

VERTICAL TIMES

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Protected Forever?

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“Political civility is not about being polite to each other. It’s about reclaiming the power of ‘We the People’ to come together, debate the common good, and call American democracy back to its highest values amid our differences.”

– PARKER J. PALMER

Access Fund protects and conserves America’s climbing areas, no matter which way the political winds are blowing. Though when the winds shift, we occasionally have to reassess the opportunities and threats we face and reevaluate our strategy.

As you probably know, there is a growing movement to sell off federally managed public lands to states and private enterprises. With over 60% of our climbing areas located on these lands, this is one of the greatest threats to climbing access we have ever faced. While such transfers may make good sense in isolated circumstances, the systematic disposal of these lands is a well-coordinated attack on our public lands system and on our heritage as Americans. We are not alone in this view. Hunters and anglers have voiced their opposition. The Outdoor Industry Association recently decided to pull its lucrative Outdoor Retailer Trade Show from Utah in protest of that state’s public land policy. Environmentalists, conservation groups, and tribal entities have made their opposition to the movement absolutely clear.

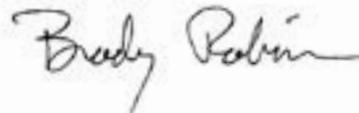
While some may view this as a classic issue of state rights vs. federal rights, I think it runs deeper than that. Public land belongs to the public, to you and to me. Not to state governments or corporations. It belongs to us. The imperfect and sometimes frustrating federal regulatory systems that govern how these lands are managed serve

as an insurance policy for us, the citizen landowners, ensuring that we have a voice and that our property will not be abused or damaged for the gain of the few without due consideration and process. The checks and balances of the public lands system no longer apply when land is transferred to states or to private entities. In effect, it is no longer our land.

It is no coincidence that the states most interested in land transfers are those with vast areas of public lands. There are often substantive disagreements over how land should be managed. Local communities often resent it when bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., try to tell them what they can and can’t do on public land in their states, in their backyards. There are means by which these disagreements can be resolved—this is the essence of democracy, after all. But once the land is sold off, it may well be gone forever, and the question of what is and is not in the interest of the public good is no longer binding.

We are ramping up our public policy program to address these and other issues, to ensure that our climbing areas will be there for us and for our children. Please learn more about our efforts and consider making a donation to support this critical work. You can learn more at **www.accessfund.org/protect-our-public-lands**.

I hope you will join us in speaking out for the protection of these places that are so important to us as climbers and as Americans. While the climbing community is politically diverse, our shared passion for climbing and the places we climb unites us.



Brady Robinson
Access Fund Executive Director



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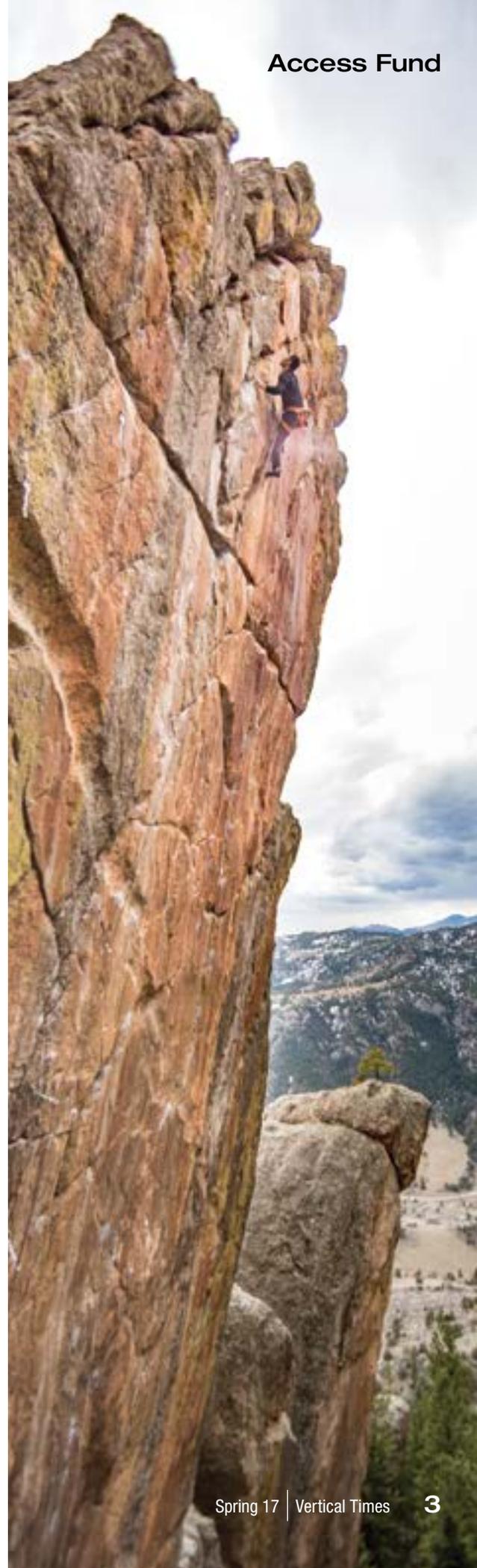
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New Name, Same Great Org: Texas Climbers Coalition

