected to continue through 2003. As individual phases of construction are completed, volunteers will be needed for access and trail improvements. Inquiries and concerns can be e-mailed to info@tucsonclimbersassociation.org.

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PLEASE NOTE: The Virtual Times does not replace the Vertical Times but complements it to keep you informed.

WORKING FOR YOUR CLIMBING FUTURE

MEET THE NEW POLICY ANALYST JASON KEITH, INTERVIEW BY JOHN HEISEL

HEISEL: Where are you from? Where were you before you moved to Boulder? KEITH: I grew up in Seattle, but have lived in

ccess Fund

Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, and Colorado over the last 20 years. I recently moved to Boulder from Glenwood Springs, Colorado where I was working as a lawyer in a small firm.

HEISEL: What are you presently doing for the Access Fund as Policy Analyst?

KEITH: As Policy Analyst, I work on legislative, regulatory, and resource management planning issues. I'm responsible for building relationships, negotiating agreements, and advocating on behalf of the Access Fund in all levels of land management planning. Recently, I traveled to Castle Rock Ranch, near City of Rocks, and toured the property with the climbing ranger there to discuss issues related to opening the climbing area next spring. It's also my role to initiate discussions with environmental and recreation groups, and other advocacy organizations. Basically, I address any areas of conflict, mutual concern or agreement. This fall I'll be working in opposition of the Fee Demo program that may be extended again.

HEISEL: Wow, that's a lot! I hope you can find some time to crank. But more importantly, Jason, tell why do you climb? KEITH: It takes you everywhere – usually to the most beautiful places on the planet. It's also very goal oriented, and lends itself to absolutely unique experiences. So much climbing; so little time...

HEISEL: What was your motivation to work for the Fund? KEITH: I've been climbing for 20+ years – some of my first outdoor memories are following my Dad on these death marches up snowy volcanoes in the Cascades. Before borrowing a stack of cash for school, I worked as a mountain guide



Jason Keith, Access Fund Policy Analyst

in the Tetons and abroad for about ten years. I then got a master's degree in public lands policy and a law degree. My job here at the Access Fund lets me work to protect those climbing areas that I've used over the years.

HEISEL: Yeah, but what has the Fund done for you or places you like to climb at over the last 10 years?

KEITH: Where to start...the Access Fund has worked to maintain access at some of my



Jason airs it out on the Good Book in Yosemite California.

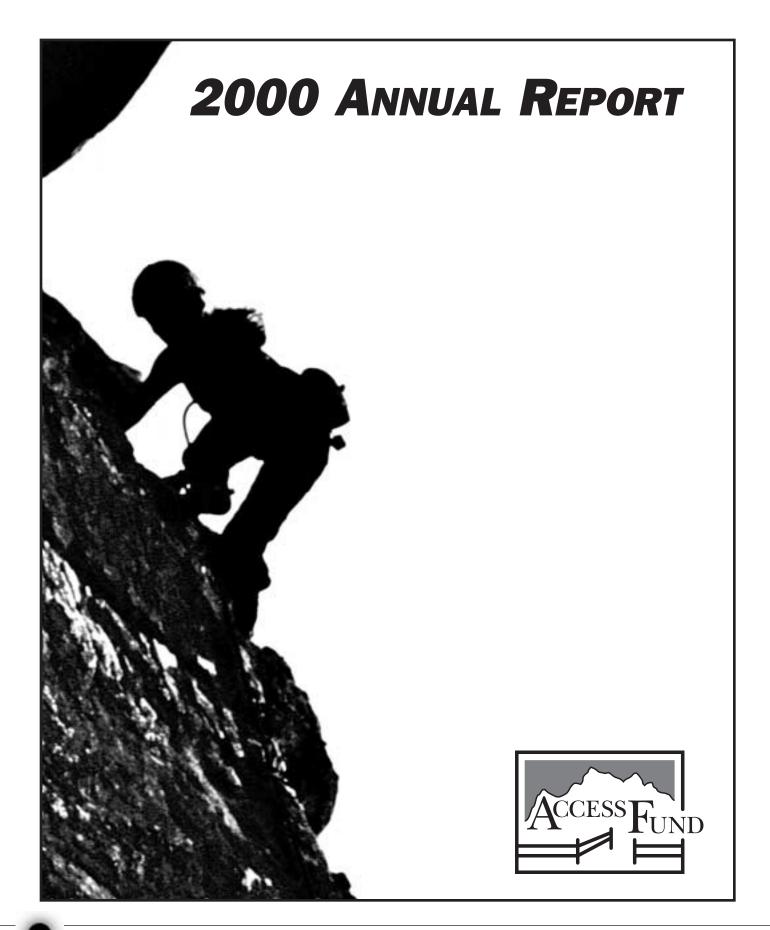
favorite cragging areas like the City of Rocks. It's also making sure climbers have a voice in the planning processes at other climbing areas like Yosemite. The Fund has established a national presence on critical management issues pertaining to climbing, like fixed anchors, so land managers take us seriously. Really important to me is the Access Fund's dual mission of maintaining access to climbing while working to conserve the resource also. People should know that we're not an access-at-all-costs organization. We work the conservation side as much as the access side. HEISEL: Well then, why should people join? KEITH: Climbers should join the Access Fund to help sup-

port our mission. I feel like a lot of people are passionate about the issues the Access Fund deals with – joining gives them a way to show they care about their crags. HEISEL: What can people do to help climbing access in their

area?

