

VERTICAL TIMES

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This Land Is Our Land: Climbing on Public Lands

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25
YEARS
Protecting America's Climbing



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This year, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Access Fund. A quarter century ago, a passionate and ragtag group of advocates founded our organization to fight climbing closures on public lands. Although we've come a long way, the forces that gave rise to Access Fund are still present to this day.

"In the mid-80s, we were starting to have access problems. Land managers saw an explosion of climbing. In part, it was the beginning of the sport climbing movement, and land managers thought they were being overwhelmed by climbing. The combined effect of more climbers and more new climbing areas caused a lot of land managers to attempt to put the brakes on climbing. You had somebody with a county park who just thought people had picnics and played ball, and suddenly there was a 'crag' in the park and tons of people climbing there. They didn't know what climbing was, they'd never regulated climbing ... and there started being closures."

– ARMANDO MENOICAL, Access Fund founder

Today, our sport is still growing, thanks in part to the increasing popularity of indoor climbing gyms. While the dynamic that Armando describes continues, we've made significant strides in the last quarter century. All three of the major federal land management agencies—National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM)—view climbing as a legitimate use of federal lands. The National Park Service even celebrates climbing in its literature. That's a huge improvement from where our founders started, and while there is still much work to be done, we have a lot to celebrate.

Check out the feature article on page 8 to learn about how these federal agencies manage some of the most iconic climbing areas in our country. This article is timely, because there is a debate in Congress right now over whether the federal government should continue to manage these lands for the public or hand them over to state governments, which could sell them to private entities. While the federal government certainly has room to improve in managing these lands, we still believe that the federal land management system is the best way to manage recreation and protect these lands for future generations. Roughly 60 percent of America's climbing is on federally managed public land—let's work to keep it that way.

See you out there,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brady Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brady Robinson
Access Fund Executive Director

P.S. Join us in Westminster, CO on Oct 22nd to celebrate our 25th anniversary. Learn more at www.accessfund.org/25years.



NPS CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!

The National Park Service turns 100 this year. Over a century ago, Americans realized that our natural landscapes define us as Americans, and the National Park Service was created to preserve those lands for the enjoyment of future generations. The national parks system is a key element in the story of American climbing. It is difficult to imagine what climbing would be like without Yosemite, Grand Teton, Rocky Mountain, Devils Tower, Joshua Tree, Mt. Rainier, Black Canyon, and Denali, among many other parks. The National Park Service protects our greatest climbing resources and affords climbers the opportunity to experience the vertical world in some of the most spectacular landscapes on Earth.

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New LCO in Southwest Oregon



We're excited to welcome the new Southwest Oregon Climber's Coalition (SWOCC) to our national network of local climbing organizations (LCOs). This corner of Oregon is home to top-notch climbing areas, such as the Menagerie Wilderness, Williamson River Cliffs, and Rattlesnake crag. SWOCC recently incorporated and is recognized as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Access Fund and SWOCC volunteers have been working on access issues at the Callahans and are planning stewardship projects in the region. Welcome, SWOCC!

Ragged Mountain Foundation Offers Joint Membership with Access Fund

Longtime Access Fund affiliate, Ragged Mountain Foundation (RMF) in Connecticut, now offers joint membership with Access Fund, and locals can join RMF and Access Fund with a single membership. RMF has been doing great work in Connecticut for years. In 2015, it purchased Ragged Mountain's north end with help from an Access Fund grant. RMF also has an active trail building team, the Conservation Crew, which leads regular stewardship work at the cliff. Become a joint member at www.accessfund.org/join.



New Collaborative Supports Climbing at Castle Rock, Idaho

Multiple climbing organizations across Idaho and Utah have joined to create a groundbreaking collaborative to help shape climbing at Castle Rock State Park in Idaho. The new Climbing Resource Advisory Group (CRAG)



consists of East Idaho Climbers Coalition, Boise Climbing Alliance, Southern Idaho Climbers Coalition, Salt Lake Climbers Alliance, climbing guides, and a number of local route developers. CRAG will work with the state park to provide guidance on climbing and fixed anchor management, as well as to coordinate volunteer projects. Access Fund looks forward to continued work with CRAG and Castle Rock State Park.

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Mark your calendars! Access Fund and Patagonia are brining the climbing community together on October 22nd in Westminster, Colorado for the Access Fund's 25th Anniversary Celebration and Climber Advocate Summit.

25TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Saturday, October 22nd 5:30pm - 10:00pm

Join Access Fund members, founders, and climbing community legends as we raise a glass to the past, celebrate old friends, and look toward the future. This can't-miss event is the Access Fund's largest of the year, featuring beer and cocktails, a dinner program, live and silent auctions, and a dance after-party. Join us for this incredible evening that will leave you feeling inspired to protect America's climbing.

The Westin hotel is offering a limited-time special rate to Access Fund members, so book your room early!

ADVOCACY SUMMIT

Saturday, October 22nd 8:00am - 4:00pm

Join Access Fund and Patagonia for a full day of workshops, panel discussions, and training on techniques and strategies for protecting our climbing areas and engaging with the greater conservation movement. The day will be broken into two tracks in order to serve both experienced advocates and those who are looking to get more involved in conservation and climbing advocacy.

Reserve your tickets today at www.accessfund.org/25years

WHAT IS A CULTURAL RESOURCE?

Cultural resources exist in many forms: from a discrete petroglyph or cliff dwelling to an area or region considered sacred. Generally, cultural resources are defined as the collective evidence of the past activities and accomplishments of people. Buildings, objects, features, locations, and structures with scientific, historic, and cultural value are all examples of cultural resources. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 protect these resources on public lands. Balancing cultural resource protection with recreational access can be tricky, but climbing and cultural resources can coexist if managed carefully.

Access Fund works with land management agencies across the country to ensure a balanced approach to resource protection and climbing access. As climbers, you need to do your part as well:

- **Know before you go.** Research ahead of time to learn whether there are cultural resources at the area you plan to climb. Read informational kiosks at the trailhead for important information about minimizing your impact.

- **Look but don't touch.** If you encounter cultural resources while climbing, leave them alone. The oil and chalk from our fingers and rubber from our shoes can damage rock art.
- **Don't develop near resources.** Never develop new routes and boulder problems near archaeological or historical sites.
- **Honor all closures and guidelines.** The fastest way to lose climbing access is not to honor closures and guidelines. It is our responsibility as climbers to follow guidelines that reduce our impacts.
- **Know the lingo.**
 - Petroglyph: an image carved into a rock.
 - Pictograph: images painted onto a rock surface.
 - Lithic scatter: surface scatter of cultural artifacts and debris, including stone tools.
 - Historical significance: all objects over 50 years old on federal land are protected as "historic."

City of Rocks Cochise Stronghold Bishop Moab
 Oak Flat **Red River Gorge** Organ Mountains
 Klamath River **Redwoods National Park**
 Joshua Tree **RedRocks** San Rafael Swell
 Hueco Tanks
 Indian Creek **Devils Tower** Castle Rock

THE INSIDE SCOOP: JOSHUA TREE

If you're like most climbers, you pore over guidebooks for weeks or even months when planning a climbing trip. You educate yourself on routes, descents, gear, and camping. But what about the local ethics, issues, and challenges at your destination crag? Part of being a responsible climber is knowing how to tread lightly—both socially and environmentally. In the *Inside Scoop* series,

we connect you with local climbing access leaders at some of the country's top climbing destinations for valuable insight into local ethics and issues.

Destination: JOSHUA TREE, CA

Local expert: DAVE PYLMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FRIENDS OF JOSHUA TREE

What challenges does the Joshua Tree climbing community face?

Our proximity to large urban climber populations can make it difficult to keep traditional ethics in a national park environment.

How would you characterize the local ethics at Joshua Tree?

Since the 1970s, a trad ethic has prevailed at Joshua Tree, and locals have a minimalist attitude toward bolting. For example, if you can walk or scramble off a formation, don't install rap rings or chain anchors. This is true even on popular formations throughout the park and may catch some climbers by surprise. Visitors are encouraged to embrace the adventure of climbing at Joshua Tree and respect the ethic to leave no trace.

Are there any threats to climbing access or any major access issues?

Not currently. A few years ago, some rogue climbers grid bolted and "enhanced" a crag called Underground Chasm, which sits in a designated Wilderness area within the park. There also were damaged trees and stashed gear. All of this was in violation of the park's Wilderness climbing policies. The park service led an investigation into the violations, and for a while it looked like we could lose access. The Friends of Joshua Tree have worked for decades to establish a positive relationship with

the park, and egregious Wilderness violations by a few rogue climbers almost jeopardized access to Joshua Tree Wilderness for all of us.