Central Texas Mountaineers continues its legacy of climbing access and stewardship under a new name: Texas Climbers Coalition (TCC). TCC is working to maintain partnerships with the City of Austin and Travis County Parks to take care of Greenbelt climbing areas and the popular Reimer's Ranch. Keep up the great work, TCC!

Welcome Southern Idaho Climbing Coalition

We're proud to welcome Southern Idaho Climbing Coalition (SICC) as an affiliate local climbing organization (LCO). In the fall of 2016, SICC received an Anchor Replacement Grant to replace bolts and anchors at The Prow, a tall basalt cliff with over 18 well-known sport climbs. SICC has also led climbing stewardship at Dierkes, a popular city park climbing area.



Say Aloha to The Arch Project

We're excited to welcome The Arch Project as a new affiliate LCO in Hawaii, based on the island of Oahu. The group is focused on bringing Hawaii's climbers together for climbing area stewardship and community events. Access Fund looks forward to a great partnership with The Arch Project!

LCO 101: Considering Paid Staff?

We hear from many LCOs that are thinking about hiring staff to make their organization more effective and sustainable. Here are a few things to consider to build a foundation for success.

Ensure that you have sustainable compensation. Before you begin a hiring process, determine if you have the funds to support paid staff. You should have enough on hand to cover your employee's compensation for two to three years—even if your new employee will have major fundraising responsibilities.

Conduct a needs assessment and write a job description. Determine your capacity shortfall. Is it in

administration, fundraising, or stewardship/access programs? Writing a detailed job description will help you define exactly what you need and provide the baseline for your hiring process.

Establish employee guidelines and policies. Before you hire, create a staff handbook that covers types of employees, benefits, work hours, compensation, annual reviews, and other policies. Your prospective employee will also want to see that the Board of Directors has clear job descriptions too.

Get workers' compensation insurance. Obtain workers' compensation insurance and look into your state's Department of Labor on required

insurance or benefits you must offer your employee.

Decide how you will handle payroll. Small nonprofits should consider paying for a third-party payroll service, which can manage taxes and IRS filings. It's usually well worth the cost.

Document your hire. Once you've pulled the trigger, be sure to document the hire with a letter stating the employee's job title, start date, employee classifications, schedule, salary/wage, and manager. Give a copy to the employee and keep a copy for your files.

WHICH BOLT IS BEST?

A national movement is underway to replace aging and unsafe bolts and fixed anchors. Local organizations, land managers, and the climbing industry are digging in and supporting the effort. But choosing the right bolt depends on many factors such as rock type, land management policies, and environmental conditions. Bolt replacement techniques are also evolving every day. So, giving a definitive answer on which bolt is best can be a challenge. What do you think? What's best practice in your home area and why? We want to encourage an ongoing discussion. Join the conversation at: www.accessfund.org/which-bolt-is-best

	Non-Stainless Hardware	Stainless Wedge Anchor (304 or 316 SS)	Stainless Sleeve Anchor (304 or 316 SS)	Stainless/Titanium Glue-in (304 SS, 316 SS, or titanium)
Long-lasting				
Like-for-like Replacement				*
Strength				
Hand Drill/Wilderness		**		
Desert/Soft Sandstone (Indian Creek, Red River Gorge, Red Rock)				
Hard Sandstone (New River Gorge, Foster Falls, Obed)				
Granite (Yosemite, Cathedral Ledge, Vedauwoo)				
Gneiss (Farley Ledge, Rumbling Bald, Mount Lemmon)				
Schist (Rumney, Smuggler's Notch, Black Canyon)				
Limestone (Rifle, Virgin River Gorge, Homestead)				
Basalt (Jailhouse, Golden Cliffs, Trout Creek)				
Tuff/Porous Volcanic (Smith Rock, Owens River Gorge)				

DO:

- ✓ Use stainless steel or titanium in highly corrosive (coastal) environments.
- ✓ Remove and reuse the old bolt hole when possible.
- ✓ Camouflage bolt hangers to minimize visual impact.
- ✓ Learn from an expert and seek guidance from locals and land managers first.

