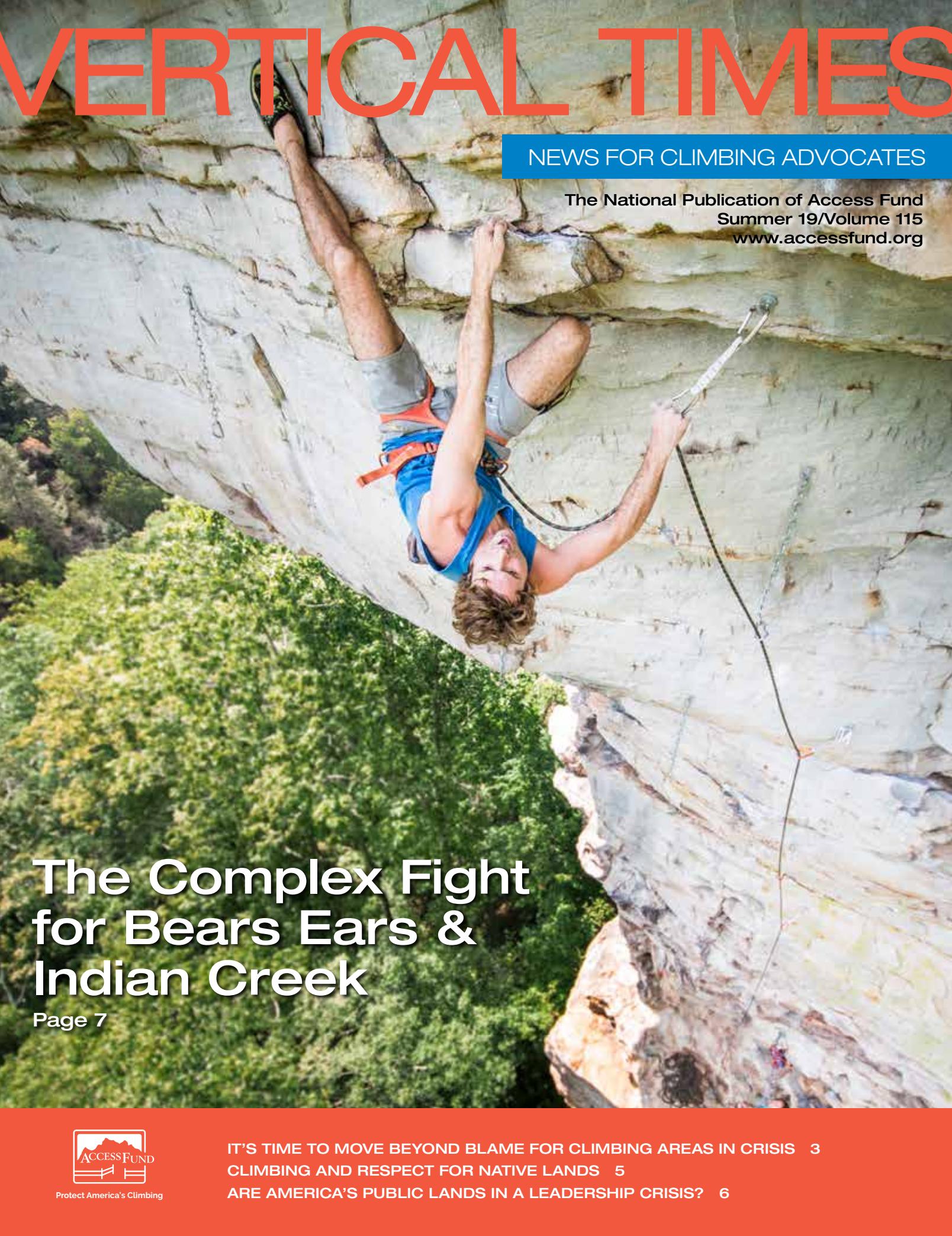


# VERTICAL TIMES



NEWS FOR CLIMBING ADVOCATES

The National Publication of Access Fund

Summer 19/Volume 115

[www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org)

## The Complex Fight for Bears Ears & Indian Creek

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Protect America's Climbing

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**A**s I've traveled the country the last several months, talking to climbers from coast to coast, I keep hearing the same concerns: The sport is growing so quickly. Our crags are deteriorating and crumbling before our very eyes. Our public lands are under constant political attack. What does the future hold? As climbers, we naturally want to take action and solve problems.

We hear you. And Access Fund is working every day on tangible, measurable solutions. The work isn't easy. It takes time, and we have to take the long view.