How is the relationship between climbers and land managers now?

Cooperation between climbers and land managers at Joshua Tree National Park is at an all-time high. We have an official memorandum of agreement that establishes a partnership with the park. We also host a regular climbers coffee with park staff, have donated a search and rescue vehicle to the park, and host the annual Climb Smart event to mitigate climber impacts. However, there are still awareness and perception gaps around regulations for Wilderness bolting, particularly from new climbers to the area.

What are the regulations for Wilderness bolting?

Fixed anchors may be replaced, anchor for anchor, in Wilderness. A permit is required to place new fixed anchors in Wilderness. All anchors in Wilderness must be placed with a hand drill. You can request a permit application by calling 760-367-5545. The Friends of Joshua Tree are currently working with the park on a new simplified permit process that will shorten the length of time from application to approval.

What's the best way to dispose of human waste at Joshua Tree?

Use the vault toilets or pack it out in a bag system like RESTOP. Pretty simple. Desert soil does not biodegrade human waste, so it's not appropriate to dig a cat hole.

What's the camping situation in Joshua Tree?

The park has great camping. If you arrive midweek, you'll usually be able to get a site, even during the peak season (October through May). If you arrive on a weekend, you'll want a plan B—the dry lake bed north of Highway 62, Section 6, or Joshua Tree Lakes Campground are good options.

Any final words of wisdom for folks visiting Joshua Tree for the first time?

The ratings are a bit sandbagged. Stay on designated trails so that you don't tread on cryptobiotic soils—they anchor plant life throughout the ecosystem. Look for wildlife in the early dawn and dusk hours, and don't forget your camera!

How can people support Friends of Joshua Tree?

Many ways! Donate time, money, or both. Engage with us on social media and share content about climbing at Joshua Tree. You can connect with us at www.friendsofjosh.org. ■



RUMNEY: The Final Frontier

Nestled on the side of Rattlesnake Mountain in central New Hampshire, Rumney is best known for shepherding hard sport climbing onto the East Coast climbing scene in the late 90s. Its abundance of schist cliffines offer quality climbing at every grade—from 5.3 to 5.15.

However, even the most seasoned Rumney climber may not realize that some of the area's most coveted walls lie outside public land. High above the Baker River, there is a cluster of crags that are far less traveled. These Northwest Crags, just around the corner from Waimea, include Northwest Territories, Buffalo Pit, Northwest Passage, Prudential, Asylum, and the western portion of the Black Jack Boulders. The climbing here sits on 86 acres of private land and—with your help—can be permanently protected for climbing access.

Earlier this year, Rumney Climbers Association (RCA) and Access Fund secured the exclusive right to purchase Rumney's Northwest Crags for permanent conservation and climbing access. After a year of negotiations, RCA, Access Fund, and the Northwest Crags' landowners agreed to a purchase price of \$185,000. Access Fund extended \$10,000 in short-term financing from its Climbing Conservation Loan Program to secure the option agreement. The community now has until December 2016 to raise the funds necessary to complete the purchase.

This new acquisition will use a conservation strategy similar to Access Fund's previous land purchase at Rumney. In 1994, Access Fund worked with the local community to purchase 36 acres of private property—including The Meadows, 5.8 Crag, and Monsters—for climbing access. Access Fund held the property for a year while RCA volunteers built the main parking lot and completed trail improvements before transferring it to the United States Forest Service for long-term protection.

"We are excited to bring this story full circle by supporting RCA's efforts to secure Rumney's final frontier," says Access Fund Executive Director Brady Robinson. "Our acquisition 22 years ago formed a partnership between Access Fund and the newly formed RCA, and we are proud of all they have achieved to protect this New England gem."

Once the Northwest Crags are purchased, RCA will work with White Mountain National Forest to construct a new parking area and trail system to the Northwest Crags, which will help alleviate crowding at the main parking area and crags. The final phase will be to transfer the property to the USFS for permanent conservation. ■

WE NEED YOUR HELP! The community has until December of this year to raise funds for the acquisition and future stewardship improvements. Donate today at: www.climbrumney.com/finalfrontier.



