STATE rejects Access Fund offer of $100,000; FINAL decision closes more climbing at Hueco Tanks

All hope for a short-term improvement in climbing access to Hueco Tanks State Historical Park near El Paso, Texas was dashed in June when the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) issued its Final Review of the park’s Public Use Plan. It rejected two formal proposals from the Access Fund to provide $100,000 for trail building, resource protection, archeological surveys, climber education and the volunteer tour guides program.

TPWD concluded its use plan by closing the most popular bouldering areas in the Dragon’s Den. Also, it refused to apply the access policy for North Mountain (no tour guide required) to other limited sites in the park on a trial basis, as the Access Fund and local climbers had suggested.

The $100,000 offer to Hueco Tanks has never before been publicized. At no other time have we committed this level of funding for any climbing area. The dollar amount epitomizes our belief that Hueco Tanks is one of the most unique and important climbing areas on the planet.

This unprecedented proposal was intended to demonstrate to TPWD that climbers are serious about working cooperatively to protect and enjoy Hueco Tanks. We are prepared to “put our money where our mouth is” to support the park.

TPWD has consistently said that restrictions on climbing at Hueco could not be eased because of problems related to the lack of good trails, erosion, the displacement of vegetation and threats to known and unidentified archeological resources. The Access Fund recognized the legitimacy of these concerns and the budget limitations of TPWD. The $100,000 grant would have provided funding to address all of these concerns and more.

In rejecting our grant offer, TPWD said it could not treat climbers differently than any other user group. Perhaps the agency thought that taking climbers money would work against the concept of managing the park as an “outdoor museum,” - their stated goal.

Other changes were made to the Public Use Plan such as the following: limited camping (organized groups only) will be allowed at the park; dogs and bicycles will be allowed on developed trails at Hueco; the “cap” on visitation to North Mountain will be raised from 50 to 70 people at one time; and a $4 per person fee will be charged when you call to make reservations (to discourage climbers from making multiple reservations and then not showing up).

Furthermore, the revised Public Use Plan strikes as a serious loss of climbing access to one of the world’s best and most unusual climbing areas.

The Access Fund has been trying for nearly ten years to work cooperatively with TPWD and improve relations between the agency and climbers. Our legal research into internal TPWD documents revealed the agency has long considered climbers to be an undesirable element at Hueco. The senior staff formally recommended that climbing should be prohibited, and that the former state parks director was being too friendly to climbers.

Without the Access Fund, the staunch work of the El Paso Climbers Club and Texas climbers, Hueco Tanks might have been closed entirely to climbing. But the latest decision by TPWD reveals what little effect our efforts have had to restore unguided access to prime bouldering areas in the park.

The Access Fund believes that restrictions on climbing at Hueco Tanks are more severe than necessary to protect historic values and natural resources. We have advocated for reasonable, resource-based decisions regarding climbing access, and urged for education}

* continued on page 14
OPINIONS FROM THE CLIMBING WORLD

The Hummerless Revolution, by Charlie Fowler

I find it extremely ironic that while climbers rally to save a campground to Yosemite, they continue to destroy the climbs there. I'm reminded of this sad fact by the cover photo recent Climbing magazine #196 depicting Access Fund members scaling Mac Namara, and the one of the finest routes in America, a route that goes clean.

I'm embarrassed to say that I started climbing before The Shield was even done. Back then, there were few climbs and we protected everything with pitons. It wasn't long before the best climbers of the day, like Royal Robbins and Yvon Chouinard, proved that you could bash, bolt and hook your way up any rock wall, anywhere. Realizing this that was a dead-end, these visionary climbers started the Hummerless Revolution that swept through the free climbing world. Despite strong opposition from the start, the climbing community eventually came around. Standards shut up and much of the climbing experience was preserved. Unfortunately, aid climbers just didn't get it. I didn't get it, either. I continued to nail routes to "murder the impossible" as Reinhold Messner so succinctly put it. I really enjoyed nailing, too, but now I accept the fact that it's inappropriate in most places. I am extremely reluctant to do it anymore. Today, there's little excuse for such retrograde behavior: we have the tools, we have the techniques. We just need a new attitude.

