Celebrating 10 Years of Climbing Activism

by Sally Moser, executive director

In December of 1987, I climbed Levitation 29, a classic nine-pitch route at Red Rocks near Las Vegas, Nevada. The current Oak Creek campground at Red Rocks didn’t exist, and we drove down a dirt road and camped close to the climb. No one else was around. The temperature was comfortable, although the short amount of daylight dictated that we forgo the last pitch and start rappelling.

Descending the approach slabs in the dark was my least favorite part of the day, and probably the most dangerous aspect of the outing.

The next day at the Showboat Hotel near downtown, I attended my first Access Fund meeting. But the Access Fund had not quite assumed its current form then—it was the Access Committee of the American Alpine Club, the Fund’s forerunner. Chaired by the inimitable Armando Menocal, populated by activists such as Randy Vogel, Al Rubin, Michael Clifford, Rick Accomazzo, Michael Jimmerson, Allen Sanderson and Jim Angell, the committee dealt with use limits on Mount St. Helens, the closure of Rat Creek Boulder in Icicle Canyon and the acquisition of Peshastin Pinnacles in Washington, and access issues in Tonto National Forest, Ariz.

These were the burning issues for climbers at the time.

From then on, due to my position as a climbing magazine editor, as well as because of my personal interest, I kept up with the committee’s work. As the number of climbers radically increased, so did the workload and variety of issues that the committee was asked to take on. Soon the committee had one and then two part-time employees, and gained an independent account for funding. Finally, when it became evident that the committee needed to expand its operations in order to cope with the many challenges facing the climbing community, the Access Fund became an independent organization in December of 1990.

Ten years later, the climbing world has changed radically. The number of climbers in this country has doubled or tripled. Many of the climbing areas featured in the magazines today were unknown or unexplored a decade ago, and the hottest climbers on the current scene are rarely out of high school.

The Access Fund has changed as well. From its original 15 or so activists, the Fund has evolved into a thriving organization with nearly 11,000 members, a $1 million budget, a 24-member board of directors, an activist network of 40 regional coordinators and hundreds of volunteers. The Access Fund

*Continued on pg. 11*
Malibu Creek State Park Cleanup: Lessons learned, booty earned
by S. Charles Lenhoff

In 1994, while hiking in Malibu Creek State Park, my wife and I kept passing rusted metal pipes, tires, and other forms of trash. But just as temperatures soared into the 100s, we ran into a beautiful pond with crystal clear water and little fish and filled our water bottles—a booty find.

We joined our way to the Ghetto area, all the while passing beer bottles, fast food wrappers and cigarette butts. We climbed at the Ghetto area and then at the Planet-Of-The-Apes Wall. It was a pretty cool experience, except all that damn trash just kept nagging at me. It was like an itch that lasts for months, fluctuating.

In November 1998, I sent the park superintendent a letter about the trash. No reply. Another letter in February 1999 finally netted a call from one of the rangers. He suggested a meeting to discuss a clean-up.

About this he hit me call my local Access Fund representative, Renee Martin. We got together and then met with Supervising Park Ranger Terry Bramm and Ranger Christy Craig in March 1999. The meeting was pleasant, and it turned out that Ranger Bramm had done a bit of climbing. The clean-up plan then took a dramatic turn. Ranger Bramm suggested combining it with the Park's 25th anniversary party.

The next step was to get an event permit. At this point, my relationship with Bramm started to take shape. We spoke often and found confidence and trust in each other—another form of booty.

We then formed a committee of Martin, Jenny Body, Page O'Keeffe and myself. My responsibility was to raise money. Initially, our budget was $16,000 and I thought we could get it from one person. Wrong! Lesson learned: it's easier to get 10 people to give $500 each than one person to give $5,000. To date, $12,330 has been raised by donations from people like Titanic director James Cameron, singer Pat Boone, ABC television, Universal Studios, Fox and Showtime.

Boo! Booty, booty, booty! As it is often said, it was a great opportunity to sell a lot of our garbage. Now, let's talk about the rewards.

Next I hired Ian Marder, a talented artist with a cool website: Ian Marder @www.iansdrawings.com. He nailed the first draft, but then things became complicated. Lesson learned: keep the artwork simple, use only three primary colors, and make sure you see the final draft before printing. Bramm recruited the Sheriff Department's Mountain Rescue Unit to use the event as a training exercise for their 50-plus reserve deputies, and the Access Fund came through for us with nine boxes of water bottles, Cliff Bars, T-shirts, posters, banners, and raffle items. More booty from the home office in Colorado.

Judy Bender at Patagonia recruited volunteers and raffle items and a lot more through several Crew. Her friendship and support was pure booty.

Three weeks prior to the event, Bissn introduced me to Lynette Fink, a staffer who coordinates the Park's film permits, weddings, etc. She can fix any problem with a phone call. I hope to remain friends with Lynette and her husband John for life. More booty! As the event drew closer, John Bearden at The Sport Chalet became an important leader. John's leadership and climbing skills are impeccable, and he rigged a 5 pulse and hauling system in the gorge to get all the heavy trash out of the gorge. Six tons of heavy metal booty was removed during the event! Mountain Rescue used their Zodiac boat to transport the booty to the Gorge's end south.

The Festa after the clean-up had a lighter than expected turnout, but our number one priority was to clean up the Park. Another lesson learned: estimate volunteers and participants at 50 percent of what you first expect.