KEITH: Keep up on what's going on, get involved in the process, and stay sensitive to the concerns of landowners. HEISEL: OK, enough about work, what is your favorite climb?!

KEITH: Probably whatever the most recent good climb that I've done. Three weeks ago, it was the the "Pitch of a Hundred Hand Jams" on the Lost Temple Spire of the Wind River Range in Wyoming. Hopefully there will be a new favorite after this weekend!



8

2000 Annual Report

From the President and Executive Director

In 1990, thanks to the vision of a few climber activists and seed money from Yvon Chouinard, the Access Fund was incorporated as a national, non-profit climbers advocacy group. Ten years later, we remain the only organization dedicated solely to preserving access for climbers, and to protecting the climbing environment.

In 2000, we built on our previous successes by spending more than \$600,000 on innovative projects, actions, and resources to support climbing throughout the United States. We provided more than \$175,000 through our Climbing Preservation Grants program for trail improvements, environmental restoration, scientific research, and climber education. We fought for, and won, passage of the Castle Rock Ranch Acquisition Act, which preserves exciting new climbing opportunities near City of Rocks, Idaho.

We led a coalition of climbers serving on a federal advisory committee, convened by the US Forest Service, to help resolve the fixed anchors in wilderness issue. We continued our fight to keep Hueco Tanks, perhaps the world's finest bouldering area, open to climbing, and offered \$100,000 to support climber education, trails, and resource protection there. We negotiated the acquisition of Quartz Mountain in Oklahoma, which will be preserved as a state park beginning in 2001. We prevailed in the lawsuit we joined to save Yosemite's venerable Camp 4 from "redevelopment."

On the Conservation front, we collaborated with North Carolina State University to publish an annotated bibliography of scientific research and studies related to climbing. We provided tens of thousands of dollars to preserve archeological resources at Red River Gorge (KY); for restoration of vegetation in eroded areas of Indian Creek (UT); and for wildlife preservation efforts in Arizona, Idaho, North Carolina, and California. We hired a cultural resources specialist to help us work out positive solutions to issues at Red River Gorge, Hueco Tanks, Cave Rock, Devils Tower, and the Bishop-area (CA) boulders.

We also increased our commitment of resources to promote grassroots advocacy and local climber activism. At areas like Cochise Stronghold (AZ), Indian Bluffs (IA), New River Gorge (WV), Cradle Rock (NJ), Joshua Tree (CA), Kootenai Canyon (MT), Woodbury (CT), and Boulder Canyon (CO), we provided funds and other support for local initiatives to recover, improve, or preserve climbing access. The Access Fund's past, and future, success is directly dependent on the help and generous support of our 10,000+ members, corporate sponsors, and Community Partners. With the continued backing of these committed climbers and companies, our impressive team of volunteers, local climber activists, staff and board of directors will do more – and better – things to protect climbing freedoms and keep the mountains and crags healthy.

In the past ten years, we have accomplished a lot. We have much to be proud of. We are not finished yet, though... not by a long shot. Threats to access and the climbing experience increase almost daily, but we are committed to prevailing in the challenges which lie ahead. There have never been more opportunities for the Access Fund to make a difference, and we have never been better prepared to do so.

Sincerely,

Becky Hall

Becky Hall, President

Sam Davidson, Executive Director

Com Dommon



Becky Hall



Sam Davidson

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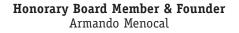
> Susy Levin Development Director

Aarik Eberhardt Assistant Development Director

> **Don Silver/John Heisel** Publications Director

> > Heather Clark Events Coordinator

> > > Kerry Cowan Office Manager







50 Ways Access Fund partnerships made a difference last year

Public Policy

1. Served on special committee to help US Forest Service make new policy on use of fixed anchors in Wilderness.

2. Led coalition of climbers' groups in continuing negotiations with environmentalists and government officials over climbing in Wilderness.

3. Successfully worked with Congress and The Conservation Fund to pass The Castle Rock Ranch Acquisition Act – preserves exciting new climbing opportunities near City of Rocks, ID.

4. Participated in landmark government task force to develop guidelines for managing visitor capacity on public lands.

5. Mt. Hood, OR. Convinced Mt. Hood National Forest to change wilderness management plan—would have reduced access to most popular climbing routes by more than 90%.

6. Appealed initial ruling on lawsuit over closure of Twin Sisters at City of Rocks National Reserve, ID.

7. Red River Gorge, KY. Successfully negotiated with Forest Service to update management guidelines for climbing.

8. Continued to work with other recreation advocacy groups to oppose passage of permanent use fee legislation.

9. Worked with Congress and public lands agencies to raise funding in the federal budget for recreation/resource protection.

