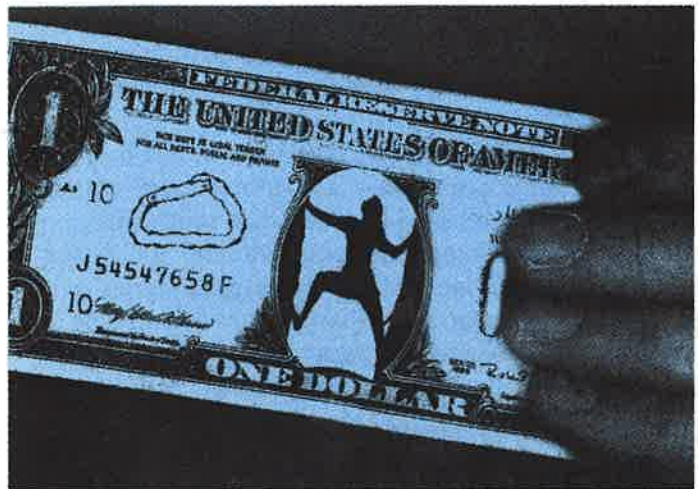


Vertical Times

ACCESS • CONSERVATION • ACTIVISM



MAY • 2000 VOL • 34



YOUR ACTION CAN HELP STOP USE FEES AS CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT EBBS, AGENCIES WAGE LAST-DITCH BATTLE TO KEEP FEE AUTHORITY

Thanks to the efforts of groups like the Access Fund, the controversial Recreation Fee Demonstration ("Fee Demo") Program, which allows federal land management agencies to charge and retain fees for virtually any use of national parks, forests, open space and recreation areas, may be curtailed. Recently, the Access Fund learned that key figures in the House and Senate are now opposed to Fee Demo, and that majority leaders may not vote to extend this program in 2000.

Now is a critical time—your help is urgently needed to convince congress that our public lands should be funded through our income taxes, not through unfair and discriminatory use fees.

The Demonstration Fee Program was adopted as part of the 1997 federal budget package. The program was given an initial three-year life to test its applicability and benefit to agencies and public lands visitors.

The program was expressly intended not to replace Congressional appropriations, but to supplement these revenues to allow land managers to address administrative needs not being met due to budget constraints.

From its inception, Fee Demo has had serious problems. Although individual parks, forests, and recreation areas were permitted to keep a large percentage of the revenues they collected under Fee Demo, the administrative costs of collecting the new fees were often significant, and the process of collecting and disbursing them

complicated. People like Yvon Chouinard and David Brower, as well as the City of Los Angeles, weighed in against the program, claiming among other things that it was inherently unfair to lower-income people and would lead to continued reductions in funding for the agencies through appropriations.

Recreation advocacy groups like the Access Fund, the Public Access Coalition, American Whitewater, and the Sierra Club quickly took positions opposing Fee Demo, and supporting the principle that the administrative needs of the federal resource management agencies should be paid for out of annual budget appropriations, and through sources such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We have distinguished between fees for access, which we oppose, and fees for use of developed facilities such as campgrounds, which we do not oppose.

More recently, groups such as the Mountaineers and the International Mountain Biking Association have adopted positions against Fee Demo, and the American Hiking Society has withheld support pending substantial changes to the program.

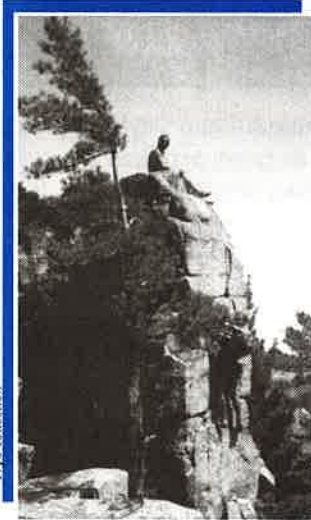
Last year, two bills were introduced in the House of Representatives to terminate Fee Demo. We encouraged Access Fund members to support these bills. At this point, however, it should not be • *continued on page 5*

LOOKING FOR THE MAGIC BULLET IN THE MIDWEST

by Sally Moser, executive director

The alarm clock screeched rudely after a late night of playing cards with my family in Milwaukee, Wisc., but duty called. Some 200 miles down the road, Illinois climbers were gathering that Saturday afternoon in hopes of protecting access to their local areas and influencing the future of climbing there. Heartland craggers were looking for ways to make a difference. A big part of the Access Fund's mission is to support these grassroots groups, and I looked forward to the meeting.

I drove my dad's old pickup truck (which had bald tires with neither a spare or a jack, I later found out) to Jefferson, Wisc., and then hitched a ride south with Steve Frye, Access Fund regional coordinator and liaison with Wisconsin Outdoor Access. We swapped stories as he drove, and the conversation revealed that at one time Frye had been an Adventist preacher, a profession that undoubtedly aided his ministry as a climber activist.



The former Rev. Frye on belay duty at Devils Lake

As we drove into Bloomington, Ill., our destination was obvious: a multi-siloed grain elevator, the tallest thing for miles around, which had been converted into Upper Limits Climbing Gym. There we hooked up with Illinois Regional Coordinator Eric Ulner, gym owners Pam and Chris Schmick and others, and caravanned to the meeting.

About 20 interested climbers showed, and Ulner, access activist for almost 10 years and owner of a portion of Drapers Bluff, moderated the forum. Discussion focused on local issues, such as the restrictions on ice climbing at Starved Rock State Park (it was open for only one day last season), the situation at Drapers Bluff and Jackson Falls in Illinois, etc.

Finally, Ulner posed the million-dollar question to the group: "Do we want to form a group to represent climbers' interests to local agencies?" Ulner added "I can help organize and be involved, but I can't run it; people need to step forward to do that."

Those at the meeting shifted uncomfortably in their chairs and studied the carpet in front of them. This is a familiar scene for veterans of grassroots meetings, com-

ing at the point when people realize "You mean I have to do something?" This moment has a way of slowing things down.

Finally, after some discussion, an organizing committee of four people jelled. Now, what were they going to do? Ideas flew: Have a logo. Buy t-shirts and sell them. Get members, hundreds of members.

I saw Frye smiling and shaking his head in the back of the room. "Steve," I asked, "Given that Wisconsin Outdoor Access has gone through the same process last year, do you have any advice for the group?"

"First, you have to be who you are," he said. And with those words of wisdom, the formulation of the mission statement began. After a minimal amount of head scratching, they came up with the following: "The ICA is dedicated to preserving climbing access in Illinois through education, conservation and cooperation."

With their mission hammered out, ICA's course of action became clear: Get the names, address and phone numbers of everyone present. Have the organizing committee assign tasks to the group. Talk to local land managers. Plan to meet with state resource managers about climbing policy in the future. Demonstrate stewardship by getting involved in trail-building projects, clean-ups, etc.