The party had a Park reddedication ceremony, raffle, climbing lecture, self rescue demo, and two great bands. Team leaders were rewarded with food and the satisfaction of doing something worthwhile. Park supervisors also gave speeches and awards, happy that the spotlight shown on their wonderful park. Another highlight was having the Chumash Indians bless the park in a traditional sage burning ceremony. The ceremony was very moving. Another lesson: recruit the local Indian tribes to become part of your event.

In the group photos taken of the Access Fund volunteers and Park Rangers, we looked like a big, happy family. We knew the event was a success for the Park and for the Access Fund when Park District Superintendents Ross Guignard introduced me to Daniel Preece, the executive director of People for Parks. Preece said "I used to chase the climbers away and now would appreciate their help!"

Editor's note: besides the amazing work they did to clean up the Malibu Creek State Park, the organizers raised $2,176 for the Access Fund, and also donated $2,176 to the Park. Many thanks!
Policy Update Continued...

their reservation.
The Access Fund urges climbers to write to TPDW commenting on the “success” of the Eocene Tanks management plan so far. We recommend that climbers respectfully remind the agency just how important Eocene Tanks is as a climbing resource, and pledge support for a more partner-oriented management approach. We encourage the agency to look at important bouldering sites outside of North Mountain to determine if restrictions could be eased on a case-by-case basis.

Comments should be sent to Walt Dunlap, Director, State Parks Division, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744-3291. You may be able to comment via TPDW’s Web site, at www.tpwd.texas.gov or www.tpwd.texas.gov.

“STRONG AND LASTING PROTECTION” FOR ROADLESS AREAS

In October the US Forest Service took the first step toward establishing permanent protection for non-wilderness roadless areas in our national forests. President Clinton directed the agency to protect some 50 million acres of forest lands from development, logging, motorized use and other road-related activities.

The Access Fund provided comments to the Forest Service on its roadless areas proposal. We are generally in favor of this initiative, since new road building is the single greatest threat to the many natural and aesthetic values climbers find in backcountry settings.

Specifically, the Forest Service proposed a two-part process to protect non-wilderness roadless areas (RAs). First, the agency would act immediately to protect already inventoried RAs, by (a) prohibiting new road building and reconstruction: (b) prohibiting both roads and commercial timber harvesting; and (c) allowing only activities that contribute to maintaining or enhancing the ecological values of roadless areas.

Second, the agency would provide “additional direction” on management of inventoried RAs and on evaluating whether and how to protect un inventoried roadless areas. New policies would not take effect immediately, but would be implemented gradually through the forest management planning process.

The most significant weakness in the Forest Service’s proposal is that cosmetic decisions—particularly those regarding un inventoried RAs—could simply be deferred to local forest planning.

Many environmentalists worry that the timber and off-highway vehicle lobby will successfully pressure local forest managers to delay or stop efforts to change the way roadless areas are managed. Moreover, any issues and decisions assigned to the forest planning process could take years, even decades, to be resolved.

There are good scientific, as well as aesthetic, reasons to act now to protect roadless areas. At the same time, existing roads should not be closed without compelling scientific and adequate opportunity for public comment.

There will be other opportunities to comment on the Forest Service’s roadless areas policy. For more information, contact Access Fund Senior Policy Analyst Sam Davidson at 831-770-1523 or e-mail sam@accessfund.org.

CLARK MOUNTAIN
Considered in Revised Management Plan

The National Park Service is developing a supplemental to the proposed General Management Plan for Mojave National Preserve in southern California, near the border with Nevada and Arizona.

Based on comments submitted by the Access Fund earlier this year, the Park Service wants to take a more pro-active approach to managing the Clark Mountain area. Clark Mountain offers an unusual, high-quality backcountry sport climbing experience.

The climbs at Clark Mountain are within designated Wilderness, so the use of power drills is prohibited there. The Access Fund will work with the Park Service to address other issues, such as the presence of desert bighorn sheep in the area.

For more information, contact Access Fund staff members Sam Davidson (sam@accessfund.org) or Kath Pyke (kath@accessfund.org).

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Conservation UPdate

SPRING (RAPTOR SEASON) ALMOST HERE!

Checklist of climbing areas with seasonal restrictions to protect raptors

by Kath Pyke

On what started out as a beautiful spring day, you’re starting to feel really crowded. First, you and your partner felt a sense of disbelief that you had the entire crag to yourselves. Then came the dive bombing by an angry peregrine falcon that had you cowering at the belay. And now you find yourself getting lectured by a furry backcountry ranger for unethically climbing in an area that has been restricted to protect cliff-nesting raptors.

How could you have avoided this situation? Easy. Every spring the Access Fund publishes this update so that climbers have information on which areas may have some form of closure to protect cliff-nesting raptors. We have not broken down this list on an exhaustive, crag by crag basis, because dates and details can change, even within the circulation time of this newsletter. However, we have listed the general areas slated for closures and how to find more information.

To get the latest information, ALWAYS check signs or brochures at parking lots, trailheads and approach routes. Birds can shift nests, so restrictions can be lifted early!

If you need detailed information BEFORE visiting an area, CHECK THE ACCESS FUND WEB SITE, which names individual cliffs affected, or CALL the agency contact number listed. (Note: some agencies have better staffing arrangements to respond to your inquiries than others!)

THE SITES

The sites listed were subject to some form of restriction in the past three years. However, in some areas birds could have shifted sites, or not nested in a particular year, so a closure may be lifted early.

