The Access Fund (AF) is the national advocacy organization that keeps U.S. climbing areas open and conserves the climbing environment. Five core programs support this mission: climbing management policy, local support and mobilization, stewardship and conservation, land acquisition and protection, and education.

Founded in 1991, the Access Fund supports and represents over 2.3 million climbers in all forms of climbing: rock climbing, ice climbing, mountaineering, and bouldering. We work with hundreds of corporate and community partners, 89 local climbing organizations, and 44 regional coordinators to advocate on behalf of climbers nationwide.

### About the Access Fund

The Access Fund is now positioned to protect privately owned climbing areas on an entirely new scale.

In a financial environment that left some nonprofits reeling, we’re standing stronger than ever. We made some adjustments early in the year, including a 15% staffing cutback, that enabled us to weather the economic storm. We put resources into only those activities that were critical to our mission. We are now positioned to make slow, smart growth in our programs as the economy recovers.

We couldn’t have done this without you. Thank you for your continued support, especially during these difficult economic times. We are looking forward to an even better 2010, and a continued partnership with you.

Best Regards,

King Grant
Board President

Brady Robinson
Executive Director

---

2009 was a big year for the Access Fund.

We launched the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign (AFLCC), the first-ever revolving loan program designed to fund the acquisition of privately owned climbing areas. In the program’s first year, we used AFLCC capital to fund four critical acquisitions across the country. The loans we provided not only led to the protection of threatened climbing areas, but also empowered local climbing organizations to take action. Though we have supported land acquisitions in the past, the Access Fund is now positioned to protect privately owned climbing areas on an entirely new scale.

The Access Fund and the Access Fund Land Foundation made the historic decision to merge into a single entity. The Access Fund is now recognized as a national land trust by the Land Trust Alliance. This merger has greatly simplified our operations and positioned us to be more nimble and aggressive in our land acquisition activities.

For the first time in 2009, we executed agreements with all three major federal land management agencies—the United States Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. These agreements set the stage for a collaborative working relationship with the agencies. They don’t preclude us from taking a hard approach when necessary; rather, they give us a conduit to deal with problems early before they lead to the loss of access.

Once again, we increased the number of local climbing organizations and Adopt a Crag stewardship events. These numbers reflect a growing network of committed volunteers who are taking care of the places we love and ensuring they stay open for our and future generations.

The Access Fund is now positioned to protect privately owned climbing areas on an entirely new scale.
2009 was a great year for the Access Fund, despite the challenges of a faltering economy.

The introduction of the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign was very successful, with cash donations totaling $363,656 and pledges of over $1.2 million toward a goal of $2.5 million. However, 2009 operating revenues were down 10.7% from 2008. Corporate sponsors contributed $218,731; individual, foundation, and organizational support was $175,637; and total membership support was $413,740.

We distributed four loans for land acquisition through the AFLCC totaling $137,000. Outreach, national policy, and special programs expenditures were $628,961, allowing us to maintain our focus on the projects that offer the most benefit to the climbing community. Our new publication strategy expenditures totaled $116,941, a decrease of 7.2% from 2008, while overall administrative and fundraising expenditures totaled $200,714, a decrease of 9.2%. End of year net assets were $704,058, up nearly $300K from 2008 due to our successful campaign and investment income.
Each year the Access Fund recognizes individuals and businesses that go above and beyond to volunteer their time and efforts to preserving climbing access and the climbing environment. These recipients stand out in their commitment to the American climbing community.

**Bebie Leadership Award – Anthony Love**
Anthony Love is honored as America’s outstanding activist for the cause of preserving climbing access and the climbing environment. Anthony has illustrated his leadership with countless acquisition and climbing management planning projects in North Carolina. Anthony leads the Carolina Climbers Coalition with perseverance and passion, helping to build a strong community of climbers dedicated to protecting the places we cherish.