Red Rocks, Nevada | © Merrick Ales

THIS LAND IS OUR LAND: Climbing on Public Lands

Almost 60% of the peaks, crags, and boulders in this country are on America's public, federally managed lands. These public lands are our birthright and are a cornerstone of the uniquely American climbing experience.

Access Fund is deeply engaged in the legislative and administrative processes that determine our ability to access and climb on public lands. And right now a battle is underway in Congress over whether the federal government should continue to manage these lands for the public or hand them over to state governments, which could sell them to private entities. The federal government safeguards, manages, and protects our iconic landscapes for future generations. And while federal land agencies (U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service,

and Bureau of Land Management) are far from perfect when it comes to managing recreation and conserving natural resources, they steward our lands through public

A battle is underway in Congress over whether the federal government should continue to manage these lands for the public or hand them over to state governments, which could sell them to private entities.

process. Twenty-five years of experience has shown us that climbers experience much greater uncertainty when attempting to maintain climbing access on land that is not federally managed.

Take a look at some of our most iconic climbing areas on federally managed public lands. While the debate in Congress is currently focused on public lands in the western United States, any federal land transfer legislation could set a dangerous precedent across the nation. Visit www.protectourpubliclands.org for information on states that are considering federal land transfer legislation.

ICONIC CLIMBING ON PUBLIC LAND

Climbing Area	Location	Management Agency	Special Designations	Special Regulations*
Acadia	Maine	National Park Service	None	Permits required for organized groups wanting to climb at Otter Cliffs
Black Canyon	Colorado	National Park Service	Wilderness	Approval needed to place new bolts
Buttermilks	California	U.S. Forest Service	None	None
Cochise Stronghold	Arizona	U.S. Forest Service	None	None
Denali	Alaska	National Park Service	Wilderness	Climbing registration required
Devils Tower	Wyoming	National Park Service	National Monument	New fixed anchors prohibited, replacement with permit, voluntary closure in June
Indian Creek	Utah	Bureau of Land Management	None	No climbing within 50 feet of pictographs
Jackson Falls	Illinois	U.S. Forest Service	None	Approval needed to place new bolts and replace existing bolts
Joshua Tree	California	National Park Service	Wilderness and non-Wilderness	Approval needed to place new bolts in Wilderness
Linville Gorge	North Carolina	U.S. Forest Service	Wilderness and non-Wilderness	No power drills
Mt. Rainier	Washington	National Park Service	Wilderness	Climbing pass required over 10,000 feet
Needles	California	U.S. Forest Service	National Monument	None
New River Gorge	West Virginia	National Park Service	National River	Approval needed to place new bolts
North Cascades	Washington	National Park Service	Wilderness	Bolts (not including pitons) prohibited
Obed	Tennessee	National Park Service	Wild and Scenic River	Climbing management plan outlines many special regulations
Red River Gorge	Kentucky	U.S. Forest Service	None	None
Red Rocks	Nevada	Bureau of Land Management	Wilderness and non-Wilderness	New fixed anchors prohibited in Wilderness
Rocky Mountain National Park	Colorado	National Park Service	Wilderness and non-Wilderness	Judicious placement of fixed anchors allowed, no power drills
Rumney	New Hampshire	U.S. Forest Service	None	Climbing management plan outlines many special regulations
Shelf Road	Colorado	Bureau of Land Management	None	None
Tahquitz	California	U.S. Forest Service	Wilderness	No power drills
Tetons	Wyoming	National Park Service	Proposed Wilderness	Judicious placement of fixed anchors allowed, no power drills
Wild Iris	Wyoming	U.S. Forest Service	None	None
Yosemite	California	National Park Service	Wilderness and non-Wilderness	Judicious placement of fixed anchors allowed, no power drills

*This list does not represent all special regulations for climbing in these areas. Always check online for a full list of climbing-related regulations or consult the local land manager.

GET TO KNOW FEDERAL LAND AGENCIES

Each federal land agency has a unique mission and a slightly different approach to managing climbing. All three agencies—NPS, USFS, and BLM—regard climbing as an appropriate activity on the condition that it does not substantially impact natural resources, cultural sites, traditional values, Wilderness character, and other users' experiences. That said, none of these agencies have explicit, overarching, national-level guidelines for climbing management (with the exception of climbing in Wilderness). Each management area (e.g., Yosemite National Park) is responsible for developing regulations based on its staff's interpretation of national policies, its agency's mission, special designations, natural resource conditions, public input, and precedent.