Which raptors? WILDLIFE PROTECTION EFFORTS ARE TARGETED AT THE CRIPPLE-NESTING RAPTORS INCLUDING PEREGRINE FALCONS, PRATITE FALCONS AND GOLDEN EAGLES, WHICH ARE PROTECTED UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW.

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

When?
SECASONAL WILDLIFE CLOSURES GIVE OUR CLIFF WILDLIFE THE PROTECTION IT NEEDS AT ITS MOST VULNERABLE TIME. WITH CLIMBER SUPPORT, SUCH ARRANGEMENTS DEMONSTRATE THAT CLIMBING CAN COEXIST WITH WILDLIFE PROTECTION EFFORTS.

And thanks! Thanks in advance for your support in protecting cliff-nesting raptors during their most vulnerable time.

have been lifted entirely. The Access Fund Web site at www.accessfund.org gives more detail on each area, but always remember to check for signs at the crag for the latest update.

Arizona
- Cochise Stronghold: 1 restriction. Call 520.364.3468
- Granite Mountain: 1 restriction. Call 520.445.7253
- Thumb Butte: 1 restriction. Call 520.645.7253
- Mount Lemmon: 4 restrictions. Call 520.749.8700

California
- Correra Madre, San Diego area: 1 restriction Call 619.673.0180
- Joshua Tree: 2 restrictions. Call 760.367.5687
- Lover’s Leap: 1 restriction. Call 916.644.3934
- Pinnacles National Monument: 5 restrictions. Call 408.389.4485
- Yosemite: 4 restrictions: (Note: no restrictions on Half Dome or El Cap): Call 209.372.0767

Colorado
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Painted Wall: 1 restriction. Call 970.249.1914
- City of Boulder Open Space, The Moutain, Mickey Mouse Wall: 2 restrictions. Call 303.441.4060 ext. 420
- City of Boulder Mountain Parks: 9 restrictions incl. The Third Flatiron. Call 303.441.4060 ext. 420
- Eagle Rock, Boulder Canyon: 1 restriction. Call 303.291.7142
- Colorado National Monument: 1 restriction. Call 970.856.3617
- Eldorado Canyon State Park: 1 restriction. Call 303.644.3942
- Garden of the Gods: 1 restriction. Call 719.634.6666
- Lover’s Leap/Mt. Linda: 1 restriction. Call 303.271.5986
- Lumpy Ridge: 5 restrictions. Call 970.586.1106
- Medicine Bow/Reunion National Forest: 2 restrictions. Call 970.638.4556
- South Platte, Cathedral Spires: 1 restriction. Call 303.838.5860
- Unaweep Canyon: 1 restriction. Call 970.244.3000 or 970.248.7175

Idaho
- City of Rockies: 1 restriction. Call 208.824.5519
- Black Cliffs, Boise: 2 restrictions Call 208.469.8465
- Malheur
- Acadia National Park: 3 restrictions. Call 207.288.3338

- Emlen Tschudin Memorial Wildlife Trust, Ltd, 2000 Andrew Street, Boulder, CO 80303-5784 Phone: 681.5870  Fax: 681.5871 E-mail: info@emlentrust.org www.emlentrust.org
Conservation Update Continued...

New Hampshire
-Cannon Cliff and The Elegent, Cathedral Ledge, Eagle Cliff, Franconia, Franconiacliff, Eagle Cliff, Hermit Cliff, Ely's Ledge, Ledge, Mt. Webster, Mt. Wilford, Flume and Squam Lake, Albany, Rattlesnake Mountain (main cliff), Runway, Tumbledown Mountain (southern cliff), Squam Lake. Call 935-565-9800 for more information.

New York
-Adirondack State Park: 6 restrictions. Call 518-399-0150
-Shawangunks, Millbrook Wall: 1 restriction. Call 914-399-0150
-North Carolina
-Black Mountain: 1 restriction
-Linville Cove: 1 restriction
-Looking Glass Rock: 1 restriction Call 828-852-0144 for all North Carolina restrictions.

Oregon
-Smith Rock State Park: 3 restrictions. Call 541-545-7881
-Eagle's Nest Rattlesnake Rocks, Acker Rock, Umpqua National Forest: 2 restrictions. Call 541-595-3471
-Rabbit Ears & Rattlesnake, Rogue River Mtn Forest: 1 restriction. Call 503-560-3475
-Josie Park, near Roseburg: 1 restriction. Call 541-595-3471

Utah
-Zion National Park and Kolob Canyons: 5 restrictions. Call 801-772-2020
-

Vermont
-10 restrictions including: Deer Leap & Bristol Cliffs. Call 802-241-3717 for all Vermont restrictions.

Washington

Wyoming
-Sherpa Tower: 1 restriction. Call 307-647-5283
-Grand Canyon: 1 restriction. Call 307-739-3488

DOING THE RIGHT THING
by Don Silver

So you've found a great new crag. The potential routes look spectacular, and you think that the area will be popular. But you don't want the cliff and its surroundings to get haggarded. You don't want 20 little social trails going to different routes when one good trail will suffice. You don't want people trampling the cool plants at the base of the cliff. You don't want folks disturbing the areas where you spotted arrowheads on the way up to the cliff. In short, you want to do the Right Thing.

So you build a trail that protects the plants, keeps people away from archeological sites, and focuses foot traffic. You pry rocks, sketch switchbacks and create stairs. You create belay terraces so climbers don't erode the hillside. And then the local land manager writes you a ticket and snags you with a $1,500 fine.