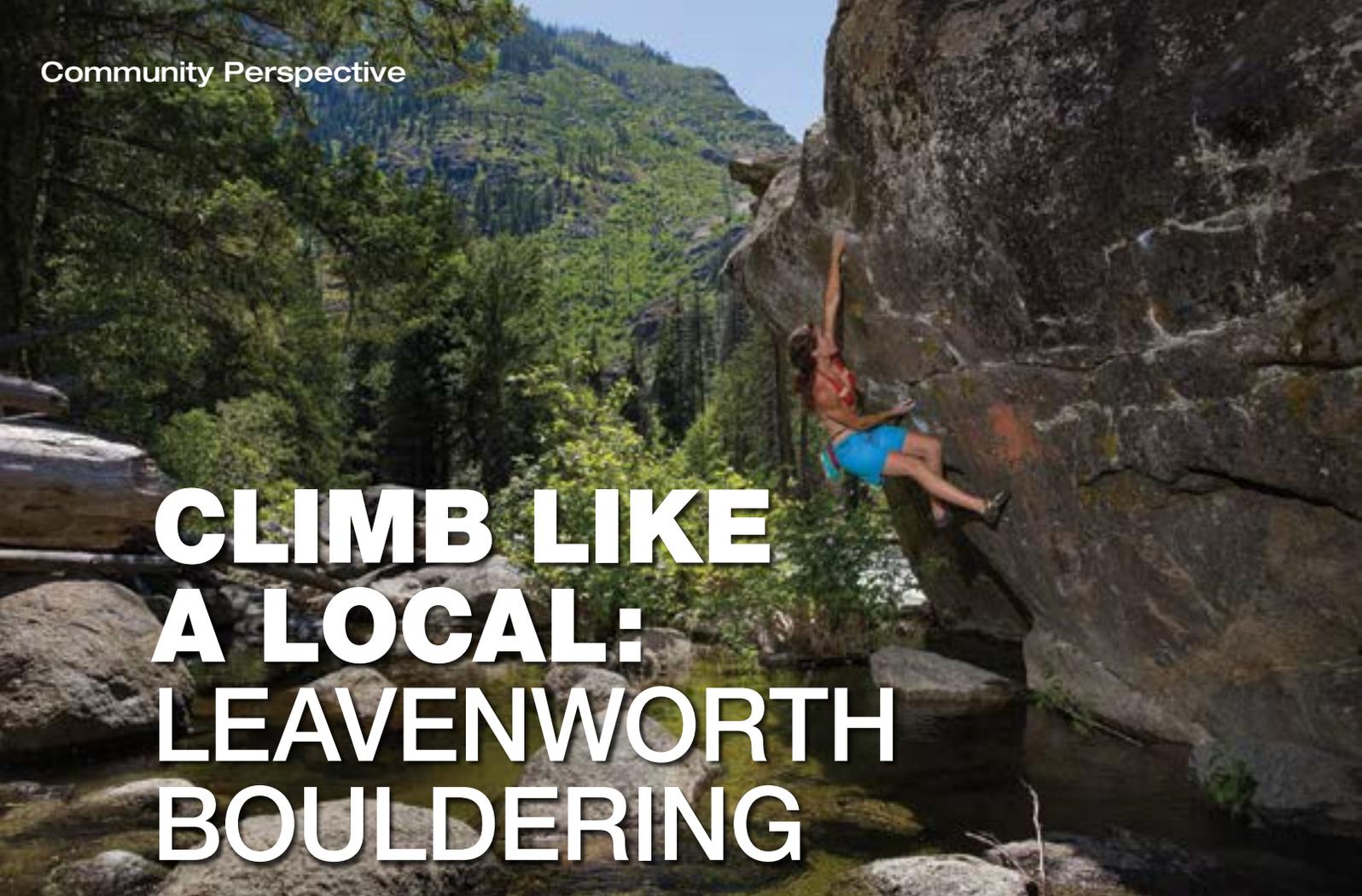
DON'T:

- ✗ Use plated steel or anything nonstainless.
- ✗ Mix metals—never put stainless steel with plated; you're creating a ticking time bomb that could kill someone.
- ✗ Use cold shuts.
- ✗ Fix brightly colored webbing or hardware.

- Not a good choice
- Okay, but better options likely
- Great choice

* Challenging and involved, to say the least. No tried-and-true method.

** Removing a wedge bolt without a power drill can be very difficult, so not an ideal option for "like for like" replacement in wilderness.