**Reese Martin Coordinator of the Year Award – Thomson Ling**
Thomson Ling shows his leadership as an Access Fund regional coordinator in the mid-Atlantic region. Founder of the Mid-Atlantic Climbers Coalition, Thomson has been a regional coordinator since 2003 and has organized dozens of Adopt a Crag events that have drawn hundreds of volunteers to care for local climbing areas. Thomson is now a regional coordinator in New Jersey.

**Sharp End Award – Brian Sabourin**
Brian Sabourin is our first regional coordinator in Ohio. Brian has illustrated his leadership by forming the Northeast Ohio Climbers Coalition, spearheading an effort to open climbing access at the Breckville Reservation, and volunteering countless hours to build relationships and collaborate with the Cleveland Metro Parks.

**Sharp End Award – Paul Morley**
Paul Morley, who worked tirelessly to acquire Yellow Bluff in Alabama, has been an instrumental player in building a network of supporters among the Southeastern Climbers Coalition. Paul’s contagious enthusiasm for climbing access spreads to nearly everyone he meets, and we are proud to have him in our corner.

**Sharp End Award – Aaron Gibson**
Aaron Gibson has shown leadership in climbing management planning and trail projects throughout his home state of Oklahoma. Aaron has been an Access Fund regional coordinator since 2004 and has played an integral role in helping to preserve climbing access at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.
In its first year of operation, the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign helped conserve over 50 acres of land in four different areas of the country.

In May 2009, AF partnered with the Washington Climbers Coalition (WCC) to save the popular Lower Index Town Wall from being lost to a quarry operation. The AFLCC provided a bridge loan to fund an option agreement that gives the WCC the sole right to purchase the 20-acre Seattle area cliff. The WCC is currently fundraising for the purchase price.

In December 2009, the AFLCC helped Western Massachusetts Climbers’ Coalition (WMCC) pay off an existing bank loan on seven acres of land at the base of Farley Ledge in Erving, Massachusetts. The AFLCC refinanced the loan at a much lower interest rate, saving WMCC thousands of dollars in interest and fees that now can be invested in other projects that benefit the Massachusetts climbing community.

In late July 2009, the Southeastern Climbers Coalition (SCC) was set to close on 25 acres of the Steele property in Alabama (using money from its own fundraising efforts) when it learned that an additional 4-acre tract containing cliff line was up for sale. The AFLCC provided a loan that enabled the SCC to close on the original tract and positioned the organization to pursue the additional parcel.

In early December 2009, the Carolina Climbers Coalition (CCC) announced its intent to purchase and conserve the Rumbling Bald West Side Boulders in North Carolina with an AFLCC loan. CCC was granted an AFLCC bridge loan to finance 90% of the purchase price for the 6.12-acre tract. The sale closed in early January 2010, saving the area from private development.

Launched publicly in July 2009, the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign is the first-ever revolving loan program that provides local climbing organizations and other agencies with the funds and expertise needed to act quickly to save threatened climbing areas from development or closure. The AFLCC provides short-term loans and transaction expertise for direct acquisitions, leases, easements, and other tactics that conserve climbing areas.

For more information or to contribute, contact Jason Smith at smith@accessfund.org or 303-545-6772 x113.
When a local access issue occurs the best lines of defense are almost always local climbers who are familiar with the area and the issues. That is why a critical piece of the Access Fund’s work is encouraging, organizing, and supporting local climbers to join together. Each local volunteer adds to the strength and voice of our climbing community. The Access Fund helps pull individual volunteers and organizations into a grassroots network that not only increases climbers’ influence on national policy issues, but also acts as a channel for extending climbing advocacy and stewardship work.

Some highlights from the grassroots network:

- New local climbing organizations joined the network: Northeast Ohio Climbers Coalition, Northern Wisconsin Climbers Coalition, the Clifton Branch of the Maine Climbers Alliance, Delaware Climbers Coalition, and Pueblo Climbers Coalition.
- New regional coordinators joined the network in Arizona, Ohio, Wisconsin, Texas, and New Jersey.
- In March 2009 the Access Fund hosted a Land Conservation Summit that drew over 15 local climbing organizations from across the nation to learn about land acquisitions and how to manage climbing on private land.

