

# Vertical Times



THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION OF THE ACCESS FUND  
VOLUME 56, FEBRUARY 2004

WHAT THE ACCESS FUND HAS DONE FOR ICE CLIMBERS

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The Access Fund is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping climbing areas open & conserving the climbing environment. Since its incorporation in 1990, the Access Fund has provided more than \$2 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:

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**Cover photo:** *Dave Sheldon on Tractor Pull (M7) Box Canyon, Ouray, CO. The Access Fund supported the formation of the ice park and has contributed \$7,500 in grants for operations, including a \$5,000 grant in 2002 used to upgrade the water delivery system.*

*(Photo courtesy of Dan Bailey)*

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# Ethos or Dictum?

As climbers, we are well known for our passion, tenacity and devotion to our sport. At times this drive can blind us to the impacts we have on the land and our climbing resources.

When a group of boulderers (4-8 is not uncommon) go out for a day of climbing, bring along their dogs (an equal or greater number than the climbers themselves), place pads on the vegetation, give the rock that little bit of scrub needed to hang on better, and perhaps leave behind a little bit of human (or doggie) waste, the impact may not be highly visible. Over time however, when the numbers grow to hundreds or thousands doing the same thing, the results can be devastating.

Belay spots at the base of any cliff, descent routes from peaks, the stream beds of ice climbs in spring time, and all the other areas where climbers concentrate their efforts see our impacts.

Do we have as much impact as extractive industry or clear-cut logging or 4WD mud fests? Of course not, not even close, but that is not an excuse to avoid responsibility for the impacts we do make.

Climbers are an easy target because we are so visible, tend to congregate in some of the most beautiful and spectacular natural environments, and are generally receptive to being responsible.

So what can we do to mitigate some of the impacts we create? We can start by living an ethos that respects our natural environment while pursuing our sport. Many young climbers learn indoors and do not have the skills or the exposure to being part of the environment where natural climbing occurs.

We need to be mentors and leaders in our practice, taking care to use trails, carry out trash, leave vegetation in place (it makes the route more of a challenge anyway), and to respect wildlife and other users of the area.

In addition, conversations with landowners and managers go a long way to express ongoing concern and care for our own areas, to understand what the issues are, and how we can provide stewardship for our mountains and crags.

What else can you do? Support businesses who support your concerns and help you address issues that may threaten your ability to climb. Get involved with your local climbing organization, the Access Fund and take it on yourself to be proactive. Don't wait until the closure sign goes up, do it now and send that route!

— Steve Matous



Shawn Tierney

## Access Fund Files Suit in Response to Unlawful Climbing Ban at Cave Rock

In response to the recent decision by the US Forest Service (USFS) to uphold the Cave Rock climbing ban, on December 15, 2003 the Access Fund filed a lawsuit requesting the courts overturn the USFS ruling.

In August 2003, the USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit released its Record of Decision (ROD) banning climbing at Cave Rock. On September 19, 2003, the Access Fund filed an administrative appeal on constitutional and procedural grounds in order to overturn the ban. On November 5th, 2003, the USFS issued its appeal decision to uphold the climbing ban.

In late November, through negotiations with the USFS and their attorneys, the Access Fund was able to obtain an administrative stay that stopped implementation of the ROD until a U.S. District Court rules on the matter.

In the meantime all recreational activities that are currently permitted will be allowed to continue. Rock climbing is allowed on existing routes. The temporary order that

prohibits installation of new fixed anchors remains in place. And, as always, the Access Fund encourages climbers respect the rights of other users and be sensitive to those for whom Cave Rock holds religious and spiritual significance.

While the Access Fund considers this lawsuit a tool of last resort, this action was unanimously approved by the Access Fund Board of Directors, and comes after exhausting all other administrative and negotiated options.