"No way," you say. "Couldn't happen.

Except that it did. Last summer, the above scenario played out at a new crag that has just begun to receive publicity in the national magazines. A prominent young climber who saw the potential for visionary routes at the cliff endeavored to do the Right Thing—he built a proper trail to minimize impacts. And then got nailed. Why? Because regulations limit what local, state and national land managers can and cannot do with respect to modifying the environment they oversee. Rules, in fact, force managers to cut through several layers of red tape—often including environmental impact analyses—before they can even move their own projects forward.

For these reasons, land managers are often forced to look at unauthorized improvements to public lands as vandalism. The same rules limit what climbers can do, even if the intention is to preserve an area.

The solution to this problem is easy, however. Be proactive. Get specific approval for your project from the agency that manages the area you're interested in ahead of time. Most land managers are really psyched when a major user group approaches them with a way to manage and reduce user impacts at their area.

BE SMART ABOUT RAFTERS
1. Keep informed—Check signs and brochures on site for latest updates. Read up in the Access Fund newsletter. Go to our site at www.accessfund.org for details on cliff closures, agency contacts and background information on climbing and wildlife protection programs. 2. Tell us if we've got it wrong—The Access Fund needs your feedback to work with managers. With over 90 wildlife restrictions on Access Fund files, it's a big task to keep our records up to date. If you have concerns about a closure arrangement or see information that is misleading or out of date, call Kath Kyle at the Boulder office at 800.863.637 ext. 104 or e-mail kath@accessfund.org.
3. Get involved—if you're local crag has a raft restriction, you can help resource managers with raft monitoring, writing for signs or brochures, identifying the best places to put wildlife signs, and providing observations on raft sightings or unusual behavior. Sometimes climbers have assisted managers on raft tor sleeping projects, where climbing skills are required to access cliff edges. Contact the biologist or park manager listed for your area and ask about volunteer opportunities.

Area reports
JACKS CANYON, AZ.
Over the past six months, northern Arizona activists Kerry Nodal and Tittana Shonta-Kinker have worked to establish a link between the US Forest Service and the local climbing community, through which concerns and issues about climbing at Jacks Canyon can be exchanged. A number of issues have already been identified where improved climber awareness could result in significantly reduced impacts. As a result, there is a lot of work that needs to be done.

Human waste ranks high on this list. In the area adjacent to the camping/parking site at Jacks, improperly disposed of toilet paper and human waste litter the ground. This unsanitary condition can easily be avoided if climbers simply follow Leave No Trace principles by dipping a "cat hole," properly bagging their waste, and packing out the toilet paper in a zip-lock bag. Options are being evaluated for placement of a toilet facility near the trailhead parking area. Until that time, however, climbers are reminded of the importance of practicing Leave No Trace principles.

Recently, the heavily rated access road into the camping/parking area was gravelly filled-in and graded by the Arizona Department of Transportation. They did a wonderful job—many thanks for their support.

The Forest Service has again stated they do not want to see further expansion of routes in Jacks Canyon. If you're considering putting up new climbs, or for more information about this issue, contact Henry Brill at 520.354.2216 or 520.477.2255.

TAKE ACTION!
Stay tuned for the announcement of a volunteer work day being planned for April 2000. Your help will be needed! For more info, call Nodal at 520.774.7863 or Shonta-Kinker at 520.443.9650.

PINEAPPLE PEAK, AZ.
After five long years, Pineapple Peak finally belongs to the city of Scottsdale, Ariz. The papers were signed and the transfer became official on Nov. 12, thanks to Access Fund board member Paul Diefendorf, the Friends of Pineapple Peak and everyone else who took this e-mail, write and call the city council and the media. Without the public pressure these people and groups created, Pineapple Peak may have remained off limits forever.

Pineapple Peak still faces two more hurdles before the park can be opened to the public. First, Scottsdale needs to either purchase three acres of State Trust land for a parking area, or if that doesn't work out, the city must commit to putting the parking lot on existing park property. Second, Scottsdale needs to design and build the trailhead facilities (parking lot, gate, rest rooms, etc.) While all this is going on, the Friends of Pineapple Peak will be building an access trail to the AMC boulder and the summit area.

TAKE ACTION!
Please send an email to Scottsdale's mayor and council. Tell them you are happy that the peak once again belongs to the public. Also ask them to fast track the trailhead facilities so the public can enjoy Pineapple Peak ASAP.

Mayor Sam Campana—scampana@ci.scottsdaleaz.us
Cynthia Lusk—clusk@ci.scottsdaleaz.us
Mary Mammos—mmammos@ci.scottsdaleaz.us
Robert Petryewicz—rpetryewicz@ci.scottsdaleaz.us
Dennis Robbins—drobbins@ci.scottsdaleaz.us
Richard Thomas—rthomas@ci.scottsdaleaz.us
George Zeske—gzeske@ci.scottsdaleaz.us

JOSHUA TREE, CALIF.
Recently many Associated Press (AP) news outlets incorrectly reported that fixed safety anchors used by climbers have been banned in Joshua Tree National Park. The AP story inaccurately reported the bolt ban as part of a story on the release of the final Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan for Joshua Tree National Park. The AP story was based on a single report filed by a former AP writer for the Riverside (Calif.) Press-Enterprise. The AP report also misrepresented the results of unprecedented negotiations and agreements between climbers and environmental groups. The Management Plan to be implemented at Joshua Tree is a hard-fought compromise worked out by the Access Fund, Friends of Joshua Tree, The Wilderness Society, the National Parks and Conservation Association and has been adopted with some changes by Joshua Tree Superintendent Ernest Quintana.