10. Provided comments on landmark proposal to set aside 60 million acres of national forest land as permanent roadless areas.

11. Hired cultural resource specialist to find positive solutions to protect archeological and historic values at Red River Gorge (KY), Hueco Tanks (TX), Cave Rock (NV), Happy Boulders (CA), and other climbing areas.

12. Hueco Tanks, TX. Offered \$100,000 grant to Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. for resource protection, trail improvements, and climber education. Continuing to work for easing of restrictions through site-specific protection of archeological resources.

13. Provided feedback to Congress during legislation to compel a study of rescue cost recovery.

14. Submitted testimony for Congressional committee hearings on use fees and wilderness issues.

15. Submitted comments on the US Forest Service's new Recreation Agenda, which applies to climbing areas such as Tahquitz and Suicide Rocks (CA), the Mt. Lemmon highway crags (AZ), Jackson Falls (IL), Rumney (NH), and Mt. Hood (OR).

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

16. Pinnacle Peak, AZ. Worked with City of Scottsdale to develop climbing policy; continued to advocate for official reopening of the area.

17. Oak Creek Overlook, AZ. Negotiated with Coconino National Forest to reopen closed section of popular crag near Sedona.

18. Red River Gorge, KY. Helped Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition develop Memorandum of Understanding with the Forest Service to consult on climbing policy, climber education, and resource protection efforts.

19. Rumbling Bald, NC. Continued to work on preserving access, lately threatened by illegal camping at the parking area.

20. Golden Cliffs, CO. Continued to make improvements for climbing and public access.

21. Madrone Wall, OR. Continued to support local climbers in fight to save this area from quarrying.

22. Woodbury, CT. Worked with Ragged Mountain Foundation to negotiate with private landowner over the access trail.

23. Lava Tube Caves, near Bend, OR — Worked with newly formed group, Oregon Climbers Coalition, and the Forest Service over resource concerns and access arrangements for forthcoming Environmental Impact Statement.

Land Management and Planning

24. Obed River, TN. Provided comments on proposed climbing management plan for this prime Sandstone Belt climbing area.

25. Eastern Sierra Wilderness Areas. Provided comments on revised environmental impact statement management changes in three wilderness areas including: Mt. Whitney, the Palisades, and the Minarets.

26. Indian Creek, UT. Worked with BLM and Nature Conservancy to begin development of Recreation Management Plan for Indian Creek Resource Area — will deal with camping, parking, and human waste issues.

27. Yosemite National Park, CA. Provided comments on Yosemite Valley Plan and Merced River Plan – still working closely with Park Service to protect Camp 4, preserve camping opportunities, ensure climbers' transportation, and parking needs are met.

28. Castle Rock State Park, CA. Continued helping to prepare climbing management plan and visitor information brochure. **29.** Big South Fork National River, TN. Continued to correspond with National Park Service as General Management Plan is prepared.

30. Red Rocks, NV. Worked with Climbers Liaison Council to enter into Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Land Management — will help review proposed routes, and support resource protection goals.

31. Cave Rock, NV. Provided comments to the US Forest Service on an Environmental Assessment for new management policy for Cave Rock – successfully kept this area open to climbing and continued to seek compromise over Native American issues.

32. Mojave National Preserve, CA. Continued to work with National Park Service to finalize management direction for Clark Mountain.

33. New River Gorge, WV. Continued working directly with National Park Service planners on preparation of climbing management plan.

34. Joshua Tree National Park, CA. Supported climber representation on park's advisory council and worked with National Park Service to develop new route protocol.

35. Rocky Mountain National Park, CO. Helped local climbers respond to proposed changes to parking/access for Lumpy Ridge.

Conservation Program

36. Worked with North Carolina State University to publish annotated bibliography of scientific research and agency studies related to climbing.

37. Provided \$10,000 grant to the Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition and the Daniel Boone National Forest to study and preserve archeological resources.

38. Pawtuckaway State Park, NH - \$3900 grant to University of New Hampshire Outdoor education program for trails, signs, and brochure.

39. Continued working with resource managers and academics to prepare 'Climbing Management' - a key policy document to help with local climbing plans, and climbing issues.

40. Donnelly Canyon, Indian Creek, UT

\$2000 to Rocky Mountain Field Institute for vegetation restoration using transplants and seeding techniques with Prescott College.

41. Listing of Year 2000 seasonal climbing restrictions around the U.S. on the Access Fund website and in the newsletter.

42. Black Cliffs, near Boise, ID - \$1800 grant to Boise Climbers Alliance for an education outreach project that

included a site management plan, brochures, and signs.

43. Flagstaff Mountain, CO. Project with Flatirons Climbing Council and City of Boulder Mountain Parks to protect soils and vegetation from erosion.

44. Linville Gorge, NC - \$2,000 to North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for monitoring peregrine nest sites.

Support For Grassroots Advocacy and Climber Education

45. Cochise Stronghold, AZ — Grant to Southern Arizona Climbers Coalition to assist with 4th year of annual peregrine monitoring project. The data allowed early lifting of restrictions at four outlying climbing areas.

