

Vertical Times

#44



YOUR CLIMBING FUTURE

The Access Fund is working to preserve climbing and camping at Castleton Tower, Utah. See page 5 for the full story.

Photo: Jeff Warden

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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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Editor: John Heisel

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

After a recent experience with a campfire and clueless climbers beneath a classic climb at Shelf Road, Colorado, I thought of these "Top 10 Ways To Close a Crag." Believe it or not, these are all types of behavior the AF has experienced at climbing areas around the country. While these counter-productive actions are presented in a semi-humorous light, each can seriously threaten climbing access.

Top 10 Ways to Close a Crag

- 1) Build fires below your favorite routes.
- 2) Chisel, chip, hammer, and glue holds on climbs.
- 3) Leave cigarette butts and litter everywhere.
- 4) Blare loud techno music from your ghetto blaster.
- 6) Use bleach or herbicide to remove moss and lichen.
- 7) Write you name on the rock in chalk or draw fake rock art in chalk.
- 8) Climb in areas posted with seasonal raptor closures. Trespass on private property without permission.
- 9) Use power drills for bolting in wilderness.
- 10) Be rude and profane to property owners, land managers, and other visitors to the area.

The key to preserving climbing access and freedoms is self-restraint, and a commitment to an irreproachable conservation ethic. It is that simple.

Climb invisibly
Leave it Natural
Join the Access Fund

john@accessfund.org



John Heisel

Building fires below the crag might keep your "tips" warm, but is viewed unfavorably by land managers. Campfires at the base of crags in areas such as the Red River Gorge have led to closures.

Policy Update

Fixed Anchors in Wilderness to be Addressed by Interagency Policy Council

This December wilderness officials from the four major federal land management agencies—US Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and US Fish and Wildlife—will meet to discuss wilderness policy issues. Management of fixed anchors in wilderness is on the agenda for the Interagency Policy Council.

Jason Keith, Access Fund Policy Analyst, has been working with agency officials to develop a policy solution to the use of fixed-anchors in designated wilderness. The Access Fund submitted a position paper on the subject to members of the Interagency Policy Council, as well as to other officials such as Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior. This position paper outlines a solution—which was generally endorsed by the “stakeholders” involved in the Negotiated Rulemaking advisory committee—for the federal land agencies to use in managing wilderness climbing.

It is the Access Fund’s position that some level of fixed anchor use must be allowed wherever climbing is allowed, and the appropriate level of use should be established on an area-by-area basis. Surveys of the climbing community show that the vast majority of climbers support this position. For more information, see our website at http://accessfund.org/whoware/who_about_pos_anch.html.

The Access Fund works to preserve climbing opportunities and defend climbing freedoms. However, we do not advocate for

“access at any cost.” We acknowledge that restrictions are sometimes necessary to preserve other values, and that wilderness designation imposes by law a higher standard of conduct on wilderness visitors. The Access Fund will continue to promote this higher standard of wilderness conduct among climbers, yet believe that the limited use of fixed anchors is consistent with this wilderness standard. The Access Fund will not rest until we have achieved a broadly acceptable and rational solution to the issue of fixed anchor in Wilderness. For more information contact Jason Keith at jason@accessfund.org



Jason Keith

The Elephant's Perch in the Sawtooth Wilderness is one of many historic climbing areas nationwide that may be affected by wilderness policy decisions.

ACCESS FUND AWARDS 2000-2001

The Access Fund presents the winners of our annual awards for climber activism, conservation, and service:

•**The Bebie Leadership Award** is presented to *Andy Fitz*, an assistant attorney general from Tacoma, Washington. The Bebie Award is given annually in honor of Mark Bebie, longtime and popular climber whose donation to the Access Fund through his will empowered the Access Fund in our early years and provided the foundation of our land acquisition program. The Bebie Award is presented to that climber or climbers who has/have done the most to preserve access and conserve the climbing environment over the previous year. Fitz won the Bebie Award for 2000-2001 for his outstanding efforts to defend climbing freedoms in the Pacific Northwest. Andy has served for years as a Regional Coordinator for the Access Fund; has built good relationships with federal and state management agencies; has organized and led numerous climber-stewardship events at Little Si and other crags; and has spearheaded the effort to preserve access to Lower Town Wall at Index.