The Shield is just a small bit of virtual real estate. Unfortunately, what happens up there happens many places. Climbers seem bent on getting something and saying they've done it, style (and by rock) is damned. Several years ago, I climbed the Nose about a month after Steve Tallman organized a group that cleaned it up. It was totally trashed. I've been ashamed to admit that I'm a climber ever since. The Nose is one of the world's most renowned routes-historic and of the highest quality, yet climbers wasted no time in turning it into a virtual outback and a garbage dump.

The climbing community can make some positive changes: We must urge land managers to ban hammer aid. It will happen somewhere in Yosemite, you can bet on it. If history is any indication, aids will stand too.

For now, if you can't do a route hammerless that has been done, don't attempt it. Nailing a route that has been done clean is pricey and when you get worse than adding a bolt to a route that has been done without. This goes way beyond an issue of style-climbers need to reduce their impacts, not compound them.

The future of aid climbing is clean. Instead of spraying around new-wave this or new-wave that, aid climbers should take the tools they now have or invent new ones and push the limits of hammerless ascents. On El Cap the potential for new adventures is vast. With our current arsenal of tools, many El Cap routes will go clean right now. Aid climbing is, after all, a contrived game. We need to take the next step and relate all hammerless anchors as the technique of last resort.

The climbing community, individually or collectively needs to change its behavior. We need to genuinely practice what we preach. We need to take a firm, hard line stance against actions that threaten our sport and NOT just talk about it. We should have zero tolerance for trashing a route. If we don't make a stand, the government will, and we'll be going faster that at all. Surely, we will never eliminate all impacts from climbing.

Finally, members of the Access Fund (like climbers everywhere) need to set a better example. We cannot simultaneously argue for the preservation of climbing areas while we are destroying them. The Access Fund has done a fine job in the past dealing with conflicting interests. Balancing the ambitions of climbers with the need for change is the next challenge.

The problems we face are complex, there are no easy answers but I do believe we will make more progress by encouraging open and honest debate and debate. Reality looks it. Look at a calendar-end of the year is over and the sixties are over. It's a brave new world, see you out there.

Chris McNamara's Response to Fowler

What you and Xavier did on the first clean ascent of The Shield was amazing. I think it was a major breakthrough in hammerless climbing and continues to inspire hammerless ascents to this day. Personally, your first clean ascent of the Shield inspired me to make the first clean ascent of the North America Wall and the first solo hammerless one-day ascent of the Zodiac. I have included hammerless ratings for the Shield in my new guide, which will be published in the near future. I do not believe we should use aid on July 4, I do not apologize for nailing on the Shield. Just as I don't expect every climber who now does the NAS to take it clean as I did, I don't think that you can expect that everyone who now climbs The Shield has to do it clean. What you can expect, and what I tell people verbally and in my writing, is that people should do routes as hammerless as they can. If a route is too difficult or if they are not to have to nail the shit out of it. For me, climbing The Shield as cleanly as I could meant placing about 20 pitons, most of which were only one light tap so I could quickly back-clean them. I know that these pitons with a few light taps does not significantly change the rock, so I don't apologize for doing it.

It should be noted that on the cover of Climbing I am hand placing a piton (which is why I have the funny expression). The caption that climbing puts on the cover is misleading.

I understand your concern about hammering a route that goes clean the cover of a national magazine. I agree it would be better to show somebody nailing a hammer route, but it was not my decision. The editors at Climbing chose the photo.

The debate of clean versus hammer aid continues in Yosemite

GOVERNMENT POLICY PERTAINING TO CLIMBERS

Negotiated Rulemaking: Progress Slow and Difficult

The fight over fixed anchors in the Wilderness is in a critical phase. After nearly two years of delay, the US Forest Service's negotiated rulemaking on fixed anchors has begun. After two meetings of the rulemaking committee the Access Fund can say only this: we are working harder than ever before, and the opponents of fixed anchors are thus far uninterested in compromise. After four days of meetings, committee members have only been able to agree on a few points.