The Access Fund helps protect climbing resources by providing financial support through the Access Fund Climbing Preservation Grants program. These grants help fund a wide array of projects that preserve or enhance climbing access and opportunities throughout the United States. In 2009, the Access Fund awarded nearly $40,000 in grants to 17 worthy projects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Southeastern Climbers Coalition</th>
<th>Steele Acquisition</th>
<th>Purchase of an historic crag in Steele, Alabama, that contains 1,418 linear feet of cliff line, access, and public parking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Indian Creek</td>
<td>Organizational Start-up</td>
<td>Assistance with the local climbing organization start-up costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite National Park</td>
<td>Climber’s Brochure</td>
<td>Production of a brochure for climbers about low-impact, safe practices and maps of various climbing opportunities at Yosemite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Corners Climbing Coalition</td>
<td>Hawkins Preserve Kiosk</td>
<td>Construction of a kiosk explaining permit requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah Open Lands</td>
<td>Castleton Tower Adopt a Crag</td>
<td>Funding for Adopt a Crag event and climber campground improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian Mountain Club</td>
<td>Rurney Rocks Trail and Staging</td>
<td>Funding for a professional trail crew to perform heavy trail reconstruction at the popular Waimea and Main cliffs at Runney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climbers of Hueco Tanks</td>
<td>Organizational Start-up</td>
<td>Assistance with the local climbing organization’s start-up costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access Fund Land Foundation</td>
<td>Operating Funds and Stewardship</td>
<td>Continued stewardship and management of Golden Cliffs, Unaweep Canyon, and Society Turn in Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilmington State Parks</td>
<td>Alapocas Run Kiosk</td>
<td>Construction of an educational kiosk at the Alapocas Run climbing area in Delaware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The BLM-Bishop Field Office</td>
<td>Bishop Climbing Ethics Brochure</td>
<td>Production of a brochure to educate climbers about low-impact practices specific to the sensitive climbing area of Bishop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Rob Ramey</td>
<td>Review Paper on Raptor Closures</td>
<td>Production of a peer-reviewed paper to assist land managers and climbers in making informed choices on the scale and timing of recreational closures for cliff-nesting raptors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Las Vegas Climbers Liaison Council</td>
<td>Education Materials</td>
<td>Educational materials, including membership brochures, Leave-No-Trace membership, and banners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Indian Creek</td>
<td>Bridger Jack Toilet</td>
<td>Construction and installation of a composting toilet at the Bridger Jack Campground, which is primarily used by climbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver Climbers Coalition</td>
<td>Organizational Start-up</td>
<td>Assistance with the local climbing organization start-up costs and general liability insurance to support Adopt a Crag events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona Mountaineering Club</td>
<td>North McDowell Climber Path Signage</td>
<td>Production of climbing access signs at McDowell Sonoran Preserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Park Service</td>
<td>Exit Strategies Conference</td>
<td>Organization of a 2010 conference on exit strategies for human waste, a growing issue at major climbing areas as a result of high recreational use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dishman Hills Natural Area Association</td>
<td>Big Rock Road Improvement and Parking</td>
<td>Funding for road and parking improvement to access the newly acquired 80-acre Big Rock parcel near Spokane, WA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National Policy Work
The Access Fund continues to advocate in Washington, D.C., on climbing management issues of national significance. Some highlights of this work in 2009 include:

- Signed memoranda of understanding (MOU) with all three major federal land management agencies: the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the United States Forest Service. These agreements frame cooperative relationships for climbing management on federal lands.
- Engaged in ongoing negotiations with federal wilderness management agencies to represent the interests of climbers on the management of fixed anchors in wilderness.
- Lobbied Congress and the U.S. Forest Service on behalf of the Queen Creek Coalition to advocate for the interests of climbers in the Arizona land exchange bill.
- Collaborated with our Outdoor Alliance partners on public land issues of national significance, such as Roadless Area protection and 1872 Mining Law reform.
- Represented American climbers at Access Pan America, a project to bring together climbers around a shared desire to preserve access to the climbing sites of the western hemisphere. The first meeting of Access Pan America was held August 12-16, 2009 in Squamish, British Columbia.

