

2004

PETE CASSAM



your climbing future

Letter from the President and Executive Director

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

In 2004 the Access Fund awarded Climbing Preservation Grants; monies that helped establish and support Local Climber Organizations, to acquire land, build or repair trail systems, provide necessary signage, produce brochures and assist many other grassroots initiatives in Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Utah, Vermont, Washington and other areas across the USA.

Our establishment of the Friends of Queen Creek (AZ), continued coalition building, and extensive lobbying efforts have so far been successful in keeping access to the Oak Flat area open. These 760 acres of prime climbing territory are threatened by development of a new copper mine and if the mining were to go forward as currently proposed would be the single largest loss of climbing environment in history. Although Oak flat is public land the mining company is trying to enact legislation in US Congress that would exchange the land for mining company holdings. This privatization of the land would allow them to move forward with mining and close the public out of the area. Climbers from around the country have stepped forward to help our efforts, and the Access Fund will continue to organize and pursue this issue until a reasonable solution is found.

We held two regional activists summits, in Alabama and Oregon, that brought together climber activists in a forum filled with education, advice and a sharing of ideas, successes and challenges

faced on issues related to access and the climbing environment.

Our national policy efforts continue on a regular basis in Washington D.C. in support of legislation and regulatory initiatives that benefit climbing in the United States. We make comments to Climbing Management Plans (CMP) around the country as they come up either for the first time or as renewal. These CMP's give direction to managers of public lands and are crucial to how climbing is regulated.

The Access Fund collaborated with local climbing organizations such as the East Tennessee Climbers Coalition, Southeast Climbers Coalition, Kootenai Climbers Idaho, and Washington Climbers Coalition to preserve or restore access in: Las Vegas Nevada, Bend Oregon, Ely's Peak Minnesota, McConnell's Mill Pennsylvania, Custer State Park South Dakota, Telluride and front range areas of Colorado, Gibraltar Rock Wisconsin, Cooper Rock West Virginia as well as many other areas throughout the US. We apologize for not being able to list them all.

2004 was a successful and productive year for The Access Fund thanks to strong support from climbers throughout the country. Challenges remain, but we continue to advocate on behalf of our members, partners and the close to one million active climbers in the USA. We look forward to increasing and improving our grassroots support of climbers around the country working to keep their climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment for future generations. Together with a focused mission, long term commitment to self-regulation and local activism we are well prepared to continue to address the issues in the years ahead.



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Steve Matous

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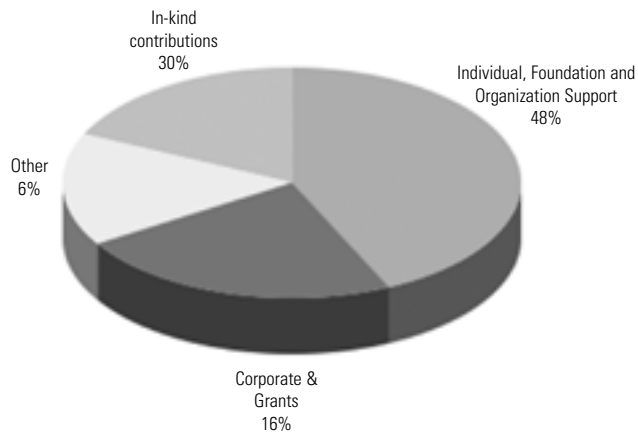
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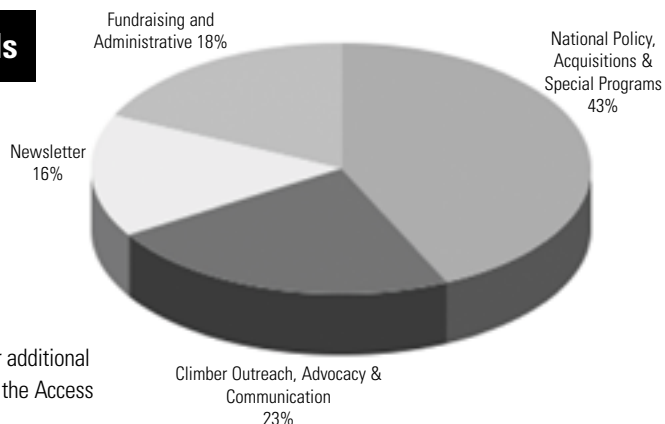
Cindy Trotter - Director of Operations

Judy Ware - Office Associate

2004 Source of Funds



2004 Use of Funds



These are audited figures. For additional financial information, contact the Access Fund's Executive Director.