After three hours, the meeting broke up. Frye and I returned to the Upper Limits silos to climb. Our job was over, but the Illinois Climbers Association's work had just begun.

Unfortunately, a painless, sure-fire way to protect access to your local area does not exist. The Access Fund can help, but needs committed area climbers to carry the battle. That's why groups like the Illinois Climbers Association, Red River Gorge Climbers Association, Southern Sierra Climbers Association, Carolina Climbers Coalition, and Wisconsin Outdoor Access are crucial to protect access.

To deal with local access problems, climbers must organize as a group, establish a partnership with local resource managers and work together to find solutions to area-specific issues. The answer lies in the process, and a meeting like that held in Bloomington is part of the answer.



NORTHERN ARIZONA

The increasing popularity of climbing and a lack of time, experience, and funding has recently made it difficult for the Forest Service to gather information on rock climbing to plan for management in northern Arizona. To rectify this situation, the Access Fund's Board of Directors approved a grant at its April 1 meeting for Regional Coordinator Kerry Nodal to survey climbers on their values relative to their climbing activities and management preferences for northern Arizona.

The information Nodal gathers will help the local Forest Service officials, who have generally been supportive of climbing, make future land-management decisions, and with planning. The survey will also foster a working relationship between local land managers and the climbing community and give climbers input on management decisions.

PINNACLE PEAK, ARIZ.

The City of Scottsdale has made recent progress on plans for the proposed three-acre trailhead at Pinnacle Peak. A conceptual site plan was submitted to the City's Project Coordination Division for review and approval by the Planning Commission and City Council. The conceptual plan was being reviewed by the Planning Commission and City Council at presstime. The conceptual plan is limited to the three-acre parcel of land shown on the Context Map.

After approval, the next step is for Scottsdale's Development Review Board to review and approve the

more detailed architectural plans for the trailhead, including the office, restroom, and ramada. Public input will be sought as part of this design process.

City Staff, along with representatives from the climbing community, have also prepared the Pinnacle Peak Park Rock Climbing Policy. The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the management of climbing activities within the designated climbing areas. These areas have already been identified and approved as part of the Management and Operations Plan.

JOSHUA TREE, CALIF.

As part of the Access Fund's ongoing support of grass-roots climbers' organizations, the Board of Directors approved a \$5,000 grant to the Friends of Joshua Tree (FOJT) to fund a FOJT administrative staff position. Joshua Tree is viewed as a crucial area by the Access Fund



because it represents a good-faith attempt by federal land managers to implement climbing policy, in the form of Joshua Tree National Park's Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan. In short, the policies developed at Josh may well have repercussions nationwide. With the grant, FOJT will be able to initiate

and execute fundraising events, produce a substantive seasonal newsletter and manage a database of climbers from around the world.

LUMPY RIDGE, COLO.

A new fence has been installed along the narrow road leading to the parking lot at the Black Canyon trailhead located near the McGregor Ranch at Lumpy. While "No Parking" signs along the road have been in place for some time, the fence has the effect of ensuring that no one can park there.

The fence effectively means that once the Black Canyon lot and the small lot at the Gem Lake trailhead one mile away are full, climbers, hikers and birders that frequent this part of Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) will have no designated place to park at Lumpy Ridge.

The Access Fund is working with local climbers and RMNP to evaluate options for improving the situation.

NO NAME CANYON, COLO.

A \$1,500 grant for trail work at No Name Canyon near Glenwood Springs, Colo. was approved by the Fund's Board of Directors in April. Current No Name approaches are made via small, steep trails that are marked by areas of eroded rock and dirt. To rectify this, the Fund will once again bring in trail guru Jim Angell to redesign trails, and the local climbing community will provide the labor. Kudos to Bryan Gall for organizing this effort, and for opening a constructive relationship with the local Forest Service officials who manage No Name.

PENITENTE CANYON, COLO.

The BLM, Casa de Madera Sports



Don Silver

The Access Fund is co-sponsoring a "trail-enhancement weekend" at Penitente Canyon May 6-7.

and the Access Fund will sponsor a "trails enhancement weekend" at Penitente Canyon on the weekend of May 6-7. The work is aimed at preparing the canyon for summer use by cleaning up the existing trail system and by installing cairns and signs. A loop trail from Penitente to Witches Canyon will also be built.

Camping for the weekend is available at Penitente; motels are located in Saguache and Monte Vista. For more information, call Mark Marshall at the BLM at 719.655.2547 or Alex Colville at 719.657.2723.

RED RIVER GORGE, KY.

Due to a potentially significant archaeological site located near Military Wall, the question whether climbing should be allowed to continue in this area was being considered by Forest Service archaeologists. After dis-

cussions between Forest Service archaeologists Johnny Faulkner and Cecil Ison and Red River Gorge Climber's Coalition Executive Director/Access Fund Regional Coordinator Shannon Stuart-Smith, "a joint partnership" has been forged that will help keep Military Wall open for the time being.

The long-term fate of the Military Wall depends upon the success of climbers' and the Forest Service's joint efforts to protect archaeological sites while keeping as much climbing open as possible. If these archeological sites are not protected from further degradation from climbing impacts, eventually ALL climbing is in jeopardy.

At issue is the increasing numbers of climbers and the attending "impacts" that threaten unprotected archaeological sites near climbing areas. Archaeologists are first locating as many of these sites as possible, and then working through the Coalition and climbers to mitigate impacts as quickly as possible. This approach is an attempt to "balance interests with responsibility." The Forest Service is willing to work with climbers (i.e., not close ALL climbing areas where an archeological site occurs), if climbers are willing to help through a combination of measures (e.g., voluntary closures, partial closures, temporary closures, "buffer zones," trail reroutes, signage, improved compliance with the "No Camping" in rock shelter restriction, etc.)

The success of this joint effort to protect these archeological sites and mitigate impacts is critical to overall access of climbing at the Red. Please respect any signs regarding sensitive resources near climbing areas, DO NOT camp within 100 feet of any rock, and please spread the word to other climbers.

Also at the Red, as of April 1, 2000, all camping and campfires within 100 feet of cliffline, or the back of a rock shelter, are PROHIBITED by the Forest Supervisor's order. Also, as of April 1, a new "overnight parking permit" is required in the Red River Gorge. All vehicles parked overnight from 10:00 pm until 6:00 am within the Gorge area will be required to purchase an overnight pass. Passes will be sold at Ranger District offices, at Gladie Historic Site, at the Forest Supervisor's office in Winchester, and in stores near the Red River Gorge and in larger towns such as Lexington, Morehead, and London. The fees are \$3 for one night, \$5 for three nights, \$10 for seven nights, and an annual pass for \$30. For more information contact Ranger Jorge Hersel (606) 663-2852.

