



your climbing future

2003

Letter from the President and Executive Director

Since 1990, the Access Fund has been the country's only organization dedicated solely to preserving climbing access and conserving the climbing environment. We have grown to over 15,000 members and affiliates, and gained support of most of the climbing industry through our corporate partnership program. We continue to add and work with community partners and affiliated local climber organizations to advocate on behalf of the 1 million active climbers in the United States. We have spent millions of dollars on land acquisitions, local conservation projects, and support for grassroots activism. We have dedicated significant funding to climber education and representation in the public policy arena.

In 2003 the Access Fund awarded over \$106,000 in Climbing Preservation Grants; monies that helped establish and support Local Climber Organizations in areas across the country to acquire land, build or repair trail systems, provide necessary signage, and assist many other grassroots initiatives.

After years of negotiation and planning we were able to open Castle Rock Ranch as the new Castle Rocks State park. In support of the new park and in cooperation with the National Park Service and Idaho State Parks we created the City of Rocks/Castle Rocks Information Guide. This unique publication is designed to educate climbers about the newly opened Castle Rocks State park, and to communicate how to care for this precious climbing resource.

The fixed anchor issue in Wilderness was resolved on US Fish & Wildlife lands in 2003 thanks to the strong and continued presence of our regional coordinator, Marion Hutchison. He successfully negotiated the use of fixed anchors in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife refuge.

We held a national activists summit for two days in September that brought together climber activists from all over the country in a forum filled with education, advice and a sharing of ideas, successes and challenges faced on issues related to access and the climbing environment.

Our national policy efforts brought us to Washington D.C. in May to host "Climbers for Political Action," an event addressed by six members of Congress and the Under Secretary of Agriculture. This event galvanized climber activism

in support of legislation and regulatory initiatives that benefit climbing in the United States.

Additionally, we entered into a memorandum of understanding with the US Forest Service (the largest landowner of climbing resources) that develops and expands our framework for a cooperative working relationship to plan and accomplish mutually beneficial programs and climbing activities at national, regional and local levels.

The Access Fund collaborated with local climbing organizations to preserve or restore access in areas including: Red River Gorge, Kentucky; Rock Canyon, Utah; Telluride, Colorado; Natural Bridge, California; Castle Rocks, Idaho; Boat Rock, Georgia and other areas of the US. At Hueco Tanks, Texas our local representative and advocate, Rob Rice, had language placed in the park management document mission statement that recognized Hueco Tanks "as one of the premier bouldering locales in the world," and recognized climbing as a compatible recreational use.

2003 was a successful and productive year for The Access Fund due to continued support from climbers throughout the country. Many challenges remain, but we will continue to advocate on behalf of our members, partners and the close to 1 million active climbers in the USA. We look forward to increasing and improving our grassroots support of climbers around the country working to keep their climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment for future generations. Together with a focused mission, long term commitment to self-regulation and local activism we are well prepared to continue to address the issues in the years ahead.

*Dave Rosenstein, President
Steve Matous, Executive Director*



Dave Rosenstein



Steve Matous

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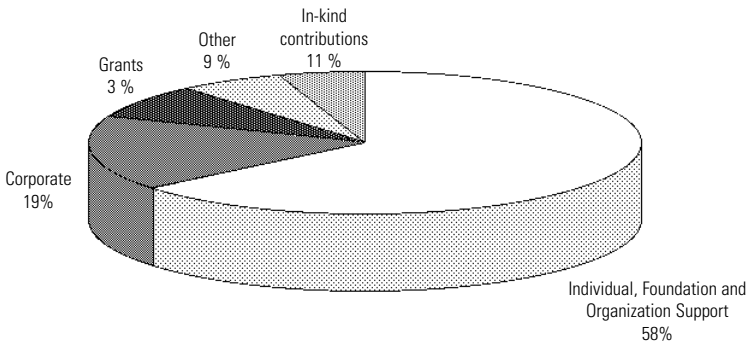
2003 Access Fund Staff

Steve Matous - Executive Director
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 Shawn Tierney - Access & Acquisitions Director
 Jason Keith - Policy Director
 John Heisel - Publications Director
 Kerry Cowan - Membership Director
 Cindy Trotter - Director of Operations
 Deanne Buck - Grassroots Coordinator
 Kate Cavicchio - Event Coordinator