As we look to the future, stewardship of our beloved climbing areas must continue to be a priority. With your help, we can expand this work and stay in front of the growth in climbing. You can help by volunteering at a local Adopt a Crag event, getting involved with your local climbing organization, or reaching out to local land managers and thanking them for their public service before offering to partner on a stewardship project. It works!

While stewardship work unfolds on the ground, leaving behind visible proof of our impact, policy and advocacy work can take years and feel far removed from the crag. But our work in Washington, D.C., representing climbers in the hallowed halls of Congress, is absolutely critical. Climbers need a voice in our nation's capital, working to protect and conserve the public lands we love. Access Fund is honored to have filled that need for almost 30 years, and we continue to focus on bringing home tangible wins for the climbing community. Hundreds of thousands of hours of work go into protecting climbing on our public lands. It is a long game, filled with bureaucratic roadblocks, but Access Fund is committed to this work for the long haul. Our public policy program is constantly humming to protect climbing on public lands and promote outdoor recreation.

In this issue of *Vertical Times*, you'll learn about many of the issues facing our public lands today. The current administration is barreling full steam ahead with its energy dominance agenda, undermining public participation and government transparency at every opportunity. The administration has also failed to appoint permanent leaders to many of the top positions in our land management agencies, sidestepping the democratic system of checks and balances that ensure our public lands are not being used for political gain. Land management agencies are starved for resources they desperately need to protect and manage our public lands. And the fight for Bears Ears is far from over. We are digging in for many more years of advocacy, in partnership with Native American tribes, to protect this irreplaceable national treasure.

As we head into election season and look ahead to 2020, our voices are critically important in the fight to protect our public lands. We must stand up for outdoor recreation, and we must fight to protect the places we love, or risk losing them forever. In the coming months we will be calling on the climbing community for support, and we hope that you will chip in and join the fight to protect our public lands—home to 60% of climbing in this country.



A handwritten signature of the name "Chris" in cursive script.

Chris Winter  
Access Fund Executive Director



### Become a Legacy Donor

Some of us may never develop a climbing route, put up a first ascent, write a guidebook, or climb 5.15. But there are other ways to contribute to the story of climbing in America. Making a planned gift to Access Fund is an easy way to establish your own legacy of climbing conservation, and give back to the climbing experience. Planned giving is not just for the wealthy or financial planning experts. Learn more at [www.accessfund.org/plannedgift](http://www.accessfund.org/plannedgift)

# It's Time to **MOVE BEYOND BLAME** for Climbing Areas in Crisis

Access Fund has been calling attention to the crisis facing many of our climbing areas around the country. As climbing bursts onto the national stage, the once small, tight-knit climbing community has suddenly exploded in size. With so many people heading out to the crags, these sensitive environments are starting to crumble under the mounting weight of our collective use.

Confronted with the reality of what's happening, it's natural to lament years gone by and hold tightly to what we know. In many cases, it's impossible to ignore the stark contrast between the solitude we used

to experience at the wall to getting shut out if you don't park your car by 8 a.m. It's also natural to want to blame someone or something for the challenges we're facing—whether it's all those new climbers, or the national media, the gyms, pro climbers, their sponsors. We live in a target-rich environment. But, to what end?

Think about that feeling of frustration after getting shut down by a hard project. A lot of times we'll sit at the base of the route, pissed off at the developer for the shoddy bolting job, cursing the weather conditions or the over-polished holds. Maybe we blame our partner for a crappy belay or all the other people at the crag messing with our chi. Or maybe it's mom's fault for our second-rate gene pool.

It's cathartic to vent, but none of it helps us send the route. But if we step away, refocus, and come back with an awareness of our own experiences, we can turn that blame into intentional action and find that elusive focus and power for the send.

Access Fund is calling on the community to do just that—to step away for a moment and refocus.

Despite all the challenges, we do have the power to control the outcome and turn things around. The simple fact is that our climbing infrastructure has not kept up with the popularity of our sport. Even the most responsible use of our climbing areas isn't

sustainable without proper recreation infrastructure to concentrate and mitigate our impacts while protecting the surrounding environment.

As a community, we have to figure out what comes next. We can't afford to throw up our hands in disgust and storm out of the room. We must renew our commitment to the places and the community we love, stop pointing fingers, and plan for the future we want. It's pretty darn cool to see so many people from different backgrounds and experiences get turned onto climbing. Yes, our community is growing, but we can still hold onto the sense of community and the intangibles that make climbing so special.

Right now, all around the country, an army of true heroes are working day

***Access Fund is calling  
on the community to  
step away for a moment  
and refocus.***



Photo courtesy of @asianboulderingcrew

in and day out to restore our local crags and climbing areas. Last year alone, Access Fund supported over 370 Adopt a Crag stewardship events, where volunteers invested more than 65,000 hours of time to steward our climbing areas. At Access Fund, we are investing over \$1 million a year to restore our climbing areas, and land managers are taking notice.