There will be at least one more meeting of the rulemaking committee, at the end of August. The Access Fund, working closely with the American Alpine Club, the American Mountain Guides Association, the Mountaineers and other interest groups on the committee, has advanced a proposal that hopefully will support national policy. This proposal would provide for the regulation of new bolts placed in circumstances other than self-defense. As the Access Fund works for a reasonable solution to the issue of fixed anchor use in Wilderness, one thing has become crystal clear. The opponents of fixed anchors do not care whether climbing is eliminated as a Wilderness use, and thus we need to take steps to debate the issue on a rational basis. We will continue to represent climbers with the strongest possible advocacy as the negotiated rulemaking continues, and we invite our members to write us with feedback on this issue. Send e-mail comments to info@accessfund.org, or call Sam Davidson, senior policy analyst, at 831-770-1523. For more information on the meetings and Davidson's complete report, click Action Alerts on our website at www.accessfund.org.

New Bill Would Make Use Fees Permanent: Action Needed Now

The debate over use fees in public lands is heating up. There have been major demonstrations around the country to protest new use fees and the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program (Fee Demo). Presently, the land management agencies have allied with political conservatives to attempt to raise existing use fees, impose additional fees and add more employees to collect the fees. The Access Fund believes that use fees are a legitimate way to raise money for public lands stewardship. Moreover, we are concerned that use fees will reduce funding towards our public lands. We are not opposed to fees that support facilities such as campgrounds and entry into certain national parks. The Access Fund is actively working to prevent the Federal Demon and a permanent fee program. This would cause the National Park Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and US Fish and Wildlife Service to operate as for-profit businesses rather than as land stewards devoted to resource protection and public enjoyment of the lands.

Take Action. Climbers can help by writing short letters to key members of Congress. Tell Congress you want your income taxes to provide adequate funding for public lands administration, and that you do not support a permanent use fee program in this era of prosperity.

Write to:
1. The Hon. Slade Gorton, Chair, Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, Room 131 Dirksen Building, US Senate, Washington, DC 20510

The Access Fund and other organizations have been meeting to negotiate regulations on new bolts placed in Wilderness Areas

LINVILLE GEORGE WILDERNESS

The debate of clean versus hammer aid continues in Yosemite

ISSUES AFFECTING CLIMBERS

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ISSUES AFFECTING CLIMBERS
MIDWEST
Quartz Mountain, Oklahoma
The Access Fund is in the final stages of completing the previously announced acquisition of Baldy Point (Quartz Mountain) in Oklahoma. This regionally important area hosts some of the finest granite climbing opportunities between the Mississippi and the Rockies.

On July 1, the Access Fund signed a letter of intent to purchase the property and recently acquired an important easement for right-of-way on the access road to the cliffs. A formal purchase agreement is now being prepared, with final closing on the acquisition to hopefully occur in October.

Once the purchase is complete, Baldy Point will become part of Quartz Mountain State Park and will be managed as a primitive recreation area for climbing, hiking, and nature viewing. Kris Marek, director of planning and development for the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, believes the addition of Baldy Point to the state park will be a valuable one. "Climbing access to the area should actually be improved," said Marek. There is a proposal for improvements such as new signs, parking and sanitation facilities. Marek is looking forward to the completion of the acquisition, which will be the first climbing area of this quality in the Oklahoma State Park system. "It has been a pleasure working with everyone at the Access Fund," she said, "they have really come up with some creative ideas."

According to Bruce Divis, park manager for Quartz Mountain State Park, "The Access Fund shares the same concept of preservation as the State Parks system. They preserve instead of destroy land that they acquire." Divis also confirmed that climbing access would not be affected by the acquisition.

To support the Access Fund's efforts, the Wichita Mountains Climbers Coalition has raised more than $16,000 in pledges from the local climbing community.

You can find out more about the Baldy Point Acquisition by visiting the WMC's Baldy Point Website at http://members.aol.com/BaldyPoint, or by e-mailing Oklahoma Regional Coordinator Maren Hutchison at BaldyPoint@aol.com.