A photograph of a person climbing a large, dark rock boulder in a forested area. The climber is wearing a red top and blue shorts. The background shows a lush green forest and a mountain range under a clear blue sky.

CLIMB LIKE A LOCAL: LEAVENWORTH BOULDERING

The faux Bavarian town of Leavenworth, WA, sees a seasonal flock of boulderers descend every spring. And with good reason. When the snow melts, cool, sunny conditions mean tacky granite boulders for all. Hone your foot technique and be ready to go from gnarly crimps to slopers without warning.

THE VIBE: Leavenworth is ground zero for Northwest bouldering and mountain adventures of every kind. Join the ranks of local boulderers, and you'll find yourself in the company of teachers and nurses, wine makers and architects, pro climbers and dirt bags. They are all psyched and ready to cheer on anyone who steps up to the plate.

AVOID THE CROWDS: If a bounty of pre-placed crash pads, spotters, and free beta isn't your jam, avoid the ultra-popular Forestland and Mad Meadows in Icicle Canyon, as well as the Swiftwater Picnic Area in Tumwater Canyon. You don't have to try hard to find solitude ... pick up a copy of Kelly Sheridan's *Leavenworth Bouldering* and check out Fern Gully, The Airfield, Mitchell Flats, or the bouldering areas along Mountain Home Road.

LOCAL PET PEEVES: No one wants to see your micro-trash (orange peels, corners of your bar wrappers, tiny bits of tape) or tick marks out here. Keep it beautiful, be nice, and leave the yelling and music at home.

WATCH OUT! While not every plant or animal is out to get you here, watch out for the occasional rattlesnake, poison ivy, and spring ticks. If you have any doubt, don't play lumberjack, and leave the flora alone.

WHO'S GOT YOUR BACK: Leavenworth Mountain Association represents the climbing community in Leavenworth, and Washington Climbers Coalition is there to support.

PRO TIP: The air here is humid, and locals swear by liquid chalk for those hot summer months. If you don't want to spend the money, get a small spray bottle of rubbing alcohol to douse your tips, air dry, and then apply your chalk. Voila! You'll gain a little more holding time on those greasy crimps that may be just enough for your send.
— Jessica Campbell, local pro ■

SHARING the CLIFFS with RAPTORS

Raptors are most vulnerable during reproductive season and are easily stressed when humans are near their nests. Climbers can help protect raptors by knowing some basic facts about the nesting season and respecting closures.

Late Winter

Raptor pairs set up breeding territory, nest site, and mate.



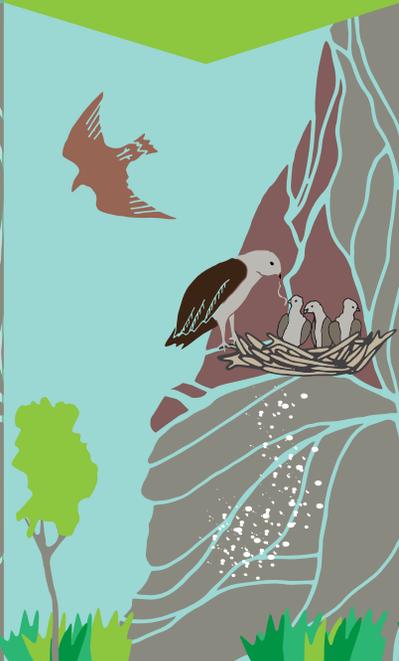
Early Spring

Both adults incubate the eggs, which takes 30+ days.



Late Spring

Adults protect and feed chicks, who can take 6-7 weeks to learn to fly.



Summer

Chicks learn to fly on their own, but adults still supply food.



! If disturbed, raptors may not select a breeding site.

! If disturbed, adults may leave the nest and eggs are vulnerable to exposure and predators

! If disturbed, adults are forced to defend their nests and could provide young with less food. Stressed chicks may force fledge.

! Disturbance sensitivity is decreasing. Chicks are less and less dependent on nest site.

*Climbing can resume after chicks have successfully fledged. Specific breeding dates vary by species and by region. Check with land managers in your area for regional closures.



Protect America's Climbing





PROTECTED FOREVER ?

Is it still safe to entrust federal agencies with our climbing areas?

BY LAURA SNIDER

In 1986, after decades of use, climbers lost access to Peshastin Pinnacles, a collection of tilted sandstone slabs that cut a silhouette in the Washington State sky. The newly formed Access Fund, then still a committee of the American Alpine Club, stepped up to help purchase the property and sell it to the state park system.

