Since 1990, the Access Fund has been the only organization in the United States dedicated solely to preserving climbing access and to conserving the climbing environment. In that time, we have grown from a few hundred members to more than 10,000, and have spent more than $3 million on land acquisitions, climber education, representing climbers in the public policy arena, local conservation projects, and support for grassroots climber activism.

In 2001, the Fund continued to advocate effectively on behalf of the climbing community. Through our Climbing Preservation Grants program, we provided more than $160,000 for purchases of threatened lands, capacity building for local climber organizations, trail improvements, scientific research, and climber education. Other performance highlights include: a major land acquisition at Quartz Mountain in Oklahoma; launching a nationwide Bouldering Campaign; sponsoring a three-day training for climber-activists; and the second annual Adopt-a-Crag Day.

The Fund made substantial progress in developing solutions to key land management issues such as the use of fixed anchors in designated wilderness areas in 2001. We successfully fought a proposed four-year extension of the flawed “Fee Demo” program and lobbied Congress for increases in funding for recreation management and resource protection. Also, we retained expert legal counsel in Washington and continued to address climbing management in historically or culturally significant areas such as Cave Rock, Nevada. We published a one-of-a-kind handbook, Climbing Management: A Guide to Climbing Issues and the Production of a Climbing Management Plan, the most comprehensive analysis available of climbing management issues and solutions.

The Access Fund’s success depends on the generous support of our members, corporate sponsors, and Community Partners. These committed climbers and companies make possible the impressive efforts of our wide-ranging team of volunteers, local climber activists, staff, and board of directors.

2001 was a productive year for the Access Fund, yet climbing access remains tenuous in many areas. Fortunately, with a focused mission, our long-term commitment to climber self-regulation and local activism, and the staunch support of the climbing community, we are well prepared to prevail in our many challenges.

Becky Hall, President
Sam Davidson, Executive Director
**2001 Community Partners**

**Guides-$1,000+**

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- Outward Bound Wilderness Adventures, CO
- Phoenix Rock Gym-Tempe, AZ

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- Appalachian Mountain Guides, Inc-Virginia, NC
- Arizona Mountain Club-Phoenix, AZ
- Ascend Adventures-Scottsdale, AZ
- Blue Ridge Mountain Club-Charlottesville, VA
- Portland Mountain Climbers, OR
- Colorado Mountain Club-Golden, CO

**Use of Funds**

These are unaudited figures. For our current audited financial statement, please contact the Access Fund’s Executive Director at 303-545-6772.
The Access Fund's mission is to keep climbing areas open and conserve the climbing environment. Below is a list of actions taken in 2001 that helped conserve natural resources and preserve climbing opportunities around the country.

### Public Policy
- Continued to work with federal lands agencies on a reasonable policy for the use of fixed anchors in Wilderness.
- Successfully worked with other recreation advocacy groups to prevent Recreation Fee Demonstration Program (“Fee Demo”) from being extended for four more years.
- Submitted testimony for a Congressional hearing opposing the extension of Fee Demo.
- Lobbied Congress to increase funding for federal lands agencies for recreation and resource protection.
- Hired a cultural resource specialist to help develop positive solutions to protect rock art and other historic resources at Red River Gorge (KY), and Hueco Tanks (TX).
- Continued to seek compromise with Washoe Tribe on climbing at Cave Rock (NV).
- Worked with land managers and local climbers to protect archaeological values at the Happy Boulders (CA), Castle Rock Ranch (ID), and the Road 18 Caves (ID).
- Hired law firm in Washington, DC to work on federal policy issues which affect climbers.
- Hueco Tanks, TX - Continued to offer support for resource protection, trail improvements, and climber education. Continued to work towards easing of restrictions through site-specific protection of sensitive resources.
- Castle Valley, UT - Supported Utah Open Lands and the Castle Rock Collaboration in efforts to preserve the traditional climbers’ camping area and access to Castleton Tower.
- Wisconsin State Parks - Provided legal and editorial assistance to climbers on the Rock Climbing Technical Advisory Committee for the development of new policy on climbing.
- Denali National Park, AK - Opposed the adoption of new fees, insurance requirements and rescue cost recovery efforts that discriminate against climbers.

### Areas Where Access Was Restored or Preserved
- Road 18 Caves, OR - Filed administrative appeal challenging the Forest Service’s discriminatory closure of the Hidden Forest Cave to climbing.
- Red River Gorge, KY - Continued to work with Red River Gorge Climbers’ Coalition on new management plan, resource surveys, and climber education.
- Wild Iowa, IA - Collaborated with the Eastern Iowa Climbers Coalition to reverse a ban on climbing in State Game reserve.
- Skytop Cliff, NY - Continued to work with local climbers, land owner and the Mohonk Preserve to address liability issues and re-open this classic crag.
- Orenaug Park, CT - Worked to resolve private landowner concerns and restore access to closed section of cliff.
- Oak Creek Scenic Overlook, AZ - Working with Northern Arizona Climbers Coalition to lift a partial closure to climbing.
- Hueco Tanks, TX - Working with local activists on new trail proposal that will improve access and reduce impacts.
- Frenchman’s Coulee, WA - Working with local climbers to improve parking, trails and sanitation.
- Gibraltar Rock, WI - Working with Wisconsin Outdoor Access to re-open to this important climbing area.
- Horse Pens 40, AL - Working to restore access to one of the best bouldering areas in the southeast.
- Piste Butte, CA - Working with local climbers to prevent a ban on climbing at state historic park.
- Willoughby State Forest, VT - Helping local climbers prepare for Forest Plan revision.
- Ouray Ice Park, CO - Provided $5,000 grant to upgrade supply system to conserve water.
- Howard’s Knob, NC - Continued to work with local land trust and climbers to save this excellent bouldering area from development.