To create the future we want to see for climbing, we have to move past blame and unite as advocates for our climbing landscapes. It will take all of us coming together to overcome the challenges our crags and boulder fields are facing. We are climbers—and we don't quit. We start with the first move, and we take it from there. ■



# CLIMBING ADVOCACY IN THE LONE STAR STATE

**I**t's common knowledge that Texas is big; perhaps less well known is the fact that the state's climbing opportunities measure up to its size. Scattered among the cattle, rattlesnakes, and vast plains is rock, and lots of it. But there's a catch—95% of Texas is privately owned.

With so little public land in the state, climbing opportunities have historically been limited. Exacerbating this challenge has been the chronic underfunding of Texas state parks, which host world-class climbing areas like Hueco Tanks. The lack of money to properly manage public lands in Texas has led to closures when staff can't keep up with the needs of their parks.

To make matters even more difficult for Texas climbers, the state's recreational use statute—which protects landowners from liability associated with the public recreating on their land—has historically not included climbing, making landowners extremely wary of allowing climbing on their properties. This effectively kept the vast potential for climbing resources on private land untapped.

In 2017, Access Fund decided it was time to invest in Texas climbing and hired its first Texas regional director. Since then, we've had striking success in advocating for climbing in the state, scoring several major wins that advance Texas climbing.

After more than 20 years without legal public access, Medicine Wall in San Antonio will soon open to the public. Access Fund assisted the Texas Climbers Coalition in

acquiring Medicine Wall from a private landowner, and the acquisition highlights the potential for securing climbing on private property in the state.

At the state level, landowners now have liability protections when opening their properties to climbing. Access Fund invested heavily in lobbying for a bill that adds liability protections for private and public landowners who open up for recreational climbing. Access Fund began this effort in 2016 as a way to expand climbing opportunities in the state, and in June 2019, Governor Greg Abbott signed the “rock climbing bill,” which went into immediate effect.

Our ongoing campaign to adequately fund Texas state parks is also looking promising. Access Fund joined a coalition of conservation and recreation groups to lobby for a constitutional amendment that would fully fund Texas state parks. Earlier this year, the proposed amendment passed the Texas House and Senate almost unanimously and will now go before the voters of Texas in November. It is estimated that 70% of Texas voters would approve the constitutional amendment, thereby making the future of Texas state parks a little more secure.

This is just the beginning of Access Fund's work in the Lone Star State, and in the coming years we intend to continue to push for access to the outstanding climbing resources all across Texas. ■

# Climbing and Respect for Native Lands

Every climbing area in America was at one time within the territory of indigenous people, and in many cases modern tribes still hold a connection to the same crags that are so important to climbers today. Areas like Bear Lodge (Devils Tower) in Wyoming, Bears Ears in Utah, Rumney in New Hampshire, and the Red River Gorge in Kentucky were and still are vital cultural and sacred sites for many tribes.

Considering the extensive overlap of places that are treasured by both climbers and indigenous communities, and the history of violence, removal, and disconnection that has given climbers (and many other non-native parties) access to these lands in the first place, it seems both right and crucial that climbers engage with tribes and the land with a high level of respect and recognition. When climbers take the time to work with tribes as partners in fair and equitable ways, our work at Access Fund tends to be far more successful.

So, what can we, as climbers, do to acknowledge the indigenous history of the land?

- Educate yourself.** The climbing experience is an amazingly rich one, which is made more so by understanding the human history of the places we climb. Do some research on the indigenous history of your favorite climbing areas, and the next time you're on the approach to your local crag, take a moment to imagine and acknowledge what this place has meant to the hundreds of generations of people who came before us, and what it continues to mean to those who are still there.



Photo courtesy of © Jon Glassberg. Devils Tower is located on Lakota/Sioux, Cheyenne, Crow, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, Kiowa, Shoshone, and Arapahoe territories.

- Give acknowledgment.** Next time you post a climbing picture on Instagram or upload a new YouTube video, consider adding an acknowledgment of the tribal history of the land to your post. A land acknowledgment is a simple publicly stated recognition of the current and historic presence of an indigenous tribe or tribes on a landscape. Land acknowledgments work to reverse the slow erasure of the indigenous link to the land, a trend that is perpetuated by both intentional policies (like forced removals) and by the process of resettlement, where the passage of time and the presence of new communities have given the false impression that the land was unoccupied in the past.

- Respect cultural sites.** Crags across the country are rich with indigenous cultural history, from bedrock mortars, to home sites, to petroglyphs. Appreciate these special sites, but never disturb them.

