

VERTICAL TIMES

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Climb Hard, Give Back?

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“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

– MAYA ANGELOU

Two years ago, I climbed the Regular Northwest Face of Half Dome in a day with a good friend of mine. It was just a month before pitches 10 and 11 fell off in a massive rockfall event, but aside from the chimneys feeling a bit more spacious than I had remembered from a previous ascent, nothing felt amiss. I was leading a block of pitches and came upon three different parties converging at the top of pitch 8, near the bolt ladder, which forms a natural bottleneck leading into the chimney pitches above. There were ropes everywhere. Based on their huge nylon backpacks, two parties appeared unfamiliar with standard Yosemite wall techniques. Passing them in the chimneys would be tough. I decided to try to get to the bolts first.

I climbed fast, simul-climbed with my partner, and placed almost no gear in the moderate terrain leading to the bolt ladder. I tried to smile and stay out of people’s way as I went past, breathing hard and grabbing hold after hold like a man possessed. I arrived at the bolt ladder and had a friendly chat with an experienced climber who was stopped nearby. I looked down and could see that my partner was having some trouble and that unfortunately we had left a wake of disorder and discontent in the climbers below us. We had clearly not executed our pass of the other parties as well as we should have.

I said goodbye to the other climber and entered the chimney section of the route. Soon my partner and I couldn’t see anyone below us. We later topped out and got back down before the pizza deck closed. We felt good about our ascent, wondered at the fates of the other climbers, and hoped they were settled in for the night.

About a week later, I found out through a mutual friend that the experienced climber I had met and passed, who had seemed so friendly at the time, was livid with me

for the way I had passed the other parties on the route. I ended up calling him, and we had a civil if somewhat tense conversation. We discussed the ethics and techniques of passing, and the merit of asking permission to pass when you’re halfway up a big wall with no bivy gear. I apologized to him and said I’d write up an article about my experience and share it one day.

So, today, in our world so full of conflict and news of our fractious society, I reflect on what I did wrong, and I think it all comes down to this: I forgot to be kind and considerate. I could write a long article on the ins and outs of passing, and how to manage your ropes and your interactions with other climbers, but the most important lesson I learned is that when encountering other people in possibly stressful and conflictual situations, it is important to slow down, have good interactions, and respect them as human beings. I failed to do so on Half Dome, and I left the other climbers feeling worse for having met me that day.

As we discuss and debate the protection of our climbing areas and public lands, as we engage with those who may have views different than our own, it is not naïve to be respectful of others. Compassion and empathy are not weaknesses, they are signs of strength. The elevation of our national discourse begins with the one person whose actions we have the greatest ability to control: ourself.

When passing by other climbers on long rock routes, in boulder fields, or in the many public forums debating the issues of the day, I’m going to do my best to do so in a respectful way that elevates and doesn’t bring people down. Climbing has been one of my greatest and most consistent teachers; I am forever grateful for the lessons it continues to bring to my life.



Brady Robinson
Access Fund Executive Director



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BACC Tackles Glen Canyon Stewardship

Bay Area Climbers Coalition (BACC) knocked it out of the park at a Glen Canyon Adopt a Crag event in May. Alongside the Access Fund–Jeep Conservation Team, over 40 volunteers removed invasive vegetation, closed eroding social trails, and removed graffiti from multiple sites. The land manager was impressed by BACC's ability to rally volunteers and make major improvements to the area.



CCC Gives Hidden Valley a Makeover

In May, Carolina Climbers Coalition (CCC) hosted a major Adopt a Crag event at Hidden Valley in Virginia, where volunteers re-bolted routes, installed a new kiosk, and upgraded trails and staging areas. CCC's stewardship efforts are having a positive impact as more climbers from across the Southeast enjoy this great sandstone crag.



Join Us: **2017 Climber Advocate Summit**

Don't miss the biggest, most important national conference of local climbing advocates and organizations in the country! Every year, Access Fund brings the grassroots climbing advocacy community together in one place to share stories, best practices, and inspiration from the field. This year, Access Fund and Patagonia are convening the Climber Advocate Summit in the San Francisco Bay Area on September 9. The event will offer a full day of workshops, panel discussions, and trainings on topics like Mentoring Young Climbers, Building a Sustainable LCO, Stewardship and Mapping, Public Lands Advocacy, and much more. Big thanks to our local hosts, Bay Area Climbers Coalition, for helping coordinate the event.

This year, we're encouraging LCOs to come in twos, pairing an experienced board member with a new volunteer. Use this event to help pass the torch to new volunteers to help sustain your organization and share knowledge. The summit will offer presentations and workshops suited for both beginners and seasoned climbing advocates, and all are welcome and encouraged to attend!