CRADLE ROCK, N.J.

Access to the Beach (a.k.a. Bitch) and Lonesome Dove boulders at Cradle Rock has recently been made tenuous by the construction of an upscale home close by. The owner of this home has made it clear that he does not want to allow climbing on his property. More study of property boundaries in the area is needed to determine whose land the boulders lie on, but it is certain that the boulders are on privately owned land. As access to the Beach and Lonesome Dove boulders is worked out, climbers are reminded to be on their best behavior there and maintain an extremely low profile.

Updates on the current status of Cradle Rock access can be found on the New Jersey Climber's Coalition homepage at www.clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/newjers-eyclimberscoalition.

GREEN SPRINGS, ORE.

Rob Parks of the Southern Oregon Climbers Club (SOCC) has been work-

ing with the Access Fund to resolve the liability concerns of the private landowner that owns Green Springs Rock, which is currently closed. Negotiations have included a whole spectrum of liability limiting options, ranging from requiring the SOCC to purchase a million-dollar insurance policy to a simple waiver system. For more information, call Parks at 541.488.9212.

FOSTER FALLS, TENN.

Recent concerns that budget cuts to the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) budget would force the agency to shut down or sell Foster Falls have proved to be unfounded. According to the TVA's Lee Carter, there are no plans to limit climbing access in any way, and the TVA is even planning to put a new restroom at the day parking lot.



Michael Kennedy

Despite budget cuts, the TVA has no plans to restrict access to Foster Falls

CANYONLANDS, UTAH

The Canyonlands Climbers Coalition, coordinated by Eve Tallman, is producing regular news updates about climbing issues in the Indian Creek, Castle Valley and Canyonlands areas. If you would like to be included on an email circular list, contact Eve at 435.259.5639 or e-mail evetree@lasal.net.

GIBRALTAR ROCK, WI

The Gibraltar Rock Action Committee will hold a slide show and gear raffle at the Adventure Rock Gym in Brookfield, Wisc. on May 19 to recruit volunteers. The committee plans to initiate negotiations with Columbia County to reopen Gibraltar in the near future. Everyone that attends the event will get a free pass to Adventure Rock. For more information, call Eric at Adventure Rock at 262.790.6800.

FEE DEMO FROM PAGE 1

necessary to pass this legislation as long as Congress does not approve a continuation of the Fee Demo program.

We are encouraged by these developments, but nonetheless urge our members to write to their House and Senate representatives immediately on this issue. Tell Congress that you want to pay for public lands use and management through your income taxes, not through use and entry fees. State that you are willing to pay for use of "developed facilities," but that general access to the public domain should be free, to the greatest extent possible. Ask your congressperson and senators to oppose making Fee Demo permanent. Ask Congress not to consider pay-to-play schemes a reasonable

way to fund public lands management and state your support for HR 701, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, which would permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, with \$200 million annually allocated for resource and recreation management. State that the Access Fund opposes use fees primarily because they are discriminatory, and inherently a barrier to access. Our surveys show climbers want to help boost funding levels for the public lands agencies, but that we agree use fees are not the best way to do this. We need Congress to stop reducing lands management agency budgets and to increase funding for recreation and resource management programs, and to sustain these improved funding

levels in the future.

Personal letters through regular mail are the best way to let congress know how you feel on this issue. To find out the names of your representatives and senators, call 202.224.3121, visit the congressional Web site at <http://www.thomas.loc.gov/>, call Access Fund Senior Policy Analyst Sam Davidson at 831.770.1523, or e-mail sam@accessfund.org.

Write:

The Hon. Your Congressperson
US House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Hon. Your Senator
US Senate
Washington DC 20510

Help Wanted



ACCESS FUND ACCESS AND ACQUISITION DIRECTOR

The Access Fund is looking for an Access and Acquisitions Director (AAD) to manage:

- 1) the Action Network of volunteer activists and climbing organization liaisons around the country;
- 2) acquisitions, which includes the negotiation and consummation of land acquisitions as well as the supervision and management of lands held by the Access Fund. In addition, as the first point of contact for climbing area closures and restrictions, the AAD promotes and supports Access Fund policy positions and statements.
- 3) The AAD is also the first point of contact for climbing area closures.

Requirements include:

1. At least five years climbing experience, with diversity among various climbing disciplines (trad, sport, mountaineering, etc) and a broad knowledge of climbing history and trends.
2. Advocacy skills such as negotiation techniques, public speaking and the ability to work well with volunteers, including recruitment, coaching and motivation.
3. General business skills such as conflict resolution, general contract, real estate or legal experience and supervision/management skills.
4. Experience with non-profit organizations through volunteer work or prior employment.
5. Strong work ethic including participation as a team player, self-motivation and a commitment to the Access Fund mission.

This is a fulltime position in the Boulder, Colo. office. Salary range: \$30,000 to \$37,500 depending on experience.

For more information, E-mail Sally Moser at sally@accessfund.org

PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR

The Access Fund is looking for a Publications Director (PD) to be responsible for writing, producing and distributing the Access Fund's educational and promotional materials, including this newsletter, advertisements, brochures, etc, via print and electronic media. The PD interfaces with printers, pre-press houses, writers, photographers, graphic designers, magazine representatives, etc., as well as the Access Fund staff.

Good writing skills and knowledge of Quark, Photoshop and digital pre-press required.

This is a fulltime position in the Boulder, Colo. office. Salary range: \$27,000 to \$30,000 depending on experience.

For more information, E-mail Susy Levin at susy@accessfund.org

USE THIS MUSCLE

SAVE CLIMBING ACCESS WITH 100,000 ACTIONS! All you have to do is commit to 10.

CLIMBER ENVIRONMENT CONVERTS THE POWER TO SAVE CLIMBING ACCESS

win gear and other great prizes

KICKIN' ACCESS
The Access Fund • Since 1990

100,000 ACTIONS—DO IT OR LOSE IT!