All three land agencies generally manage climbing in designated Wilderness areas with tighter regulations in order to adhere to the Wilderness Act mandates for solitude, primitive recreation, and non-motorized tools. While these guidelines differ across the agencies, motorized drills and bolt-intensive climbing are generally prohibited in federally designated Wilderness areas.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Approximately 13% of climbing in America is on NPS land. The National Park Service's mission is to preserve the parks for the enjoyment of future generations. The National Park Service is less centralized than the other federal land agencies. Each park unit acts relatively autonomously, with the park superintendent acting as the CEO. All national parks use the same planning handbook and management policy guidelines, but each park's implementation style is unique. National parks typically celebrate climbing—visit the Grand Teton National Park visitor center to see a great climbing exhibit or attend a climber coffee at Yosemite, Joshua Tree, or Obed. However, climbing can also be heavily regulated to protect natural resources or Wilderness character. Try to hand-drill a much needed rappel bolt in North Cascades National Park Wilderness and you could end up with a hefty fine (we are working hard to change this policy).



UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

The USFS manages the most climbing, approximately 34%, of any land management agency. The USFS tries to balance the health, diversity, and productivity of its forests with recreation opportunities. The USFS acknowledges the economic and social benefits of outdoor recreation activities like climbing. While there are nearly 10,000 climbing sites on USFS land, only two national forests have standalone climbing management plans. This speaks to the agency's relatively hands-off approach to climbing management. However, when necessary, the USFS can be quick to restrict climbing access and fixed anchors. For example, the USFS is the only agency to have banned fixed anchors in all its Wilderness areas—although, the ban only lasted a few months before pressure from climbers resulted in a reversal. There are many well-developed climbing areas in national forests that are not known to USFS district managers. Given the increasing popularity of climbing, Access Fund expects a marked increase in USFS climbing regulations and restrictions in the upcoming years as many national forests become aware of climbing areas and revise their forest management plans. Access Fund is involved in these revision processes to shape the future of USFS climbing management.



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The Bureau of Land Management manages approximately 10% of America's climbing. The BLM has a multiple-use mission and manages its 245 million acres for resource extraction, livestock grazing, recreation, and timber harvesting. The agency manages some of its vast expanses of remote land in the western U.S. for both developed and dispersed forms of recreation. For the most part, climbing is loosely regulated on BLM land, with the exception of designated Wilderness areas and Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Oddly, fixed anchors are generally allowed in Wilderness areas (some require authorization) but essentially prohibited in Wilderness Study Areas, which are areas being considered for a Wilderness designation.



SECOND

CONSERVATION TEAM HITS THE ROAD



Conservation Team crews with their trail-rated Jeep Cherokees.

What's better than one Access Fund–Jeep Conservation Team traveling the country to care for our climbing areas? Two teams! In 2011, we sent the first mobile Access Fund–Jeep Conservation Team out on the road to help local communities build more sustainable climbing areas that can withstand the impact of increasing climber traffic.

“The Conservation Team has been an undeniable success,” says Brady Robinson, Access Fund Executive Director. “But it has become clear that the sheer need for this program has far surpassed our capacity to deliver with a single team.”

As we enter our fifth year of the program, we are thrilled to report that we've sent a second full-time Conservation Team out on the road. The second team will allow us not only to make an impact at more climbing areas across the nation,

but also to deepen our impact at areas in dire need. With less time spent driving, the teams can focus on an area for longer, giving them the opportunity to improve an entire climbing infrastructure before moving to the next. They also will work with the volunteer community to train and empower local climbing stewards.

Amanda Peterson and Mike Morin have returned for their third Conservation Team tour around the country. Amanda and Mike will visit a new climbing area each week, showcasing management best practices, leading volunteers, and visiting community gyms. Their tour will start in the Southwest and lead them clockwise around the U.S.

Lindsay Anderson and Chip Powell will embark on their first Conservation Team tour this year. Lindsay and Chip will focus on in-depth projects—lasting up to 16 weeks—at select climbing areas showing the greatest

need. They began their tour at our newly acquired Homestead property in Arizona, to be followed by Indian Creek, New River Gorge, Birmingham, Liberty Bell Group, and Little Cottonwood Canyon in Salt Lake City.

We were able to mobilize a second team thanks to generous support from Jeep® brand, as well as from land management agencies and local communities that recognize the value of the program and help defray costs.