As usual, the summit will be followed by a fancy dinner. Mark your calendars for September 9, and stay tuned to the URL below for more details.

Need help with travel funding? We offer travel scholarships to offset the costs of travel and lodging to our annual summits.

Learn more at: www.accessfund.org/standup

More Access Secured for Torne Valley

Torne Valley Climbers' Coalition (TVCC) secured a five-year permit for continued access to the Powerlinez climbing area at Southern Harriman State Park in New York. Historically, this was a year-to-year permit, and securing a five-year permit represents significant, positive growth in the relationship between TVCC and the landowner. TVCC's work has allowed for the development of hundreds of new boulder problems and nearly 100 new roped routes in the area. Nice work, Torne Valley Climbers' Coalition!

Latest Threats to Public Lands Are Subtle But Dangerous

Last year, we sounded the alarm as bills began to pop up to dispose of public lands or transfer them to states where they could be opened to inappropriate levels of development and high-impact extraction.

We rallied to block these bills, and together our community sent a clear message to Congress that we won't stand for transferring or selling off large tracts of our public lands and their irreplaceable climbing opportunities. As a result, we saw many of these bills dropped or never introduced, including Congressman Chaffetz's (R-UT) bill that proposed to sell off over three million acres of public land in the western United States and Congressman Amodei's (R-NV) bill that sought to unload over seven million acres of public land to the Nevada state government. Both were dropped after public outcry from recreation and conservation communities made it clear that the majority of Americans do not want to transfer or sell off public lands.

These victories were a direct result of our grassroots advocacy efforts, and we should all be proud of that.

But here's the thing: The threat to our public lands looms greater than ever, but it's much more covert than the blatant disposal attempts we saw earlier this year. Congress and the President are currently pushing a less obvious, more complex assault, not only on the integrity of our public lands, but on the very system that manages and protects them.

Right now, we're seeing the legislative and executive branches of our government propose initiatives that:

- **Undermine the authority of the Antiquities Act**, threatening the legitimacy of all national monuments, their climbing areas, and our collective American heritage.
- **Strip land management agencies of the critical authorities**, like landscape-scale planning, law enforcement, stream protection, road management, and mineral leasing, that allow our public lands and their climbing areas to be managed in a balanced manner that respects all stakeholders, not just commercial interests.



- **Cut funding to land management agencies**, preventing them from managing recreation and mitigating impacts to our public lands, while increasing the budget for oil, gas, and coal development.

The common theme of these attacks is clear: Remove authority and resources from the public lands system to pave the way for unmitigated energy development and commercial interests. We are certainly not against energy independence and a balanced budget, but these goals can be accomplished while protecting public lands and including the American public in the decision-making process.

Instead, these attacks will disable the public land agencies' ability to balance all stakeholder interests and uses of public lands, ultimately limiting the American people's voice on how public lands are managed.

Already, Congress has repealed a crucial BLM planning rule, limiting the public's ability to be involved in BLM land management planning at places like Red Rocks, Shelf Road, and other popular BLM climbing areas. This was a huge blow to the recreation community, and it will result in measurable damages to climbing environments and access—although the extent is yet to be seen.

This attack on our public lands is death by a thousand cuts. The perpetrators are shifting from overt land transfers and sell-offs to covert rollbacks, repeals, and budget cuts. They are counting on the fact that we aren't paying attention and that the details are too complicated for us to see the bigger picture. But we see the big picture. These threats are more subtle and dispersed, but they add up to the systematic dismantling of America's public lands system—home to about 60% of our climbing areas—and they must be stopped. Visit www.accessfund.org/publiclands to stay informed and get involved. ■



Photo: © Louis Arevalo

CLIMB LIKE A LOCAL: TEN SLEEP

With a perfect combination of sun and shade, Ten Sleep is ideal for mid-summer crushing. If you love super technical, vertical limestone climbing, then this sleepy little Wyoming town is going to be your dream come true.

WHY WE LOVE IT: The large variety of grades makes Ten Sleep accessible to all climbers, and the bolting is super friendly. You'll find 800+ sport routes, with lots of good 5.10s (and under), a large concentration in the 5.11 to 5.13 range, and many 5.14s as well. And for limestone, the rock isn't too sharp, and the pockets are abundant.

THE LOCAL VIBE: There are only a handful of true "local" climbers in Ten Sleep. However, many climbers from surrounding communities (and neighboring states) call Ten Sleep their local crag. Locals are welcoming and really appreciate when visitors respect the simple local etiquette.

WATCH OUT: Parking in Ten Sleep Canyon is extremely limited, so park head-in, and do not parallel park in the tiny pullouts.