Since that first acquisition more than 25 years ago, Access Fund has gone on to assist with the purchase of 63 properties, and like the Peshastin Pinnacles, most have been transferred to other entities for their long-term management. Mount Yonah in Georgia was transferred to the U.S. Forest Service after its purchase in 1997, for example, and Colorado's Shelf Road went to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Baldy Mountain in Oklahoma went to Quartz Mountain State Park, and Castle Rock Ranch went to Idaho Parks and Recreation.

The agencies and organizations that now manage these climbing areas are as diverse as the areas themselves, but they have something in common. They were the best option for ensuring that these lands remain open to climbing in perpetuity.

Today, however, public lands are increasingly under attack, and repeated efforts to diminish, transfer, or sell them off have led to a difficult question: When deciding the best long-term landowner, are public agencies, especially federal ones, still a safe bet?

It depends.

That's the view from Access Fund Executive Director Brady Robinson and his staff. Every property is unique, and every situation is different, which means that with each new acquisition, Access Fund can spend months—even

years—working with partners to determine the best long-term management strategy. Efforts in Congress to dispose of public lands or weaken their protection must now enter into that decision-making process. In some cases, this new factor could tip the scales, leading Access Fund to transfer the land to a newly formed local climbing organization rather than the BLM, for example. But in other cases, the best option for a transfer may still be a federal agency.

“We are trying to preserve climbing access to these places not just for this generation but for centuries. We take that job very seriously,” says Access Director Joe Sambataro. “We have to evaluate all the risks and make the best judgment call.”

FROM HOLDING TO TRANSFERRING

When it comes to buying privately owned climbing areas, Access Fund prefers to empower local organizations to protect these areas. But when no such organization exists, or when imminent threats require quick action or greater resources, Access Fund is able to step in and purchase the land. The ultimate goal, however, remains transferring the land to a climbing-friendly owner.

It’s not that Access Fund, a nationally accredited land trust, can’t manage the land; it has, and it does. But the essential truth is that managing land can be very, very hard, and resources that the organization puts toward long-term management are resources no longer available to support the fund’s primary mission to nimbly and quickly respond to imminent access and conservation threats.

“Land management is a full-time job—it’s a lot of time and a lot of money,” says Access Fund Northeast Regional Director Mike Morin. “There’s always unforeseen issues that have to be dealt with.”

At the Golden Cliffs outside Golden, Colorado—an area that Access Fund owned and managed for 20 years—those unforeseen issues ran the gamut from vandalism in the bathroom to illegal dumping and invasive species control.

“Even at a small and relatively innocuous property just down the road, we encountered a lot of management challenges,” Robinson says. “We began to realize that the strategy of owning and managing the land ourselves was not scalable.”

In 2014, Access Fund donated the Golden Cliffs to the owner of the adjacent cliff line, Jefferson County Open Space. The property was turned over with a reversionary deed specifying that the property could never be closed to climbing for unreasonable reasons or the ownership would revert to Access Fund.

“Transferring the property to Jefferson County allowed for consistent management of the entire mesa,” says Morin, who worked at Jefferson County at the time of the transfer. “Seamless property ownership makes for a better visitor experience because the expectations and rules are clear.”

EVALUATING ALL THE SCENARIOS

Who the adjacent landowners are is a primary consideration for Access Fund when thinking about the options for final ownership of an acquired property. And because more than 60 percent of American climbing areas are on federally managed public lands, agencies like the BLM, Park Service, and Forest Service will often be serious contenders.

In New Hampshire, for example, the majority of the Rumney climbing area is in the White Mountain National Forest, which has a long history of collaboration with Access Fund and local climbers. Access Fund has twice helped the Rumney Climbing Association purchase some of the few remaining private parcels in the area. Both times, the quality of the relationship with the local ranger district—and the fact that an official climbing management plan is on the books—made the White Mountain National Forest the clear choice for long-term owner.

But transferring ownership to the agency that owns the adjacent land isn’t always such a no-brainer. When Access Fund acquired the Holy Boulders in Illinois in 2012, the Forest Service, which owned the surrounding land, seemed like the obvious choice. But concerns arose about the Forest Service’s many management priorities. While recreation is certainly important, it may not always be priority number one. Ultimately, Access Fund chose to transfer the property to the Illinois Climbers Association.

“Would it be best to hand over lands to a local climbing organization? Would it be best to hand over lands to a municipal or state government or the federal government?” asks Access Fund Policy Director Erik Murdock. “It’s our job to make sure we evaluate every one of those scenarios as thoroughly as we can.”