Contrary to the AP report, the Access Fund believes that the new Joshua Tree plan represents a very progressive approach to climbing management, and especially to the issue of fixed anchor use in wilderness. During negotiations with the BLM and environmental groups, the Management Plan agreed that some parts of the Park should remain free of fixed climbing anchors. This fixed anchor free zone will protect 75 percent of the Park, but this 75 percent portion does not include any known climbing areas except the Coconino Mountains, about which little is known, even by Joshua Tree guidebook authors. At most, there may be a few dozen
Area Reports Continued...

In the Coconuts with fixed anchors.

Under the new management plan, climbers will be able to:
- replace aging and unsafe bolts throughout the Park, even in its Wilderness zones, without a permit.
- place new bolts in Wilderness through a permit system.
- replace bolts in non-Wilderness areas after advising the Park Service of their intent prior to the activity.

BOULDER CANYON, COLORADO

The effort to focus ice in Boulder Canyon continues to make headway as the Boulder Ice Climbers Coalition (BICC) negotiates with the City of Boulder, the County of Boulder, the US Forest Service, the Colorado Department of Transportation and Public Service Company. "BICC's board of directors believes that we can successfully work out the issues with each of those entities," says BICC Vice President Jim Ghinelli. Ghinelli is also a lawyer and Access Fund regional coordinator.

BICC's biggest cause for optimism is the proposed sale of the pipeline that causes Boulder Canyon's historic ice flows near Castle Rock and that was tapped in 1997 to create climbs on Vampiire Rock and Black Widow Slab. The City of Boulder is exploring the purchase of the pipeline from Public Service Company (PSCo.), a move that will reduce the number of players BICC must work with. BICC will apply to lease approximately three acres of water per year from the city to farm ice if and when the sale takes place. "At some point we will have to go before city council to do this lease," Ghinelli says, "but our contacts with the council have let us know that they think BICC is a group whose interests need to be addressed."

In the meantime, concerns that PSCo. may make major repairs to the pipeline that could eliminate the historic Castle Rock flows are probably unfounded, given that PSCo. is unlikely to make repairs in the next 3 years, in order to test the water delivery system to the City of Boulder.

TAKE ACTION!
To help BICC's work to create ice climbs in Boulder Canyon, log on to their Web site at http://www.bouldercde.org/ and become a member, or call Ghinelli at 720-460-5320.

CITY OF ROCKS, IDAHO

In December, the Access Fund appeared in court to present its case against the Park Service's closure of the Twin Sisters formation at City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho. The Park Service closed the Twin Sisters to climbing on the grounds that climbers on the formation prevented others from appreciating its significance as a landmark of the historic California Trail. Appearing before a federal judge in Pocatello, Idaho, the Access Fund argued that there was no rational basis for the closure, that the closure violated the Park Service's own regulations, and that it used to limit intrusive management methods possible, and to explain why less restrictive measures would not suffice. The Access Fund also argued that the Park Service failed to adequately consider the effects of the closure on the climbing experience at the Reserve in its environmental study.

The NFS "temporarily" closed Twin Sisters to climbing in 1993 while it prepared a study of climbing impacts to the historical values of the formation. That study showed that climbers had no significant impact on any of the formation's natural resources and were barely perceptible from the emigrant trail. Nevertheless, in 1998 the NFS issued a climbing management plan for the reserve which permanently closed the Twin Sisters to climbing and all active recreation impacts. The Access Fund filed suit in the federal district court in Idaho last year challenging the closure.

In the December hearing, the Access Fund was represented by attorneys Jim Hooper, Paul Minault and Murray Feldman. After an hour and a half of oral argument, Judge Mike Williams said he would take the matter under consideration. Access Fund Regional Coordinator and attorney Paul Minault, who has doggedly fought the NFS over the Twin Sisters issue through the planning process and in administrative appeals since 1994, was cautiously optimistic of a positive decision from the court. "We have a strong case and we presented it very forcefully to a judge with a reputation for thorough consideration of the issues and fairness in his decisions," Minault said.

Minault also had the highest praise for the other members of the Access Fund Twin Sisters "dream team." Speaking for Jim Hooper, the Denver climber and trial attorney who served as lead litigation counsel for the lawsuit, Minault said: "Jim is very sharp. He did a terrific job distilling the case down to its fundamentals and then demonstrating to the judge how the Park service failed to meet the legal standards necessary to implement a closure of this sort. He had the judge's full attention."

Minault also praised Boise attorney Murray Feldman, who volunteered to assist the Access Fund as local counsel, even though he isn't a climber. "Murray has rendered invaluable assistance in helping us with filings and Tưlating, and his infectious good humor helped us get through all the meetings and conference calls necessary to pull off an endeavor like this," Minault said. "Boise climbers ought to open an account for Murray at his favorite watering hole and make sure he never sees the bill."

The court will now take several months to write an opinion and come to a decision on the matter. While we think we have a very strong case, we urge all climbers to burn a joss stick for Twin Sisters access. With luck, we may be back on it next spring.

DRAPELS BLUFF, ILL.

Climbing was banned on the cliffs lying on the publicly owned portion of Draper Bluff managed by Cenica Crystall State Park in November. Climbing on the cliffs privately owned by Access Fund Regional Coordinator Eric Unger is still open through signing in at the entrance kiosk.