AVOID THE CROWDS: The climbing tends to spread people out on its own; however, you will find crowds at the popular crags like Mondo, Superratic, and French Cattle. If you're up for a longer approach, check out the less-frequented gems like Crag 6, The Temple, The Ark, and The City of Gold.

There are also over 22 developed crags located just over the mountain from Ten Sleep, and many are an easy day trip. Check out Piney Creek Canyon, Steamboat Point, and Crazy Woman Crags. You will not be disappointed! Pick up a copy of *Rock Climbs of the Eastern Bighorns* guidebook for details.

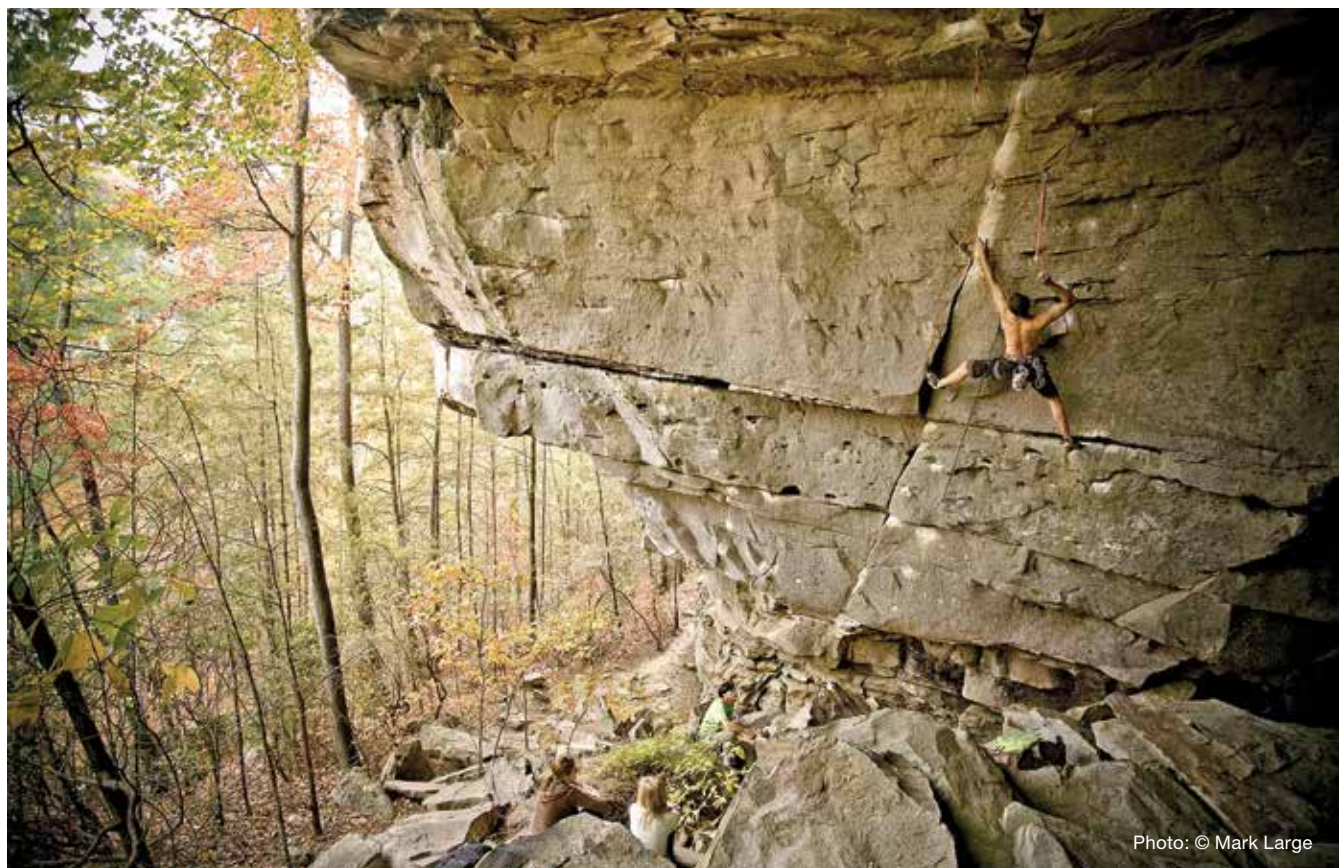
LOCAL PET PEEVES: Locals have a strong Leave No Trace ethic and get peeved with climbers who don't respect it. Pack out your trash, clean up after yourself and your pets, and be courteous to the locals, and you'll fit right in. Also, do not create new trails, respect road closures (the Old Road usually opens for camping on June 11), and pay your camping fees.