46. Indian Bluffs, IA. Worked with Eastern Iowa Climbers Coalition to respond to threat of removal of climbing anchors and wildlife concerns.

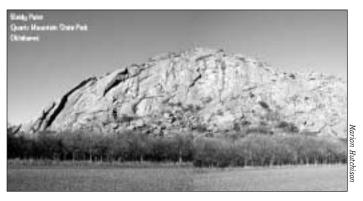
47. Supported formation of Climbers Alliance of Mid-Missouri, dedicated to honoring local traditions, promoting safe climbing practices, and working with private landowners on access.

48. Cradle Rock, NJ. Worked with New Jersey Climbers Coalition to advance Preserve Cradle Rock Initiative—will save access through acquisition and easements.

49. Joshua Tree, CA. Provided \$5000 grant to help Friends of Joshua Tree publish newsletter and outreach to climbers.

Land Acquisitions

50. Quartz Mountain, OK. The Access Fund worked together with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, Witchita Mountains Climbers Coalition and Oklahoma State Parks system to acquire Baldy Point and add it to the Quartz Mountain State Park. The acquisition will preserve climbing at Baldy Point, which offers some of the finest climbing between the Mississippi River and Rocky Mountains. The Witchita Mountains Climbers Coalition raised more than \$16,000 to support the acquisition.



Quartz Mountain (Baldy Point), Oklahoma

2000 National Trails Initiative

Since 1990, the Access Fund has financed, sponsored, and organized cooperative trail projects from coast to coast, primarily through our Climbing Preservation Grants Program. The projects completed under this program are the result of the significant community support for the Access Fund's efforts to keep climbing areas open and conserve the climbing environment. The spirit in which we work in partnership to accomplish these projects embodies one of the Access Fund's core values: community-based stewardship. The projects included the following:

•Tieton River, WA- Designed and built a sustainable trail system to replace existing social trails, installed rock retaining walls at key cliff base areas to address erosion problems.

•Horsetooth Reservoir, CO- Completed restoration work at Rotary Park bouldering area.

•Sinks Canyon, WY- In partnership with the BLM, finished building 2,500 feet of trail to provide access to the west side of the cliff.

•Wild Iris, WY- Made general improvements to existing trail including water bars and cliff base stabilization and restoration at OK Corral and Main Wall.

•Shelf Road, CO- Completed a comprehensive trail system connecting the Cactus Cliff, the Gym, the Cash Wall and the Vault to the newly built day parking area.

•New River Gorge, W.V.- In partnership with NPS, designed and finished trial work, assisted with funding for a tool cache.

•Flagstaff, CO- In partnership with Boulder Mountain Parks, completed an extensive restoration project at a popular bouldering area.

•Wichita Wildlife Refuge, OK- Maintenance and repair work of existing Narrows Trail, construction of new trail.

Regional Coordinator Action Network

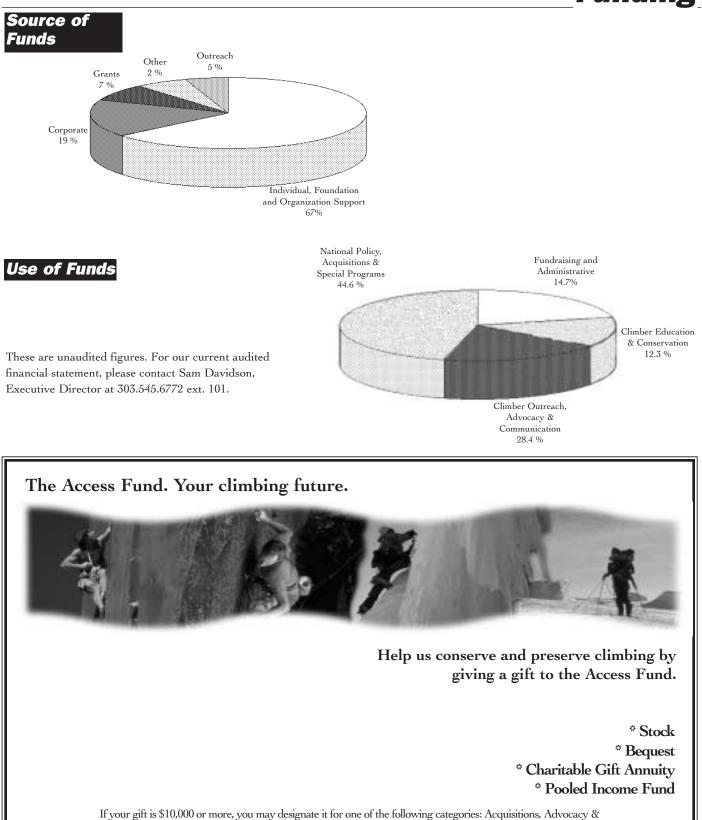
The Access Fund's Regional Coordinator Network is the cornerstone of our support for grassroots climber activism and is one of our primary resources utilized in keeping climbing areas open. As knowledgeable sources of information on access-related issues, Regional Coordinators are the Access Fund's principal liaisons to local areas and represent climbers' interests on both public and private lands. In addition, Regional Coordinators can provide expertise on a wealth of related subjects, from organizing conservation or trail-building projects to the acquisition of a threatened climbing area.