•**The Menocal Lifetime Achievement Award** has been presented to Allen Sanderson. This award is given in honor of the first president of the Access Fund, Armando Menocal, to individuals who have demonstrated remarkable commitment to the cause of preserving climbing access and the climbing environment, and who have contributed substantially to the progress of the Access Fund. Sanderson earned the award for working to save access to climbing areas such as Little Cottonwood Canyon in Utah and City of Rocks in Idaho; for his activism in the local climbing community in Salt Lake City; for his work on federal policy issues; for his years of service as a founding member of the Access Fund's board of directors; and for his unflagging efforts as a Regional Coordinator of the Access Fund.

•**Sharp End Awards** are presented annually to individuals and organizations who have demonstrated remarkable leadership and commitment to preserving climbing access and the climbing environment. The winners are:

-*Galyan's* for their generous sponsorship of the Access Fund's Adopt-A-Crag Day, our national climbers' stewardship event. *REI* for their provision of a \$105,000 grant to fund policy work and climber education over 3 years.

-*Kurt Smith*, for his remarkable efforts to raise funds and boost membership for the Access Fund.

-*Brad McLeod*, for his leadership on the Southeastern Climbers Coalition, which has worked successfully to save access to climbing areas such as Lookout Mountain, Foster Falls, and Boat Rock.

-*Kerry Noda l*, Access Fund Regional Coordinator for Northern Arizona, for her efforts to restore access to the Oak Creek Overlook, reduce impacts at Jack's Canyon, and improve climber stewardship at areas like The Pit and Paradise Forks.

-*The Mountaineers*, one of the country's most venerable climbing organizations, for their work on the federal advisory committee for the Negotiated Rulemaking on Fixed Anchors in Wilderness; and on the fight to make use fees fair, reasonable, and limited to certain areas.

•**The Land Manager of the Year Award** is given annually to a professional resource manager who has demonstrated a commitment to preserving climbing opportunities and a progressive approach to public lands management. *Chris McGrath* wins the award for supporting climbing and addressing climbing management issues in the North Carolina state parks system.

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Kurt Smith—Rancho Cerro Gordo

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Jeff Widen, CO—CO Environmental Coalition

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WEST Castleton Tower Preservation Initiative

The Castleton Tower Preservation Initiative (CTPI) seeks to protect the integrity of Castleton Tower, one of the most famous and spectacular climbing landmarks in North America. For over 40 years, climbers have travelled to climb and camp at Castleton Tower. The natural beauty of the desert landscape is part of what makes the climbing experience on Castleton and other nearby rock formations so appealing. Through the acquisition and preservation of threatened lands, the CTPI endeavors to permanently protect the landscape adjacent to this American climbing icon. The Access Fund has been working with Utah Open Lands (UOL) and the Castle Rock Collaboration (CRC) to assist in the acquisition and preservation of land adjacent to Castleton Tower. Acquisition of a 221-acre parcel by UOL will preserve access to Castleton Tower and permanently protect the historic climbers' bivvy site.

On November 19, Utah Open Lands and the Castle Rock Collaboration had a benefit auction in Salt Lake City to raise funds to purchase the property below Castleton Tower, save access to the Tower, and preserve the unique landscape in Castle Valley. The AF contributed \$500 to this event. Kitty Calhoun and Greg Childs entertained the crowd with slide shows, and the evening concluded with bluegrass music by the Matt Flinner Band.

Bridalveil Falls, Colorado

Bridalveil Falls, one of the most sought-after ice climbs in this country, will be closed for the foreseeable future. Idarado Mining Company, owner of the property where the falls is located, did not renew their year-to-year recreational access easement with the Town of Telluride. In a letter sent to Access Fund Regional Coordinator and local attorney Steve Johnson on December 6, the President of Idarado stated: "Idarado is in the process of reviewing all of the various land uses previously permitted by Idarado on its property. Since the Easement no longer appears to be compatible

with Idarado's development plans for its property, Idarado will not be renewing the Easement for the coming year." The Access Fund is exploring all options for restoring access to this historic climb.

Boulder Canyon Ice Update: Barker Pipeline Shut Down for Repair Work

Ice conditions in Boulder Canyon may be a bit lean through the end of the year due to repair work on the Barker pipeline. The 90-year old pipeline, acquired in March by the City of Boulder, the Barker and Kossler reservoirs, and the Boulder Canyon Hydroelectric Plant, will be closed until the end of December. "The repairs on the pipeline are absolutely critical in order to maintain the reliability of this key water distribution source," said City Water Resources Coordinator Carol Ellinghouse. "In the past four years, two breaks have occurred on the Barker pipeline causing the need for emergency water use restrictions in Boulder." The work, which began in October, is the first of several repair projects scheduled for the Barker pipeline over the next several years.