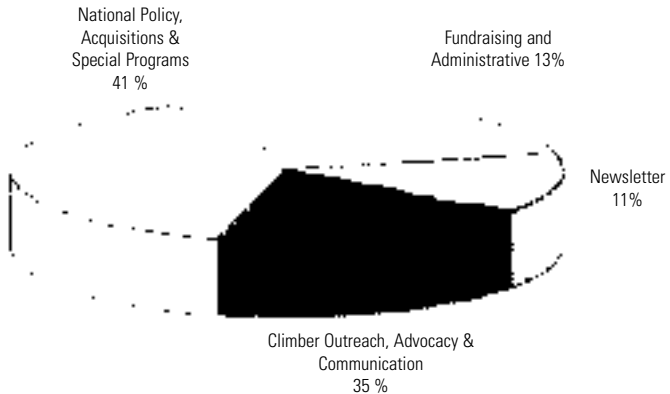
Access Fund Board and Staff

2003 Source of Funds



2003 Use of Funds

These are unaudited figures. For additional financial information, contact the Access Fund's Executive Director at 303-545-6772 (ext. 101).



2003 Activity Report

The Access Fund's mission is to keep climbing areas open and to conserve the climbing environment. Below is a list of actions we took in 2003 to support our mission.

Public Policy

- Continued work towards obtaining a favorable climbing policy for the use, replacement and placement of fixed anchors in Wilderness through Congressional support letters, meetings with agency officials, and networking with environmental, recreation, and industry groups. Drafted and produced an advocacy letter signed by over 30 members of the outdoor industry, climbing advocacy groups, wilderness advocacy groups in support of a NPS fixed anchor policy. Obtained letters from the US Senate and House of Representatives in support of our position on a NPS fixed anchor policy.
- Successful advocacy work that helped lift the fixed anchor moratorium at the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge, the only USFS jurisdiction with significant wilderness climbing utilizing fixed anchors.
- Made a presentation regarding fixed anchors and climbing to wilderness Officials from the federal land management agencies at an Arthur Carhart Regional Stewardship Wilderness Training conference.
- Opened Castle Rock State Park, ID. Climbing access to this outstanding area is the result of several years of advocacy and political lobbying by the Access Fund and others. Attended opening ceremony, official attendees also included Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne and US Senator Larry Craig.
- Worked with human-powered recreation organizations to urge Congress to support increased funding levels for federal public land agencies regarding land management and recreation/resource protection.
- Worked with cultural resource consultants to find positive solutions to protect archaeological and historical values at Red River Gorge (KY), Natural Bridge (CA), Cave Rock (NV), Happy Boulders (CA), Castle Rocks State Park (ID), and other climbing areas.
- Hosted the inaugural "Climbers for Political Action" event in Washington, DC to improve the connections between climbers and government, and galvanize climber activism in support of legislation and regulatory initiatives that benefit climbing in the United States. Six members of Congress and a high-ranking land agency official spoke about federal land management and climbing issues.
- Negotiated with the US Forest Service in Washington, DC and entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to develop cooperative working relationship between the USFS and the Access Fund for planning and accomplishing mutually beneficial programs, projects, and climbing activities at the national, regional, and local level.
- Opposed USFS climbing ban at Cave Rock. Successful advocacy work extended the public comment period on the Cave Rock closure through March 2003. Filed a lawsuit with Nevada Federal Court to reverse unconstitutional actions by the US Forest Service.

Areas Where Our Work Continues

- Advocacy work to preserve climbing opportunities and promote stewardship efforts and conservation management at various southern Utah areas: Indian Creek, Castleton Tower, the Mystery Towers, and the Moab and Monticello Resource Management Areas.
- Adirondack State Park, NY. Working with local climbers and park officials to oppose a fixed anchor ban.
- Boulder Canyon, CO - Working with local climbers and the city of Boulder to preserve ice climbing opportunities in Boulder Canyon.
- Grand Ledge, MI. Working with local climbers to oppose a potential closure of their only climbing resource.
- Castle Valley, UT - Attended roundtable discussions to identify management issues and alternatives, and support land protection options for newly acquired property at the base of Castleton Tower.
- Flatirons, CO. Working with local climbers and the City of Boulder to prevent arbitrary closures to climbing and bouldering areas in the Flatirons currently being considered in a new Visitor Plan.
- Hueco Tanks, TX. Provided support for Climbers of Hueco Tanks staff to attend crucial management meetings, and obtained recognition from Hueco Tanks State Historical Park that Hueco is one of the world's premier bouldering sites which is unique and should be preserved.