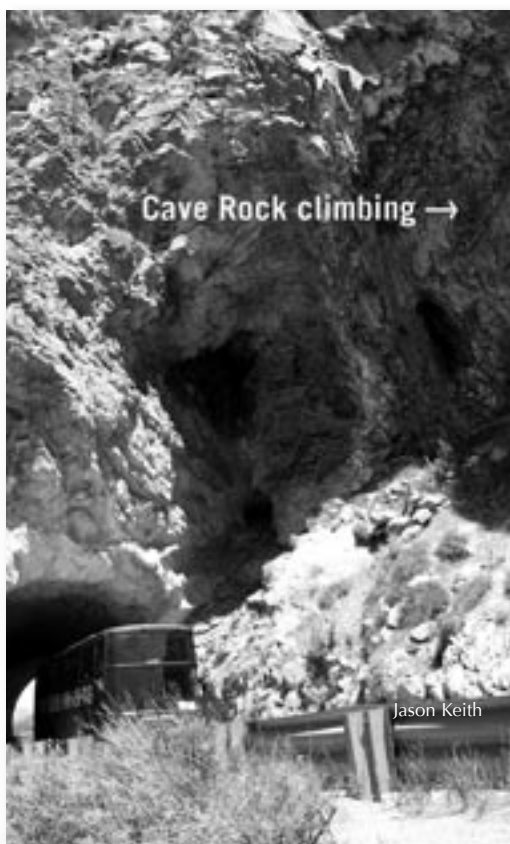
Climbing is the only activity to be prohibited by the USFS under its ROD. According to the forest supervisor's decision, there will be an immediate ban on climbing, while other "compatible" recreational activities such as hiking, fishing, and picnicking will be allowed to continue because these other activities do not conflict with the "feeling and association" of Cave Rock. US Hwy 50, which runs through Cave Rock via a dynamited tunnel, lies just a few feet away from the climbing area. (See photo and link to the complaint on our web site; [www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org)).

Despite the climbing community's ongoing efforts to create a mutually agreeable solution, the Access Fund is compelled to challenge this Forest Service decision. Not doing so could create a legal precedent leading to future unreasonable and unnecessary closures of public lands nationwide.

## US House of Representatives Supports Favorable Policy for National Park Service Management of Fixed Anchors in Wilderness

In addition to a similar Congressional support letter the Access Fund obtained from the US Senate in November, seven members of the US House of Representative recently signed onto a support letter urging the National Park Service to implement a reasonable policy authorizing new fixed anchors in NPS-managed wilderness. Over 30 members of the outdoor industry, environmental community and climbing advocacy groups also signed a similar letter last summer.

The House letter was signed by National Parks Subcommittee Chairman George Radanovich (CA), Energy and Commerce Chairman W. J. Tauzin (LA), Energy and Mineral Resources Chair Barbara Cubin



(WY), National Parks Subcommittee Member Mark Souder (IN), Western Caucus Chairman Chris Cannon (UT), Utah Member Rob Bishop, and Mike Simpson and Butch Otter of Idaho. Download a copy of this letter at [www.accessfund.org/pdf/FA\\_letter\\_12-3-03.pdf](http://www.accessfund.org/pdf/FA_letter_12-3-03.pdf)

In upcoming months the Access Fund will be working with other climbing groups and members of the outdoor industry to produce and implement a wilderness climbing education initiative to get the word out to wilderness climbers about the status of climbing policies and restrictions in designated wilderness, and basic Leave No Trace practices in the backcountry. For more information, contact Access Fund Policy Director Jason Keith at [jason@accessfund.org](mailto:jason@accessfund.org).

## **Access Fund Support and Advocacy for Ice Climbing**

### **Ouray Ice Park, CO.**

The Access Fund provided crucial legal and technical support during the initial formation of the ice park.

### **Bridalveil Falls, CO.**

Access to this internationally renowned ice climb crosses land owned by the Idarado Mining Corporation. The AF was instrumental in gaining legal public access to the falls through an annually renewable recreational access easement that was in place for many years. Unfortunately, Idarado elected not to renew the easement in 2002. Currently we are working with Idarado, the town of Telluride and The Trust for Public Lands to attempt to gain a new easement agreement.