The dedicated volunteers who serve as Regional Coordinators are committed to providing climbers with solutions that will preserve America's diverse climbing resources for future generations.

When access issues arise in your area, please contact your regional coordinator. For general information, please call Shawn Tierney, Access & Acquisitions Director, at 303.545.6772 ext. 105 or Shannon Stuart-Smith, Action Committee Chair, at 859.269.8796.

Alaska - Position Open Arizona - Kerry Nodal California - Mike Brown, Paul Minault Colorado - Jim Ghiselli, Tod Anderson, Dave Turner, Steve Johnson, Rick Thompson Connecticut - Jeff Sargeant Georgia - Chris Watford

Hawaii - Terry Kerby Idaho - Michael Lanza Illinois - Eric Ulner Iowa - Evan Fales Kentucky - Shannon Stuart-Smith Western KY & TN - Eman LaCoste Massachusetts - Al Rubin, Richard Doucette Minnesota - David Pagel Missouri - Barry Gilbert Montana - Steve Porcella, Nevada - Position Open New Mexico - Eric Radack, Bryan Pletta **New Jersey** - Jeff Holt New York - Russ Clune North Carolina - Aram Attarian **Oklahoma** - Marion Hutchison **Oregon** - Ian Caldwell, Jim Angell Pennsylvania - Lonny Whitcomb, Bob Value South Carolina - Sean Cobourn Tennessee - Frank Harvey Texas - Position Open Utah - Allen Sanderson, Jason Stevens Vermont - Heather Hibbard Virginia - Dusty Wismath Washington - Andy Fitz West Virginia - Gene Kistler Wisconsin - Steve Frye Wyoming - Position Open



If your gift is \$10,000 or more, you may designate it for one of the following categories: Acquisitions, Advocacy & Activism, Membership, Trails, Education, Climbing Preservation Projects or Unrestricted. For more information on any of these options, contact Heather Clark in the Access Fund office at 303.545.6772, ext. 100.

2000 Community Partnership Program



The climbing gyms, retail stores, local climbing organizations, guiding services, and outdoor programs in the Community Partnership Program promote the Access Fund's mission of keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment. As hosts of letter-writing campaigns, adopt-a-crag events, trail projects, membership promotions and other fundraising events, Access Fund partners complement the Fund's conservation objectives, educational outreach and grassroots advocacy. At the same time, the Access Fund provides the climbing community with formal input regarding policy and management of climbing resources, a voice in Congress, Climbing Preservation Grants and support for local clean-ups, climbing competitions and slide shows. Community Partners for 2000: Guides -\$1,000+, First Ascenders-\$500 - \$999, Leaders-\$250 - \$499, Friends- \$100 -\$249, Supporters-\$50-\$99,

<u>Guides - \$1,000+</u>

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The Summit Club is composed of individuals who contributed \$250+ to the Access Fund in 1999



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Access Fund Grants Program Grants awarded in third cycle - July 2001

The Access Fund utilizes your membership dollars to fund projects that preserve or enhance climbing opportunities and conserve the climbing environment. Thus far in 2001, the AF has awarded \$46,386 to applicants nationwide.

Grants approved for the third funding cycle 2001 totaled \$9,480 and were distributed to support five separate projects by local climbing organizations, public agencies, and conservation groups. Education and survey projects were prominent in this grants cycle.

1. INTERPRETIVE SIGNS TO HIGHLIGHT ROCK ART AT HUECO TANKS STATE PARK, TX.

\$3,530.00 to Hueco Tanks State Park to support an education project highlighting cultural resource values, rock art and climbing at the State Park. Two outdoor exhibits will be located in the North Mountain Table Area - one on the End Loop Boulder area and the other on the "front side" cliffs. The target audience will be climbers and the general park visitor. The Access Fund will be working closely with the State Park over this project.

2. EDUCATION BROCHURE AND STUDY ON GROUP USE WITH NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS & RECREATION, NC.

\$1,100 to Aram Attarian, President of Carolina Climbers Coalition and Access Fund regional representative, for two projects. The first will entail producing a climbing education brochure for distribution at North Carolina State Parks. The second focuses on group use at Crowders State Park and will lead to management guidelines on mitigating and reducing impacts. Both these projects build on a successful partnership between NC State Parks and Carolina Climber Coalition in addressing climbing management issues statewide.

3. PORTABLE TOILET AT JACKS CANYON, AZ.

\$1,250.00 to Northern Arizona Climbers Coalition to support 12 months of maintenance costs for a portable toilet at the popular sport climbing area, Jacks Canyon. This grant provides interim funding while local climbing groups work with Coconino National Forest over installation of a permanent vault toilet facility which will address visitor needs in the long term.