Ice near Castle Rock forms largely as a result of leaks in the Barker pipeline although runoff from an underground spring in the vicinity may add to the flows. The Boulder Ice Climbers' Coalition (BICC), a non-profit group formed with assistance from the Access Fund, hopes to reach an agreement with the city to maintain the ice flows once the leaks are repaired. The BICC hopes to resolve a number of outstanding issues, including water use regulation, over the next few months.

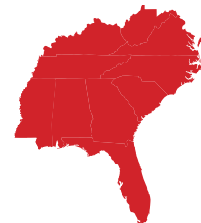
You can learn more about the Barker project by visiting the city of Boulder website at: www.ci.boulder.co.us

SOUTHEAST North Carolina Update

*(report submitted by
Aram Attarian, Access
Fund Regional
Coordinator)*

During the past few months, the North Carolina climbing formed The Pisgah Commercial Climbers Association, a new commercial climbers coalition, and met with the National Park Service (Blue Ridge Parkway) personnel.

The Pisgah Commercial Climbers Association (Brevard, NC) was created to





The National Park Service has concerns about increased impact at Grandmother Mountain, NC.

address many issues at climbing areas utilized by camps and schools in the Pisgah National Forest of Western North Carolina. The group's mission is to "Protect the future of climbing areas in the Pisgah Ranger District by addressing issues facing commercial climbing such as group impact, minimizing the impact large groups have on climbing areas, providing trail work, and promoting safe climbing practices.

Representatives of camps, schools, outfitters, guides, and the USFS met in October and agreed the group would include a wide representation of climber interests and discuss climbing issues in the Pisgah Range District of the Pisgah National Forest.

Grandfather Mountain Corridor, NC

Representatives from the Blue Ridge Parkway, Boone Climbers Coalition, Carolina Climbers Coalition, and the Access Fund met on November 15 to discuss issues surrounding the "Grandfather Corridor." This area includes Shiprock, the Grandmother Boulders, China Orchard/Blowing Rock Boulders, and the Holloway Mountain climbing areas.

NPS natural resources personnel expressed concerns about the following areas:

- SHIPROCK - NPS is concerned about the area's fragile ecosystem. Protecting ecological values is crucial to keeping this area open. The NPS supports the judicious use of fixed anchors because they will minimize impact on top of the cliff. A fixed anchor review committee may be created. The NPS has requested that until the fixed anchor topic is further explored, climbers refrain from replacing or placing any bolts.

- GRANDMOTHER - A nationally known bouldering area. Environmental Impact and preservation are the main NPS concerns here. The majority of the boulders in this area are located in a Spruce/Fir forest, which is unique to the southern Appalachians.

- HOLLOWAY MTN - Popular with groups for top roping. Currently the public and two permitted groups use this site. This site will most likely receive top rope anchors. The trees and cliff top environment show signs of heavy use.

- BLOWING ROCK /CHINA ORCHARD - This is one of the most popular bouldering areas close to Boone. Closing areas for restoration was mentioned.

Additional concerns included trampling at staging areas, parking, and increased climbing use in the future. NPS personnel also discouraged the creation of new access trails.

The NC climbing community is committed to working collaboratively with the NPS. Rather than developing a climbing management plan for the area, the NPS will identify a number of management alternatives to be addressed at a future public meeting. For more information on the Grandfather Corridor, contact Biff Farrell (farrellw@am.apstate.edu) or Mike Trew (trew2@boone.net), Co-Chairs of the Boone Climbers Coalition.

Boat Rock, Georgia

A 7.7 acre parcel filled with boulders is for sale in Atlanta, GA. The Southeastern Climbers Coalition is in the process of buying the area with the help of several concerned local climbers, The Access Fund and the Trust for Public Land. The price is \$100,000 and is located adjacent to a 220-acre parcel that is currently slated for development. This area will be turned into a subdivision if not purchased soon. Check the SEC website for more information at www.seclimbers.org.



Bouldering at Boat Rock in Atlanta, Georgia is threatened by development.