### **West Slope Ice Formations, CO.**

Many west slope ice climbs are located on private property. Much of this property is being leased for oil and gas development. The companies holding the leases are unwilling to negotiate legal access for recreational use.

### **Boulder Canyon, CO.**

Provided a \$2,000 start-up grant to the Boulder Ice Climbers Coalition. Members of the coalition along with representatives from the AF have met with city officials on numerous occasions to preserve ice climbing opportunities in the Canyon.

### **Hyalite Canyon, MT.**

As part of a Travel Management Plan that is currently being drafted, the Forest Service is considering closing the road into the canyon. Local climbers and the AF have emphasized the significance of the ice climbing opportunities in the canyon, and have urged the Forest Service to keep the road open.

### **Afton, WY.**

Town officials recently contacted the AF to discuss the creation of an ice park in an effort to stimulate the local economy. The AF has offered advice on how the park could be established, using Ouray as an example. The Town is considering applying for a grant from the AF to help establish the park.

### **Ogden, Utah -**

This is also considering creation of an ice park on USFS lands thanks to the efforts of Jeff Lowe. The AF will be meeting with Lowe, the City of Ogden, USFS and the officials involved to help the process along.



## BLM Continues Voluntary Closure for Portions of Chalk Bluff, CA

The Bureau of Land Management Bishop Field Office will continue a voluntary seasonal closure of the western part of Chalk Bluff in 2004, from January 1 through July 31. The closure is to minimize disturbance of any raptors using the area during the breeding season.

Observations since 1999 have shown an apparent decline in raptors using the area, while an increase in human use has occurred. The voluntary seasonal closure began in 2002. It encompasses the less-visited part of the bluff, west of the popular "Happy Boulders" and "Sad Boulders" climbing areas.

"While we don't have conclusive evidence of human disturbance to raptors, we request that people voluntarily avoid the closure area to reduce possible impacts to birds that use the area," BLM field manager Bill Dunkelberger says. "The apparent decline in raptors is a concern since the Chalk Bluff, with its interface above the Owens River, appears to have all the right ingredients for good raptor habitat. I feel it is prudent to minimize potential human impacts to the remaining raptors while we continue to study the issue."

Biologists believe Chalk Bluff provides valuable habitat for birds of prey, with steep and complex cliffs just above a prey-rich riparian habitat, and air currents conducive to soaring. Several raptor species have been seen hunting and performing courtship display flights along the bluff, and cliff-nesting species such as golden eagles and prairie falcons could potentially nest there.

The bluff began to surge in popularity as a recreation destination in 1998. Systematic raptor observations begun in 1999 showed a golden eagle pair and a prairie falcon started to establish nesting territories that year but abandoned the attempt and did not return in the following years. The number of raptors observed perching and flying along the bluff also declined.

It was hoped that the voluntary partial closure might help clarify the relationship

between raptor and human use, but raptor numbers have remained low both in and outside the closure area. At BLM's request, PRBO Conservation Science (formerly the Point Reyes Bird Observatory) is assessing the feasibility of designing a more intensive study to determine and address the extent and causes of the raptor decline. Meanwhile, BLM will continue working to identify and mitigate effects on other values and resources, while maintaining bouldering opportunities in the area.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and local and visiting climbers have cooperated in the voluntary partial closure, which will be identical in 2004, with signs posted along the boundary.

For more information call the Bishop Field Office at (760) 872-5000.

## Access New Jersey

Access NJ, a grassroots organization focused on climbing access issues in New Jersey announces the following issues that will be addressed in 2004 and into 2005. Your active participation is needed. Check updates on [www.climbnj.com](http://www.climbnj.com)

Help is needed for a variety of issues and situations. Meeting dates and locations to be posted. Likewise the status of climbing access issues in NJ. See <http://climbnj0.tripod.com/> for contact information on your local legislator.