"The cliffs the state manages are seldom used," Unger says, "but they have a lot of potential for the future." The state-park controlled area of Drapers lacks official parking, access trails, and emergency vehi-
cle access, which may have led to the state's decision to ban climbing there.

However, Illinois State Parks (ISF) has not chosen to prohibit hiking and hunting on the site.

A warning: "The state doesn't really have any plans to post the closure at their part of Drapers," Unger says. "They expect climbers to find the information from a kiosk at Cedar Bluff, which is about a mile away." Despite the lack of on-site posting, ISF plans to enforce the climbing ban.

Ironically, the closure comes just as relations between Illinois State Parks and climbers appeared to be on the upswing after more than 60 Access Fund volunteers built 900 feet of new trail this past fall at Cedar Bluff.

TAKE ACTION!
To get involved in Illinois access issues or for more information, call Unger at 618-955-3427.

RED RIVER GORGE, KY
Regional Coordinator Shannon Stuart-Smith reports progress after early talks with Natural Bridge Kentucky State Resort Park to keep the Red's Pocket Wall open to climbing. (The State Park is in the process of purchasing the land that Pocket Wall is located on.) The Kentucky State Resort Park had indicated there was a need for a closure to protect plants and animals from climbing activity on the rest of the park once the property was acquired, but "They may be willing to consider leaving it open," Stuart-Smith says. "If they do, it will be the first time the state will allow climbing on any state park property."

Recent positive negotiations over the Long Wall give another reason for optimism at the Red. Long Wall Lies on US Forest Service (USFS) land, and the USFS had been considering the wall for complete closure due to sensitive resource sites found in the area. Stuart-Smith and the Red River Climbing Coalition were very concerned and began talking with the USFS about different approaches to protect the area and still allow for climbing. As a result, a voluntary restoration agreement will be implement-
ed. Under the agreement, sensitive areas will be signed, and climbers will agree to stay out of them. Other parts of the wall, including area classic Rock West, will remain open.

Climbers are encouraged to honor the voluntarily restricted areas at Long Wall, as the USFS will continue to monitor the voluntary restriction's success at preserving the sites. Climbers' cooperation in obeying the restrictions will help ensure the preservation of long-term access to most of Long Wall.

RUNNING BOLD, NC
Car employees in and around the parking lot for Rumbling Bald have recently begun to jeopardize access to the climbing area. Both the parking and the climbing at Rumbling Bald lie on private land, and while the landowner allows climbing, he does not allow camping. Continued camping in the parking area could endanger long-term climbing access to the cliff.

Also, a series of automobile break-ins has occurred at the "Rumbling Bald parking area. Climbers are warned to remove all valuables from cars before embarking for the crags.

COOPERS ROCK, WV
Recently we've received reports of bolt- deviating occurring in the closed Overlook area of Coopers Rock. This area is clearly posted "OFF LIMITS." Given the uncertain nature of access in the past at Coopers Rock, climbers are reminded to obey this restriction—getting caught in these closed areas can endanger access to the hundreds of other climbing areas in the area at the more than 450 routes that remain open.
Elvis Makes Me Climb
Continued from pg. 16
minimum-impact practices.
When asked about the most effective way to inform the climbing community about crag access, restrictions and closures, respondents ranked notice boards at climbing sites most helpful, followed by Access Fund materials such as the newsletter Vertical Times and our Web site at www.accessfund.org.
Postings at local retailers and climbing gyms were also named as helpful tools, as well as guidebook information pages.
The verdict is still out on the Fee Demonstration Program and issues surrounding public user fees by federal agencies. About 23 percent of our members polled thought that the funds from fees should only support the activities they were collected from. Slightly fewer respondents felt that funds could be collected for improvements at a specific park or area, but not to pay for personnel and overhead costs dedicated to collecting user fees. Less than 20 percent of those surveyed believe that user fees are a form of double taxation.
Adventures, an unspoiled natural environment and climbing in a wilderness setting were listed almost equally when asked about values associated with climbing in wilderness. Solitude was also listed as an important factor when traveling into wilderness.
Access Fund members spent more days trad climbing in the last year than any other type of climbing. Bouldering appears to be picking up steam, and our membership logged a substantial number of days at climbing gyms around the country.
Respondents who voted in the last presidential election totaled 83 percent, and nine out of 10 members are willing to write Congress about issues facing the climbing community. Many cited the regional and national action alerts the Access Fund distributes when issues need written attention from the climbing community as the most effective way to instigate letter-writing.
Great thanks to the 100 of you who took the time to participate, and especially to Chealer Anderson and other volunteers who handled the many pages of data associated with the survey.
The e-mail recipient chosen at random from the 100 surveys received was a very gracious Pat Bolan, an engineering graduate student from Minneapolis, who does most of his climbing at Devil's Lake in Wisconsin.
The kids are alright
My name is Elizabeth Fortunato, and I'm a 10th-grade, 15-year-old student living in Wilmingon, Del. After having seen an Access Fund fundraiser, my family and I decided to become members of your community. My entire family enjoys the outdoors, but it's me and my twin sister Kathyn in particular who love to climb.

We are interested in becoming more active members of the Access Fund. We were hoping that you could provide us with some information on how to help out with the Access Fund either in Delaware's quota of people allowed to climb.

Elizabeth Fortunato—Wilmington, Del.

To get involved in Delaware, call Access Fund Regional Coordinator (Rd) Dusty Wissamath at 717.308.9400 ext. 131; in Pennsylvania call BC Bob Vallee at 724.776.4918. —Ed.