Land Management and Planning

- New River Gorge, WV. Helped to finalize the details of a climber-friendly climbing management plan for the New River Gorge.
- Drafted administrative comments and related advocacy work on management plans for various public land units across the country, including Denali National Park and Preserve (AK), BLM Monticello and Moab Field Offices (UT), Yosemite National Park (CA), North Cascades National Park (WA), Red Rocks National

Conservation Area (NV), New River Gorge National River (WV), Natural Bridge (CA), Castle Rocks State Park (ID), Giant and Dix Wilderness Areas (NY).

- Castle Rocks State Park, ID - Facilitated a workshop with state park officials, federal agencies and regional climbers and provided comments and other support to develop a climbing management plan for this newly-opened climbing area adjacent to the City of Rocks National Reserve.
- Grandfather Mountain Corridor, NC. Awarded a grant to conduct a survey of rock climbing in the Grandfather Mountain Corridor to assist the NPS in developing the Blue Ridge Parkway Climbing Management Plan.
- Happy and Sad Boulders, CA. Worked with the Bishop Field Office of the BLM on climbing related issues on the Volcanic Tableland. Attended an interagency meeting in Bishop to provide input on bouldering management issues.
- Joshua Tree, CA. Awarded a research grant for a wilderness rock climbing study to assess the merit of the Joshua Tree's proposed fixed anchor permitting process.

Conservation Program

- Provided a listing of all 2003 wildlife closures on Access Fund website and in membership newsletter; provided regular updating of this information on Access Fund website through the spring raptor-nesting season.
- Indian Creek, UT. Awarded a grant to the Rocky Mountain Field Institute for trail building and erosion control work on the Bridger Jack trail. Organized a "Friends of Indian Creek" coalition to mitigate ongoing resource impacts.
- Farley Ledge, MA. Awarded a grant to the Western Massachusetts Climbers Coalition to conduct a natural resource survey of the Farley Ledge climbing area. The information gathered will be used to develop a climbing management plan.
- Awarded grants for trail work, impact mitigation and human waste management projects at Square Ledge, NH; Flatirons, CO; Enchanted Tower, NM; Pleasant Valley climber's campground, CA; and North Table Mountain, CO.

Support for Grassroots Advocacy Climber/Education

- Organized a national conference on climbing activism. The three-day conference focused on strategies for preserving access and featured workshops and presentations from leading activists from around the country.
- Hired a full-time grassroots coordinator to manage AF relationships with local climber organizations/volunteer activists and conduct periodic trainings/workshops for activists.
- Provided a grant to support the work of the Flatirons Climbing Council. The group is dedicated to preserving access in the Flatirons, CO.
- Provided a grant to the grassroots climber advocacy group, Friends of Joshua Tree for continued advocacy work in Joshua Tree National Park.
- Organized and attended a climbers meeting in Bishop, CA which led to the formation of a local climber organization to represent climbers on the east side of the Sierra.
- Produced and distributed an educational/informational brochure for recreational users of Castle Rocks State Park and adjacent City of Rocks in Idaho.
- Provided a grant for informational signage at Tres Piedras, NM.

Land Acquisitions

- Red River Gorge, KY. Provided a grant to the Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition to support their acquisition of 700-acres of privately owned land containing significant climbing opportunities.
 - Bolton Quarry, VT. Provided a grant to the Climbing Resource Access Group of Vermont (CRAG-VT) to assist with the acquisition of the Bolton Quarry climbing area.
- Quartz Mountain, OK. Purchased 60-acres of privately owned property adjacent to Baldy Point climbing area. The acquired land contains quality bouldering opportunities and is now permanently protected as part of the Quartz Mountain Park system.