Looking Glass Rock, North Carolina

4. GROUND RESTORATION PROJECT AT THE BASE OF LOOKING GLASS, NC.

\$2,500.00 to a project coordinated by Brandon Calloway, NC Outward Bound School to carry out ground stabilization and restoration work at the base of the three popular routes, The Nose, Peregrine and Sundial Crack on Looking Glass. Pisgah National Forest will be carrying out an environmental assessment to determine scope and suitable materials for the project before work proceeds. The project was originally planned as a 2001 Adopt-a-crag Access Fund project, but will be extended into Spring 2002 while further planning is undertaken.

5. SURVEY OF LOCAL RESIDENTS TO ASSESS ATTI-TUDES TOWARDS CLIMBING AT GIBRALTAR ROCK, WI.

\$1,100.00 to Wisconsin Outdoor Access for a survey of local residents to better understand attitudes towards climbing at the currently closed site in Richmond Memorial Park (also known to climbers as Gibraltar Rock). This meets a request from Columbia County Highways Department who require this data as part of their requirements for reconsidering access. The restoration of access to Gibraltar Rock has been the focus of local group, Wisconsin Outdoor Access, since the closure of the site in 1995.

Fuents

Calendar

9/9 Carmel,CA - Pinnacles Clean Up- date tentative, Mountain Tools, Larry Arthur and Monteray Penninsula Climbers,831-620-0911

9/14 Eldorado Springs, CO - Celebrate Eldo, Action Committee for Eldorado, Jennifer Shinn- 970-586-4075

9/15 Pocatello,ID - Pocatello Pump, Idaho State University, Peter Joyce,-208-236-3912

9/15 Monument,CO - Adopt-A-Crag: Garden of the Gods, Bob Hostetler, 719-488-8867

9/22 Laramie,WY - 4th Annual Fat Crack Fest, Cross Country Connection, Wade Griffith, 307-721-2851

9/22 Joshua Tree, CA - trail project and slide show, Friends of Joshua Tree, Phil Spinelli 760-366-9699 www.friendsofjosh.org

9/22 Sam's Throne, AR - Adopt-a-Crag-Sept. 22 & 23, Petra Rock Climbing Gym, Corey Canada- ccanadasbc@aol.com, 417-860-0104

9/22 Charleston,SC - 4th-year Anniversary, Charleston County Park & Recreation, Jason Rich, 843-762-8090

10/6 Cincinatti, OH - 9th Annual Forearm Frenzy, Sun & Ski Sports, 513-745-0099

10/6 Boulder,CO - Adopt a Crag at the Amphitheatre Oct.6 & 7th,Mountain Sports, Flatirons Climbing Council and the Boulder Rock Club, Holly Scherbo, 3034428355, Dave Turner 303-554-8535 and Matt O'Conner 303-447-2804

10/12 Tulsa,OK - 9th Annual Forearm Frenzy-10/12-14, Sun & Ski Sports, 918-254-0673 10/13 Vantage,WA - Frenchman Coulee Trail Project- tentative date, Andy Fitz, Frenchman's Coulee Climber's Coalition, REI Federal Way store,253-761-7866

10/13 Bishop, CA - Adopt-a-Crag- Happy & Sad Boulders, BLM, Scott Justham, 760-872-4881, scottjustham@msn.com, Wilson's Eastside Sports, 760-873-7520, Mick Ryan, 760-873-9147, Bouldering.com

10/20 Houston,TX - 9th Annual Forearm Frenzy, Sun & Ski Sports EXP0,281-537-0928

10/20 Joshua Tree,CA Women Rock Josh climbing workshop weekend for women, Friends of Joshua Tree, Patty Rambert www.friendsofjosh.org

10/21 Golden,CO - Horsetooth Hang & AMGA annual meeting, Craig Luebben, 970-493-2849

10/27 Enchanted Rock, TX trail project, Texas Mountaineers- Friends of Enchanted Rock, Michael Lewis, 210-682-4480

10/27 Box Canyon Clean Up, Stone Age Climbing Gym, Byran Pletta, sacgym@aol.com, 505-341-2016

11/1 Bloomington,IL - Hangdog Jamboree, Upper Limits, Jody Furr, 800-964-7814

11/17 Enchanted Rock, TX trail project, Texas Mountaineers- Friends of Enchanted Rock, Michael Lewis, 210-682-4480

12/15 Enchanted Rock, TX trail project, Texas Mountaineers- Friends of Enchanted Rock, Michael Lewis, 210-682-4480