To the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife: I am a 14-year-old boy who lives in Spokane, Wash. I have been climbing for three years. I was hoping to go to Raccoon Tanks and climb someday. I have heard the stories of people who go down there, and they say they love it.

Since you closed most of Raccoon Tanks, you made all the climbers and hikers mad. You also hurt businesses in the area. Last but not least, I must point out a big part of the history of this country. The younger generation of kids growing up now will not get to know about the park's history.

Instead of closures, I think that maybe you could just put fences around the places that you want to preserve. Please reopen Raccoon Tanks to the public.

Alex Bortnick—Spokane, WA

More on Huco I am an El Paso local and have been climbing at Huco Tanks for 18 years. Since the time of my last visit to the park I also enjoyed the birth of a beautiful little girl, Jordan Nicole. It was my daughter that made me believe that the generations to come should have the same opportunities to enjoy the park I had.

I do believe that these have to be some sort of control and limitations to prevent erosion of the park's natural resources, but other methods have already been successfully developed in other states and national parks. I agree with daily limitations in regards to the number of people allowed, however, I do not agree with limiting areas within the park.

There are places in those rocks that have become sacred to us, just as they were sacred to the Native Americans before us. These rocks have been here for millions of years and will be here after the TPMD has long since become a faint memory. The only ones

who are cheated are those of us unfortunate enough to have existed in this generation and maybe a few generations to follow. I am not willing to accept this as my fate.

Daniel Contreras—via the Internet

This is in response to your recent letter regarding a one-year-mark review of the Public Use Plan for Huco Tanks State Historical Park. Staff review of the park's conditions and the success of the implementation of the plan has been underway since late summer. The annual review report is currently being put into a draft format for public review.

The next step in the process of this annual review is to provide interested groups and individuals the opportunity for review and written comment. An extensive mailing of the annual review report will hopefully be initiated by mid-November, with a Jan. 1, 2000 target for ending the review period. This mailing will go to members of the original Public Use Plan working group, as well as to other groups and individuals who have expressed interest in the park.

I think we all agree that there are probably a few adjustments to the Public Use Plan that may be appropriate. We look forward to receiving the comments and ideas of you and the Access Fund. Dusty Delaney—Director, State Parks Division, Texas Parks & Wildlife

Castle Rock Ranch redux
I am writing to voice my thoughts on the newly acquired Castle Rock Ranch. Extensive development only leads to extensive problems unless land managers and the recreational groups have the limitations, money and control to educate the recreational users to the public.

I do not believe that Castle Rock should be bolted into submission and turned into a sport area. I have nothing against sport climbing and I love to clip bolts like the next person, but I love the tranquility of alpine climbing and the solitude that comes with it.

I also believe that Castle Rock developed in an "alpine manner" (similar to the Needles of SD) — ground up, no power drills. Hanging on hooks and hooks to drill is probably okay (though I am not familiar with the rock strata of the area). And cracks should not be bolted. Solid rap or belay anchors should be installed to prevent unecessary and unsafe slings.

Education should be done through e-mail, slide shows, climbing organizations and groups, climbing maps, site kits, etc.

By eliminating the use of power drills on rappel and with the proper management spread by all recreation users of this area, future development may naturally by limited and done in a manner which creates excellent classic climbs.

Mark Borthmann

Hot Projects and Events

On Sunday, Nov. 14 Rugged Mountain Foundation volunteers spent a few hours cleaning up trash from the base of the Chin cliff at Slepping Giant State Park. Although suffering from sections of loose rock, the Chin contains some enjoyable routes put up by the likes of Fritz Weinner, Jim Ailay, John Reppy and Sam Stebbins. The cliff faces east and gets great early morning sun. Recommended routes include Weinner's Rib (5.6), Yeets (5.9), Franklin's Cap (5.9), Defender (5.11), Belted (5.9) and Rhadamanthus (5.10). These are an easy 600-foot right to traverse of the cliff, the Warehouse Run (5.7) and put up in 1974.

Six volunteers scoured the base of the cliff and the scree slope below, removing years of accumulated trash. The scenic viewpoints along the Quinipiac Trail, which runs over the top of the cliff, are often used as launching points for bolts, cans and other trash by less-considerate park visitors.

After the clean-up the volunteers enjoyed some climbing in newly improved surroundings. Thanks to all who helped out: Mike Stokes, Eric Tishler, Jeff Cotelee, Sean Whalley, Jim Whalley and Jeff Saygert.

On Nov. 11, Deadpoint Press, Vertical Hold and Nomad Ventures got together for "San Diego Rocks and Rolls Toward 2000." The event consisted of a pizza dinner, raffles, a slide show by Dave Kennedy and a book signing. Special thanks to sponsors Mountain Hardware, The North Face, Progressive Outdoor Footwear, Prana, Climb A Rock, Failre Gare and the Climbing Doctor. The event raised $1,228.50 and nine members for the Access Fund.