You bet I floated 10 of the 14 actions:

- Answered the question: The Access Fund is (A) an investment firm, (B) an internet service provider, (C) national climbers organization
- Packed out a bag of trash for a climbing area where: _____
- Said hello to the land manager at my local crag where: _____
- Committed to Leave No Trace—minimum-impact climbing practices
- Read up and am committed to be informed about the areas where I climb
- Joined or renewed my membership to Access Fund
- Called or wrote a Senator or Congressperson about a climbing issue who: _____
- Volunteered for a climbing area clean-up where: _____
- Called my Access Fund Regional Coordinator to be put on the resource list (see www.accessfund.org)
- Volunteered for a trail project where: _____
- Participated in ADOPT-A-CRAG day in September, 2000 where: _____
- Rallied a friend to join the Access Fund who: _____
- Talked to or wrote a ranger or land manager about a climbing issue who: _____
- Properly disposed of my waste (100 steps from the trail, six inches deep)

Fill out just 10 of the 14 on the list and Send it to: Access Fund Action Tick List, PO Box 17010, Boulder, CO 80508 (One entry per person; you'll be eligible for amazing gear and prizes all year long!) www.accessfund.org • 1-888-863-6237

The sooner you enter the more chances you have to win! ENTER BY JULY 1—AND YOU'RE ELIGIBLE FOR 4 DRAWINGS. ENTER BY SEPT. 1—AND YOU'RE ELIGIBLE FOR 5. ENTER BY NOV. 1—AND YOU'RE ELIGIBLE FOR 2. ENTER BY DEC. 31—LAST CHANCE!

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ TEL _____ E-MAIL _____

Access Fund

Meet the

RUNNING IT OUT WITH ACCESS FUND BOARD MEMBER ERIC HOBDAY

Pop quiz: what climbing area comes to mind when you tremble at the thought of 40-foot runouts from quarter-inch bolts on immaculate granite slabs?

Answer: wrong if you guessed Tuolumne Meadows. And wrong if you answered Stone Mountain, North Carolina (but good try). But you'd be right if your answer was the Wichita Mountains of Oklahoma, where Access Fund Board of Directors member Eric Hobday cut his teeth on desperate climbing and dicey access.

Hobday, 39, now of Salt Lake City, Utah, prefers trad climbing these days (some of his favorite climbing destinations include the Bugaboos and Yosemite), although he throws himself at the occasional sport route. Hobday got his start in climbing on the limestone cliffs of Canada's Niagara Escarpment, then moved to Dallas, Texas, where he became a local at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge (WMWR) and Baldy Point.

"Bold doesn't even begin to describe climbing here," Hobday says. "If you look in the guidebook, you'll see that a lot of the routes are either free solos or X-rated. When you start climbing there, you just have to figure out the routes that you dare get on and climb them a bunch of times. Then maybe you can push it a little."

After learning the tough love needed to climb at the Wichitas, Hobday and other local climbers (including current Fund board member Larry Gustafson and Oklahoma regional coordinator Marion Hutchison) were stunned when the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which runs the WMWR, announced a complete climbing ban in the winter of 1994. The ban came from a strict interpretation the WMWR's mission, placing emphasis on protecting wildlife over any form of non-

wildlife-dependent recreation.

After the attempted ban, Hobday, John Juraschek (the Access Fund's executive director at the time), and the Wichita Mountains Access Association set about educating the Fish and Wildlife service about climbing and rallied support for the sport from US Senator Don Nickles and the Oklahoma legislature. "We made numerous Freedom of Information Act requests to help us frame our response to the draft environmental assessment on climbing in the Wichitas," Hobday says. "Eighteen months and hundreds of hours of work later, the result was a three-inch notebook showing where the impact analysis was flawed. That, plus a change of management and attitude at the Refuge, helped turn the situation around. Now, really the only restrictions on climbing are a committee of climbers that oversees fixed anchors, a no-climbing area along a sensitive creekbed, and a ban on power drills in wilderness areas."

Hobday calls the pending Access Fund purchase of privately owned Baldy Point in the Wichita Mountains (see area report in March '00 Vertical Times) "a great acquisition. It's one of the best climbing resources in the south-central region of the country, including the cities of Dallas/Fort Worth and Amarillo in Texas, Oklahoma City, and much of Kansas. The routes face south, making it a really good winter area. If the Access Fund had not stepped in, the landowners would have chosen to sell to a developer. Chances are that climbing wouldn't be allowed now."

Hobday has also been instrumental in the Fund's battle to save climbing at Hueco Tanks. "Hueco is an example of a situation that is so complex that it is beyond the resources of the local climbing community to turn it



Board member Eric Hobday speaking at a Hueco Tanks meeting.

around," Hobday says. "The Access Fund is the only thing preventing the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TP&WD) from banning the little bit of climbing that remains, and the only organization with the resources required to improve climbing access. The final outcome is far from certain, but Hueco is one of the areas where we will go all the way to protect climbers' access. The real shame of it is that climbing and rock art preservation are compatible, but TP&WD simply chooses to ignore that fact."

Hobday, who says he has been "engaged for eight years," recently moved to Salt Lake City with his fiancée, Deborah.

As for the direction of the Access Fund's board in the future, Hobday says "We need to focus on understanding who our constituency is and how to address their needs. We need to look forward two, three, even five years and determine what key challenges climbers are going to face. We need to position the Access Fund today so that it can address those challenges and remain the driving force in the climbing community."

by Sam Davidson, senior policy analyst

FOREST SERVICE ANNOUNCES START OF NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING ON FIXED ANCHORS IN WILDERNESS

As this issue went to press, the US Forest Service had just announced the start of the Negotiated Rulemaking on climbing and the use of fixed anchors in Wilderness areas. The agency released the final list of groups and individuals appointed to the rulemaking committee. The first meeting of the committee will come in June, 2000.

Thanks to a phenomenal letter-writing effort by Access Fund members, there have been several positive changes to the committee membership. The Access Fund is guardedly optimistic about a positive outcome of the negotiated rulemaking process. We invite members to help us further by sending us your thoughts on what the standards for fixed anchors in



The Forest Service Negotiated Rulemaking on fixed anchors in Wilderness is set to begin

Wilderness ought to be.

The Access Fund is ready to engage in the Negotiated Rulemaking, in good faith and with an open mind, and we are committed to a result that correctly interprets the history of climbing in Wilderness, preserves basic climbing freedoms, and maintains climbers' ability to provide for

their own safety.

For more information see the Access Fund Web site at www.access-fund.org or contact Sam Davidson, senior policy analyst, at 831.770.523 or e-mail sam@accessfund.org.

YOSEMITE: NEW MANAGEMENT PLAN RELEASED FOR COMMENT; WOULD PROTECT CAMP 4 BUT REDUCE PARKING AND CAMPING

The National Park Service has released its new "concept plan" for Yosemite Valley. The Yosemite Valley Plan integrates many key issues for the park, including visitor and employee transportation, employee housing, protection and rehabilitation of the Merced Wild and Scenic River, reconstruction of Yosemite Lodge units and campgrounds damaged by flooding, and redesign of the Yosemite Falls area.

It is immediately evident in the new plan that the Access Fund's many years of work in Yosemite, combined with the efforts of the American Alpine Club and individual climbers, have paid off. The "preferred alternative" of the Yosemite Valley Plan preserves Camp 4 and keeps Yosemite Lodge redevelopment away from Swan Slab. In addition, the plan has eliminated previous proposals to require reservations for day-use visitors and to assess various activity fees.