### Land Management and Planning
- Made formal presentations at BLM-sponsored climbing management conference attended by 60 representatives from public lands agencies in Las Vegas, NV.
- Devils Tower, WY - Provided comments on revision to Climbing Management Plan.
- Castle Rock Ranch, ID - Worked with state officials on concepts for climbing management plan for this soon-to-be state park.
- New River Gorge, WV - Continued to work with New River Alliance of Climbers and National Park Service on climbing management plan.
- Yosemite, CA - Continued to work with National Park Service on implementation of the Yosemite Valley Plan, protection of Camp 4, climbing around Yosemite Falls, and on preserving affordable camping opportunities.
• Obed River, TN - Helped National Park Service form and work with informal advisory group to address climbing issues, provided comments on production of new climbing management plan.
• Boulder Mountain Parks, CO - Continued to work with parks officials on re-opening of certain areas to new bolted routes.

**Conservation Program**

• Published new handbook Climbing Management–A Guide to Climbing Issues and the Production of a Climbing Management Plan, the most comprehensive analysis available of climbing management issues and solutions.
• Provided $20,000 in funding to complete trail improvement projects at Quartz Mountain, OK, Little Si, WA, McConnells Mill, PA, and Enchanted Tower, NM.
• Linville Gorge, NC – Provided $3,000 grant to North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to assist with peregrine falcon monitoring and improve outreach to climbers.
• Indian Creek, UT – Worked closely with the Nature Conservancy and BLM on Indian Creek Corridor Recreation Plan. Helped produce interim information guide on good camping and climbing practices.
• Continued to maintain and update the country's most extensive database of wildlife restrictions which affect climbing areas. Listing of all current restrictions posted on Access Fund website and in newsletter.

**Support for Grassroots Advocacy Climber/Education**

• Provided $2,250 grant to Vermont National Wildlife Federation to work with climbing organizations on education and outreach projects.
• Awarded three research grants (total $6,500) to the University of Arizona, North Carolina University, and Hamline University for climbing surveys and impact mitigation studies.
• Black Hills, SD - Provided $2,500 grant for rare plant surveys, trail work and signage to reduce climbing impacts at Custer State Park.
• Provided $30,000 in grants to address waste disposal problems at Jacks Canyon, AZ, Mohonk Preserve, NY, North Table Mountain, CO, The Needles, CA and Happy Boulders, CA.
• Organized and hosted 3-day Activists Summit, a one-of-a-kind training conference for Access Fund field volunteers and local climbers organizations.
• Initiated nationwide Bouldering Campaign to preserve access and natural resources at bouldering areas and to educate climbers and land managers.
• Provided $3,500 grant to Hueco Tanks State Park, TX to support education project highlighting cultural resource values and climbing history.
• Supported formation of Salt Lake Climber’s Alliance. Provided $3,800 grant to help produce a climbers brochure.
• Provided $4,500 grant to Snow Canyon State Park, UT for climber education materials and facilities.
• Helped local climbers to form the Climbers Resource and Advocacy Group of New Mexico: CRAG-NM.
• Provided $1,200 grant to Wisconsin Outdoor Access to conduct survey of local residents on attitudes toward climbing at Gibraltar Rock.

**Land Acquisitions**

• Baldy Point, OK - Completed acquisition of Baldy Point and conveyed property to Quartz Mountain State Park to preserve climbing and prevent development.
• Pitkin Falls, CO - Provided $5,000 grant to support acquisition of land adjacent to popular ice climbing area, to solve long-standing access problem.
• Saddle Park Boulders, CA - Provided $5,000 grant to support land purchase that will double the size of Donner State Park and preserve access to quality bouldering.
• Black Mountain, TN – Provided $5,000 grant to support acquisition that will preserve climbing opportunities under public open space management.

**Adopt-A-Crag Day**

• Climbers and volunteers across the United States celebrated the 2nd annual Access Fund Adopt-a-Crag day at 67 climbing areas in 25 states. Over 2,000 people united on September 8th to build and restore 150 miles of trail and clear thousands of bags of trash from crags. Adopt-a-Crag Day is aimed at educating the climbing community about the importance of stewardship and teaching climbers the skills needed to maintain their local climbing areas. Galyan’s, a sporting goods retailer with 21 locations nationwide, was the 2001 Title sponsor. CLIF Bar was the Supporting sponsor. In addition to their sponsorship of
National Rock Climbing Center

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David Erickson

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