### Access Issues

1. Cradle Rock. After discrete discussions w/ local land-owners a local climbing organization is being formed to address possible permanent access to the Cradle Rock Boulder Field. This local climbers organization sole purpose is to anchor, examine and evaluate issues needed to regain Access to the boulder field. Contact: John Anderson at: [ingvarja@cwenj.com](mailto:ingvarja@cwenj.com) for additional information.
2. Legalization of Rock-Climbing on NJ's State owned and managed lands. Climbers need to be openly active in this area. 90% of climbing in NJ takes place in the NJ Highlands. Access NJ is now part of "the Highlands Coalition" see [www.highlandscoalition.org](http://www.highlandscoalition.org). State of NJ web Site on the Highlands [www.savethehighlands.org](http://www.savethehighlands.org).
3. Future meeting dates and times to be posted on the [www.climbnj.com](http://www.climbnj.com) website.

# Immediate Gratification

Access Fund Members send thanks

December 22, 2003

Dear Access Fund,

Spring '03: A bunch of us had the pleasure of climbing Castleton tower under enviable conditions: the parking lot was empty, perfect weather and spectacular, unencumbered views. Three of us climbed Kor-Ingalls, two climbed the North Face and two more climbed the Rectory via Fine Jade.

As an extra bonus; we summited simultaneously and hiked out together without ever seeing another party. Around the campfire, we resolved to scrape up some money for the preservation fund. Well here it is; our check in the amount of \$500 (also find the corporate matching form). News of the land acquisition has reached us! Good job! Our heartfelt thanks for all your efforts.

Sincerely,

John Hutchinson and Aaron Miller, Matt Owen, Vivian Peng, Stephan Schiller, Peter Steadman, Ed Kolodziej

San Rafael, California



Summit photo atop Castleton Tower, Utah: (from left) John Hutchinson, Aaron Miller, Stephan Schiller, Matt Owen, Vivian Peng

## ACCESS FUND Merchandise



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a day of rock climbing!  
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women. (canary)  
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front. (blue or white)  
Sizes S, M, L, XL.  
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Hey Community Partners! You can order great  
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## Checklist of Spring climbing restrictions to protect wildlife

Each year the Access Fund provides 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 visit:

[www.accessfund.org/access/access\\_restrictions.html](http://www.accessfund.org/access/access_restrictions.html)

Climbing areas, websites, and contact telephone numbers are listed. If you do make a call, remember that some agencies have better staffing resources, and will respond more quickly. AT THE CRAG,

### Restrictions

All of the sites listed have had restrictions in the past. 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 have it wrong or if our information is out of date, contact [shawn@accessfund.org](mailto:shawn@accessfund.org)

(R=Restriction)

ALWAYS check signs or brochures at parking lots, trailheads and approach routes.

### 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

- Bishop - BLM Bishop Field Office - Chalk Bluff -Voluntary seasonal closure of Chalk Bluff west of Happy Boulders, January 1st until July 31st. Happy and Sad boulders are not affected. Contact: wildlife biologist Joy Fatooh 760/872-5029 or Terry Russi 760-872-5035.
- 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: [www.nps.gov/yose/home/htm](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: [www.ci.boulder.co.us/openspace/visitor/closure/closure.htm](http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/openspace/visitor/closure/closure.htm)
- Boulder Canyon: 5 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](http://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

### 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: [www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/recreation/ROCK/HTML](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: [www.nps.gov/zion/](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
- Web: [www.nps.gov/deto](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 including: peregrine falcons, prairie falcons, and golden eagles—all protected under state and federal laws.

### **When?**

Restrictions occur 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**

The Access Fund thanks climbers for their support in protecting cliff-nesting raptors during their most vulnerable period.