TOWN LIFE: The town of Ten Sleep is home to fewer than 300 residents, and life moves at a pretty slow pace. Ten Sleep Brewing Company is the spot for a post-climbing beer. And the Ten Sleep Rock Ranch is the place for all things climbing related—social canopy area, cheap camping, showers, and trash. The owners are awesome and always happy to answer questions.

Dirty Sally's is the place to go for all your mercantile needs, including fresh produce and homemade waffle cones.

PRO TIP: "You'll either think there are no footholds or footholds everywhere!" ~ Alli Rainey, local pro.

WHO'S GOT YOUR BACK? Bighorn Climbers' Coalition represents the climbing community in the region. ■



TENNESSEE'S CLEAR CREEK ACCESS SECURED!

In early April, East Tennessee Climbers Coalition (ETCC) purchased a parcel of land that secures access to Clear Creek, home to some of the best and most popular climbing in the Obed. The Clear Creek acquisition includes the parking area and a critical portion of the climbers' trail used to access Clear Creek's famous, overhanging sandstone bluffs.

For decades, the private landowner allowed the public to park and hike on his land, but earlier this year he decided to sell the property. Thanks to the solid relationship that ETCC maintained with the landowner over many years, he came to climbers first.

The community quickly rallied to help ETCC raise \$12,000 in under two months to complete the purchase.

Access Fund provided a \$4,000 Climbing Conservation Grant and helped ETCC draft the purchase agreement, secure title insurance, and gain 501(c)3 status. The project also marks ETCC's first land acquisition, a major milestone for a relatively small, grassroots LCO that's nonetheless been an essential climbing steward of the area for almost 20 years.

Clear Creek's cliffs are primarily owned by The Nature Conservancy and managed in partnership with Obed Wild & Scenic River.

"This acquisition was important for local and visiting climbers. It preserved access to Clear Creek's 200+ routes, a handful of which *Climbing* magazine ranked in the top 100 in the country," says ETCC Board Member Johnny

Nowell. "It also further strengthened our already fantastic relationships with The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service."

ETCC now owns the seven-acre parcel that includes the climbers' parking lot, as well as the largest remaining section of the trail from the parking lot to the north and south Clear Creek climbing areas. This purchase secures access for climbers for generations to come.

Congratulations, ETCC, for protecting this gem in the Obed! ■

CLIMB HARD, GIVE BACK?

Is there more to being a professional climber than sending?

BY LAURA SNIDER

Since the birth of climbing, the boldest, the best, and the most visionary among us have repeatedly demonstrated that the things we once thought were impossible are anything but. From the first summit of Mount Blanc in 1786 to the first redpoint of a 5.15c in 2012, the boundaries of what we believe is doable have been pushed, year after year, century after century.

Already this year, Margo Hayes became the first woman to send a 5.15a, and Emily Harrington and Adrian Ballinger showed us that an 8,000-meter peak can be climbed in just two weeks, door to door, if you want it bad enough. And, of course, Alex Honnold astounded the entire climbing community—if not the entire world—when he became the first person to free solo El Capitan.

These feats, by professional climbers who can dedicate themselves to training full time, redefine our limits. But should there be something more? Do professional climbers have a responsibility greater than just climbing hard?

At least some pro climbers think so.

“Professional climbers who climb hard are interesting,” says Tommy Caldwell, whose own career has spanned decades and includes the landmark first free ascent of El Cap’s Dawn Wall in 2015. “Professional climbers who

are good and real people, and who climb hard, are inspiring. Public service is a must for people who are as blessed by climbing as I am.”

CLIMBING THE HILL

Just a few short weeks before Honnold climbed the whole of El Cap with only his shoes and a chalk bag, he took part in another ascent of sorts. He was one of a half-dozen professional climbers who joined Access Fund and the American Alpine Club for the annual “Climb the Hill” event in Washington, D.C., to advocate for public lands, outdoor recreation, and improved climbing management. The climbers met with members of Congress, their staffers, and other policymakers.

Honnold believes that he absolutely has a responsibility to help protect the places he climbs. But he doesn’t see that duty as unique to his role as a professional climber.

“Anybody who is climbing outdoors has a certain responsibility: to leave no trace, to vote responsibly, to contact their legislators about things that are important to them,” he says. “I don’t think professionals have any more of a responsibility than the average person. But the thing about being a professional is you have a much bigger platform. You’re in a position of greater power. You have the same responsibility as anybody else, but you have a much greater capacity to do good.”