BALANCING THE PROS AND CONS

Each possible outcome has pros and cons. Local climbing organizations are singular in their dedication to preserve climbing, but taking on the management of a large piece of property is no small task, and the organization needs to be stable and on sound financial footing. Still, determined local climbing organizations have become successful land managers across the country, especially in the Southeast.

“It’s a huge undertaking,” says Access Fund Southeast Regional Director Zachary Lesch-Huie. “The goal is to hold these lands in perpetuity—forever. But management costs also go on forever. Any organization needs to be very clear-eyed about this long-term commitment. They need to have a management plan. They need to have a stewardship fund for the day-to-day expenses and a rainy day fund for the unforeseen ones.”

Now, the cons of handing over land to the federal government clearly include an aggressive agenda by some to sell off federally managed public lands. Consideration of a possible transfer to federal agencies must also include a look at the attitudes of the people chosen to lead land management agencies in the new administration.



Access Fund policy staff suited up and representing climbers’ interests on Capitol Hill.

But important pros still remain. First and foremost, federal agencies have unparalleled experience in managing massive tracts of land across the country for recreational use over many decades. And when a federal agency is considering a change in management strategy for a particular property, the agency is legally required to consider stakeholder input.

“Being included in the conversation is critical,” Murdock says. “If the lands are held by a private entity, we no longer have a right to be a part of that discussion.”

But Murdock says Access Fund needs to see more than a good track record of land management and the promise of a seat at the table to decide that a federal agency should become the owner of an acquired climbing area.

“We want to know: Are they willing to draft a recreation management plan for that area that includes climbing?” Murdock says. “And we want that assurance to be more than verbal. We want documentation that’s defensible in court.”

RISK AND REWARD

Asking other key questions, according to Murdock, can help us better assess the risks. For example, do the climbing lands we’ve acquired have the same attributes or resources that Congress is targeting for transfer or sell-off? Are there resources on or under the land that could be attractive to commercial interests?

The risk can also change depending on the politics of the state where the land is located. Recent attacks on federal lands were developed by lawmakers who represent more conservative states with vast amounts of public lands, including Utah, Arizona, Idaho, South Dakota, and Alaska, which could make transfers of climbing areas to those states more risky.

And finally, the past relationship between a particular land agency field office and climbers—whether it’s been adversarial or collaborative—can be a critical factor in determining the risk of a land transfer.

These are the kinds of things now being considered with regard to the 360-acre Homestead property owned by Access Fund in Arizona. The bulk of the area’s limestone sport climbing is on BLM land, but Access Fund, with the support of several local climbing organizations, was able to purchase part of the road in, approach trail, and cliffs in 2015. The properties are surrounded by BLM land, which initially made that agency the logical long-term landowner. But it’s less clear now because federal lands in Arizona, and BLM lands in general, have been specifically targeted by public land attacks.

While the calculus for how best to protect an individual climbing area like the Homestead is always evolving, one thing has not changed, according to Sambataro: Access Fund’s unwavering commitment to preserving climbing.

“Administrations and priorities change; it’s impossible to say what political winds are on their way in the future,” Robinson says. “But Access Fund has been through many different administrations—Democrat and Republican—and we will be around for many more, continuing to do what we do best: protecting climbing access.” ■

Access to the Motherlode **IS SECURED!**



The Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition (RRGCC) and Access Fund, with assistance from Trango Climbing Gear, are thrilled to announce the purchase of the Bald Rock Recreational Preserve in the Red River Gorge of Kentucky. This 102-acre acquisition secures access to a popular set of world-renowned climbing areas—including the Motherlode, the Chocolate Factory, the Bear's Den, and the Unlode.

In early July, the private landowners (who allowed climbing access historically) decided to sell the property, putting access to the Motherlode and surrounding crags at risk of indefinite closure. Access Fund provided RRGCC with a loan of \$225,000 to cover the majority of the \$235,000 purchase price, allowing them to purchase the property and secure access to 226 routes ranging from 5.2 to 5.14c. While access is secured, the RRGCC needs the climbing community's help to ensure it stays in climber-friendly hands forever. Please consider donating at www.rrgcc.org/brrp. ■



Access Fund is honored to present the 2016 Sharp End Awards to volunteers and activists who stand out in their commitment to the American climbing community.