## What is this thing We Call Climbing?

By Deanne Buck, Access Fund  
Grassroots Coordinator

To some the word conjures images of looming spires in the distance, the big walls of Yosemite, to others the boulder formations 5 minutes from their front door. To some, climbing is simply an attitude: fun-loving, creative movement that sets a positive mood. To others, it's all about technical challenge, be it ice, alpine, sport, bouldering, trad, mountaineering: finding bold new environments, for pushing their personal limits. For most, however, climbing is an undeniable part of who we are. It is a passion and a way of life. For the AF, our view of climbing is that we need to embrace and support all climbers. We need to support access to climbing. At the same time, stewardship and minimizing impacts to the climbing environment must be of paramount importance.

### What next?

In a nutshell the Access Fund's outlook on the future of climbing is this: We need to support access to the types of climbing that people want. At the same time, we've always got to conserve the climbing environment and respect the experiences of all outdoor recreationists. From its beginning, one of the best things about climbing has been its spontaneity and the ways it makes people feel free. We follow basic rules, but we're free to make decisions about who we climb with as well as what, when, and where we climb. Let's keep that spirit - that tradition intact.

The overall mission of the grassroots support program is to: support, strengthen and build LCO's organizational capacity; work to resolve access threats; and assist the growth and development of local climber activism.

Recent actions of the Access Fund's Grassroots Support Programs include: hiring of a full-time Grassroots Coordinator, developing and Affiliate Program of LCOs, associations, clubs and access committees (see page 16 for list); compiling a Climbing Resources Inventory of top areas in certain activist's regions nationwide; and working to create a Grassroots Web Page to premiere this spring.

## Adopt-a-Crag Photo Contest Runner-Ups



Celin Serbo

*Lumpy Ridge, Colorado*



Thomson Ling

*Great Falls, Virginia*



Bennett Barthelémy

*Lost Rocks, California*

## Adopt-a-Crag 2003 Wrapup

The Access Fund recognizes everyone who contributed to the success of the 4th Annual Adopt-a-Crag Day. The Access Fund supported over 70 Adopt-a-Crag events in 2003 that involved more than 1,000 volunteers in 29 states. Climbers gathered at their favorite crags and boulders for trail construction, litter clean-ups, and visual impact mitigation.

Adopt-a-Crag Day is a national commitment by the climbing community to natural resource stewardship and volunteerism, and would not be possible without the generous support of its sponsors. Title Sponsor Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), Presenting Sponsor W.L. Gore, and Supporting Sponsor CLIF Bar provided key financial backing, allowing the Access Fund to provide each Adopt-a-Crag Day event with volunteer incentives and clean-up materials and to present three awards for exemplary events.

- **The REI Adopt-a-Crag of the Year Award** is presented to Frank Harvey and volunteers at Obed Wild and Scenic River, Tennessee. It was a banner example of stewardship and community-mindedness. Over sixty volunteers completed six specific projects including: site cleanup and landscaping, visual impact mitigation, trail building/restoration, and trail sign installation. In addition, this year's effort saw the beginning of replacement of suspect anchor bolts on a number of climbing routes at the popular Lilly Bluff. This work was performed under the recently implemented Obed Wild and Scenic River Climbing Management Plan. In discussing the success of the Obed Adopt-a-Crag Day, Harvey noted the importance of stewardship in building relationships. "Of all the work, building physical trails are important but not as important as the bridges we have built between ourselves and local private and public individuals, park management, and other user groups. Our work building trails helps promote legitimacy and acceptance as an invested group in the stewardship of the area."

- The Access Fund and W.L. Gore present the **Adopt-a-Crag Stewardship Award** to Art Messier and Chris Manzuk and the San Diego Climbers' Coalition (SDCC) volunteers for displaying a high level of activism, stewardship, and an overwhelming sense of community. On Sep 6th, 60 volunteers braved 98 degree temperatures to perform much needed trail work on the Climbers Loop Trail at Mission Gorge: brush was trimmed from the trail, huge rocks were moved for new steps, rock retaining walls were constructed, and brush was piled up to close destructive short cuts. Messier was impressed not only with the dedication of area climbers but with the involvement of local business, "We had our best turnout ever in terms of both volunteers and community business support. We are getting local businesses to recognize and support our efforts."