2004 Activity Report

Public Policy

- Advocacy work with the US Forest Service in Washington State concerning climbing practices and fixed anchor policies in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness area; organizational work to establish the Washington Climbers Coalition (WCC) local climbing organization.
- Advocacy work concerning the Queen Creek/Oak Flats area of Arizona that is threatened by a massive copper mine proposal; assistance forming the Friends of Queen Creek (FoQC). Additional work with AF lobbyist in Washington, DC concerning efforts on Capitol Hill advocating to preserve climbing access to the Queen Creek area.
- Work with the Bureau of Land Management and regional National Park Service to implement a memorandum of understanding (MOU) formalizing the relationship between them and the Access Fund/ climbing community concerning land management planning and access issues.
- Ongoing monitoring of a proposed climbing closure at Cave Rock, NV; decision pending in a lawsuit filed in federal district court opposing the USFS decision to implement the climbing ban.
- Work with the BLM, Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Field Institute, and members of the outdoor industry regarding a recreation management plan for Indian Creek, UT. Advocacy work related to a draft management plan for Indian Creek, UT; organizing support for a climber-friendly management alternative with the climbing community and outdoor industry; assistance forming a Friends of Indian Creek group; and assistance with the Patagonia Ambassador's program in writing a stewardship grant for the region.
- Continued work with the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and National Park Service towards the establishment of a favorable policy/regulation regarding fixed anchors in wilderness.
- Facilitating a workgroup to revise and implement phase II of a climbing management plan at Castle Rocks State Park in Idaho. Lobbying in Washington, DC for a revision to the climbing management plan at City of Rocks National Reserve, ID to reopen Twin Sisters. Obtained a Congressional support letter signed by the entire ID delegation in support of multiple use management practices.
- Advocacy work in Las Vegas, NV meeting with the BLM to develop climbing management policies and reorganizing the Las Vegas Climbers Liaison Council local climbing organization.
- Work with congressional offices in Washington, DC to get members of Congress to attend Access Fund Adopt-A-Crag trail days in North Carolina, Colorado, Tennessee, Massachusetts, and New Mexico.

Access & Acquisitions Program

- Issued an Action Alert on a proposed fixed anchor ban in designated wilderness areas in the San Bernardino National Forest. The ban would include the Tahquitz and Suicide, CA climbing areas; communication with Forest planners to discuss the ban and suggest possible alternatives.
- Produced a Bouldering Whitepaper to provide guidance on bouldering management issues; distributed copies to RCs, LCOs and land managers.
- Organized a Southeast Regional Workshop, held at Desoto State Park, AL. Climbing activists throughout the SE attended the workshop which focused on private land issues, land acquisition opportunities, and strategies for preserving access.
- Organized a Western Regional Workshop, held in Bend, OR. Climbing activists throughout the northwest attended the workshop.
- Provided support to the Madrone Wall Preservation Committee, OR in their effort to reopen Madrone Wall, an outstanding climbing resource near Portland, OR.
- Finalized a plan to preserve ice climbing opportunities in Boulder Canyon, CO.

Grassroots Program

- Launched the Access Fund Affiliate Program, a coalition of Climbing Organizations, Associations, Clubs, and Access Committees working in unison with the Access Fund to keep climbing areas open and to conserve the climbing environment.
- Wisconsin: Site visit in August. Met with a Devil's Lake manager; toured the State Park and discuss issues. Met with individual climbers. Visited Gibraltar Rock, which is currently closed to rock climbing. Convened a climbers meeting to hear local concerns, identify issues, etc. regarding climbing and bouldering management. Continued correspondence re strategic organization and next steps.
- New Jersey: Through the work of NJAccess president John Anderson the Division of Parks & Forestry

adopted a policy that would lift the ban on rock climbing in New Jersey State Parks subject to the climber's signing of a waiver of liability. The Access Fund provided support and resources throughout the process, including a letter to the New Jersey Governor's office.