Checklist of Spring climbing restrictions to protect wildlife

Each year the Access Fund provide this update so that climbers have a checklist of climbing areas which may have some form of closure to protect cliff-nesting raptors.

To get the latest information:

BEFORE visiting an area CHECK THE ACCESS FUND WEB SITE (www.access-fund.org - click Access button). Climbing areas, websites and contact telephone numbers are listed. If you do make a call, remember that some agencies have better staffing resources to respond than others! AT THE CRAG, ALWAYS check signs or brochures at parking lots, trailheads and approach routes.

Restrictions

All of the sites listed have had restrictions in the past 3 years. However because birds can use alternate sites, or fail to nest in a particular year, a closure may have been lifted entirely, or set up in a new area. We rely on climber's feedback to keep this list current. If we've got it wrong or you see information that is out of date, contact the Access Fund.

(R=Restriction)

Arizona

- Cochise Stronghold: 1 R (520) 364-3468
- Granite Mountain & Thumb Butte: 1 R (520) 771 4733
- Thumb Butte: 1 R (520) 445 7253
- Mount Lemmon: 4 R (520) 749 8700
- Camel's Head nr. Phoenix 1 R (602) 261 8318

California

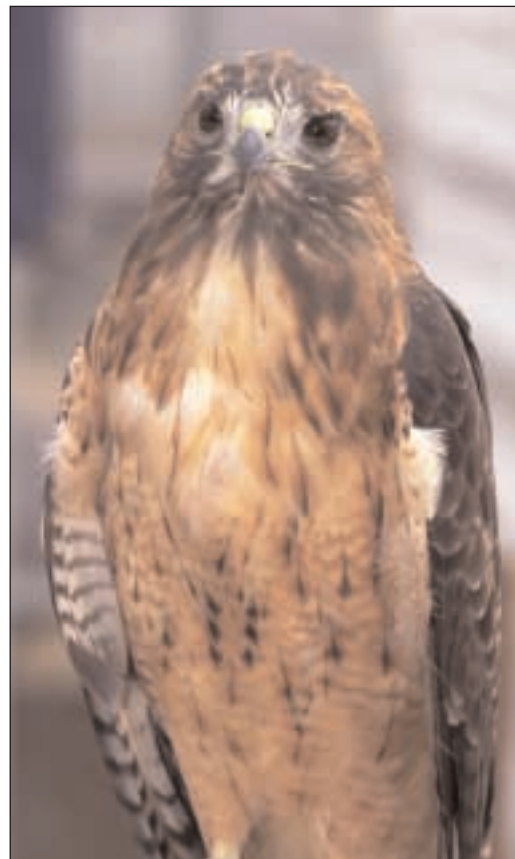
- Corte Madera, nr. San Diego 1 R (619) 673 6180
- Lover's Leap: 1 R (916) 644-2324
- Pinnacles National Monument: 5 R (831) 389 4485 x 223 Web: <http://www.nps.gov/pinn/>
- Yosemite: 4 R (Note:NOT Half Dome or El Cap) (209) 379 3261 Web: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/home/htm>

Colorado

- Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Painted Wall: 1 R (970) 249 1914
- City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks 8 R incl. The Third Flatiron (303) 441 4060 x 420 Web: <http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/openspace/visitor/closure/closure.htm>
- Eagle Rock, Boulder Canyon: 1 R (303) 291-7142 Web: <http://ci.boulder.co.us/bmp/>
- Colorado National Monument: 1 R (970) 858-3617
- Eldorado Canyon State Park: 1 R (303) 494-3943 Web: www.dnr.state.co.us/eldorado/climbing
- Garden of the Gods: 1 R (719) 634-6666
- Lover's Leap/Mt. Lindo: 1 R (303) 271-5986
- Lumpy Ridge: 5 R (970) 586 1363
- Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest: 2 R (970) 638 4516
- South Platte, Cathedral Spires: 1 R (303) 271 5995
- Unaweep Canyon: 1 R (970) 244 3000 or (970) 248 7175

Idaho

- City of Rocks: 1 R (208) 824 5519
- Black Cliffs, Boise: 2 R (208) 465 8465



Bill Hatcher

The peregrine falcon (shown above), prairie falcons and golden eagles typically nest on cliffs. If disturbed by climbers, they many abandon their nests and young.



The Flatirons and other cliffs on City of Boulder public lands are host to nesting raptors.