Gibraltar Rock, Wisconsin
Wisconsin Outdoor Access completed the Balanced Rock Trail and is planning to work on the Down Tree Trail in September. Down Tree is a non-designated use trail by Gill's Nove and Britain's Crack. On Adopt-a-Crag day volunteers will work on Jim Angel's trail plan and attempt to stabilize the cliffscape environment at many of Gibraltar's cliffs.

"Climbers in Wisconsin are getting more respect and credibility since the Access Fund started supporting them," according to Wisconsin Regional Coordinator Fye, who reported a positive response from the Department of Natural Resources in Wisconsin. Frye and other volunteers are continuing to work with people around the state and organizations such as Wisconsin Outdoor Access.

NORTHEAST
Cathole Pass, Connecticut
The Planning Commission of Meriden approved the construction of 36 condos, which would level and destroy the 100-foot-tall rubble pile of Cathole Mountain, adjacent to Cathole Pass. The Planning Director is opposed to this action, and the city has filed a court case against the Planning Commission. Also, the adjoining property owners at Cathole Pass have filed a case. Cathole Pass has a few spectacular routes," said Leslie Brown, former Access Fund regional coordinator in Connecticut, speaking of its 100 cliffs.

The decision to level Cathole Mountain violates the ordinance concerning excavation and the State Ridge Protection Bill. A court hearing is planned within the next month regarding this issue which could continue for years, according to Lata Krishnamoorthy, assistant planning director of Meriden.

At present, there is no access issue at Cathole Pass, but blasting could make the nearby cliffs unstable. "If you get houses too close to the rock, problems will occur," said Brown.

Presently there is a power plant proposal for another piece of land also adjacent to Cathole Pass. If passed, local climbers hope that good faith will permanently preserve the cliff and its trail. A power plant would create the least amount of impact to the cliffs and hopefully ensure access to climbing. The Ragged Mountain Foundation will work to prevent the destruction of Cathole Pass. Please do your part to help preserve Cathole Pass by calling the City of Meriden Planning Department at (203) 630-4081 and expressing your concern over the trail and cliff.

SOUTHEAST
Red River Gorge, Kentucky
"It is a wonderful combination of local and national organizations," said Shannon Stuart-Smith, Access Fund Regional Coordinator of Kentucky, referring to the Red River Gorge Climbing Coalition collaboration with the Access Fund. Recently with the backing of the Access Fund, the RRGCC coordinated with the Daniel Boone Forest Service and pledged to support an excavation at the Thirsting Skull cave on October 7. If it is determined that climbing does not create a significant impact to the archaeological site then climbing will be preserved.

Since July 24 Stuart-Smith and Cecil Isom, forest archaeologist, have met with officials from the USFS in an ongoing examination of all 1400 established routes at the Red River Gorge. By serving as interpreter of climbing topos and guides, Stuart-Smith has been touring different cliffs in the Daniel Boone National Forest of the RRGCC, "We are keeping them honest," said Stuart-Smith, "by having our own climbing representative at the sites for data collection."

Other "Red" alerts in Kentucky include the National Trails Initiative Trail Project on September 7 to enhance the Long Wall trail, and Campfire Brigade on September 9, Adopt-a-Crag Day, when climbers will remove fire pits from numerous cliffs at the RRG such as the Moss Rock Preserve. During construction, it is probable that the boulders will be inaccessible by climbers. "The road will create a sliver of land with a subdivision on one side and the road on the other," according to Alabama climber, Jake Stanley. Rick Thompson of the Access Fund has been communicating with climbers in Alabama. Unfortunately advocacy and communication with land managers did not happen soon enough and the road was approved.

MOORE'S WALL, NORTH CAROLINA
On June 29, Tim Fisher, Dudley Hammon, Tony McGee and Sean Barb met with officials at Hanging Rock State Park in North Carolina. The climbers discussed climbing access and future work.

Area Reports Continued

Military Wall, Left Flank and Roadside crags. Thank you Donnie Richardson, Cecil Isom, Shannon Stuart-Smith and other volunteers in Kentucky for your tremendous support of the Access Fund and climbing at the Red!!!