Nation Wide

February

1/15/00 Kneee Valley, NY 4th Annual Adminstrador Mountaineering Festival. The Mountaineers, Trinity McCelland 518.576.2281

1/21/00 Golden, CO Colorado Outward Bound event. AMC Mountaineering Center, Tsahi Gumina 303.831.6967

1/22/00 Logan, UT ASP Climbing Competition, Adventure Sports Rock Gym, Jared Toome 435.752.8152

1/29/00 Salt Lake City, UT Boulder Blast VI, Rockzation, Ronni Smith 801.278.1743

1/30/00 Pawnees, CO 1st Annual Quick on the Draw Competition, Adventure Rock, Inc., Eric Olas 414.790.6800

1/29/00 North Tonowanda, NY Eastern Bouldering Series, Niagara Climbing Center, Rhonda McGuire 716.695.1248

March

3/4/00 Longwood, FL Eastern Bouldering Series Regional Comp, Alqigue Rock Climbing, Scott Ramon 407.332.1429

3/10/00 Oaks, PA Basin Mountain Festival, Philadelphia Rock Gym, John McCollin 610.666.7273

3/11/00 Nashua, NH Eastern Bouldering Series Regional Comp, Bruler Mortty, Ken Silver 603.866.8789
Access Fund
WE'RE HERE TO KEEP YOU CLIMBING

Meet Regional Coordinator Steve Frye

by Nicholas Browne

Steve Frye is the Wisconsin Regional Coordinator for the Access Fund and also a representative for Wisconsin Outdoor Access (WOA), an all-volunteer organization formed in the spring of 1999 to represent climbers in Wisconsin.

Frye, 43, of Jefferson, Wisc., has a unique climbing lifestyle—he works as a long-haul trucker, driving about 120,000 miles per year. Which means that he's always on a road trip, sampling the crags and gyms that lie along his route. For instance, Frye showed up at the Fund’s Tad Roderick's event at the New River Gorge with his truck filled with cheese for a delivery. "I figure I've put in nearly 3 million miles over 20 years," Frye says, "and I haven't hurt anything, but I have hit a tree or two along the way."

Frye also has a unique climbing prediction. "I prefer dicey face climbing," he says. "I like it run out and thin. You can usually muscle up a crack climb and place lots of you, and you can usually work until you get good enough to do hard sport climbs, but on thin faces you're always climbing just on a wing and a prayer." Access Fund member Nicholas Browne recently caught up with Frye for the following interview.

Browne: Who are the folks that formed the WOA and what are the goals of the WOA?

Frye: We are climbers that are interested in protecting our resources and climbing areas. As for our goals, they cover both an education and conservation agenda, while we strive to enhance the climbing experience for everyone in the Midwest. These goals will be achieved through close cooperation with the Wisconsin DNR, through coalition building with other outdoor recreational groups; and through trail projects that can be completed with increased funding from programs like the Friends of Devil's Lake State Park and the Access Fund. In short, we are here to build a cohesive relationship with all parties involved. This effort is not limited to Wisconsin. It will include projects in Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois. Even now, the effort to secure the 120-foot sandstone cliffs of Gibraltar, and a plethora of other areas not normally known, is well under way.

Browne: Now that the WOR has finalized its recommendations for a climbing policy, what is the next area of concern for climbing access in Wisconsin?

Frye: At the forefront of our concerns are Wisconsin State Natural Area designations, and the possibility for blanket closures of those areas without due cause, and at the expense of the outdoor recreational community. Climbing must not be singled out and used as a scapegoat for population impacts and pressures. Fair and workable solutions can be arrived at without eliminating climbing areas.

Browne: The WDR finalized its recommendations for a climbing policy in May, but there was no indication of whether the "sandstone" areas at Devil's Lake would be reopened to climbing. Will the WOA become involved in the process of reopening climbing in the "sandstone" areas?

Frye: We have definite plans for involvement in the sandstone areas. This is a key access problem that we face in the State of Wisconsin. Once the statewide master plan for climbing has been established, we will have a reference point from which to begin the recovery of our lost climbing area.

Browne: Gibraltar Rock, Wisconsin's tallest sandstone formation, was closed to climbing in 1996 by Columbia County officials. What are the WOA's plans to work on reopening climbing at Gibraltar Rock?

Frye: As Gibraltar Rock falls under the Wisconsin State Natural Area regulations, once again, we have to wait for the WDR climbing policy. However, we look forward to working with our partners in the environmental, recreational and business communities, along with the State legislative bodies, all of whom have vested interest in returning Gibraltar to its "Crown Jewel of the Midwest" status.

Browne: OK, I'm convinced that I should become involved with the WOA to protect climbing access in Wisconsin. How do I join?

Frye: Check out WOA's web site: www.climbingcentral.org/WOA/WOA.html. Please spread the word and join WOA today!

2000 CORPORATE PARTNERS
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

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WHY DO YOU CLIMB? ELVIS MAKES ME DO IT, MEMBER SAYS
by Susy Levin, development director

Have you ever attempted to put into words what it feels like to climb, tried to articulate to someone why you do it?

We asked a group of Access Fund members that question recently and learned from one California man that Elvis told him to climb in a dream. Another man assured us that "chicks dig it," while several seemed fixated on cropping the heaps of shiny hardware. But more often than not, these climbers cited a combination of the physical and mental challenge, spending time in a natural setting and the unique camaraderie climbing affords.

In September, the Access Fund surveyed a fifth of our membership at random on issues ranging from the Fee Demonstration Program to personal values associated with Wilderness climbing. We asked questions to help direct programs and identify common threads among climbers about the climbing experience. As a bonus, we received enough text to rival any of Tolstoy's epics. These are the highlights.

Preserving access to climbing areas was overwhelmingly selected as the most valued aspect of the Access Fund's work. Policy work including partnership with land management agencies on climbing management plans was second, followed by conservation projects such as clean-ups, scientific research and climber education on

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