Maine

- Acadia National Park: 3 R (207) 288 3338

Minnesota

- Tettegouche State Park: 1 R (218) 226 6365

New Hampshire

- Cannon Cliff and The Eaglet,
 - Cathedral Ledge,
 - Eagle Cliff, Franconia,
 - Frankenstein Cliff, Harts,
 - Holts Ledge, Lyme,
 - Mt. Webster,
 - Mt. Willard,
 - Painted Walls and Square Ledge, Albany,
 - Rattlesnake Mountain (main cliff), Rumney,
 - Whitehorse Ledge and Square Ledge.
- Call (603) 224-9909 ext. 317 for restrictions at all New Hampshire areas.

New Mexico

- Sandia Mountains: 4 R (505) 281-3304

New York

- Adirondack State Park: 6 R (518) 897 1291
- Shawangunks, Millbrook Wall: 1 R (914) 255 0919

North Carolina

- Devils Courthouse – 1 R (828) 271 4779
- Hanging Rock State Park 1 R*
- Whitesides Mountain: 1 R*
- Linville Gorge: R *
- Looking Glass Rock: 1 R*
- Web: <http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/recreation/ROCK/HTML> or call (828) 652 2144

Oregon

- Smith Rock State Park: 3 R (503) 378 5020
- Eagle Rock, Rattlesnake Rocks, Acker Rock, Limpy Rock, Jurassic Pk, The Honeycombs -

Umpqua area

- Rabbit Ears & Rattlesnake, Rogue valley area
- Zen Spot, nr. Roseburg:

Utah

- Zion National Park and Kolob Canyon: 5 R (801) 772-3256 Web: <http://www.nps.gov/zion/>
- Airport Tower, Cannyonlands National Park. 1 R (435) 259 4351

Vermont

- Mt Pisgah, Smuggler's Notch, Deer Leap: 3 R (802) 457 2779

Washington

- Beacon Rock State Park: 1 R (509) 427-8265.
- Royal Columns, Oakcreek Wildlife Recreation Area: 1 R (509) 653-2390
- Tumwater Canyon: 1 R (509) 548 6977

Wyoming

- Devils Tower: 1 R (307) 467 5283
- <http://www.nps.gov/deto>
- Garnet Canyon: 1 R (307) 739-3488

Be smart about raptors

Which raptors??

Wildlife protection efforts are targeted at the cliff-nesting raptors, peregrine falcons, prairie falcons, and golden eagles, which are protected under state and federal laws.

When?

Restrictions run from early spring through to mid summer when birds are raising their young. Typically this is from February to August but may be earlier or later depending on climate, elevation or type of raptor.

Why?

Seasonal wildlife closures give our cliff wildlife the protection it needs at its most vulnerable time. With climber's support such arrangements demonstrate that climbing can coexist with wildlife protection efforts.

And thanks....

Once again the Access Fund thanks climbers for their support in protecting cliff-nesting raptors during their most vulnerable time.

ACCESS FUND CORPORATE PARTNERS

The Access Fund sends great thanks to industry members and like-minded businesses for partnering with the Access Fund this year.

P L E A S E S U P P O R T T H E M

Diamond Partners

\$20,000

- Black Diamond,
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- Climbing
- Galyan's
- REI
- Rock & Ice

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- Hothouse Design & Advertising
- Omega Pacific Mountaineering

Platinum Partners

\$10,000+

- The North Face

Gold Plus Partners \$7,500+

- CLIF Bar
- Patagonia
- Polartec/Malden Mills
- W.L. Gore

Gold Partners \$5,000+

- Campmor
- Climb High/Mammut
- Crazy Creek Products
- Five.Ten
- La Sportiva
- Nalgene
- Petzl America
- PrAna
- Trango USA & Stonewear Designs

Silver Partners 2,500+

- Advanced Base Camp
- BlueWater

- Boreal
- Boulder Rock Club
- Corplan
- Eagle Creek
- Falcon Publishing
- Gregory Mtn. Products
- Kelty
- Lowe Alpine Systems
- Metolius
- Maxim Ropes
- Misty Mountain Threadworks
- New Belgium Brewing Co.
- Sterling Rope
- Weathered Stone