- Respect and support tribes.** Never climb on landscapes that have been put off limits by tribal governments. Respect the June voluntary closure on Bear Lodge/Devils Tower. And look for ways to support work at the intersection of conservation, recreation, and tribal rights, such as the advocacy being done by organizations like the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. ■

*This piece was developed with assistance from Dr. Len Necefer of NativesOutdoors and Jolie Varela of Indigenous Women Hike.*

# Are America's Public Lands in a Leadership Crisis?

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) has jurisdiction over about 75% of America's public lands—including the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management—yet top positions at the largest public land agencies have remained vacant since President Trump took office.

Nearly 60% of the critical leadership positions at DOI are still filled by “acting administrators,” including deputy secretary of the Interior, National Park Service director, and Bureau of Land Management director. These key leadership positions are supposed to be appointed by the president and confirmed by the elected members of the U.S. Senate, providing critical checks and balances that ensure America's public lands are being managed responsibly and not being used for political gain. However, DOI has the highest level of vacancies (compared to other departments), and one has to wonder why.

“Deferring top leadership positions to individuals in an acting capacity harms our constitutional system of checks and balances by removing the Senate's ability to properly vet and confirm official nominees,” said U.S. Representative Raul Grijalva, chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, in a letter to President Trump.

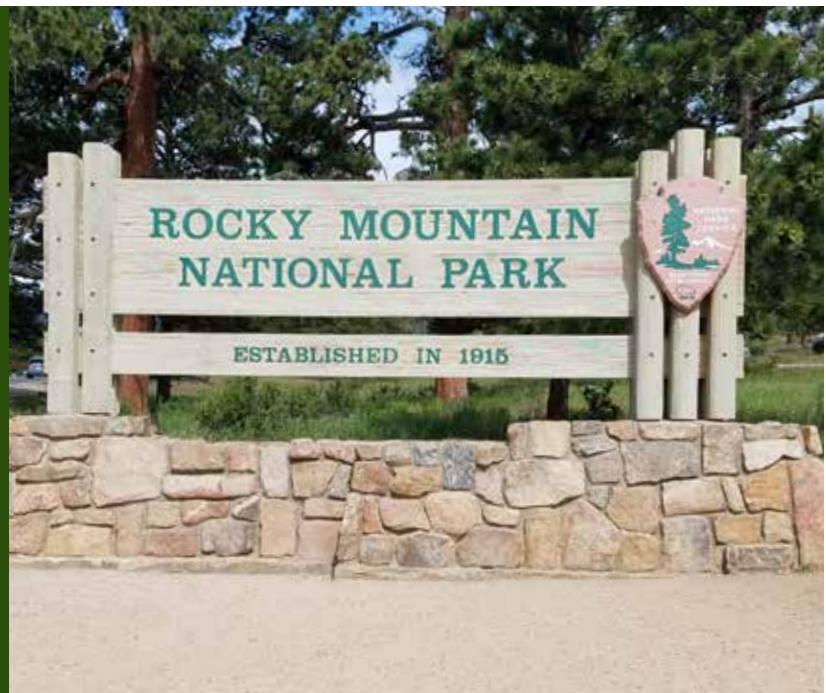
## HOW LEADERSHIP VACANCIES AFFECT CLIMBING

These widespread DOI vacancies are slowing down the already slow decision-making processes that determine how our public lands are managed. For example, National Park Service administrators tell Access Fund that the high attrition rate of acting officials at the leadership level has slowed its ability to provide clearer guidelines on climbing in designated Wilderness areas (Director's Order #41). Access Fund has been pushing for clearer guidelines on NPS Wilderness climbing management after several parks misinterpreted the original 2013 policy, leading to unjustified Wilderness climbing restrictions.

Some argue that these vacancies are intentional—a way of sidestepping America's democratic system of checks and balances in order to control public lands for politically motivated purposes. The current administration has made no secret of its efforts to establish America's energy dominance, at the expense of the integrity of our public lands, and many of DOI's unconfirmed, acting administrators are former advocates for the oil and gas industries.

Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt even amended a Secretarial Order to override the Federal Vacancies Reform Act and allow DOI's unconfirmed administrators to continue in their “acting” roles. The Federal Vacancies Reform Act states that individuals are only allowed to serve in an acting capacity for a limited period of time.

These acting administrators have not been approved by the U.S. Senate, yet they are making key decisions that will affect our country and planet for generations. Access Fund hopes to see Senate-approved officials leading our national land management agencies soon, but we are not holding our breath. We'll continue to monitor the situation and will keep the climbing community informed. ■





# THE COMPLEX FIGHT FOR BEARS EARS & INDIAN CREEK

**F**ew places encapsulate the power of the land like Bears Ears in Southeast Utah. Vast, full of deep natural beauty, diverse ecological communities, world-class climbing opportunities, and home to millenia-old human history, the Bears Ears region is a unique wonder. Sacred land to the Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, Diné/Navajo, Hopi, Zuni (among many other Pueblo communities), and home to one of the highest concentrations of indigenous archaeological and cultural sites in the nation, Bears Ears is uniquely suited for national monument designation.