“We couldn't imagine doing this job without our Jeep,” says Amanda Peterson of the Conservation Team crew. “The comfort and capability of this vehicle are unsurpassed. We're so grateful that Jeep has expanded its support of this critical program.”

The Conservation Team program is made possible by the generous support of title sponsor, Jeep brand, and supporting sponsors REI, CLIF Bar, and Therm-a-Rest. ■



Access Fund is honored to present the 2015 Sharp End Awards to a worthy group of volunteers and activists who stand out in their commitment to the American climbing community.

DOUG WALKER
Menocal Lifetime Achievement Award



It is Access Fund's honor to present Doug Walker with a memorial Menocal Lifetime Achievement Award. We were devastated by the sudden loss of Doug, who made a huge impact on conservation and recreation in this country. He was a leading advocate for connecting people of all backgrounds to the outdoors as a way to build support for conservation. He served on many nonprofit boards, including The Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, the Outdoor Alliance, and The American Alpine Club as President. Doug was incredibly generous with his time, expertise, and money. He was an original funder of the Access Fund's land acquisition fund, and he promoted climbing access and outdoor recreation through his numerous connections in Washington, D.C. He was a great friend to many of us, challenging us with math trivia on steep mountain

scrambles and professionally in our fields to move the needle further than we ever imagined. Thank you, Doug.

TRUCKEE DONNER LAND TRUST
Land Conservation Award

Access Fund is excited to present Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT) with a Land Conservation Award for its leadership and commitment



to protecting historic climbing areas at Donner Summit. In 2015, TDLT partnered with Access Fund to secure the 400-foot Black Wall, Peanut Gallery, Road Cut, and access to nearby Space and Stealth Walls. Thanks to the broad support of local climbers and outdoor industry partners, TDLT raised over \$300,000 in the Save Donner Climbing Forever campaign to acquire and steward the area. TDLT has been a long-time partner with the climbing community, having first protected the Saddle Boulders in 2001 and Billy Mack Canyon in 2005. Thanks, TDLT, for being a great leader in land conservation!

JASON MCNABB
Sharp End Award

Access Fund is proud to present Jason McNabb with a Sharp End Award for his leadership of the Black Hills Climbers Coalition (BHCC) and



his work to preserve and protect South Dakota climbing. As the former President of BHCC, Jason strengthened the organization's partnership with Access Fund, helped grow its membership, and spearheaded major stewardship projects with land managers like Mt. Rushmore National Memorial and Custer State Park. He continues to serve on BHCC's board and is very active with its anchor replacement program, updating aging bolts throughout the Black Hills.

BENTLEY BRACKETT
Sharp End Award

Access Fund is honored to present Bentley Brackett with a Sharp End Award for his many years of work to preserve climbing areas in the Red River Gorge of Kentucky. Former President of Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition (RRGCC), Bentley played a critical role in fundraising for the purchases of Pendergrass-Murray Recreational Preserve and Miller Fork Recreational Preserve. His dedicated outreach to the outdoor and climbing industry has built lasting relationships and support for RRGCC's work and ensured the success of its annual fundraising event, Rocktoberfest. This event attracts many climbers to the region every year and has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for climbing area protection.



**KAYAH GAYDISH
Sharp End Award**

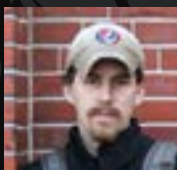
Access Fund is honored to present Kayah Gaydish with a memorial Sharp End Award for her work and leadership



as a climbing area steward in North Carolina and the Southeast. We were deeply saddened to lose Kayah last year. Her experience and knowledge as a trail builder elevated the standard of stewardship in the Carolina climbing community. Often in a leadership role, Kayah worked to improve climbing areas like Hawksbill, Rumbling Bald, Buffalo Creek Boulders, and Hidden Valley. She was a board member of the Carolina Climbers Coalition and worked with numerous conservation and community-minded organizations like Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards, Friends of Chimney Rock, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and Wild South. Kayah lived a life of service, and her warm personality inspired others to pick up their tools and do work that made a difference.