Major Partners 1,000+

- American Bouldering Series
- Arc'teryx
- Cascade Designs/Therm-a-Rest
- Pusher/Cordless/S7
- Hi-Tec Sports
- Marmot
- Mercer Capital Group
- Mountain Gear
- Mountain Hardwear
- Outdoor Research
- Phoenix Bouldering Comp
- Phoenix Rock Gym
- PMI
- PuR
- Red Point, Inc.
- Sport Chalet
- Sun & Ski Sports
- Wild Country/Red Chili USA
- Yates Gear

Contributing Partners \$500+

- All Terrain
- Alpine Ascents International
- Bearing Images
- Cloudveil Mountain Works
- Excalibur DMM
- Flannel Design
- Gravity Kills Company
- Jackson Hole Mountain Guides
- Jagged Edge Mountain Gear
- Joshua Tree Rock Climbing School
- Megalith
- Mountain Madness
- Mountain Tools
- Nicros
- Philadelphia Rock Gym
- Ropegun
- Seattle Manufacturing Corporation
- Shoreline Mountain Products
- Sickle Climbing
- Soma Entertainment
- Stone Age Climbing
- T.K. Michaels D.D.S., P.S.
- VooDoo Holds
- Ushba Mountain Works
- ZuluSports.com

Media Partners

- Blue
- Elevation
- Freeskier
- Southeastern Adventures

Events

- 1/18 Orange, VA Music Festival, Andy Mink, (540) 672-2296
- 1/19 Glenwood Springs, CO The Plastic Pull, Mike Whigham, (970) 947-8237
- 2/9 Saint Paul, MN 9th Annual Passion' for Flashin', Jason Noble, (651) 776-1430
- 2/9 Lubbock, TX Climbing Competition, Texas Tech, Bryan Ng, (806) 742-2949
- 2/9 Oxford, OH American Bouldering Series Competition, Miami University, Jessica, (513) 529-1439
- 2/21-24 Chicago, IL 12th Annual IATOS, Navy Pier, Jennifer Gordon, (877) 604-2867

Events Pinnacle

The following events raised the most money for the Access Fund last Fall:

- \$2200 Kickin' Access 2001- Kurt Smith Slide Show in conjunction with the Granite Gripper climbing competition, Austin Rock Gym, Austin, TX
- \$2055 International Outdoor Festival, Aspen, CO
- \$1837 Kickin' Access 2001- Kurt Smith Slide Show, Rockcreation, SLC, UT
- \$983 8th Annual Hound Ears Bouldering Competition, NC
- \$906 Conrad Anker slide show, Dartmouth Co-op, Hanover, NH
- \$905 Kickin' Access 2001- Kurt Smith Slide Show, Mammoth Sporting Goods, Mammoth Lakes, CA
- \$770 Hangdog Jamboree, Upper Limits, Bloomington, IL
- \$600 Kickin' Access 2001- Kurt Smith Slide Show, Climbmax Climbing Center, Tempe, AZ
- \$580 Kickin' Access 2001- Kurt Smith Slide Show, Climb Max, Portland, OR
- \$565 Kurt Smith slide show, Stone Age Climbing Gym, Inc., Albuquerque, NM
- \$545 Lost and Found Auction, Pacific Edge, Santa Cruz, CA
- \$535 Kickin' Access 2001- Kurt Smith Slide Show, Desert Rock Sports/ Powerhouse Rock Gym Las Vegas, NV
- \$525 Kickin' Access 2001- Kurt Smith Slide Show, OKC Rocks, Arcadia, OK
- \$500 Climbing Competition, Red Brick Recreation Center, Aspen, CO
- \$465 Kickin' Access 2001- Kurt Smith Slide Show, Vertical Relief Rock Gym, Flagstaff AZ
- \$442 Kickin' Access 2001- Kurt Smith Slide Show, Sangre de Cristo Mountain Works, Santa Fe, NM
- \$435 Kickin' Access 2001- Kurt Smith Slide Show, Exposure Indoor Rock Climbing, Carrollton, TX
- \$345 Kickin' Access 2001- Kurt Smith Slide Show, The Crux Rock Gym, Eugene, OR
- \$305 Rim of the World Climbing Club, Running Springs, CA



Photography: Dan Rattucci Creative: Ousley

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Photography: Wills Young Creative: Ousley

can be opened to climbing while still providing satisfactory protection to the natural and archaeological resources.

3.Skytop Cliff, New York

The famous Skytop, home to such classic climbs as Open Cockpit, Foops and Supercrack, is one of the signature crags in the Northeast. Skytop is on private property and has long had access problems. The AF is working with the landowner and the Mohonk Preserve to resolve liability concerns and restore access.