- The Access Fund and CLIF Bar present the **Adopt-a-Crag Day Conservation Award** to Thomson Ling and the Adopt-a-Crag volunteers at Great Falls, Virginia. Ling welcomed volunteers from five local climbing organizations (SheClimbs of DC, PATC Mountaineering Section, VA Climbers Group, American Alpine Club, and DC Outdoor Rock Climbers Group) to the park for a day of landscaping, debris removal, and trail construction. The National Park Service Ranger Peter Lonsway said he was extremely impressed with the work ethic, friendliness and productivity of the group. According to Ling, "The day not only helped the park service in maintaining the climbing areas, but also fostered good relations between the park service and climbers, as well as built a sense of community among local climbers!" Stay tuned for more community building and stewardship opportunities with Adopt-a-Crag 2004!



*Adopt-a-Crag Photo of the Year is presented to Wayne Fuller for his "oversized" photo taken at Seward Rocks, Alaska.*

# Letters

## **Subject: Closures of Climbing Areas on National Forest lands in Boulder Canyon**

I'd like to clarify some points raised in Mark Rolofson's August 2003 letter (VT #53) and provide additional information that I hope will increase understanding about and support for closures of National Forest lands in Boulder Canyon to climbing and other activities.

Since 1992, the Forest Service has designated closure areas in Boulder Canyon because of historic or recent nesting attempts by golden eagles. Volunteers have documented nesting since the early eighties, with sites alternating among Blob Rock, Bitty Buttress, and Eagle Rock. Golden eagles have maintained a territory in the area since at least the forties. As with some other birds of prey, golden eagles use multiple nest sites, sometimes changing each year and sometimes using one site for several consecutive years. Temporary closures to protect nesting eagles from human disturbance while they select a nest site each year and throughout the nesting season are necessary, due to competition for dispersed recreation opportunities and increasing use on public lands in Boulder Canyon.

The Forest Service closed the Security Risk area, including Happy Hour and Bihedral crags, beginning in 2001 because of a nesting attempt by a pair of golden eagles -- a new nest reported by a local climber. We worked closely with Jerry Craig, Colorado Division of Wildlife raptor biologist, and local Colorado Division of Wildlife managers; however, the closure is on National Forest lands and the closure decision was made by the Boulder Ranger District. Unfortunately the eagles didn't finish the new nest that year.

Blob Rock, Bitty Buttress, Eagle Rock, and most recently the Security Risk area, are now closed from February 1 through July 31 unless posted otherwise. Volunteers from Boulder County Nature Association and the Colorado Division of Wildlife -- including at least one rock climber -- monitor these areas each year. The Forest Service reopens some or all of the nesting areas when monitoring shows that reopening is appropriate. Closure dates are consistent with similar closures on City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain

Parks, and Boulder County Parks and Open Space.

Peregrine falcons or other birds of prey could also nest in Boulder Canyon. Formerly listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act, peregrine falcons, along with golden eagles and other cliff-nesting raptors, are still protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and other federal and state laws. Anyone who chooses not to cooperate with raptor nesting closures risks violating these laws in addition to the specific local closure regulations. The Forest Service, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and Boulder County Sheriff enforce the Boulder Canyon closures.

Just last year, a local climber reported another raptor nest in Boulder Canyon, probably a red-tailed hawk nest. Protection of nesting eagles and other raptors on public lands in Boulder Canyon depends on cooperative efforts. With support from local climbers, volunteers, climbing equipment retailers, local agencies and experts, and the Access Fund and local climbing groups, raptor nesting and climbing opportunities will continue to coexist into the future.