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt presented the new plan to the Commonwealth Club on March 27 in San Francisco. Paul Minault and Chris McNamara of the Access Fund attended, along with Dick Duane, Linda McMillan, and RD Caughron from the American Alpine Club.

In his speech, Babbitt twice referred to climbers in a positive light. The Secretary alluded to his



The new Yosemite plan reflects the Access Fund's efforts to preserve Camp 4 and keep Yosemite Lodge development away from Swan Slab.

personal experience of standing in El Cap Meadow and watching climbers on the Big Stone, saying Yosemite is the flagship national park because it is a blend "of the pastoral and the sublime." Babbitt also admitted that the Park Service had benefited by our lawsuit to protect Camp 4, and now understood that the historic campground is a "world climbing center."

The Yosemite Valley Plan was immediately praised by leading environmental groups such as the National Parks and Conservation Association and the Wilderness Society. The Sierra Club, however, criticized the plan, arguing that a different plan for protecting the Merced River corridor needs to be finalized before actions proposed in

the Valley Plan can be considered.

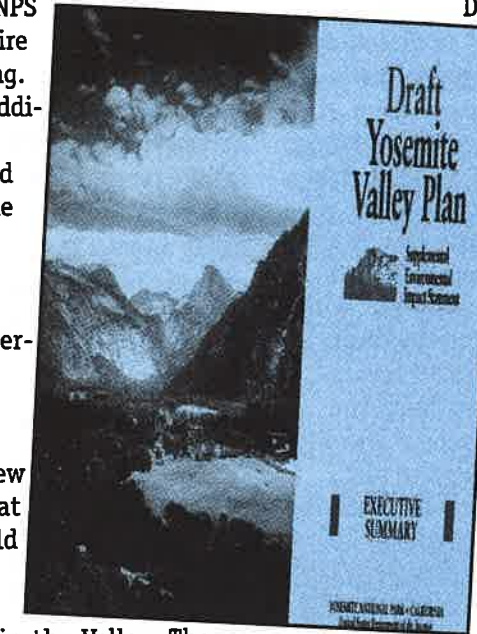
On balance, the Yosemite Valley Plan seems a mixed blessing. The plan takes steps to reduce vehicular congestion in the Valley. It removes a number of facilities from the Valley, including some NPS and concessionaire employee housing. It provides for additional walk-in campgrounds and would restore the free flow of the Merced River.

However, the plan raises numerous concerns, principally regarding the large scale of new development that apparently would be the cost of decreasing the number of cars in the Valley. The plan would reduce day-use parking (by as much as 60 percent) and camping opportunities, consider the development of IMAX-theater based commercial operations at park entrances, allow a new concession "attraction" at Lower Yosemite Falls, straighten and widen segments of all roads leading to the Valley to better accommodate buses and RVs, and allow the construction of a new, high-end hotel at Yosemite's north entrance.

It is unclear how these factors would affect climbers. A shuttle system may not run to enough locations and at the odd hours required by climbers. While some campgrounds will be built or rebuilt, the total number of campsites available in the Valley will remain below target levels provided for under the 1980 "master" plan for the park.

Climbers have unique transportation and camping requirements in

Yosemite Valley, and the Access Fund will continue to advocate strongly for these needs. We will review the Yosemite Valley Plan thoroughly and submit comments to the Park Service. Call senior policy analyst Sam



Davidson for an update at 831-770-1523 or e-mail sam@access-fund.org. All climbers are encouraged to consider the plan for themselves, and to respond with constructive remarks by the end of June 2000. To view the Yosemite Valley Plan online, go to www.nps.gov/yose/planning. To get on the mailing list for the park, e-mail a request to YOSE_planning@nps.gov, or write Yosemite Planning, Yosemite National Park, PO Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389.

SUPREME COURT: DEVILS TOWER POLICY OKAY

In March the US Supreme Court let stand a lower court ruling that the National Park Service (NPS) can discourage—but not prohibit—rock climbing at Devils Tower National Monument during the month of June.

In the case "Bear Lodge Multiple Use Association vs. Babbitt," plaintiffs argued that the so-called voluntary closure of the Tower to climbing was "clearly coercive" and violated the Constitutional separation of church and state.

Previously two lower courts had ruled a voluntary closure was permissible, as the NPS is required to manage for a variety of values, some of which may conflict. The courts did

force the Park Service to revoke its original ban on issuance of permits for commercial (guided) climbing at the Tower in June.

The Access Fund has supported the voluntary closure at Devils Tower as an acceptable compromise between two uses of a limited resource. We have worked with the Park Service to encourage climbers to visit the Tower during months other than June, which traditionally is a time for Native American ceremonies.

Since the climbing policy was adopted in 1995, the vast majority of climbers have responded positively. Climber visitation in June has dropped by at least 80 percent from voluntary closure levels each year since 1995.

On a related note, the Access Fund bids a fond farewell to Jim Schlinkmann, long-time Chief Ranger at Devils Tower and one of the architects of the voluntary closure compromise. Jim is headed to Great Basin National Park (yes, there is some climbing there). Jim's friendly demeanor and commitment to supporting both resource protection and climbing in the national parks should be requisite qualities for all NPS personnel. Thanks, Jim, for a job well done.

Since the voluntary policy was adopted in '95, the vast majority of climbers have responded positively.

CHANGES IN ZION

As part of the National Park Service's comprehensive effort to reduce vehicular traffic in national parks, Zion National Park in Utah is making changes in visitor access to the main canyon.

Beginning in May 2000, visitors (including climbers) will have to park their cars near the park entrance and ride shuttle buses in and out of the canyon. Initially, this policy will be



Photo: Bruce K. Foster

A new shuttle system is being implemented at Zion; climbers will be able to obtain a special-use permit to leave a shuttle vehicle.

implemented for the high-volume visitation months of May through October only.

The shuttle buses will operate between 6:30 a.m. and 10 p.m. daily.

Climbers who need to leave the park after-hours can obtain a free, special-use permit at the park headquarters the day before their climb. This permit will allow climbers to leave a car parked at designated parking areas in the canyon.

However, even with this permit cars will not be allowed into the park before 6:30 a.m.

In addition, the entrance fee to Zion is rising from \$10 to \$20. Mandatory permits for bivouacking on wall climbs can be obtained at park headquarters and will remain at \$5 per person.

Call Zion at 435-772-3213 for more information.

HUECO TANKS: FINAL DECISION BY MAY 1

In March, representatives of the Access Fund and the El Paso Climbers Club attended an informal meeting with officials from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to discuss our suggestions for making the

Public Use Plan for Hueco Tanks become more climber-friendly.