GREG BARNES
Menocal Lifetime Achievement Award



Access Fund is honored to present Greg Barnes with a Menocal Lifetime Achievement Award. Greg's singular focus on fixed anchor education and replacement has made our climbing areas safer and more sustainable. Greg is the longtime director of the American Safe Climbing Association (ASCA), a national organization that has provided—at no cost—new bolts and hardware to hundreds of local climbing organizations and volunteers across the country. Greg developed some of the first and most enduring best practices for rebolting and fixed anchors and continues to be a leader in the field, presenting at Access Fund's Future of Fixed Anchors conferences and serving on our Anchor Replacement Fund grant committee. Greg has personally replaced many thousands of bolts in California, Nevada, and beyond.

IAN CALDWELL
Bebie Leadership Award

Access Fund is proud to present Ian Caldwell with a Bebie Leadership Award for his incredible dedication to Smith Rock, one of America's most iconic climbing areas. Ian has played a central role in the Smith Rock Group since 2003, coordinating the annual Spring Thing climbing stewardship event, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Ian also replaces bolts and anchors at Smith and volunteers for the Deschutes County rescue team. Decades ago, Ian was an Access Fund regional coordinator and served as president of the Madrone Wall Preservation Committee. Ian has also worked to protect climbing areas across the Northwest and played a lead role in the 2016 Northwest Sustainable Climbing Conference. Congratulations, Ian, and thank you for your outstanding leadership.



ROGER BRIGGS
Sharp End Award

Access Fund is pleased to present Roger Briggs with a Sharp End Award for his work to protect Colorado's Front Range climbing areas. Roger founded the Boulder Climbing Community organization in 2012 and spearheaded the Front Range Climbing Stewards, a locally based climbing access trail crew, in partnership with Access Fund.



A Boulder original, Roger has dedicated his life to climbing in the Front Range, working tirelessly to promote stewardship and responsible use.

THE KEITHLEY FAMILY
Sharp End Award

Access Fund is excited to present the Keithley family with a Sharp End Award for their outstanding commitment to climbing area stewardship. Jimmy, Melissa, Zoe, and Noah bring a level of enthusiasm and commitment to climbing area stewardship that is impossible to overlook. As parents, Jimmy and Melissa strive to instill a strong stewardship ethic in their children, combining fun family climbing trips with stewardship work at the climbing areas they visit. Zoe and Noah now provide a positive example to their peers of what it means to be a climbing steward. Jimmy is also a board member of the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance and chair of the Wasatch Anchor Replacement Committee. Thank you, Keithley family, for making climbing stewardship a family value!



EVE TALLMAN
Sharp End Award

Access Fund is honored to present Eve Tallman with a Sharp End Award for her decades of work with



Western Colorado Climbers' Coalition (WCCC) and her instrumental role in protecting Unaweep Canyon. In 2008, Eve helped secure Upper Mother's Buttress, and in 2014, she expanded climbing access by securing the threatened Lower Mother's Buttress and Television Wall. Without her behind-the-scenes organizing, grant applications, and on-the-ground stewardship, WCCC and Access Fund would not be able to celebrate a long legacy of conservation and climbing access in Unaweep Canyon. Thank you, Eve, for your contributions to Western Colorado and beyond.

CHRIS IRWIN
Sharp End Award

Access Fund is honored to present Chris Irwin with a Sharp End Award for his deep commitment to stewarding and protecting Mid-Atlantic climbing areas. Longtime board member and current president of Mid-Atlantic Climbers (MAC), Chris has been instrumental to MAC's stewardship projects at areas like Great Falls, Carderock, Shenendoah, Coopersrock, Northwest Branch, and many more. More recently, Chris worked with Access Fund and other MAC board directors to officially open Catoctin Mountain Park to bouldering.



BEN BRUESTLE
Sharp End Award

Access Fund is proud to present Ben Bruestle with a Sharp End Award for his leadership of Southern Colorado Climbing Resource and Advocacy Group (SoCo CRAG) and his work to preserve and protect climbing areas in Southern Colorado. Ben has been instrumental in orchestrating Adopt a Crag stewardship events and



climbing days at multiple sites, making strong inroads with a host of local land managers. Ben also dedicates countless hours to replacing worn, aging anchors and bolts in the Wet Mountains.

ROGER VAN DAMME
Sharp End Award

Access Fund is proud to present Roger Van Damme with a Sharp End Award for his outstanding leadership as Chairman of the Friends of Muir Valley. Roger has carried on Rick and Liz Weber's vision for stewardship and conservation of the Muir Valley climbing area in the Red River Gorge of Kentucky. Roger grew and strengthened the Friends of Muir Valley organization so significantly that the Webers decided to transfer Muir Valley to the organization in March 2015. This was a milestone in Red River Gorge climbing conservation. Roger improved day-to-day management at Muir, hiring support staff and instituting a successful parking donation system. With sincerity, humor, and an incredible work ethic, Roger inspires hundreds of Muir Valley stewards and volunteers.