Events Pinnacle

- \$4461 18th Annual Phoenix Bouldering Contest
- \$3185 International Climbers Festival, Lander, WY
- \$1950 Kickin Access 2001 Kurt Smith slide show EMS, The Rock Barn-Rhinoceros Mountain Guides, Plymouth, NH
- \$1690 Kickin Access 2001 slide show with Kurt Smith, Neptune Mountaineering, Boulder, C0
- \$1145 Kickin Access 2001 slide show with Kurt Smith, Sport Climbing Center, Colorado Springs, CO
- \$1130 6th Annual Rocktown Trail Days, The Challenge Rock Climbing School & Atlanta Climbers Coalition, Pigeon Mountain, GA
- \$1011 4th Annual Adventure Photography slide show with Dan Bailey, Fort Collins, CO
- \$805 Red River Gorge, KY-Kickin Access 2001 Kurt Smith slide show, Miguels
 - \$785 Foster Falls Climb Fest 2001, Southeastern Climbers Coalition
- \$752 Access Fund Boudering Blow Out, Upper Limits, Bloomington, IL
- \$630 Kickin Access 2001 slide show with Kurt Smith, Blue Ridge Outdoors, New River Gorge, WV
- \$540 Kickin Access 2001 slide show with Kurt Smith, Rock and Snow, New Paltz, NY
- \$500 Kickin Access 2001 slide show with Kurt Smith, Call of the Wild, Roswell, GA
- \$465 Kickin Access 2001 slide show with Kurt Smith, SportRock Climbing Center, Alexandria, VA
- \$465 Kickin Access 2001 slide show with Kurt Smith, Urban Krag Climbing Center, Dayton, OH
- \$460 Kickin Access 2001 slide show with Kurt Smith, Rok Haus Indoor Climbing Gym, Lafayette, LA
- \$440 Kickin Access 2001 slide show with Kurt Smith, Mountain Dreams International, Pittsburgh, PA
- \$390 Kickin Access 2001 slide show with Kurt Smith, CLIMBMAX, INC, Asheville, NC
 - \$384 Royal Robbins slide show, EMS, Boulder, CO
- \$325 Kickin Access 2001 slide show with Kurt Smith, Footsloggers, Boone, NC

 \$325 Taylor Falls clean up, Midwest Mountaineering, Minneapolis, MN

- \$250 Climbathon/Pumpfest, Black Hills Climbers Coalition, SD
- \$240 Kickin Access 2001 slide show with Kurt Smith, Boulders Sport Climbing Center, Harker Heights, TX

etters

RESCUE COSTS

I read about rescue cost issue in Vertical Times and one thing comes to mind: firemen. Yes, firemen. Kimber Fitzmorgan (Letters VT#41) thinks climbers should pay their rescue costs. Does she think people should pay their fire department to come to their house and put out a fire? What if a rat chewed through the wires? Does the rat pay?

This question should open eyes to the fact that climbers, homeowners, drivers, and most other people use city, county, state, and federal funded facilities. I believe that Kimber and others with this opinion do not actually pay-as-they-go. These individuals are very selective about the organizations they support, but they are usually hypocritical about the organizations they condemn.

I believe that climbers should pay for rescue costs when the climbers are negligent. Ski areas charge skiers for rescues if the skier goes out-ofbounds. I believe that any rescue cost issues be applicable to hikers, bikers, and backpackers. I believe that any government programs that collect funds be revoked. They discriminate against climbers.

Finally, the government should pay for the public lands out of tax money because that is the only way to truly preserve the lands for the future. If use fee income drops off then what happens to the land? Probably a lumber company, or rancher would buy it, and it would be gone from the public forever. We need to maintain the lands for the future generations that will want or need it.

David Rector

Lake Tahoe, NV ARMANDO RESPONDS TO "ACCESS FUND V. TRUTH"

Richard Morse responded in the past issue of *Vertical Times* to my editorial (VT Vol. 40) criticizing the editors for allowing an opinion that "falsely portrays the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) as an enemy of fixed anchors in the wilderness." He says, that although I was there [at the Negotiated Rulemaking meetings], I got it wrong [about NOLS's position]. Not only was I there, I took notes. In them is this exchange between Phil Powers, President of the American Mountain Guides Association, long



Should climbers pay for their rescues? "Climbers should pay for rescue costs when the climbers are negligent," says David Rector, "Ski areas charge skiers for rescues if the skier goes out-of-bounds. I believe any rescue cost be applicable to hikers, bikers and backpackers."

time NOLS instructor and executive staff member, and Stefan Jackson, NOLS' representative at the Negotiated Rulemaking:

Powers: "Are you saying that it is the official position of NOLS that new fixed anchors should never be permitted in wilderness?"

Jackson: "Yes."

That was it. [This statement] was followed by a long silence, as most of the climbers in the room sucked in their breath and had nothing to say.

Armando Menocal Wilson, WY

Access Fund Executive Director Sam Davidson Responds

As a former NOLS field instructor, and the Access Fund's representative to the Negotiated Rulemaking, I also was surprised by some of the statements Stefan Jackson made on behalf of NOLS during the negotiations. Richard Morse is right in that all groups with a stake in the outcome of the fixed anchors in wilderness issue should work together. However, some of us felt that NOLS was less committed to this goal during the meetings than we expected. We certainly did not intend to foster any personal grudges or criticize the exemplary leadership and work that NOLS has consistently demonstrated on many other recreational use and wilderness management issues. Menocal's editorial highlighted the differences of approach and philosophy that prevented the Negotiated Rulemaking committee from reaching consensus. We hope that in the future, we can overcome these differences and achieve a broadly acceptable, long-term solution to the fixed anchor issue. Stefan Jackson, to his credit, did try to act as a "bridge-builder" during the negotiations. From the Access Fund's perspective, however, NOLS's position, as Morse affirms, supports the continued (albeit restricted) use of fixed anchors in wilderness areas, and Stefan could have made this more clear.