So far, TPWD's proposed adjustments to the Hueco plan include closing the popular Dragon's Den area to climbing, eliminating all camping from the park, and levying a \$4 "reservation fee" to discourage visitors from making reservations, then failing to show up.

Unfortunately, as in numerous prior meetings, TPWD made no commitment to modify any element of the plan. The Public Use Plan is the most restrictive management plan the Access Fund has ever dealt with.

Texas State Parks Director Walt Dabney did say that TPWD had not yet made any final decisions, and that climbers should submit specific proposals for improving the plan. TPWD will accept comments from the public up until the end of April, 2000, and expects to issue its final decision on revising the use plan by May 1.

In addition, TPWD expects to have hired a new, permanent park manager for Hueco Tanks by May 1.

Here are the basic changes to the Public Use Plan the Access Fund and the El Paso Climbers Club are suggesting:

1-The Public Use Plan should do more than just pay lip service to the fact that Hueco Tanks is one of the world's best climbing areas. The plan should include actions designed to promote this value so long as it does not demonstrably conflict with preservation of historic and natural resources.

2-The current large-scale access restrictions should be reconsidered. Specifically, limited, site-specific closures should replace the access-by-guided-tour-only policy for all areas of Hueco Tanks outside of North Mountain. TPWD's draft review of the use plan states that for the most part, visitors have honored area clo-

sures. We believe this would continue to be the case even if wholesale closures were eased and only particularly sensitive areas closed. This approach has worked well for other climbing areas with significant archeological values.

The trail system should be designed to support climbing access and protect sensitive sites. The Access Fund has offered to help pay for the new trail system.

3-The Volunteer Guides Program needs an overhaul. Specifically, guided tours for climbing should be optional, not mandatory, and guides should be able to participate in the activity of their tour. Limits on the length of a climbing tour should be up to the guide. Presently, rock art tour guides can look at rock art, and bird watching tour guides can watch birds, but climbing tour guides cannot climb. The Access Fund has offered to help pay for improvements to the guide program.

The Dragon's Den should be a "test site" for the site-specific restrictions strategy. TPWD should keep the Dragon's Den open to climbing, restrict or close those sites in this area which have significant resource damage, and allow unguided access (just to this area, not to all of East Mountain). This test area can be monitored for a year, and if the strategy is successful, it could be applied to other significant climbing areas within the park.

The Access Fund, the El Paso Climbers Club, and other climbing organizations are submitting these proposals as this issue goes to press. All climbers are encouraged to write in support of these ideas. Write to: Walter Dabney, State Park Director, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744-3921.

Conservation

date UP

by Kath Pyke

GOING BATTY IN BOULDER

The Boulder, Colorado Mountain Parks staff has announced a seasonal climbing restriction to protect a roosting bat colony. The restriction runs from April 1 to Sept. 1 and affects 3 routes on the east face of Der Zerkle on Dinosaur Mountain in the Flatirons. The reason this site has been singled out is because it is part of state-wide efforts by Colorado Division of Wildlife to protect breeding female groups of bats, known as nursery colonies. The particular species, Fringed Myotis, frequents deep cracks in the rock face. The restriction is targeted to minimize noise disturbance on the East face, leaving the remaining routes on the West face open to year-round climbing. Boulder Mountain Parks have worked with the Access Fund from the start to share information on monitoring and outreach. Of the 43 species of bats living in the United States, more than half are federally listed as endangered species or are candidates for the list.

TRACKING TORTOISES AT JOSH

Joshua Tree National Park has put out a special alert for climbers to report any sightings of desert tortoise with radio transmitters or numbers on them. Due to the fires in the Park in 1999, park biologists have set up some special monitoring projects around Lost Horse, Hidden Valley picnic area, Intersection Rock and the areas behind them. Climbers should report any tortoise sightings to the Visitor Center, or a Park entrance station. Any information will help with Park biologist assess-

ments of the recovery of this threatened species. For more information contact Gillian Bowser, Park Biologist at Gillain_Bowser@nps.gov.

GET YOUR GRANTS HERE

In 2000, the Access Fund allocated \$138,000 towards climber conservation projects, and there are still some funds remaining. For a copy of grant guidelines, or simply to discuss a project idea in more detail, contact Access Fund staffer Kath Pyke at 888.863.6237 ext. 104. Submissions for major grants should be in to the grant committee review by June 15, with smaller applications processed on an ongoing basis.

Conservation-oriented Access Fund Climbing Preservation Grants are generally awarded for wildlife studies, evaluation of cultural archaeological sites, species monitoring, surveys and research projects. In 2000, grants have been allocated for raptor monitoring at five sites by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, for raptor education outreach by the Boise Climbers Alliance in Idaho, for a research project on climber values and management preferences [see Northern Arizona area report, page 3], and raptor education outreach signs at Boulder's Mountain Parks in Colorado.

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www.accessfund.org
1-888-863-6237 x100

ACCESS FUND

To RB or Not to RB?

I was surprised that the Access Fund chose to open the discussion about Removable Bolts (RBs) with such a negative editorial by Marion Hutchison. RBs have not yet been involved in any real-life access issues. Why then is the AF "removing support" before the implications of RBs are fully understood? [The opinions Hutchison presented are not necessarily those of the Access Fund, as stated at the end of the editorial—Ed.]

As a "trad climber" I have taken long falls on bad gear, and I've not yet needed to place a single bolt on those climbs. As a "sport climber" doing new routes, I have drilled hundreds of bolts. Each cliff I climb is different, and I tailor my actions and tools to each place. RBs are just another tool, not the savior or destroyer of climbing as we know it. Our access issues should be about site-appropriate behavior, not which blob of aluminum or steel is politically correct. Check out all your protection choices, and let the route and your head decide which tool to use.

Paul Humphrey
via the Internet

Speed Climbing Not the Culprit in Growing El Cap Fixed Gear Counts

I think the healthy debate over rock preservation on El Cap and other big walls is, overall, a positive thing that increases all our awareness of the finite nature of our stone resource. Minimizing climber impact and preserving experiences for future generations seem like positive tenets to climb by that will benefit our sport altogether.

Without commenting specifically on the route Ring of Fire, I think consensus and common sense shows that routes that can be installed are sometimes interpreted as routes that should be installed. The heavy backlash from the installation of Wings of Steel, for example, underscores the community's concern of first-ascent style and rock preservation. Style, however, is elusive and subject to interpretation - hence the debate.

I think [in the Letters section, Vertical Times #33] Mark Smith has, perhaps unduly identified speed climbing and hammerless ascent style as the culprits in the budding fixed gear count on wall routes like the PO Wall. I can't believe that Fowler and Oxx, taking huge whipper after whipper, were lacking in "greatness" when they climbed The Shield hammerless, nor do I believe that speed climbing solely fosters the

destruction of hard aid lines. The climbing of aid routes is what causes their continuous evolution, especially by parties that are not well-versed in which placements will promote destruction of usable features and which would be better left in place to minimize rock destruction.