Alex Honnold advocating for climbers at Climb the Hill. © Stephen Gosling

At the Climb the Hill event, star power like Honnold’s helps. Bringing in amazing athletes—and the equally amazing tales of adventure that go with them—helps enliven an audience used to sitting through back-to-back meetings.

“It’s super helpful to have professional climbers come to these events,” says Access Fund Executive Director Brady Robinson. “They make these meetings more interesting; they make us stand out. It’s a different kind of experience.”

Honnold wasn’t always so interested in spending any part of the spring sending season in the humid flatlands of Washington, D.C. But climbing, he says, has a way of transforming what you think is important.

“When you’re a climber, you tend to start caring about those things more. I never really would have thought about those issues if I wasn’t spending so much time outdoors,” he said in a phone call from the top of El Cap. “I spend several months a year in Yosemite. So, obviously, I care about public lands. I care about how we finance our parks.”

Caldwell agrees that a desire to conserve public lands is something that follows a love of climbing.

“In the early days of my ‘professional’ climbing career, I thought little of anything outside of my own sending,” Caldwell says. “At some point, I realized that climbing had formatted a pretty incredible life of travel, intentional pursuit, and deep relationships. I felt grateful. That became the basis for wanting to give back through climbing. My six-year term on the Access Fund board was really my first attempt to do this. I learned plenty, and my heart grew for giving.”

COMMUNITY ROLE MODELS

As public land advocates, Caldwell and Honnold are part of a deep legacy of conservation climbers. John Muir, whose first ascent of Cathedral Peak in 1869 was a landmark in climbing history, was a tenacious advocate for creating and protecting national parks. David Brower, who placed the first expansion bolt on a climb during the first ascent of Shiprock in 1939, worked his entire career to keep our wild places untrammled. More recently, Yvon Chouinard and the late Doug Tompkins helped lead the conservation fight from within the climbing community.

For these climbing luminaries, the experience of climbing and the experience of being in the wilderness were often one and the same. And, as with Honnold and Caldwell, time spent climbing outside inspired the conservation spirit. But what about the crush of new climbers joining the sport today? If climbers spend much of their time on inside walls—with just a few experiences outside—how can a conservation ethic be nurtured?

Professional climbers Sam Elias and Joe Kinder think this is another opportunity for pro climbers, who are important role models for new climbers trying to figure out what it really means to be a member of the tribe.

“Being a climber means caring for climbing areas,” Elias says. “Joe and I go out of our way to pick up microtrash at the crag every day—no matter whose trash it is. It’s like an unconditional love for the crag. You do whatever it takes to care for it.”



Joe Kinder mentoring new climber at an Access Fund education event.

These small habits can leave a big impression on other climbers. Watching a pro climber pick up someone else’s trash sets a standard for those watching. And people are watching. Kinder has learned the hard way that being a professional climber also means being under a microscope and being held to a higher standard.

Kinder experienced an intense backlash from the community after he cut down a juniper tree while developing a new route outside of Tahoe. The experience led to some deep reflection and a new appreciation for what it means to be a professional climber.

“For me, that was a big realization. I didn’t know how much it mattered,” Kinder says. “But it was also a saving grace for me. I realized how important it is to be a better steward. As a professional climber, you’re supported by the community. You should realize that people are watching your moves, and what you do is important.”

Kinder has had an opportunity to share what he learned, and perhaps spare others from the same hard lesson, through his work with Access Fund. Both Kinder and Elias have

Feature Story

joined Access Fund's gym-to-crag education efforts, which involve going to gyms, giving slideshows, and climbing with people new to the sport—all while emphasizing the need to take care of our limited climbing resources.



Sam Elias working alongside volunteers to remove graffiti in Little Cottonwood Canyon, UT. © Tommy Chandler

“I have major pride in that experience,” Kinder says. “It came at a time when I needed it and allowed me to be a part of something I believe in while earning that trust back.”

Having Kinder, Elias, and other pro climbers participate in these events is invaluable. Access Fund wants people to understand how outdoor ethics fits in and what our responsibility is as climbers. The pro climbers are one of the most powerful components of getting that idea across.

SPEAKING TO THE MASSES

Pro climber Sasha DiGiulian, who also participated in this year's Climb the Hill event, also knows that people—a lot of people—are watching her every move, and she sees this as an opportunity for good.

DiGiulian has more than a half-million followers across her social media accounts. This gives her a megaphone to speak through, and she says she's determined to use that power to advocate for what she believes in.

“Performing at an elite level as a professional athlete is my job,” she wrote last November in a column for *Outside* magazine. “Though, as athletes, part of our job is also to serve as ambassadors for our sports—to encourage people to test their limits and to understand the value in what we do. Athletes and celebrities have a civil responsibility to share our privileges with people who don't have the opportunities we do. And today, it's easier to promote those values than ever before.”