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climbing comps

Jim Waugh and everyone at the Phoenix Bouldering Comp, Ski Haus International, Toni Brumbaugh, Inner Peaks Climbing Center, Page Lee h o s t i n g o r g i v i n g a s l i d e s h o w

KURT SMITH, ELAINA ARENZ AND DJ CHUCK!! YOU GUYS ROCK! Thanks as well to all the gyms and retailers out there supporting Kurt's show and the work he's doing for the Access Fund! So far Kurt's tour has raised \$15,000 and nearly 400 new members!! Neptune Mountaineering, Boulder Rock Club, Matt O'Conner, Jim Shimberg, Jennifer Hawbaker, Hans Florine, Gene Kistler

f e s t i v a l s, d e m o s, m e m b e r s h i p p r o m o s Leslie Van Orman, Kathryn and Jerry Dodgen, Lance Brock, Scott Glowgoski, Outpost Wilderness Adventures, David Appleton, Vertical World, Seattle, Boulders Climbing Gvm

for just being awesome!

Folks at the Lander Bar, Wilson's Eastside Sports, Upper Limits, Pam Schmick, Andy Carson, David Silberman, Conrad Anker, Rob Raker, Eric Hobday, Charlotte Fox, Reese Martin, Mark Kroese, Armando Menocal, Becky Hall, Lisa Rands, Wills Young Tommy Caldwell, Dave Graham

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<u>Nside</u>

| The Big Story |
|---|
| Climbing Management Planp.1 |
| MEET THE A.F. ANGEL |
| A new cartoon series by Jeremy Collins |
| p.2 |
| POLICY UPDATE |
| Use Fees |
| AREA REPORTS |
| Regional access news across the |
| nation |
| MEET THE ACCESS FUND |
| New Policy Analyst Jason Keith p. 7 |
| 2000 Annual Report |
| Letter for the President and Executive |
| Director, reports, accomplishments, and |
| year 2000 supporters |
| RESOURCE UPDATE |
| Third Cycle 2001 Grantsp. 20 |
| HOT PROJECTS AND EVENTS: |
| Sizzling Fall events near youp.21 |
| Letters |
| Responses from climbersp. 22 |
| THANKS AND PARTNERS |
| Events/volunteer thank yous and |
| Corporate Partnersp. 23 |
| The Access Fund is a national nonprofit |

The Access Fund is a national, nonprofit dedicated to keeping climbing areas open & conserving the climbing environment. Since its incorporation in 1990, the Access Fund has provided more than \$1 million for climbing conservation and education across the US. We've paid for land purchases, climbers' campgrounds, educational brochures, toilets, signs, and scientific research on climbers' impact on birds of prey and cliff-dwelling plants. For more information, please contact us.

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Vertical Times is the membership newsletter of the Access Fund published six times a year in January, March, May, July, September and November. Authorizing organization: the Access Fund, 2475 Broadway, Boulder, C0 80304. This issue date: September 1, 2001. Volume #42. Price: \$30/yr. Editorial Director: Sam Davidson Editor: John Heisel Exceeds 50 percent recycled content



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Access Fund Launches Bouldering Campaign

The Access Fund has initiated a nationwide bouldering campaign for 2001-2002 to preserve access and natural resources at America's diverse bouldering areas. After consulting with well-known climbers, local climbing organizations and Access Fund Regional Coordinators, the AF has produced the purpose and initiatives described below:

CAMPAIGN PURPOSE

•To raise awareness about bouldering among land managers and the public.

•To promote care and respect for natural places visited by boulderers.

•To mobilize the climbing community to act responsibly and work. cooperatively with land managers and land owners.

•To protect and rehabilitate bouldering resources.

•To preserve bouldering access.

MAJOR CAMPAIGN INITIATIVES

•Target the acquisition of a significant bouldering area under threat.

•Provide a telephone help-line for support and advice on dealing with bouldering access issues. •Target a portion of the Access Fund grants program towards improving opportunities for bouldering, or reducing impacts at bouldering sites.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:

•Produce an inspirational poster featuring top boulderers with endorsement statement, simple bouldering code and industry logo's.

•Produce a laminated tag with bouldering code for use on sales tags of bouldering products.

•Stickers for events, retail outlets, gyms, etc.

•Enlist the support of our corporate and community partners.

•Work with popular bouldering website webmasters to incorporate our campaign message on their sites.

•Produce a "bouldering whitepaper" with management guidance for land managers and local climbing organizations working on access issues at bouldering sites.

For more information, e-mail Shawn Tierney, Access Fund Access and Acquisition Director, at shawn@accessfund.org.