Local Climbing Management Plans
The Access Fund advocates for the interests of climbers in local communities throughout the country. The following highlights are just a few of the areas where the Access Fund and the local climbing community have been fighting to conserve climbing resources:

- Yosemite National Park, CA – collaborated with park planners and various stakeholders to conserve climbing access and the climbing environment in a plan affecting the Merced River corridor.
- Red Rocks, NV – advocated at the national and local levels for reasonable climbing management and fixed anchor policies in the wilderness management planning at Red Rocks.
- Minnewaska State Park Preserve, NY – launched a statewide letter writing campaign and submitted comments to a draft plan urging New York State Parks to consider future climbing opportunities in this extensive state park located next to the Gunks.
- City of Rocks/Castles Rocks, ID – advocated at the national and local levels for reasonable compromises on area climbing access restrictions.
- Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, OK – worked with local activists and park managers to ensure future refuge plans do not unnecessarily restrict climbing access at Oklahoma’s premier climbing area.
The Access Fund envisions a world where climbers are seen as stewards of the land versus simply “users” of the land. To this end, our signature stewardship program, Adopt a Crag, exists to unite local climbing communities with land managers to conserve their local climbing areas. Our youth stewardship program, TeamWorks, helps young gym climbers become responsible outdoor climbers by involving them in outdoor stewardship activities.

The growth and prosperity of these two programs is paramount to our mission of keeping climbing areas open because they show land managers that climbers are a responsible recreational group, helping to assure continued access.

We are pleased to report continued growth in both programs this year.
The Access Fund would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to the individuals and companies that have made the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign possible.

**Founding Partners**

Black Diamond

Mountain Gear

Outdoor Research

prAna

The North Face

**Titanium - $50,000+**

Black Diamond Equipment, LTD

Mammut

MSR®

Petzl

Therm-a-Rest®

**Diamond Plus - $35,000+**

Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)

**Diamond - $20,000+**

Alpinist Magazine

Climbing Magazine

Dead Point Magazine

Rock & Ice Magazine

Urban Climber Magazine

**Platinum Plus - $15,000+**

Cliff Bar & Company

**Platinum - $10,000+**

eGrips Climbing Holds

GORE-TEX® Products

Mountain Hardwear

Stonewear Designs

Touchstone Climbing, Inc.

Trango

**Gold Plus - $7,500+**

ASHA Carpets

SCARPA North America

**Gold - $5,000+**

Camptor

La Sportiva

Mountain Khakis

New England Ropes

Patagonia

Rock‘n Jam‘n

The Spot Bouldering Gym

**Supporting - $250+**

Alpine Endeavors

Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS)

Omega Pacific

Rock & Snow

Wild Country

Zeal Optics

**Media Partners**

Andrew Burr Photography

Andrew Kornylak Photography

Andy Mann Photography

Aurora Photos

Big Up Productions

Boulder Weekly

Corey Rich Photography

Dave Vuono Photography

Eric Draper Photography

Jay Beyer Imaging

Jim Thorburn Photography

John Dickey Photography

John Evans Photography

Josh McCollough Photography

Keith Ladzinski Photography

Kevin Steele Photography

Kyler Deutmeyer Photography

MountainProject.com

Ousley Creative

Rock Monkey Art

Rock climbing.com

Sender Films

Stark Contrast Photography

Sustineo Creative

Troy Mayr Photography

**Supporters**

Individuals

Leadership Gifts

Paul Fish

McKibben/Merner Family Foundation

Dan & Amy Nordstrom

Beaver & Pam Theodosakis

Doug & Maggie Walker

Major Gifts

King & Tracy Grant

Cindy & Kyle Lefkoff

Robert M. Price

Dirk, Nancy, Tucker & Brittany Tyler

Special Gifts

Matt Hyde & Lisa Beaudreau

Jim Collins & Joanne Ernst

Anne Watson & Tom Isaacson

Michael Kennedy

Armando Menocal

Sally & Warren Jewell

Marte Lightstone & Richard Sertich

Contributing Gifts

Anonymous (1)