Adopt-A-Crag Day

- We supported over 70 Adopt-a-Crag Day events in 34 states, and one event in British Columbia. Climbers gathered at their favorite crags and boulders for trail construction, litter clean-ups, and visual impact mitigation. Adopt-a-Crag Day is a national commitment by the climbing community to stewardship and volunteerism. The sponsors for the event were Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), W.L. Gore, and CLIF Bar.



2003 Corporate Partners

DIAMOND-\$20,000+

Black Diamond Equipment/
Bibler-Scarpa
Climbing
Galyan's
Haynes and Boone, LLP
REI
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PLATINUM-\$10,000+

CLIF Bar
Nike ACG
Petzl/Charlet Moser
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The North Face

GOLD PLUS-\$7,500+

Cascade Designs/ Therm-a-Rest
Archer Law Offices, PC
W.L. Gore

GOLD-\$5,000+

Campmor
Climb High/Mammut
La Sportiva
Maxim Ropes
Nalgene
Omega Pacific Mountaineering
Patagonia
The Spot Bouldering Gym
Trango USA/Stonewear Designs
Weathered Stone

SILVER-\$2,500+

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Boulder Rock Club
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FalconGuides
Gregory Mountain Products
Metolius
Misty Mountain Threadworks
Mountain Gear
Mountain Hardware
New Belgium Brewing Co.
Outpost Wilderness Adventure
Salomon
Sterling Rope
Touchstone Climbing Inc.
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MAJOR-\$1,000+

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CONTRIBUTING-\$500+

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Alpine Ascents International
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Avery Brewing Company
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Bluetrope Consulting
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Excalibur DMM/Wild Country/
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Moonstone
Mountaineers Books
Mountain Madness
Mountainsmith
Mountain Tools
Nicros
Osprey

Outland Mountain Shop
Pacific Edge Climbing Gym
Phoenix Bouldering Comp
Real Cheap Sports
Royal Robbins
Saltic Climbing/Trekking
Schwartz Communications, Inc.
Sickle Climbing
Stone Age Climbing
2Trails.com
Tom K. Michael, D.D.S., P.S.
Travel Country Outdoors
Ultimate Ascents International
Verve
VooDoo Holds

MEDIA PARTNERS

Alpinist
Berger & Associates
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Blue Ridge Outdoors
Coreyography
Dan Bailey Photography
DrTopo.com
Ousley Creative
Outside Magazine
Patitucci Photo
Vbouldering

Monthly Contributors

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Tim Dougherty
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Memorials

The AF Memorial Foundation was founded in 1998 to honor individuals who cared about the mountain environment. The following memorials were established in 2003.

Ben Carlson-Berne
Michael A. Daniel
Mamie Hardy
Ryan J. Hartley
Ron Miller
Patrick Parmenter
Alex Sullivan
Alice Wilson
Scott Sandberg

Grants

The Access Fund received grants from the following foundations and corporations in 2003.

- Ansara Family Foundation
 - Apple Foundation
 - Boulder Community Foundation
- Community Foundation of NJ – Stanley Family Fund
- Earl B. Gilmore Foundation
 - Fox Family Foundation
 - Knox Family Foundation
 - The Lightner Sams Foundation of Wyoming, Inc.
- Moor Children's Foundation
- New Belgium Brewing Co.
 - Parmelee Foundation, Inc.
 - Patagonia
 - Peter C. Jackson Fund of the Fidelity Investments
 - Charitable Gift Fund
 - Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)
- Richard and Joan Ringoone Family Foundation

Summit Club

ABOVE THE CLOUDS \$10,000+

Jon Krakauer
Mayford Peery

GRANITE \$9,999-\$2,500

Jeffrey Bosboom
Joanne Ernst & James Collins
Emery & Martha Dameron
Mark Ewing
Alan & Cheryl Higham
Anne Watson & Thomas Isaacson
Roger Linfield
Sandy Mailliard
Charlotte Fox & Reese Martin
Dan Nordstrom
Vernon Scarborough
Steve Schwartz
Susan Sosin
Michael Storeim