Mike Ousley
Balboa, Calif.

Why Pay User Fees When Logging is Subsidized?

After four years of user fees being collected in several hundred sites to repair needed maintenance neglected for years by outrageous budget cutting for public recreation facilities on public lands, overwhelming support to end the fees is coming from all reputable persons and groups involved. [See related story, page 1—Ed.]

In the last month the 15,000-member Mountaineers, the nation's largest climbing group, has come out in opposition to extending the user fee program (commonly called the Temporary Recreation User Fee Demonstration program). "The Forest Service subsidizes things like timber, mining and grazing. And they want to charge us to take a walk," said Mountaineers president Ed Henderson.

Additionally, the International Mountain Biking Association's (IMBA) membership opposes the extension of the fees for several reasons, saying "It's the federal government's responsibility to fund the basic facilities and personnel necessary to assure public enjoyment and preservation of public lands."

And the fees are not staying at \$5 for very long—now we are seeing \$30 annual passes in the Northwest and extra costs for special events both inside and at other National Forests.

Mismanagement of appropriating the fees intended for repairs and maintenance has brought Washington State Senator Slade Gorton to say publicly, "Excessive overhead and dubious national initiatives" is where the fees are going."

What happens when the forests are too crowded and the fees to enter reach the cost of a ball game? There is only one sure way to stop this from happening; one way to stop the fleecing of the forests: Keep access funded from taxes, and most importantly keep them free to all citizens as equal shareholding stewards.

Doug Hoschek
co-developer of Polarfleece/Polartec

Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL OUTDOOR FESTIVAL COMING UP AUGUST 24-27, 2000

Scheduled for August 24-27, 2000 in Aspen, Colorado, the International Outdoor Festival is a sports and cultural festival that will bring together the industry, consumers and world class athletes.

The IOF provides participants with the opportunity to learn from the best guides, outfitters, experts and world class athletes in climbing, trail running and hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, fly fishing and para-gliding. The Access Fund will conduct a trail clean up and will benefit through a silent auction. For more on the IOF, check out www.outdoorfestival.com.



Calendar

May

5/5 Del Norte, CO—Penitente Canyon Climber clean-up & trail run, Casa de Madera, Alex Colville, 719.657.2723

5/6 Pentinente Canyon, CO—Clean up, Access Fund/BLM, Alex Coville, 719.657.2723

5/6 Twin Falls, ID—Dierkes Lake Recreation Area Clean-up, Adventure Outfitters, Desiree, 208.736.8714

5/6 Lexington, KY—Red River Gorge Party, Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition, Shannon Stuart-Smith & Julia Fain, 606.335.0067

5/6 Atlanta, GA—Rocktown Trail Days, The Challenge Rock Climbing School, Kathryn and Jerry Dodgen, 404.237.4021

5/7 Leominster State Park, MA—Crow Hill Clean-Up, Richard Doucette, 508.653.8248

5/7 Middlesex Fells, MA—MDC Reservation clean-up, Dan Sutton, 781.393.7984

5/11 Boulder, CO—Hans Florine slide show, Neptune Mountaineering, 303.499.8866

5/11 Portland, OR—Bouldering comp, Portland Rock Gym, Gary Rall and Ian Caldwell, 503.232.8310

5/13 Terrebonne, OR—8th Annual Smith Rock Spring Thing, Smith Rock Group, Lynn Roby, 541.416.6542 wk/541.923.0620 hm

5/13 Tulsa, OK—5th Annual Outdoor Summit, Sun & Ski Sports EXPO, John Pellow, 918.254.0673

5/13 Santa Clara, CA—El Cranko de Mayo, Planet Granite, Frank Santos, 408.727.2777

5/13 Boulder, CO—Flagstaff Chalk Clean-up, BBQ & slide show, meet at Mountain Sports, Crossroads at 8:30am, 303.442.8355

5/13 Denver, CO—Annual Dinner and Auction, Sierra Club-Rocky Mountain Chapter, 303.861.8819

5/19 Brookfield, WI—slide show, gear raffle, free climbing passes, Gibraltar Action Committee, Adventure Rock Gym, Eric, 262.790.6800

5/20 Enchanted Rock, TX—Trail Project, Meet at Crescent Park Lot, Michael Lewis, 210.695.3046

5/20 New Paltz, NY—Appalachian Mountain Club dinner, Rivendale Winery Gardner/New Paltz, Richard Doucette, 508.653.8248

5/20-21 Sinks Canyon, WY—Trail Build (part of National Trails Initiative), Dave Reid, 307.335.7822

5/21 Cedar Mountain, NC—7th Annual Training for Outdoor Educators, Camp High Rocks, Don Gentle, 828.885.2153

5/27 Charleston, SC—3rd-year Anniversary, Charleston County Park & Recreation, Wendy Stanley, 843.406.2003

June

6/1 Boulder, CO—Ed Viesturs Endeavor 8000, Mountain Hardwear, tickets at www.mountainzone.com or 800.953.8375

6/2 Denver, CO—Ed Viesturs Endeavor 8000, Mountain Hardwear, www.mountainzone.com or 800.953.8375

6/3 Lookout Mountain, TN—Sunset Trail Day, Southeastern Climbers Coalition, Brad McLeod, 404.329.1519

6/10 Porterville, CA—Southern Sierra Climbers Association Annual Meeting, Rene Ardesch, 209.592.2419

6/17 Enchanted Rock, TX—Trail Project, Meet at Crescent Parking Lot, Michael Lewis, 210.695.3046
6/17-18 No Name Canyon, CO—trail build (National Trails Initiative), Bryan Gall at Summit Canyon Mountaineering, 800.360.6994

6/24-25 (tentative date) Flagstaff Mountain, CO—trail build (National Trails Initiative), Dave Turner, 303.860.9844

July

7/1-2 Horsetooth Reservoir, Fort Collins, CO—trail build (National Trails Initiative), Ken Cline, 970.407.9776

7/6-10 Lander, WY—7th Annual International Climbers Festival, Leslie Van Orman, 307.332.2971

7/6 Lander, WY—Sinks Canyon Trail Project, Leslie Van Orma, 307.332.8662

7/8 Hood River, OR—5th Annual Gorge Games, Adventure Out, 541.387.4626

7/10 Colorado Springs, CO—slide show to benefit Breast Cancer Fund, Chad McFadden, chadmcfadden@mindspring.com

7/15 Enchanted Rock, TX—Trail Project, Meet at Crescent Park Lot, Michael Lewis, 210.695.3046

8/24-27 Aspen, CO—International Outdoor Festival, Peter Johnson, iof@rmi.net

August

8/24-27 Aspen, CO—International Outdoor Festival, Peter Johnson, iof@rmi.net

Events Pinnacle

These events raised at least \$300 or gained 15 new members for the Access Fund. Many thanks!