Dan Bereck

Tony Bubb

Sallie Smith & Jim Butterworth

Tommy Caldwell

Andrew & Nancy Carson

Mark Clancy

Keith Cole

Mark Crowther

Dan Emmett

Rose & John Evans

Dan Flanagan

Charlotte Fox

Heather & David Furman

Roger & Brenda Linsfield

Kevin McGarvey, MD

Brad McLeod

Jamie McNally

Peter Metcalf

Corey Rich

Beth Rodden

Rachel & David Rosenstein

David Wilson

Above the Clouds - $100,000+

Mountain Gear

Outdoor Research

prAna

The North Face

Silver - $2,500+

Arc’teryx

BlueWater Ropes

Boulder Rock Club/

Colorado Mountain School

Falcon Guides

Mad Rock

Marmot

Metolius

Momentum Media PR

Outdoor Retailer

Sterling Rope Company

SuperTopo.com

USA Climbing

Supporting - $500+

Alpine Ascents International

Avery Brewing Company

DMM Excalibur/

Wild Country/Red Chili

Evolve Sports

GearEXPRESS.com

Haven Housewrights, LLC

High Ground Roasters

Julbo

Liberty Mountain Climbing

Mountain Tools

New Belgium Brewing Company

Oskar Blues Brewery

Outdoor Utah Adventure

PMI

Redpoint Nutrition

Redwood Creek

Rocks and Ropes of Tucson

Stone Age Climbing

Tom K. Michael, DDS, PS

Upslope Brewing Company

Verde PR & Consulting

Wes & Gold
009 | Local Climbing Organizations

Alabama
Southeastern Climbers Coalition

Arizona
Arizona Mountaineering Club
Queen Creek Coalition
Northern Arizona Climbers Coalition
Prescott Climbers Coalition

Arkansas
Arkansas Climbers Coalition
Southeastern Climbers Coalition

California
Allied Climbers of San Diego
California Mountaineering Group
Climbing Resource Advocates for Greater Sacramento
Cragmont Climbing Club
Eastern Sierra Climbers Coalition
Friends of Joshua Tree
Friends of Pinnacles
Friends of Williamson Rock
Southern California Mountaineers Association
Southern Sierra Climbers Association
Yosemite Climbing Association

Colorado
4 Corners Climbing Coalition
Action Committee for Eldorado Colorado Springs Climbers Alliance
Denver Climbers Coalition
Flatirons Climbing Council
Northern Colorado Climbers Coalition
Roaring Fork Climbers Coalition
Western Colorado Climbers Coalition

Connecticut
Ragged Mountain Foundation

Delaware
Delaware Climbing Coalition

District of Columbia
Mid-Atlantic Climbers

Florida
Friends of Dade Rock

Georgia
Mid-Atlantic Climbers

Illinois
Southeastern Climbers Coalition

Indiana
Nathan Holmes

Iowa
Evan Fales

Kentucky
Paul Vidal
(Red River Gorge)
Nathan Holmes
(Western Kentucky)

Maryland
Chris Irvin

Massachusetts
Richard Doucette
Jeff Squire
(Western Mass)

Minnesota
Kaija Webster
(Great Lakes)

Missouri
Tom Lampe

Montana
Joe Josephson
(Southwest)
Steve Porcella
(West)

New Hampshire
Robert Parish

New Jersey
Thomson Ling

New Mexico
Bryan Piutta

North Carolina
Sean Barb

New York
Chris Moratz

Ohio
Brian Sabourin

Oklahoma
Aaron Gibson

Oregon
Tony Holmes

Pennsylvania
Josh Karns
Bob Value
(Appalachian-North)