LIMESTONE \$2499-\$1,000

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Drew Allan
James Ansara
David Apple
George Beitzel
Dan Bereck
Rick & Dee Booth
Randy Carmichael
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QUARTZITE \$999-\$500

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Amy Hamrick
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Kevin Wagner
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SANDSTONE \$499-\$250

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2003 Community Partners

Community Leaders \$250+

- Ace Adventure Center
- AMC - NY Chapter Mountaineering Committee
- Arizona Mountaineering Club
- Adventure's Edge
- Appalachian Mountain Guides, Inc.
- Blue Star Camps
- CLIMBX
- Club Sport
- CU Outdoor Program
- Erehwon Mountain Outfitter
- MTU Ridge Roamers
- North Summit Climbing Gym
- Phoenix Rock Gym
- Poly Escapes
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- Rock'n & Jam'n
- Rok Haus Indoor Climbing Gym
- Skagit Alpine Club
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- Southern Oregon Climbing Club
- Southern Sierra Climbers Assoc.
- Spokane Mountaineers
- The Mountaineer
- Travel Country Outdoors
- USA Climbing
- Vail Rock & Ice Guides, LLC.
- Wilderness Exchange Unlimited

Community Friends \$100-\$249

- Alpine Shop, Ltd.
- Antiques & Oddities, Inc.
- Boulder Mountaineering School
- CASBC
- Cascade Crags Indoor Climbing
- Explorer's Club of Pittsburgh
- Fort Lewis College Climbing Club
- Fox Mountain Guides
- GA Outdoor Recreation Program
- Georgia Outdoor Recreation Program
- Hamilton College
- Illinois Climbing Club
- Kent Mountain Adventure Center Inc.
- Mizzou Climbing Club
- Nomad Ventures
- Old Town Outfitters
- Peregrine Outfitters
- Pipe Works
- R.I.M. Club
- Redpoint Production, Inc.
- Rocks and Ropes of Tucson
- Sanctuary Rock Gym
- Skinny Skis
- Starved Rock Outfitters
- Stone Age Climbing Gym, Inc./ NMCRA
- Stone Age Gym
- Talus Climbing Service
- The Bag and Pack Shop
- The Rock Barn- Rhinoceros Mountain Guides
- Upper Limits
- Vertex Climbing Center
- Vertical Access
- Vertical World
- The Warrior's Way
- University of Pennsylvania Outing Club

- Western State Recreation Program
- Whitman College Outing Program
- Wilderness Exchange
- Yosemite Fitness
- Zen Lizard Systems

Community Supporters \$50-\$99

- Adventure 16
- Pennsylvania Mountaineering Association
- Action Outfitters
- Allegheny College Outdoor Program
- Alpine Club of Canada- Toronto
- Access Committee
- Austin Rock Gym
- Black Dome Mountain Sports
- Blue Ridge Mountaineering Association
- Boulders Climbing Gym
- Camp Birch Trail for Girls, Inc.
- CATS
- Climb Aloha
- Climb Max
- Colgate University Outdoor Education Program
- Colorado Outward Bound
- Cragmont Climbing Club
- Cross Country Connection
- Eagle's Nest Foundation
- Ethos Mountain Works
- Expeditions Unlimited
- Higher Ground Rock Climbing Centre
- Hurst Sports Center
- Inner Strength Rock Gym
- Lancaster Climbing Club
- Mazamas
- Midwest Mountaineering
- Mountain Goat Outfitters
- Newenglandbouldering.com
- North Carolina Outward Bound School
- North Wall, Inc
- NU Climbing Club
- Outek
- Paradise Rock Gym
- Quest Corporate Institute
- Riverat Whitewater Toys
- Santa Fe Climbing Gym
- Sierra Mountain Center
- Summit Climbing Gym
- The Backpackers Shop
- The Mountaineers - Rec Access Committee
- Trailhead Sports
- UMD - Vertical Pursuits
- Ute Mountaineer
- Vertical Dreams
- Vertical Endeavors - St. Paul
- Vertical Hold Sport Climbing Center
- Water Stone Outdoors
- Wilderness Education Program
- WildRays Photography
- Wilkes-Barre Rock Climbing Gym
- Williams Outing Club
- X-TREME Rock Climbing Center
- Sunrift Adventures

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