Beverly Baker  
Wildlife Biologist  
U.S. Forest Service, Boulder Ranger  
District

### **Fixed Anchors?**

Boy, it would be nice to see the Access Fund addressing environmental issues other than the fixed anchors ban with members of Congress. Given, the current approach to managing federal lands and the associated loss of wilderness values, it seems like there is some more important stuff going on. Not to mention that the apparent exclusive focus on the fixed anchor issue prevents the Access Fund from forging alliances with other environmental groups who, presumably, share many of the wilderness and environmental values of the Access Fund membership. Who knows, if the Access Fund begins to show up on some other issues, maybe we gain the support of other environmental groups on the fixed anchor issue.

Ted Yackulic  
Via E-mail

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[www.accessfund.org/virtual\\_times/index.html](http://www.accessfund.org/virtual_times/index.html)

### Access and Conservation Access Fund Member Handbook Online

The Member Handbook is a complete source of information about access issues, Access Fund programs, letter writing and other advocacy tools, and a primer on ways to get involved at your local crags. Look inside for:

- Tips for writing political action letters.
- A complete list of the Access Fund's staff.
- Guidelines about how to climb responsibly.
- Download PDF file at:  
[www.accessfund.org/pdf/memb-handbook.pdf](http://www.accessfund.org/pdf/memb-handbook.pdf)

### Vertical Times Newsletter Also Online

*Vertical Times*, the Access Fund's bimonthly print newsletter, provides up-to-date news on policy, area reports, events, action alerts, grants, and more. It is a benefit to members and non-members alike — if you are not a member, please join at [www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org). The AF is now offering this unique publication electronically to decrease printing and mailing costs, thus allocating more funds to protect YOUR CLIMBING FUTURE. If you choose to take part in this effort, and cease shipment of the *Vertical Times* to your home, please E-mail your name and address to [memberservices@accessfund.org](mailto:memberservices@accessfund.org) with "Remove *Vertical Times*" as the subject.

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[www.accessfund.org/vertical\\_times](http://www.accessfund.org/vertical_times)

## ACCESS FUND CORPORATE PARTNERS

Initiated in 1991, this program consists of 100 businesses dedicated to preserving America's diverse climbing resources. After each company's name appears the year it became a corporate partner. Please support these companies, which support YOUR CLIMBING FUTURE.

### DIAMOND – \$20,000+

Black Diamond Equipment – 1991  
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## Thanks

### **Kurt Smith & Elaina Arenz-Smith**

**To all of the gyms and shops who supported the Friction Addiction tour. Thanks for another great year!**

Rhode Island Rock Gym  
Petra Cliffs Climbing Center  
Craggers  
Boston Rock Gym  
Maine Bound  
Prime Climb Climbing Gym  
Philadelphia Rock Gym  
Urban Krag Climbing Center  
Inner Peaks Climbing Center  
Vertical Ventures  
Aiguille Rock Climbing  
Rok Haus Indoor Climbing Gym  
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### **Thanks for your support through general events and projects**

Summit Climbing Gym  
EMS & Mike Thompson  
Upper Limits & Jody Pollack  
North Lander Climbing Center & Robert Peterson  
Stone Gardens & Adam  
Planet Granite & Renee DeAngelis  
Misty Mountain Threadworks, Goose Kearse, Mike Trew & Jim Horton  
Western State Recreation Program & Luke Mehall  
Stone Age Climbing Gym, Inc / NMCRAAG & Bryan Pletta  
CLIMBMAX, INC & Stuart  
Ute Mountaineer, Paul Perley & Jon Gibbins  
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Towson University & Michael Hansen

### **Welcome to our newest Corporate Partners**

Big Up Productions  
AZ on the Rocks  
Higher Ground Roasters  
GearExpress.com  
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### **Special thanks for joining or renewing as a Community Partner**