Moss Rock Preserve, Alabama
The Hoover City Council has passed a proposal in July to build a road through this newly built driveway at the Bridge Butte. It is one example of $30,000 Invested by the Access Fund for improvements at the New River Gorge in West Virginia.

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Moores's Wall, North Carolina
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relations between climbers and park managers with a ranger, biologist and the park's superintendent, Tommy Waggoner. Waggoner believes that climbers are one of the park's most valued user-groups and asked that climbers abide by a few rules. In return, he assured the climbers he would keep them informed and work to minimize conflicts with "young and zealous" rangers. "Your Climbers and Rappel book is invaluable," said Barb, and gave the park management and local climbers a common framework for discussion.

New River Gorge, West Virginia
Climbers enjoyed renovations, supported by the Access Fund, at the Bridge Butts this summer. The erosion work, renovated trail and stout staircase have eased access at the roadslide trail crag. The Access Fund has invested over $30,000 in improvements and has helped build 4,000 feet of trails since the 1995 Endless Wall ladder project.

WILD IRS, WYOMING
On July 3, 2000 numerous climbers volunteered at the International Climbers' Festival to build trail at Wild Iris. The project completed 450 volunteer hours devoted to the area equal to $4,000 worth of work! General improvements, including water bars, were made to existing approach trails. Also volunteers worked on the stabilization of the cliff's bases and restoration at OK Corral and Main Wall.

* continued on next page
**Enchanted Tower, New Mexico**

Access to the Enchanted Tower in Dati, NM is being threatened due to people driving with excessive speed on the private ranch road. There is no public right of way on this road, we are depending on the good will of the landowner to provide continued access through the ranch. The rancher recently installed a gate across the road in an effort to slow people down. This gate is currently chained, but not locked. Please be considerate of the landowner's property rights, drive slow and close the gate behind you. For the current status on the Enchanted Tower contact Bryan Piette at Stone Age Climbing Gym, (505) 343-2016.

**Lava Tube Caves, Oregon**

On June 19 and 20, the Access Fund met with the Deschutes National Forest and local climber representatives to discuss how climbers are affecting cave resource values. Under proposed management actions in the EA covering document, climbing would be permanently restricted in the 3 cave entrances where it takes place, through bans on use of hand drying agents and removal of fixed anchors. For more information see the AAC Oregon Section web site at http://or.alpineclub.org/AAC/lavalink.html.

As a follow up to these meetings, the Access Fund called for a more detailed analysis of climber effects versus other recreational effects on resource values. Also, it submitted suggestions for an alternative management direction that would allow for some climbing, but within prescribed guidelines and to a site specific code of practice. In addition, the new climbing group, Oregon Climbers Coalition, has been established to assist communications with the Forest Service and the local climbing community (Contact: Chairman, Larry Brunswell, E-mail: larry@lincimb.com. The Deschutes will release the Road 18 Caves Environmental Assessment for public comment in August 2000.

**Box Canyon, Idaho**

Earlier this year the Bureau of Land Management removed 30+ bolted routes from the area. Since it is a Wilderness Study Area, guidelines prohibit fixed anchor placements. The Access Fund met with the Boise Climbers' Coalition in July to discuss concerns and evaluate alternate methods to manage existing climbing routes. A meeting has been scheduled for climbers and land managers to meet on site at Box Canyon and determine if the area qualifies as a Wilderness Study Area. The BLM has agreed not to remove any more routes at this time and has asked that no additional climbs be established until a decision is made.

**Pinnacle Peak, Arizona**

The upper climber's trails are almost complete after sweat-drenched days in the trenches of the Arizona heat. Kudos to volunteers and members of the Arizona Mountaineering Club who spearheaded the effort. The lower trails will be done during the Access Fund Adopt-a-Crag event on September 9.