Caldwell and Honnold, who have both seen their respective El Cap ascents make headlines in publications with reach far beyond the climbing community, also believe that their increased exposure is an opportunity.

“The mainstream media has given me a bit of a pulpit,” Caldwell says. “People listen to climbers because climbing is exciting. This gives us a voice, and with that comes responsibility. We also have a more intimate relationship with our public lands and climbing areas than most. Climbing has become a way to ‘market’ our most dramatic landscapes. We can and should use that for the good.”

And speaking out to the general public may serve to inspire more action from the rest of the climbing community as well. At Access Fund, the continued support of many pro climbers, stretching back for decades, helps make the threats to public lands (and what we can all do about it) more visible.



Sasha DiGiulian advocates for climbing at Climb the Hill event. © Stephen Gosling

“The pro climbers who have chosen to work with Access Fund to give back have been invaluable to our work,” Robinson says. “These athletes get really fired up about it. That energy can galvanize the community, and rally all climbers to get involved.”

Access Fund invites all climbers—from pros to weekend warriors—to get involved and give back to climbing. ■

READY TO GIVE BACK?

Here are a few places to start:

- Commit to The Climber's Pact, and do your part to protect the climbing experience (see page 13).
- Respond to Action Alerts when Access Fund sends out the call.
- Be a mentor to a new climber.



Photo © Ben Berg

OHIO CLIMBERS' BIG SCORE: MAD RIVER GORGE

Just outside Springfield, Ohio, the Mad River meanders below a series of pristine limestone cliff bands, likely the tallest in the state. In the 80s and early 90s, this popular climbing area was known as Springfield Gorge, and the cliffs sat across a patchwork of land ownership—some parcels owned by the county park, some by a land conservancy, and still others by a series of private landowners.

Then, in the mid-90s, a climbing accident on one of the private land parcels shut the entire area down, as all of the landowners became concerned about liability. The area remained closed for over 20 years.

Then, two years ago, the Clark County Parks Division received a grant to purchase the bulk of the property in the gorge from private landowners. Ohio Climbers Coalition (OCC) immediately reached out and began discussing the opportunity of reopening climbing and creating a new climbing park that could be a huge economic draw to the area.

Access Fund worked with OCC to address Clark County's concerns regarding liability, trail construction, and bolt maintenance, and the two organizations worked together to draft a climbing management plan that alleviated many of the county's concerns. With a solid climbing management plan, Clark County quickly embraced the idea of keeping climbers local, as opposed to sending them off to the Red River Gorge or other destinations.

While the county had officially approved climbing at the new Mad River Gorge & Nature Preserve, the land had been neglected for years. Huge trash piles were strewn

about the cliff bases, invasive plants had taken over the cliff tops, and there wasn't a single foot of sustainable access trail on the property.

Ohio Climbers Coalition, Access Fund, and the local climbing community got to work stewarding this new local treasure. Last year, the Access Fund–Jeep Conservation Team and OCC volunteers spent a long weekend constructing a new entrance staircase and creating a stewardship plan for the entire area.

Then in May of this year, OCC recruited more than 200 volunteers—including climbers and members of the local community—to clean up the park. With help from a crane operator, volunteers were able to remove 125,000 pounds of trash (including over 200 tires, old refrigerators, and a car body) while the Conservation Team led several groups to complete the access staircase, improve trails, and remove invasive plants.

Ohio Climbers Coalition deserves a huge ovation for their efforts and collaborative spirit in seeing Mad River Gorge & Nature Preserve refreshed and officially opened to climbing. The entire Ohio climbing community will benefit from the partnership created between OCC and Clark County Parks Division, a reminder to us all of what can be accomplished when we work together.

The Mad River Gorge & Nature Preserve was officially opened to climbing on May 21, 2017. ■

CLIMB THE HILL Marks Pivotal Moment for Climbers' Influence in D.C.

Last month, Access Fund and the American Alpine Club teamed up to bring professional climbers, industry representatives, guides, and local climbing advocates to Capitol Hill to advocate for climbers' interests.

The Climb the Hill event was a pivotal moment for the climbing community. Our policy experts and advocates stood side by side with high-profile professional climbers—including Tommy Caldwell, Alex Honnold, Sasha DiGiulian, Kai Lightner, Peter Croft, and Libby Sauter—to present a unique perspective on the importance of public lands and outdoor recreation. The pro climbers provided passionate testimony on their relationships with climbing and public lands.