CASBC, Explorer's Club of Pittsburgh, Sunrift Adventures, Skagit Alpine Club, Boulders Climbing Gym, Prairie Walls, Inc, Pruett Publishing Company, Zen Lizard Systems, Southern California Mountaineers Association, Yosemite Fitness, Santa Fe Climbing Gym, Illinois Climbing Club, Starved Rock Outfitters, Alpine Club of Canada- Toronto Access Committee, Williams Outing Club, Spokane Mountaineers, Pacific Edge, Arizona Mountaineering Club, Summit Climbing Gym, Stone Age Gym  
AMC - NY Chapter Mountaineering Committee, Peregrine Outfitters  
The Rock Barn- Rhinoceros Mountain Guides, Austin Rock Gym, Cragmont Climbing Club, Rim of the World Climbing Club, Rok Haus Indoor Climbing Gym, Wilderness Exchange

### **Thank You for End of Year Appeal Supporters**

The Access Fund's 2003 End of Year appeal was a success! Thanks to 113 contributors, the mailing raised over \$17,000. Your end of year donations added crucial financial resources to the Access Fund, and will set us up for a successful 2004!



*Kurt and Elaina were "Kickin Access" again in '03 to raise \$32K and 700 members for the AF!*



The Access Fund  
PO Box 17010  
Boulder, CO 80308

your climbing future  
[www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org)

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## LOCAL CLIMBING ORGANIZATIONS

LCO's are volunteer-based climber organizations working in collaboration with the Access Fund to preserve access and conserve the climbing environment at the local or regional level. LCO's also support the Access Fund through events and membership drives. To add your LCO to this list, E-mail [deanne@accessfund.org](mailto:deanne@accessfund.org). For links to websites of these LCOs, visit

[www.accessfund.org/whoware/who\\_lco.html](http://www.accessfund.org/whoware/who_lco.html)

### Alabama

Southeastern Climbers Coalition

### Arizona

Arizona Mountaineering Club  
Northern Arizona Climbers Coalition  
Tucson Climbers Association

### Arkansas

Southeastern Climbers Coalition

### California

Boulder Clean - Joshua Tree  
Bouldering Group  
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Friends of Joshua Tree  
Friends of Pinnacles  
San Diego Climbers Coalition  
Sierra Nevada Institute  
Southern California Mountaineers  
Association  
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Climbers Access Society of British  
Columbia

### Colorado

Action Committee for Eldorado  
Flatirons Climbing Council

### Connecticut

Ragged Mountain Foundation

### Georgia

Southeastern Climbers Coalition

### Idaho

Kootenai Climbers

### Illinois

Illinois Climbers Association

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### Iowa

Eastern Iowa Climbers Coalition

### Kentucky

Kentucky Rock and Sports Trust  
Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition  
Southeastern Climbers Coalition

### Ohio

Ohio Climbers Association

### Massachusetts

Appalachian Mountain Club-Boston  
Chapter  
Western Massachusetts Climbers  
Coalition

### Michigan

Grand Ledges Climbers Coalition

### Missouri

Climbers Alliance of Mid-Missouri

### Minnesota

Minnesota Climbers Association

### Nevada

Las Vegas Climbers Liaison Council

### New Mexico

CRAG-New Mexico

### New Jersey

Access NJ

### New York

Gunks Climbers Coalition

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Carolina Climbers Coalition  
Pisgah Climbers Association

Southeastern Climbers Coalition

### Ohio

Ohio Climbers Association

### Oklahoma

Wichita Mountains Climbers  
Coalition

### Oregon

Cascades Mountaineers  
Mazamas

### Pennsylvania

Explorers Club of Pittsburgh  
Manayunk Climbing Alliance  
Pennsylvania Alliance of Climbers

### South Dakota

Black Hills Climbers Coalition

### Tennessee

Southeastern Climbers Coalition

### Texas

Central Texas Mountaineers  
Climbers of Hueco Tanks  
Texas Mountaineers

### Utah

Salt Lake Climbers Alliance

### Vermont

CRAG-VT

### West Virginia

New River Alliance of Climbers  
Southeastern Climbers Coalition

### Wisconsin

Wisconsin Outdoor Access