4.Howard's Knob, North Carolina

The fabulous bouldering on Howard's Knob was lost several years ago when the land was bought by a developer. The AF continues to work with local climbers and the High Country Land Trust to re-open this area.

5.Gibraltar Rock, Wisconsin

Gibraltar Rock is one of the most venerable climbing areas in the Midwest. A county park, Gibraltar Rock was closed to climbing due to liability and resource management concerns. The AF and Wisconsin Outdoor Access continue to negotiate for the re-opening of this once-popular crag.

6.Sawtooth Wilderness, Idaho

The awesome peaks of the Sawtooth Wilderness include such historic crags as the Elephant's Perch. In 1997 a new Wilderness Management Plan prohibited the placement of new fixed anchors, which led to an attempt by the US Forest Service to ban fixed anchors in all wilderness areas. The AF continues to work to resolve this issue at the federal level and to obtain a more balanced climbing policy for the Sawtooths that limits, but does not ban the use of fixed anchors in wilderness.

7.Red River Gorge, Kentucky

Numerous climbs at the Red River Gorge may face closure due to concerns over potential effects on archeological and natural resources. The AF has provided a \$10,000 grant to the Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition who have been very active working with the Forest Service to address these concerns. Currently a new management plan could close as many as one-third of all climbing areas at The Red. The involvement of the climbing community is crucial in this planning process. For more information con-



John Hessel

Indian Creek, Utah remains an endangered area due to increased visitors and impact by users.

tact the RRGCC website at www.RRGCC.org.

8.Indian Creek, Utah

Indian Creek is straining under record visitation. A new Recreation Plan will address recreation, camping and resource protection needs in the corridor from Newspaper Rock to the boundary with Canyonlands National Park. The new plan will likely include changes to camping locations, vehicular access, and perhaps even route closures due to rock art, ruins, and wildlife protection. The AF is working closely with the BLM and the Nature Conservancy to raise climber awareness regarding impacts to the fragile desert environment, rock art, ruins, and endangered species. AF involvement here has included grants for trail building, and information sheets/signage to increase good climbing and camping practices.

9.Devils Tower Monument, Wyoming

In 1995, precedent-setting agreement between climbers, Native Americans and the National Park Service established the June "voluntary closure" at Devils Tower, which has been widely honored by climbers. However, the Park Service has proposed to make some of this closure mandatory. AF staff are working closely with the Park on the new Climbing Management Plan due next year to balance Native American interests and climbing access.

10.Yosemite National Park, California

Yosemite, the world's most famous climbing area, is facing new management decisions due to traffic congestion, increased demands for camping, and visitor pressure on Valley resources. The AF has provided input to the Park on issues such as preserving Camp 4 and other walk-in camping opportunities, as well as ensuring climber needs are considered in the planned shuttle system in the Valley. Climbers need to maintain their awareness of planning issues and support the Access Fund's involvement in Yosemite.

Top 10 Endangered Climbing Areas

Just the names of these important climbing areas are enough to inspire any climber. All of these climbing areas are classic in their own right, and face access restrictions by land planning and policy changes, closures due to cultural resources and endangered species issues, and private development. Many of these concerns can be remedied by increased climber involvement and stewardship. The Access Fund has been actively working—in some cases for years—to preserve or restore access to all of these areas. We have identified these areas in this new format to elevate the sense of urgency and commitment among climbers to support our climbing opportunities and protect the aesthetic, historic and natural values of these areas.



Twin Sisters, Idaho

1. Twin Sisters, City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho

In 1998 a Park planning document found that climbing has insignificant impacts on natural resources and historic values associated with the Twin Sisters. However, despite these findings in 1999 the National Park Service closed the Twin Sisters to all climbing because of alleged adverse effects on the historic “feeling and association” of the area. The AF continues to work to restore access through legal and administrative channels.

2. Hueco Tanks State Historical Park, Texas

Hueco Tanks is widely regarded as one of the three best bouldering areas in the world. Several years ago the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department proposed to eliminate climbing from Hueco Tanks altogether. Thanks to the AF and local climbers, the park remains open for limited climbing. However, concerns about sensitive natural and archeological resources have closed several popular climbing areas and restricted access to 75% of the park. The challenge remains whether more of the Park

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