**Boulder, Colorado**

Effective August 1, 2000, the Redgarden Wall in Eldorado Canyon is completely open to climbing again. During the ratt season, three young birds successfully fledged from their nest thanks to climbers' avoidance!
EXHIBIT SITESBELL

By the time readers scan this page, Access Fund staffers, Kath Pyke, will have returned from a month-long cliff survey project in search of the four-foot Himalayan Woolly Flying Squirrel.

Formerly thought extinct until its rediscovery by Peter Zahler in 1996, Kath heads up a team of climbers on a World Conservation Society and University of Massachusetts-funded project.

The team will work out of mountain areas in Northern Pakistan to establish baseline information about the distribution and behavior of this endangered animal. Known to be nocturnal, the squirrel is believed to rest in caves along the cliff faces during the day. The climbing team will contribute to Peter Zahler's long-term work preparing a species protection plan in consultation with local communities.

ACCESS PRIVILEGES - A WORLDWIDE CHALLENGE

The Access Fund was pleased to have a two-page article about the conservation and resource work of this organization published in the UIAA World Mountaineering and Climbing Journal. The UIAA (The International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation) is the world's only international climbing organization, comprised of 80 member associations from 60 countries. In 1999 the UIAA established

the Access and Conservation Commission, which aims to assist the UIAA and its member organizations "to secure the freedom to practice mountaineering and climbing in ways which are sensitive to relevant environmental, social and legal considerations."

Issue No 2 is devoted entirely to articles on the access and conservation work of mountaineering organizations worldwide. Copies can be obtained from the UIAA Editor, Ernst Hasse - Email: Ernst.Hasse@t-online.de or for further information about the work of the UIAA see their web site: http://www.mountaineering.org

CLIMBING PRESERVATION GRANTS 2000 - FINAL CYCLE

On July 22nd the Access Fund Board of Directors approved the following grants:

- $10,000 to the Southern Sierra Climbers Association for installation of avault toilet at the Needles, in partnership with Sequoia National Forest.
- $3,396 to the University of New Hampshire Outdoor Education Program for impact mitigation efforts at Pawtuckaway State Park, New Hampshire.
- $500 to North East Charter School for education signage at Main Wall.

The Forest Service is now deciding upon a management plan for 60 million acres of roadless forests, just 30 percent of the National Forest System - still wild and roadless but unprotected from logging, mining and road building.

The Right to Protect our Last Remaining Wild places is not over. The Forest Service will now review the tide of public concern that has flooded into its offices and deliver a revised plan to

activists Send Clear Message to the US Forest Service: Forests Real, Endamged Web Marketing 300 Citizens sent electronic postcards to the US Forest Service Chief this summer urging him to permanently protect our National Forests. The postcards demonstrate the public's overwhelming support for more genuine forest protection and contributed to the total one million letters supporting forest protection received by the US Forest Service. This number of public comments is nearly four times the previous record for public comments received by a federal agency about a public policy initiative.

President Clinton.

The campaign is nearing the crucial last steps. President Clinton will make a final decision about the fate of our forests before he leaves office. He needs to hear that America wants its forests saved.

You can help by sending an e-postcard to President Clinton at www.ourforests.org. It will take less than a minute, but will help save our forests for future generations.

Resource Update Continued…
Resource Update Continued...

Education signage at Main Wall, Mocanaqua, PA, in partnership with The Earth Conservancy.

- $5,000 to The Nature Conservancy (who are coordinating funds) as a contribution to the BLM Indian Creek Corridor Recreation Plan due to be started in the fall of 2000.

The Forest Service is now deciding upon a management plan for 60 million acres of roadless forests, just 30 percent of the National Forest System - still wild and roadless but unprotected from logging, mining and road building.

The fight to protect our last remaining wild places is not over. The Forest Service will now review the tide of public concern that has flooded into its offices and deliver a revised plan to

Internet Activists Send Clear Message to the US Forest Service: Save Our Forests by Kelly O'Neal, Emedlacy Web Marketing Manager

Over 180,000 citizens sent electronic postcards to US Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck this summer urging him

**Grants for 2001**

Applicants are encouraged to apply to the Access Fund for either of the following grant cycles, September 15, 2000 or January 7, 2001.