The protections afforded by the Obama-era monument proclamation were much-needed safeguards against rampant looting and vandalism of indigenous cultural sites, as well as against unsustainable resource extraction that threatened the ecological integrity and recreational value of the region. Access Fund lobbied hard to get climbing acknowledged in the 2016 monument proclamation—a first-of-its-kind victory that included rock climbing as part of the stated value of a national monument.

However, 85% of this incredible landscape lost its protected monument status when President Trump issued a proclamation to reduce the Bears Ears National Monument boundaries in December of 2017. This move put much of the unparalleled cultural, ecological, and recreational values of the region in peril once again.

Access Fund, and other stakeholders who love this region, have not taken this setback lying down. Shortly after Trump's 2017 reduction, a diverse coalition of stakeholders—including climbers, tribes, conservation groups, and even outdoor companies—mobilized to protect this incredible landscape and get the original monument boundaries reinstated.

Access Fund's fight to protect the Bears Ears region is complex and multilayered—from on-the-ground stewardship work to ensure the long-term sustainability and responsible use of climbing at Indian Creek, all the way to suing the Trump administration to restore the original monument boundaries and protect the integrity of the Antiquities Act, the law that gives presidents the authority to designate National Monuments. We are collaborating with tribes to protect cultural resources and engaging in the Department of the Interior's (premature) monument management process for the remaining 15% of the monument to ensure a fair outcome for climbers. We are also keeping tabs on oil and gas development in the region to prevent overlap with cultural and recreational resources. The following infographic helps illustrate the multifaceted approach to protecting this incredible landscape. ■

# ACCESS FUND'S FIGHT FOR BEARS EARS



IN 2017, TRUMP SLASHED BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT BY 85%, LEAVING THE MAJORITY OF THIS INCREDIBLE LANDSCAPE UNPROTECTED.

## WHAT'S AT STAKE

**1.1 MILLION**  
ACRES NOW OPEN FOR RESOURCE EXTRACTION

~40 CLIMBING AREAS LOSE PROTECTED STATUS

100,000+  
CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

## ON THE GROUND WORK



**CLIMBING STEWARDSHIP:** The Access Fund-Jeep Conservation Team is conducting extensive trail work to make Indian Creek climbing access & use sustainable



**BUILDING ALLIANCES:** We are collaborating with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition to protect cultural resources and traditional values

## LEGAL & POLICY FIGHT



 LAWSUIT TO RESTORE BEARS EARS AND DEFEND ALL NATIONAL MONUMENTS

THE ENTIRE 1.35 MILLION-ACRE MONUMENT NEEDS LANDSCAPE-LEVEL PROTECTIONS.



## BLM'S MANAGEMENT PLAN

ACCESS FUND IS FIGHTING FOR APPROPRIATE PROTECTIONS FOR REMAINING 15% OF MONUMENT.



## RESOURCE EXTRACTION



## CULTURAL RESOURCES



## CLIMBING



**WATCHDOGGING EXTRACTION:** We are evaluating oil and gas leasing and mineral claims and their impact on recreation and cultural resources



# NEW BILL AIMS TO PROTECT OVER 400,000 ACRES OF COLORADO PUBLIC LAND

Some of Colorado's most iconic landscapes are at the center of a new bill making its way through Congress. Introduced by Colorado Congressman Joe Neguse and Senator Michael Bennet, the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act (CORE Act) is an ambitious public lands package that would protect over 400,000 acres of public lands in Colorado, including some exceptional mountain peaks and traverses such as the Ten Mile Traverse near Breckenridge. The House Natural Resources Committee just voted 23-15 in favor of the CORE Act, and it will move forward to the full House for a vote.

The stakeholder-driven CORE Act balances both recreational and conservation interests, and includes land designation protections ranging from Wilderness, to National Recreation Area, to a brand-new National Historic Landscape. This diverse set of landscape designations provides a spectrum of recreation opportunities, ranging from deep backcountry to accessible roadside, while also preserving critical wildlife habitat and ensuring watershed integrity. The needs of climbers, mountain bikers, hunters, farmers, and wildlife are all integrated into the legislation.

The CORE Act would also add a varied set of protective designations to climbing areas across Colorado, from roadside clip-ups in the Camp Hale area to alpine climbing in the Ten Mile and the San Juan ranges.