**MIKE DRISKELL
Sharp End Award**

Access Fund is proud to present Mike Driskell with a Sharp End Award for his years of stewardship and



service in the Red River Gorge of Kentucky. With over a thousand acres of land to steward, Mike has served tirelessly as RRGCC's volunteer land manager, planning and leading trail work, training the next generation of stewards, building bridges, and making constant road repairs. His leadership at annual events like the Johnny and Alex Trail Day has inspired hundreds of climbers and volunteers and directly benefitted dozens of popular crags at RRGCC's two recreational preserves. Mike has collaborated with and hosted Access Fund's Conservation Team on multiple occasions, working alongside the team on trail projects and hosting its regional climbing stewardship training.

**CHRIS WINTER
Sharp End Award**

Access Fund is proud to present Chris Winter with a Sharp End Award for his role in protecting climbing areas in



Oregon and the Northwest. As an attorney, Chris has supported the efforts of Access Fund, American Alpine Club, Mazamas, and local climbers by providing legal and advocacy support for climbing access efforts across the Northwest. He founded Crag Law Center, a nonprofit legal team dedicated to protecting and sustaining the Pacific Northwest's natural legacy. He has been a key player in efforts to reopen Madrone Wall, and his experience in raptor management has helped balance climbing and resource protection. In 2012, Chris provided critical support to a coalition of organizations and climbers working to preserve climbing access at Trout Creek while protecting Golden Eagles.

**ROSE KENNY
Sharp End Award**

Access Fund is honored to present Rose Kenny with a Sharp End Award for her leadership of



Rumney Climbers Association (RCA). Rose's dedicated efforts have helped steward and protect climbing at Rumney, one of the Northeast's most popular climbing resources. As a former president, Rose expanded RCA's partnership with Access Fund through stewardship and community events, as well as by ushering RCA into Access Fund's joint membership program. She worked diligently with the climbing community and White Mountain National Forest to make significant positive amendments to the Rumney Climbing Management Plan. And she worked to protect climbing on the adjacent privately owned Northwest Crags by leading the appraisal process and facilitating the option agreement that gives RCA the exclusive right to buy the property.

**UPPER PENINSULA CLIMBERS
COALITION
Sharp End Award**



Access Fund is pleased to present Upper Peninsula Climbers Coalition (UPCC) with a Sharp End Award for successfully opening AAA Walls in the upper peninsula of Michigan to climbing. The area was closed in 2014 due to liability concerns, and UPCC's dedicated group of volunteer board members formalized the organization as a nonprofit in order to partner with landowners as a united front for the climbing community. UPCC partnered with a local timber company to secure a recreational license that reopened the AAA Walls to climbing.

**MOUNTAIN PROJECT
Sharp End Award**

We are proud to present Mountain Project with a Sharp End Award for its unwavering support of climbing access



and conservation. Over the past ten years, Mountain Project has evolved into the definitive source of online climbing beta, with a vibrant community of climbers sharing information about our climbing areas. As Mountain Project's online presence has grown, it has also grown its partnership with Access Fund. Mountain Project has made significant investments to help Access Fund incorporate critical access, education, and stewardship content into climbing area descriptions in order to keep climbers better informed. And in 2015, Mountain Project challenged its users to join Access Fund with a \$50,000 membership match, helping us draw hundreds of new members to support mission-critical work. ■

Corporate Partners

Petzl has been a stalwart supporter of Access Fund for many years. It helped launch the Access Fund Climbing Conservation Loan Program in 2009, which has allowed us to acquire and protect threatened climbing areas all across the U.S. In 2015, Petzl helped launch the Anchor Replacement Fund grant program to provide locals with the funds to replace aging bolts. This spring, Petzl will join us in hosting the Future of Fixed Anchors conference, convening leaders in the climbing community to address the issue of aging bolts and outline a vision for the future. We are grateful for Petzl's ongoing commitment to addressing the most pressing issues facing the climbing community.



These partners are businesses that put their money where their mouth is to support the future of climbing. Please consider the important contribution these partners make to your climbing future. They support the Access Fund and you. We encourage you to support them!