Funds for grants are limited, so applicants should be aware that the Grants Program could be committed for 2001 after the review cycle in January.

For a copy of the Access Fund revised grant guidelines (posted in May, 2000) click on our web site at www.accessfund.org/Programs.htm, fill out the form and mail it to Kath Pyke in the Boulder office.

President Clinton. The campaign is nearing the crucial last steps. President Clinton will make a final decision about the fate of our forests before he leaves office. He needs to hear that America wants its forests saved.

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ACCESS FUND

MERCHANDISE

Hook up your belay partner with the 20-ounce El Cupitan Mug ($15) for early morning java or tea.

For later in the evening, the Access Fund O'Pinner ($8) is an essential tool for twelve ounce curts.

Style out at the crags with an Access Fund t-shirt ($20) or baseball hat ($15).

Finally, purge your anxiety while training your digits with the Access Fund Hand Strengtheners ($7).

To order call the Access Fund at 888-863-6237

Have a Wonderful FALL from all of us at the Access Fund!

KICKIN' ACCESS

10 years of action 1990-2000

* continued on next page

Tips for the Giving
by Gregory W. Kennedy

You give to the Access Fund for a variety of reasons. These reasons may range from gratitude for surviving your latest climbing epic, pressure from your climbing partner, belief in the Access Fund's work, a desire to be remembered after you are gone, protecting the cliffs, and finally, tax savings.

When most people think of charitable giving, they usually consider volunteering their time or making a cash donation. Rather than cash, you may want to consider giving away a growing asset such as common stocks. If this is an option for you, consider the following: the capital gains tax is a voluntary tax— you only pay it if you sell an appreciated asset and the estate tax is involuntary—it's due nine months after death regardless. One philanthropic way to avoid both these taxes is to give highly appreciated securities to the Access Fund.

The Access Fund is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. When you give stocks to the Access Fund, there is no tax on their appreciation. You have also removed this asset and all future appreciation from your taxable estate.

Finally, you receive a current income tax deduction for the contribution. Sometimes donors hold stocks that are comfortable with and ones they expect to have continued success with in the future. They also plan to make a charitable gift for the year in cash. One variation on charitable giving is to make a gift of the favored stock and replace the position with cash. This effectively removes the past appreciation by giving the replacement stock a kind of "stepped up" cost basis. Charities are broken down into two types, 50 percent charities and 30 percent charities. The percentage refers to the maximum percentage of adjusted gross income (AGI) that may be claimed as a charitable deduction by a donor in any one year. Fifty percent.

"Tips...Continued"

Charities include churches, schools, hospitals, endowment funds for public universities, and state and local governments. Special rules apply to other types of private charities.

Gifts of capital gain property, such as stocks, are subject to further limitations. To qualify as a donation of capital gain property, the item must qualify for capital gains treatment (e.g. property held for investment) and must be held for more than one year. Gifts of capital gain property to 50 percent charities are limited to 30 percent of AGI. Donations of capital gains property are generally valued at the fair market value at the time of the donation.

Gifts of appreciated securities can also play important parts in more sophisticated charitable giving techniques, such as charitable remainder trusts. If you are considering such strategies and would like to maximize the benefits of your gift, talk to a financial planner or your alternatives.

Gregg Kennedy, the Access Fund's account representative, is First Vice President of Investments with Salomon Smith Barney, 10503 E. Dry Creek Road, Suite 400, Englewood, CO 80112. Call him at 1-800-965-3058 or 303-925-9615 for more information.

Text List Fever
The Access Fund has collected thousands of actions from the TICK LISTS mailed to our National Office. We are giving away great gear from The North Face like: tents, sleeping bags and packs. The big winners of the July Drawing were: Jana Thompson, Broomfield, CO Randy Taylor, Winston-Salem, NC James Dyer, Murrieta, CA

We are doing drawings throughout the second half of 2000 for great gear from Black Diamond, Omega Pacific, The North Face, Metolius and more.
Top Ten Ways to UPGRADE your Access Fund membership throughout this year

1. Join the MONTHLY CLIMBING PARTNER program, the easiest and most convenient way to upgrade your annual membership. You’ll receive a complimentary Access Fund hat and T-shirt, too.