This public lands package combines three previously introduced bills aiming to protect the San Juan Mountains, the Thompson Divide, the Continental Divide, the proposed Curecanti National Recreation Area (near Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park), and historic Camp Hale, a training ground for the Army's WWII-era 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division.

A new National Historic Landscape designation would set a new precedent for landscape-wide protection based on historical importance. In the case of Camp Hale, many of the climbing, skiing, and mountaineering techniques were developed there for wartime use, helping to define modern American climbing as we know it.

Access Fund has been engaged with the individual bills that make up the CORE Act for years, helping to vet the land designation boundaries, providing letters of support, and participating in public relations events. Access Fund has established a strong relationship with Congressman Neguse, and is actively working with his office to optimize the bill for the climbing community. We will continue to fine-tune the bill over the coming months to ensure that it includes robust protections for iconic landscapes and climbing access. ■



# CLIMBING ADVOCATES CONVENE IN AMERICA'S HEARTLAND

Climbing advocacy is alive and well in America's heartland. This spring, Access Fund convened 90 climbing advocates from across the Midwest—from Ohio to South Dakota—in Devil's Lake, Wisconsin, to learn and sharpen their skills in protecting and opening climbing areas.

"This was Access Fund's largest regional summit ever, and the most comprehensive gathering of Midwestern climbing advocates in history," says Jenna Winkler, Access Fund program associate.

The two-day summit featured workshops on a wide range of topics, from maintaining relationships with public land managers, to rebolting, opening private land, and maximizing effectiveness of local climbing organizations. The second day included hands-on stewardship training at Devil's Lake State Park, showing how to mend worn trails and belay areas and prepare our crags for the influx of climbers to come.

"These summits give climbing advocates an invaluable opportunity to come together and learn from each other's successes and challenges," says Affiliate Director Zachary Lesch-Huie, who leads grassroots organizing for Access Fund. "They also help us stay connected as a strong and growing community of advocates."

The climbing advocacy movement is growing and gaining steam across the country. Access Fund now has over 130 affiliate local climbing organizations, made up of volunteer climbing advocates who want to make a difference in protecting and stewarding their local crags.

"I used to go out to climb and see litter, a bad bolt, or things that I wanted to see improved, and I'd always think: 'Someone should really do something about that,'" says Judith Brown, president of Arkansas Climbers Coalition, who attended the summit. "At some point I had the realization that for climbers, it's all of our responsibility. We can't just keep kicking the can down the road and saying someone else should do this. I should be that someone."

Check out Episode 8 of The Climbing Advocate Podcast for an overview of the summit and interviews with climbing advocates from the region. You can also learn more about the topics presented at the Midwest Climbing Advocacy Summit by reviewing the proceedings and presentation materials available at [www.accessfund.org/2019midwestsummit](http://www.accessfund.org/2019midwestsummit).

Special thanks to our local partner, Wisconsin Climbers Association, for making the summit a success. Also in attendance were Arkansas Climbers Coalition, BETA Fund, Black Hills Climbers Coalition, Duluth Climbers Coalition, Illinois Climbers Association, Iowa Climbers Coalition, Minnesota Climbers Association, Ohio Climbers Coalition, and Upper Peninsula Climbers Coalition. ■

## WANT TO ATTEND A CLIMBING ADVOCACY SUMMIT?

Join us in Seattle, Washington, on October 11 and 12 for our largest climbing advocacy summit of the year! More information is available at [www.accessfund.org/2019AnnualSummit](http://www.accessfund.org/2019AnnualSummit).

# GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

## Stewardship Sweep in Appalachia

Central Appalachia Climbers Coalition (CACC) led a strong spring stewardship season in southwestern Virginia, knocking out two big trail weekends at Breaks Interstate Park and Grayson Highlands State Park. At Breaks, a volunteer crew built new climbing access trails to the popular Pinnacle Overlook area. And at Grayson Highlands, psyched volunteers improved trails at the Hinterland Boulders. CACC continues to lead the way for stewardship, land manager partnerships, and access to Central Appalachia's outstanding climbing resources.



## FRIENDS OF THE LEDGES



## Friends of Ledges Acts Quickly After Bolt Failure

The climbing community received a stark reminder of the critical importance of addressing aging fixed anchors when a climber fell after one of the top bolt hangers snapped while he was top-roping Future Shock at Whitehorse Ledge in New Hampshire. Friends of the Ledges took action immediately to spread the news and replace the highly corroded hardware, which had gone unnoticed and unreported until the incident.