GUS FONTENOT
Sharp End Award

Access Fund is honored to present Gus Fontenot with a Sharp End Award for his decades of service to Southeastern Climbers Coalition (SCC). An Alabama attorney, Gus has provided hundreds of hours of legal service to support SCC's work in Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee. He has played a critical role in all of SCC's climbing area acquisition projects, and he organized the SCC Land Trust. Climbers can enjoy areas like Boat



Rock, Steele, King's Bluff, Hospital Boulders, Castle Rock, Jamestown, Denny Cove, and more thanks to Gus' generous contributions.

JACK SANTO
Sharp End Award

Access Fund is proud to present Jack Santo with a Sharp End Award for his leadership of Ohio Climbers Coalition (OCC). Jack founded OCC and immediately set in motion advocacy and stewardship campaigns for Ohio climbing areas like Cleveland Metro Parks and Cuyahoga. Over the past year, he has spearheaded a partnership with county parks to open Mad River Gorge, Ohio's largest climbing area. Jack is planning a large-scale Adopt a Crag event this May in preparation for the gorge's grand opening. Jack recently relocated to the Pacific Northwest but is staying deeply involved with OCC.



OUTDOOR RESEARCH
Sharp End Award



We are proud to present Outdoor Research (OR) with a Sharp End Award for its long-standing support and dedication to the protection of America's climbing areas. OR's leadership in helping launch the Climbing Conservation Loan Program in 2009 was a pivotal moment in the history of climbing conservation, making possible the purchase of 24 climbing areas. Outdoor Research also collects pro-purchase donations to support the protection of America's climbing resources. ■

Corporate Partners

By sharing more than three-quarters of its annual profits with the outdoor community, REI sets a high bar in its support of conservation and access to our wild places. As a sponsor of the Access Fund—Jeep Conservation Team and the Adopt a Crag program, REI supports the stewardship of hundreds of climbing areas across the country each year. Access Fund would like to thank REI for being a dedicated ally in conservation.



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 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

TITANIUM - \$50,000+

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

DIAMOND PLUS - \$40,000+

Outdoor Research
Patagonia

DIAMOND - \$25,000+

The North Face
Touchstone Climbing, Inc.

PLATINUM PLUS - \$15,000+

Archer Law Offices, P.C.
Petzl
Planet Granite

PLATINUM - \$10,000+

Earth Treks Climbing Centers
Google
Jason Keith Consulting
La Sportiva
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Sea to Summit
SCARPA North America
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Boulderdash Indoor Rock Climbing
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Voltaic Systems

CONTRIBUTING - \$500+

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Doylestown Rock Gym
Duct Tape Then Beer
Golden Mountain Guides
Green Peak Promotions
Level 8 Sales
Macpherson and Associates Inc.
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MyClimb App
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Sublime Climbing
The Mountain Hideaway
Tom K. Michael D.D.S., P.S.
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Vertex Climbing Center
West Arete
Zeal Optics

SUPPORTING - \$250+

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Bliss Bouldering and Climbing Complex
Bookyourdata.com
CamelBak Products
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California Climber
Climbing Magazine
Dead Point Magazine
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Schoeller
The Climbing Zine
Wolverine Publishing



Clockwise: Heather Weidner on Sissy Traverse at The Gallery in Red Rock, Nevada | Jake Novotny on Cookie Burger at Lincoln Lake, Colorado | Katha Saurwein on Wheel of Chaos in Upper Chaos Canyon, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado | Jon Glassberg LT11

Jon Glassberg

Jon Glassberg owns Louder Than Eleven (LT11), an adventure media house based in Boulder, Colorado. He produces captivating film and photo content in challenging environments around the world. Jon thrives on telling stories that speak to the core of the outdoor community by capturing the raw passion of people doing what they love. He is a climber first, a photographer second, and he loves using climbing as a way to get shots most people can't. Learn more about Louder Than Eleven and Jon's work at www.LT11.com. ■



Protect America's Climbing

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PO Box 17010
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THREE CONSERVATION TEAMS!

We're excited to announce that we have three full-time traveling Conservation Teams on the road this year to steward climbing areas across the U.S. We will dedicate one team to the eastern half of the country and another to the western half, and the third team will focus on community outreach and education and tackle shorter-term projects nationwide. The generous support of title sponsor Jeep brand and supporting sponsors REI, CLIF Bar, Therm-a-Rest, La Sportiva, and Yakima allows us to cover more ground, do more work, and touch even more communities. ■

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