\$2314.00 Mike Libeck slide show tour

\$1,039.15 Jim Donini slide show
Neptune Mountaineering, Boulder, CO

\$636.28 Adirondack International Mountain Festival
Keene Valley, NY

\$536.00 Armando Menocal Cuba Libre slide show
Teton Mountaineering, Jackson, WY

\$482.00 Mike Libeck slide show
Skinny Skis, Jackson, WY

\$423.00 Mike Libeck slide show
Cross Country Connection, Laramie, WY

\$410.00 Crankin in the Millennium
Rocknasium, Davis, CA

\$318.00 3rd Annual Barn Burner Comp.
Boulders Climbing Gym, Madison, WI

REGIONAL COORDINATOR UPDATE

The Access Fund's Regional Coordinator network currently includes the largest number of activists in its 10-year existence. Welcome new RCs Eman Lacoste of the Clarksville Climbing Club, who is keeping tabs on the western Kentucky and Tennessee scene; Mike Lanza of the Boise Climbers Alliance, our "man about the rocks" for southern Idaho; and Jeff Sargeant of the Ragged Mountain Foundation, who'll be helping us with access in Connecticut.

ACTIVIST SUMMIT 2000



This coming November, the Access Fund will be holding Activist Summit 2000 in the Boulder, Colo. area. All RCs and area activists are urged to attend. We will keep you

posted on the exact date. The event will bring the leading climbing activists in the country together for three days of collaborative work sessions and kibitzing to share knowledge, experiences and hone our skills. As a side benefit, attendees will be able to partake of the climbing treasures of nearby Lumpy Ridge and Rocky Mountain National Park.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Oops!

Many Access Fund members recently received a special mailing regarding the Access Fund's National Trails Initiative.

Unfortunately, we didn't include a

business reply envelope with the mailing, making it a little more difficult for you to send the Access Fund your contribution. Please use the pre-paid envelope included with this issue of Vertical Times for your tax-deductible contributions, or address your own envelope to:

Access Fund
PO Box 17010
Boulder, CO 80308-0010

Thank you and an extra special thanks to all of the members that have already made this important donation.

Politically incorrect

The Access Fund action alert about Idaho's Castle Rock Ranch dated, March 22 incorrectly identified two Oregon senators. Their correct names are Ron Wyden (not Widen) and Gordon Smith (not Robert Smith).

MONTHLY CLIMBING PARTNERS REACHING HIGHER GROUND

Since the launch of the Monthly Climbing Partner program at the beginning of the year, this Access Fund program has been growing by lunges and dynos. Several distinct benefits of this program are offered to new participants, including:

- a complimentary membership t-shirt and hat,
- a convenient and simple way to keep your Access Fund membership current and up-to-date,
- making donations in an environmentally friendly way,
- a written acknowledgment documenting your annual commitment.

The Access Fund invites all members to join or renew with a monthly pledge commitment. A \$10 pledge is all it takes to join the MCP, and the Access Fund will do the rest. In addition, members will be able to increase their pledge

amount or withdraw from the program at any time by making a phone call to the Access Fund.

You can learn about making monthly contributions to the Access Fund when you receive your renewal materials or by calling 888.863.6237. Don't forget to let us know your t-shirt size!

The Access Fund would like to extend a special thank you to the following individuals for chartering this exciting and extremely convenient way to service their Access Fund membership:

MONTHLY CLIMBING PARTNER CHARTER MEMBERS (AS OF MARCH 27, 2000)

Christopher Burgett, E. J. Carfora, Greg Carter, Paul Diefenderfer, Brenda Donly, Brian Donovan, Jeff Gilbert, Phil and Becky Gruber, Arthur and Janet Haines, Jeanette Helfrich, Paul Imbierowicz, Sharon Liu, Robert and Barb Moody, Mark Nelson, Justin Ogden, Greg Orton, Steve Pokorny, Peggy Sayer, Alyssa and Barry Schmidt, and Bob and

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Hosting or giving a slide show: Cliff Sports, Outdoor Rec-Logan, UT, Mountain Miser, Mountains & Rivers, Active Endeavors, The Mountain Shop, Mountain Chalet, Neptune Mountaineering, Portland Rock Gym, Gary Rall, Mudd-n-Flood, Gary Neptune, New Belgium Brewery, Craig Luebben, Kath Pyke, AMGA, Doug & Jed Workman, Black Diamond- SLC, Hernando Pardo and Hoback Sports.

For just being awesome: Prairie Walls, Stonehenge, The Mountaineer, George & Vinny McClelland, Jeff Holt, Armando Menocal and Kerry Nodal.

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The Access Fund sends great thanks to industry members and like-minded businesses who are partnering with us this year.

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The Access Fund is a national, non-profit 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 and signage, and scientific research on climbers' impact on birds of prey and cliff-dwelling plants.

For more information

CALL US AT: 303-545-6772

Vertical Times is the membership newsletter of the Access Fund and is published six times a year in January, March, May, July, September and November

Authorizing organization: the Access Fund, 2475 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80304. This issue date: May 1, 2000. Volume #34. Price: \$25/yr. Editorial Director: Sally Moser; Editor: Don Silver; Policy Analyst: Sam Davidson.

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MEASURING SUCCESS ONE TICK LIST AT A TIME—SEE PAGE 6

In the March *Vertical Times*, Access Fund members received a TICK LIST encouraging them to complete 10 proactive access actions, such as packing out a bag of trash from a climbing area, volunteering for a trail project, or writing a letter to Congress.

Droves of TICK LISTS have been coming into the office in the past few weeks, and we hope the trend continues. If we all are successful, the result will be the most impressive compilation of climber activism ever by the end of 2000, and the US climbing community will have demonstrated an amazing amount of concentrated advocacy. In addition to helping access, your completed TICK LIST is also a raffle ticket for phenomenal climbing and outdoor gear and prizes that will be awarded in the second

half of this year.

Even if you don't think you have enough time to complete 10 actions on the TICK LIST, try a couple of the easy ones such as properly disposing of your waste at the crag (100 steps from the trail and six inches deep). Another easy action is to find more information about one of your climbing areas. The next time you go out, read up on the area, find out about closures, access issues, and who owns the land you are climbing on. Increasing your awareness, multiplied with the efforts of other climbers, could someday save the access.

So send it (see TICK LIST on page 6). You can even e-mail your acts of random activism to ticklist@accessfund.org.