## New Tahoe LCO Rallies Climbing Community

Tahoe Climbing Coalition (TCC) is off to an incredibly strong start after formalizing its partnership with Access Fund in April. This new affiliate LCO hosted an Adopt a Crag in June to clean up the trail at Eagle Lake, removing over 315 pounds of trash! This wildly successful event is just the beginning of TCC's plans to continue stewarding local crags in the Tahoe area.



## LCO 101: INSURANCE

Managing risk is a critical climbing skill and just as applicable when running an LCO. One basic risk management tool is insurance for your organization.

**SHOULD WE CARRY INSURANCE?** Yes. Access Fund recommends insurance as an important risk management tool for nonprofit local climbing organizations.

**GENERAL LIABILITY POLICY.** This ground-level policy protects your LCO from liability arising from property damage or personal injury claims. If your LCO is sued, this policy will defend your organization. A typical policy will provide up to \$1M of coverage per incident or \$2M aggregate and will range in price from \$700 to \$1,000 annually. Depending on the size and complexity of your organization, umbrella coverage and directors' and officers' coverage may be worth considering in addition to a general liability policy.

**EVENTS AND GUIDING.** Some events will already be covered under a general liability policy, but climbing comps, guiding, or events with large numbers of people likely are not. Always double-check with your insurance carrier, and be prepared to purchase a special-event policy or volunteer accident coverage for an extra cost.

**BEYOND INSURANCE.** Insurance should be seen as one layer in your overall risk management strategy, which can also include implementing organizational policies and procedures, posting warning signs, offering safety talks before trail days, requiring waivers, and understanding laws that protect nonprofits and volunteers.

**WHICH INSURANCE PROVIDER?** Access Fund and over 20 LCOs around the country carry insurance through Alliant's Conserve-A-Nation® Program, which offers insurance tailored to conservation nonprofits. They're familiar with Access Fund and LCOs, and their general liability policy covers a variety of activities, including fundraisers, Adopt a Crags, and stewardship events.

**L**a Sportiva has been a longtime supporter of the Access Fund – Jeep Conservation Teams. Based in Italy, with U.S. operations based in Boulder, Colorado, the company focuses on making high-quality footwear and apparel that help you to get outdoors and seek adventure. LaSportiva understands that at the core, companies are responsible for supporting conservation and stewardship of our public lands, and provides significant support for our work preserving America's climbing areas.



**T**hese 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+**

Jeep® Brand/Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, LLC

Omaze

#### **TITANIUM - \$65,000+**

Recreational Equipment, Inc (REI)

#### **DIAMOND PLUS - \$40,000+**

Black Diamond Equipment

Outdoor Research

#### **DIAMOND - \$25,000+**

Archer Law Offices

Clif Bar

EarthTreks/Planet Granite

La Sportiva

The North Face

Touchstone Climbing

Vultaggio Studios

#### **PLATINUM PLUS - \$15,000+**

adidas TERREX

Five Ten

Petzl

Therm-a-Rest

#### **PLATINUM - \$10,000+**

EVO Rock + Fitness

FrictionLabs

Google

Jason Keith Consulting

prAna

The Spot Bouldering Gym

Sterling Rope Company

Yakima

YETI

#### **GOLD PLUS - \$7,500+**

eGrips Climbing Holds

prAna

Stonewear Designs

Tenaya

Trango

#### **GOLD - \$5,000+**

Allez Outdoor

Ascent Studio Climbing & Fitness

Austin Bouldering Project

Avery Brewing Company

Brooklyn Boulders

Louder Than 11  
Metolius  
Mountain Gear  
Olympia Brewing Company  
Osprey  
Seattle Bouldering Project  
Sufferfest Beer Company  
Taxa Outdoors  
Upslope Brewing Company

#### **SILVER - \$2,500+**

ABC Kids Climbing  
AKASO Tech, LLC  
Arcana  
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Avid4 Adventure  
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Emmerson  
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Flash Foxy  
Grimpi  
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Outdoor Retailer  
Pacific Edge Climbing Gym  
Phoenix Rock Gym  
Rock & Ice Magazine  
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SCARPA North America  
Scientia Collective  
Stone Age Climbing Gym  
Stone Gardens  
Topo Designs  
Union Wine  
Variner

#### **MAJOR - \$1,000+**

Alliant  
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Vital Climbing Gym  
The Warrior's Way

#### **CONTRIBUTING - \$500+**

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Hidden Woods Media  
Liberty Mountain Climbing  
MAD ROCK  
Moosejaw  
Mountain Madness  
NOCO Gear  
Onsight Chiropractic of Berkeley  
Positive Impacts - Squeak! Goes Climbing in Yosemite National Park  
Real Athlete Diets  
Renan Ozturk  
Rock Mill Climbing  
RockQuest Climbing Center  
Rockreation  
RoKC  
Sender One  
Slo-Op and The Pad Climbing  
Sophie Binder Designs  
Sportrock Climbing Centers  
Sports Basement  
Tom Michael, D.D.S., P.S.  
Ubergrippen Indoor Climbing Crag  
Vertical World Climbing Gyms

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BigRentz  
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Dealspotr Online Shopping  
Duct Tape Then Beer  
Feronia Hand Cream  
Gearheads  
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goTenna  
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## Featured Artist



Clockwise, from top left: Bradley Webber on Thieves at Foster Falls, Laurel Graefe on Rock Star at Denny Cove, photographer Nathalie DuPre, Amie Bolt on Jungle Jane at The Obed.