2. RENEW your membership at a greater level than the previous year.

3. Donate stock to the Access Fund and receive exceptional tax advantages. Call the Access Fund to find out more about this and other PLANNED GIVING programs.

4. Find out if the company you work for has a MATCHING GIFTS PROGRAM. Usually there is a simple, one-page form that needs to be filled out and sent to the Access Fund.

5. Buy a GIFT MEMBERSHIP for your climbing partner or someone else that isn’t already an Access Fund member.


7. Purchase Access Fund t-shirts, coffee mugs, embroidered hats, water bottles, hand strengtheners, and piton bottle openers. You can see this MERCHANDISE and more on the Access Fund’s website – www.accessfund.org.

8. VOLUNTEER your time and energy and represent the Access Fund at an organized conservation project.

9. Participate in Access Fund EVENTS. An outstanding opportunity to contribute more to the organization and your chance to win fantastic prizes!

10. Convince your PARENTS to support the organization that helps keep you climbing. They don’t have to be climbers and they’ll enjoy helping keep areas open so that you can get out there!

If you have any questions about these upgrade opportunities or your individual membership, please call the Access Fund at 888-863-6237.
Stay tuned.

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Vice President
Patti Powser, WI Jackson Hole Mt. Guides

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HUECO UPDATE FROM PAGE 1
Upgraded for education rather than law enforcement. This emphasis is working well at other climbing areas with historic and cultural importance, such as Devil's Tower and Red Rocks. However, TPWD has ignored these examples, been inflexible about alternatives to broad-based closures, and concluded that Hueco Tank should be managed as an outdoor museum.

It is no secret the Access Fund has been evaluating the prospect of filing a lawsuit over the Public Use Plan for Hueco Tanks, though even a favorable outcome to a lawsuit would not ensure positive changes to climbing access. At best, the courts could force TPWD to redo the Public Use Plan to correct any mistakes they made initially. Local climbers were not supportive of a law suit initially. They believed that it would give TPWD an excuse to become even more adversarial. Our analysis suggested that the courts would outweigh any benefits we so have chosen not to pursue a lawsuit at this time.

The Access Fund remains willing to negotiate with TPWD, but unless a more progressive management strategy is employed at Hueco Tanks, we will continue to advocate for substantial resources that we have offered Hueco previously. TPWD has proven they rather would not have climbers at Hueco Tanks and that their agenda is to close the park to all but guided tours. Further, they do not deal with the public in good faith.

While the Access Fund will continue to monitor the situation at Hueco and support rational management there, we are pessimistic for TPWD to ever consider climbing as a primary value at Hueco Tanks. We think climbers will prefer that we are focusing our resources on places and issues where we can truly make a difference. TPWD says climbers are welcome at Hueco Tanks. The phone number to make reservations for the park is 815-857-1135. We encourage climbers to visit Hueco Tanks and form their own opinions. To discuss your experience at the park, write State Parks Director Walt Dabney, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744. Or call Dabney at 512-389-4874.

Attention Federal and military employees!
Our new CFC # is 2361

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ACCESS FUND FACILITATES REOPENING OF THE CAT SLAB, CO

Effective immediately, the highly popular Cat Slab in Clear Creek Canyon, near Denver, is re-open to climbing. This popular area was closed earlier this year when a climbing fatality at the site raised the landowner’s concerns over potential liability lawsuits.

Through direct discussions with the landowner, Rick Thompson and the Access Fund were able to ease liability concerns and reestablish climbing access to the area.

When climbing at the Slab please maintain a low profile, and if the landowner stops by to chat be sure to thank him for supporting climbing. Be aware that the property remains for sale, so there may be future access threats should a new owner not be supportive of climbing.

The Access Fund is currently looking at different methods to preserve long-term access. For more information contact Shawn Tierney, national access director, at shawn@accessfund.org or 303-545-6772, ext. 105.