We had a powerful impact on Capitol Hill through 50 meetings with Congressional offices and land management agencies (BLM, NPS, and USFS), as well as a Senate briefing. Our agenda covered the importance of protecting the Antiquities Act and our national monuments, as well as the power of the recreation economy, the importance of funding land management agencies, and the need for smart energy policies—all issues that affect the future of America's climbing.

A highlight of the trip was an impromptu presentation by former vice-presidential candidate Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA), who expressed



Access Fund team at Climb the Hill event. © Stephen Gosling

his deep connection with natural landscapes and his love of outdoor recreation. He highlighted Sasha DiGiulian, who grew up and developed her climbing skills in his state of Virginia.

We were well received by Congress and members of the administration, who listened intently to our experiences with public lands and our perspective on environmental issues and the importance of collaborative natural resource management.

This event elevated climbers' political capital, and it could not have come at a better time. Right now, the legislative and executive branches of government are pushing a covert dismantling of the regulations, budget, and authority of land management agencies that protect

our public lands. With nearly 60% of our climbing areas located on public lands, this is one of the greatest threats to climbing access we have ever faced.

Special thanks to our partners at the American Alpine Club for making this event such a success and to the pro climbers, local advocates, and partner organizations who lent their talents and perspectives to passionately represent the climbing community. We hope to make Climb the Hill an annual event. This year's event was made possible by the generous support of title sponsor adidas Terrex and supporting sponsors The North Face and Brooklyn Boulders.

Stay tuned for updates on our efforts to protect public lands. ■



THE CLIMBER'S PACT



PHOTO COURTESY OF
© KEENAN HARVEY

BE AN UPSTANDER, NOT A BYSTANDER

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER USERS · LEARN THE LOCAL ETHICS FOR THE PLACES YOU CLIMB · PARK AND CAMP IN DESIGNATED AREAS · DISPOSE OF HUMAN WASTE PROPERLY · STAY ON TRAILS WHENEVER POSSIBLE · PLACE GEAR AND PADS ON DURABLE SURFACES · RESPECT WILDLIFE, SENSITIVE PLANTS, SOIL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES · CLEAN UP CHALK AND TICK MARKS · MINIMIZE GROUP SIZE AND NOISE · PACK OUT ALL TRASH, CRASH PADS, AND GEAR · USE, INSTALL, AND REPLACE BOLTS AND FIXED ANCHORS RESPONSIBLY · WWW.ACCESSFUND.ORG/THECLIMBERSPACT

Ever the champion of wild places, Patagonia has worked tirelessly to protect the Bears Ears region—home to world-class climbing and countless cultural artifacts. Access Fund is proud to partner with Patagonia in our ongoing work to protect our public lands and national monuments. To learn more about the cultural and recreational significance of the Bears Ears region, check out Patagonia's *This is Bears Ears National Monument* campaign at bears.ears.patagonia.com.



These partners are businesses that put their money where their mouth is to support the future of climbing. Please consider the important contribution these partners make to your climbing future. They support Access Fund and you. We encourage you to support them!

ABOVE THE CLOUDS - \$100,000+

Jeep® Brand/Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, LLC

TITANIUM - \$50,000+

Black Diamond Equipment, LTD
Clif Bar & Company
Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)

DIAMOND PLUS - \$40,000+

Outdoor Research
Patagonia

DIAMOND - \$25,000+

The North Face
Touchstone Climbing, Inc.

PLATINUM PLUS - \$15,000+

Archer Law Offices, P.C.
Petzl
Planet Granite

PLATINUM - \$10,000+

Earth Treks Climbing Centers
Google
Jason Keith Consulting
La Sportiva
Metolius
Mountain Project
Osprey
The Colorado Health Foundation
Therm-a-Rest
Yakima

GOLD PLUS - \$7,500+

eGrips Climbing Holds
prAna
Sterling Rope Company

Stonewear Designs
Trango

GOLD - \$5,000+

Brooklyn Boulders
CouponCause.com
E&J Gallo
Entre Prises USA
FrictionLabs
Louder Than 11
Mountain Gear
Mountain Hardware
Seattle Bouldering Project
Sender Films
The Spot Bouldering Gym
Triangle Rock Club

SILVER - \$2,500+

ABC Kids Climbing
adidas Terrex
Avery Brewing Company
Beeline Bikes
Boulder Rock Club
Clif Family Winery
ClimbTech
EVO Rock + Fitness
Falcon Guides
Five Ten
Flash Foxy
GORE-TEX® Products
Macpherson and Associates Inc.
MARCAT Group, LLC
Movement Climbing + Fitness
Network for Good
Omega Pacific
Outdoor Retailer
Pacific Edge Climbing Gym
Peter W Gilroy
Phoenix Rock Gym
PromoCodeWatch
Sea to Summit
SCARPA North America
Sciencia Collective
Stone Age Climbing Gym
Stone Gardens
Thrive Tribe