## Nathalie DuPre

**C**amera work has been Nathalie's passion and career for many years. A spirited outdoor adventurer, rock climber, backpacker, and former wilderness therapy guide, Nathalie comes alive when spending time with others who push the limits in the outdoors. Capturing the moments of people who play hard in the wild, and the brands that help them do so, comes naturally. Nathalie is a native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and the city's beauty—scenic vistas, mountains, rivers—has played an important role in her love for photography as an art form. To see more of Nathalie's work, visit [nathalieduprephotography.com](http://nathalieduprephotography.com). ■

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#### **ACCESS FUND STAFF**

**Taimur Ahmad**  
*California Policy Assistant & Diversity Fellow*  
taimur@accessfund.org

**Jessica Dauchy**  
*Operations Director*  
jessica@accessfund.org

**Scott Dissel**  
*Development Director*  
scott@accessfund.org

**Heather Distad**  
*Events & Outreach Manager*  
heather@accessfund.org

**Daniel Dunn**  
*Office & Membership Coordinator*  
daniel@accessfund.org

**Jordan Fisher**  
*Membership Director*  
jordan@accessfund.org

**Michael Fitzgerald**  
*Corporate Partnerships Manager*  
mfitzgerald@accessfund.org

**Annie Friesen**  
*Conservation Specialist*  
cteast@accessfund.org

**Karan Goldsberry**  
*Technology Strategist*  
karan@accessfund.org

**Katie Goodwin**  
*Policy Analyst & CA Regional Director*  
katie@accessfund.org

**Kate Hanes**  
*Conservation Specialist*  
ctnational@accessfund.org

**Shaun Hannan**  
*Data Systems & Tech Analyst*  
shannan@accessfund.org

**Allen Jircik**  
*Conservation Specialist*  
ctwest@accessfund.org

**Jason Keith**  
*Senior Policy Advisor*  
jason@accessfund.org

**Mat Landis**  
*Conservation Specialist*  
cteast@accessfund.org

**Zachary Lesch-Huie**  
*Southeast Regional Director & Affiliate Director*  
zachary@accessfund.org

**Mike Morin**  
*Northeast Regional Director*  
mike@accessfund.org

**Erik Murdock**  
*Policy Director*  
erik@accessfund.org

**Carolyn Prescott**  
*Conservation Specialist*  
ctwest@accessfund.org

**Danielle Rocks**  
*Finance Manager*  
drocks@accessfund.org

**Joe Sambataro**  
*Access Director & Northwest Regional Director*  
joe@accessfund.org

**Curt Shannon**  
*Policy Analyst*  
curt@accessfund.org

**Holly Smolenski**  
*Communications & Marketing Director*  
holly@accessfund.org

**Brian Tickle**  
*Texas Regional Director*  
brian@accessfund.org

**Ty Tyler**  
*Stewardship Director*  
ty@accessfund.org

**Jenna Winkler**  
*Programs Associate*  
jenna@accessfund.org

**Chris Winter**  
*Executive Director*  
cwinter@accessfund.org

**Chris Winters**  
*Conservation Specialist*  
ctnational@accessfund.org

#### **GENERAL COUNSEL**

**Chris Archer** Archer Law Offices, P.C.  
chris@archerlawoffices.com



Protect America's Climbing

Access Fund  
PO Box 17010  
Boulder, CO 80308

## ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT

### KAREEMAH BATTS

Kareemah founded the Adaptive Climbing Group, a program to give people with disabilities opportunities to participate in the sport of climbing. Since 2012, she has been actively growing the community of climbers and volunteers, which now has over 1,000 adaptive participants nationwide, and helping to develop adaptive programs at gyms and outdoor crags. Kareemah is deeply and fiercely passionate about fostering diverse and inclusive climbing initiatives. Last fall, she presented to a packed workshop at the 2018 Access Fund Climbing Advocacy Summit. "True access is more than a day or a week. It is constant and sustainable," she says. This year Kareemah is serving on the DEI taskforce for Climb the Hill. ■