ABOVE THE CLOUDS - \$100,000+

Black Diamond Equipment, LTD
Jeep® Brand/ Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, LLC
Rabble + Rouser

TITANIUM - \$50,000+

Clif Bar & Company
Mountain Project
Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)

DIAMOND - \$25,000+

Outdoor Research
Patagonia
Planet Granite
The North Face
Touchstone Climbing, Inc

PLATINUM PLUS - \$15,000+

Archer Law Offices, P.C.
Earth Treks Climbing Centers
Phoenix Rock Gym
Mountain Hardwear

PLATINUM - \$10,000+

eGrips Climbing Holds
GORE-TEX® Products
Jason Keith Consulting
Osprey
Petzl
Stonewear Designs
Therm-a-Rest
Trango

GOLD PLUS - \$7,500+

prAna
Sea to Summit

GOLD - \$5,000+

Brooklyn Boulders
Falcon Guides
La Sportiva
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Sender Films
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The Spot Bouldering Gym
Vertical World

SILVER - \$2,500+

adidas outdoor
Avery Brewing Company
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Mammut
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Mountain Gear
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Omega Pacific
Outdoor Retailer
Pacific Edge Climbing Gym
Phoenix Climbs Events
RAEN Optics
SCARPA North America
Seattle Bouldering Project
Sterling Rope Company

MAJOR - \$1,000+

Arc'teryx
Ascend Pittsburgh
CAMP USA
Carhartt
ClimbTech
Evolv Sports
Goal Zero
Grivel
High Point Climbing and Fitness
Jagged Mountain Craft Brewery
Kingflyer Collective
Liberty Mountain Climbing
Mountain Tools
MyClimb App
New Belgium Brewing Company
RESTOP
Skrotch Labs
Stone Age Climbing Gym
SuperTopo.com
The Crash Pad
The Good to Great Project
The Warrior's Way
Treasure Mountain Inn
Upslope Brewing Company
Vertical Endeavors

CONTRIBUTING - \$500+

Aiguille Rock Climbing Center
ASANA
Backwoods
DMM Excalibur
E&J Gallo Winery
Fixed Pin Publishing
FrictionLabs
Green Peak Promotions
Hapa Sushi
KNS Reps, Inc.
Michael Green Architecture
MPHC Climbing Gym
NOCO Gear
Rok Haus Indoor Climbing Gym
Sabaku Sushi
Sharp End Publishing
Slo-Op Climbing

Travel Country Outdoors
TRUBLUE Auto Belays
Vertical Dreams
W.W. Norton & Company
Xcellence

SUPPORTING - \$250+

AHS Rescue
Amarillo Rock Climbing House
Backbone Media
Boulder Adventure Lodge
Cadillac Mountain Sports
Call of the Wild Adventures
Climbingweather.com
Doylestown Rock Gym
Forest Oil Corporation
Forte Creative Media
Full Contact
Gociety
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The Armaid Company
The Gravity Vault Indoor Rock Gyms
The Mountaineer
Vertical World
Your Cause Sports
Zen Lizard Systems

IN-KIND PARTNERS

Alpinist Magazine
Climbing Magazine
Dead Point Magazine
Rakkup
Rock & Ice Magazine
Schoeller
The Climbing Zine
Wolverine Publishing



Rob Kepley

Originally from North Carolina, Rob Kepley made his way west and settled in the Colorado front range over 20 years ago. A climber for more than two decades, Rob feels truly blessed with the opportunity to photograph his friends in their climbing pursuits. “It still amazes me what these climbers are capable of. It’s pretty awesome to be hanging from a rope just inches away, watching the action unfold.” Rob also does portrait work and commercial photography and is based in the Denver metro area.

You can see more of Rob’s work at www.robkepley.com or on Instagram at [@robkepley](https://www.instagram.com/robkepley). ■



From top: Brad Gobright on Cheating Reality, Devil’s Thumb, Flatirons, CO. | Ian Cavanaugh on Maiden Voyage, The Maiden, Flatirons, CO. | © Rob Kepley



The Access Fund
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Boulder, CO 80308



BECOME A MONTHLY SENDER

Access Fund Monthly Senders fund critical programs that protect access to climbing on public lands, buy at-risk climbing areas, and educate the next generation of climbers to be responsible stewards. Monthly gifts guarantee Access Fund regular and predictable funds so we can act quickly to save threatened climbing areas, as well as sustain long-term campaigns that lead to permanent protection of our treasured climbing areas.

Become an Access Fund Monthly Sender today—a small contribution each month adds up to a big impact on the climbing areas we love.

1. Visit www.accessfund.org/monthlysender.
2. Tell us how much you want to give each month.
3. Set automatic donations from your credit card.
4. Cancel or change your donation amount at any time!

Learn more at www.accessfund.org/monthlysender.