South Carolina
Sean Coburn

Tennessee
Brad McLeod

Texas
Ryan Ray
Paul Brady
(Central Texas)

Virginia
Ocean Eiler
(DC Metro)
Dusty Wismath
(Mid-Atlantic)

Washington
Jonah Harrison

West Virginia
Gene Kistler

Wisconsin
Daniel Goscha

Wyoming
Susan Garlow
(Lander)
Mark Daverin
(Tetons)

2009 | Regional Coordinators

Alabama
Brad McLeod

Alaska
Wayne Fuller

Arizona
Will Cobb
(Northern Arizona)
Kevin Keith
(Central Arizona)

California
Jim Pinter-Lucke
(Los Angeles)
Tom Donnelly
(San Diego)
Paul Minaud
(Bay area)

Colorado
Rick Thompson
(Jefferson County)
Steve Johnson
(West Slope)

Georgia
Brad McLeod

Hawaii
John Ryan

Idaho
Brian Fedigan

Illinois
Nathan Holmes

Indiana
Nathan Holmes

Iowa
Evan Fales

Kentucky
Paul Vidal
(Red River Gorge)
Nathan Holmes
(Western Kentucky)

Maryland
Chris Irvin

Massachusetts
Richard Doucette
Jeff Squire
(Western Mass)

Minnesota
Kaija Webster
(Great Lakes)

Missouri
Tom Lampe

Montana
Joe Josephson
(Southwest)
Steve Porcella
(West)

New Hampshire
Robert Parish

New Jersey
Thomson Ling

New Mexico
Bryan Piutta

North Carolina
Sean Barb

New York
Chris Moratz

Ohio
Brian Sabourin

Oklahoma
Aaron Gibson

Oregon
Tony Holmes

Pennsylvania
Josh Karns
Bob Value
(Appalachian-North)

South Carolina
Sean Coburn

Tennessee
Brad McLeod

Texas
Ryan Ray
Paul Brady
(Central Texas)

Virginia
Ocean Eiler
(DC Metro)
Dusty Wismath
(Mid-Atlantic)

Washington
Jonah Harrison

West Virginia
Gene Kistler

Wisconsin
Daniel Goscha

Wyoming
Susan Garlow
(Lander)
Mark Daverin
(Tetons)
ACCESS FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS
President, King Grant, CT
Vice President, Paul Fish, WA
Treasurer, Kyle Lefkoff, CO
Secretary, Jamie McNally, TX

BOARD MEMBERS
Alexander Friedman, WA
Beaver Theodosakis, CA
Beth Rodden, CO
Corey Rich, CA
Dave Wilson, GA
Dirk Tyler, CO
John Evans, UT
Mark Crowther, NY
Mark Synnott, NH
Matt Compton, OR
Nancy Feagin, UT
Richard S. Luskin, Esq., UT
Steve Johnson, CO

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS
Armando Menocal, WY
Bill Supple, VT
Dave Rosenstein, NJ
John Juracshek, NC
Larry Gustafson, TX
Michael Kennedy, CO

ACCESS FUND HEADQUARTERS

STAFF
Amy Ansari
Grassroots Coordinator
303.545.6772 x105
amy@accessfund.org

Brady Robinson
Executive Director
303.545.6772 x101
brady@accessfund.org

Brittany Holder
Membership & Development Assistant
303.545.6772 x103
brittany@accessfund.org

Ellen Jardine
Business & Finance Manager
303.545.6772 x107
ellen@accessfund.org

Holly Stewart
Communications & Marketing Director
303.545.6772 x100
holly@accessfund.org

Jason Keith
Policy Director,
303.545.6772 x102
jason@accessfund.org

Jason Smith
Development Director
303.545.6772 x113
smith@accessfund.org

Joe Sambataro
Access Director
303.545.6772 x112
joe@accessfund.org

Leici Hendrix
Membership & Development Manager
303.545.6772 x106
leici@accessfund.org

GENERAL COUNSEL
Chris Archer