MAJOR - \$1,000+

Advanced Specialty Care, PC
ASANA
ASCEND Pittsburgh
BlueWater Ropes
Boulderdash Indoor Rock Climbing
CAMP USA
Carabiner Coffee Co.
Carhartt
Evolv Sports and Designs

Experience Momentum
Film Festival Flix
Goal Zero
GSI Outdoors

High Point Climbing and Fitness
Kingflyer Collective
Liberty Mountain Climbing
Mammut
Maxim Ropes
Mick Tresemer Rope Art
MojoTech
MontBell
Mountain Tools
Mountainsmith
Mystery Ranch
Neptune Mountaineering
Onsight Gear
ORU Kayak
Pacific Edge Climbing Gym
Phoenix Climbs Events
Polar Bottle
Rock and Resole
ROCK'n and JAM'n
Spire Climbing Center
The Warrior's Way
Voltaic Systems

CONTRIBUTING - \$500+

Apex Climbing Gym
Bison Designs
Boulder Adventure Lodge
Christopher Intellectual Property Law
Clean Designs
Doylestown Rock Gym
Duct Tape Then Beer
Float Apparel
Golden Mountain Guides
Green Peak Promotions
Level 8 Sales
Local Independent Charities of America
Moosejaw
NOCO Gear
Nomad Adventure Journals
Onsight Chiropractic of Berkeley
Onsight Rock Gym
Primus
Real Athlete Diets
Redfin
RESTOP
Rock Mill Climbing, Yoga, and Fitness
RockQuest Climbing Center
Rockreation
RoKC

Sharp End Publishing
SLO-Op & The Pad Climbing Sports Basement
Stone Summit Climbing & Fitness
Sublime Climbing
Tahoe Oral Surgery & Implant Center
The Mountain Hideaway
Tom Michael D.D.S., P.S.
TOPO Designs
Urbana Boulders
Vertex Climbing Center
Vertical World Climbing Gyms
West Arete
Zeal Optics

SUPPORTING - \$250+

Ascent Studio Climbing & Fitness
Avid4 Adventure
Bliss Bouldering and Climbing Complex
Bookyourdata
Climb-On Maps
ClimbMax Climbing Center
CWR SEO
Dog Patch SF
First Ascent Mountain School
Flying Dog Brewery
Gneiss Apparel Supply Co.
GoTenna
Granite Arch Climbing Center
HARNESS Marketing
Hotel Boulderado
Joshua Tree Skin Care
Lost Soles Climbing Center
Magic Valley Gear Exchange
MyClimb App
Nadia von Magdenko & Associates, PLLC
New Orleans Boulder Lounge
Nite Ize
NOLS: National Outdoor Leadership School
Origin Climbing and Fitness
River Rock Climbing
Rock Fitness
RockSport Climbing Gym and Outdoor Guide Service
STRADA Advertising
Tent.net
The Armaid Company
The Law Firm for Non-Profits
Treasure Mountain Inn
Vertical Adventures Ohio
X-treme Rock Climbing Center
YETI Coolers



Clockwise: Drew Hayes on The Fin, Linville River, North Carolina | Katie Hughes climbing Straight and Narrow, Shortoff Mountain, North Carolina | Casie Cañez on Somewhere in Linville Gorge, North Carolina | © Bryan Miller

Bryan Miller

Bryan Miller owns Fixed Line Media, a climbing and adventure content company based in Charlotte, North Carolina. After spending 20 years in an executive career, Bryan left in favor of dangling from a fixed line and giving back to the climbing community that has given him so much. Since an early age, he has explored creativity through a lens and is now focused on climbing stewardship, advocacy, and awareness in the Southeast. To learn more, visit www.fixedlinemedia.com. ■



Protect America's Climbing

The Access Fund
PO Box 17010
Boulder, CO 80308

Annual Dinner: Stand Up for Public Lands



Mark your calendars! Access Fund and Patagonia are bringing the climbing community together in the San Francisco Bay Area on September 9. This is a chance to connect with friends, celebrate our access and conservation successes, and support the fight for America's public lands. The dinner will support the Access Fund's public lands policy efforts and is our largest party of the year, featuring beer and cocktails, presentation of the 2016 Sharp End Awards, and live and silent auctions. The keynote address will be delivered by the legendary Jimmy Chin.

Enjoy an incredible evening with fellow climbers and help us protect America's public lands and their irreplaceable climbing opportunities.

Saturday, September 9, 2017
6:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
Oakland, CA 94612

Tickets available at:
www.accessfund.org/standup