- Minnewaska State Park, New York: Provided support and resources to the Gunks Climbers Coalition to address a raptor closure at Minnewaska State Park for ravens.
- Provided guidance to climbers from:
 - Wisconsin regarding reviving Wisconsin Outdoor Access, including organizational strategies and strategies for reopening Gibraltar Rock near Lodi, WI.
 - Palisades State Park, South Dakota regarding organizational issues and land manager relations. Grand Ledges Climbers Coalition, Michigan providing support and resources to form a local climbing organization and build relationships with the governing board of Grand Ledges.
 - Kootenai Klímbers and writing letter of support regarding climbing management documents and provided comments to a draft MOU between the Kootenai Klímbers and Post Falls City about climbing at Q'emiIn Park around Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.
 - Minnesota Climbers Association including providing a support letter and climbing management documents to reopen presently closed climbing areas.
 - Ohio Climbers Association regarding organizational issues and provided a support letter and climbing management documents to the land manager at Fairborn City Park, which contributed, in part to the reopening of the park to climbing.
 - Adirondacks regarding potential formation of an LCO and communications with land managers.
 - San Diego, CA to resolve organizational concerns and develop strategies to more effectively address access issues at diverse climbing areas.
 - Boise, Idaho regarding developing bouldering areas in an environmentally responsible way.
 - West Virginia to form the Coopers Rock Regional Climbers' Coalition.
 - Northern California to form the Bigfoot Country Climbers' Association.
 - South Platte, Colorado regarding the opening of a new state park that will include climbing in Tennessee to form the East Tennessee Climbers Coalition
 - Southeastern Climbers Coalition to market themselves and strategically plan for the growth of their organization

The Boulder Project



- Development of the Boulder Project; The Boulder Project is the Access Fund's flagship educational program. The goal of the Boulder Project is to support and empower climbers in building a more access secure and environmentally sustainable bouldering future. It has four fundamental objectives for its work: to promote awareness and support for more sustainable patterns of development and use of our bouldering resources; to encourage climber participation in decision-making; to build bridges of understanding and cooperation between climbers and land owners/managers, to legitimize and energize the bouldering network.
- Launched The Boulder Project at the 2004 Phoenix Bouldering Blast (PBB) April 23 – 25
- Creation of a Boulder Project Toolkit, which includes a bouldering specific "Leave No Trace" guideline, guidelines for boulder field establishment, how to make the transition to outdoor climbing, etc.

Adopt-A-Crag



- Coordinated the 5th Annual Adopt-a-Crag. We sponsored 103 events, surpassing our internal goal of 85 Adopt-a-Crags events - all told, those events involved more 3,300 volunteers who contributed almost 18,700 volunteer hours in 32 states and British Columbia.
- Publicity this year has been electronic and in print media. We ran print ads in *Rock & Ice*, *Climbing*, and *Backpacker* magazines. REI ran a story in their Gearmail News, and SNEWS publicized the event as well. We further publicized each event by sending Adopt-a-Crag posters to each organizer and provided high-res sponsor logos on our website.
- We encouraged each organizer to contact their local press by including an Adopt-a-Crag Press Release template and suggestions on how to involve the press with their registration confirmation.
- Organizing for targeted members of Congress to attend Adopt-a-Crags in their district. We designated members of Congress who are either climbers or recreationists and worked with Regional Coordinators and Affiliates to arrange Congressional visits at the targeted Adopt-a-Crag: Mark Udall (D) Colorado (2nd District) attended the local Boulder, Colorado event.

2004 Corporate Partners

TITANIUM—\$50,000+

Haynes and Boone LLP - 2003

DIAMOND PLUS - \$20,000+

Black Diamond Equipment - 1991
Galyan's - 1999
REI - 1991

DIAMOND MEDIA - \$20,000+

Backpacker Magazine - 2004

Climbing - 1991

Rock & Ice - 1993

URBAN CLIMBER MAGAZINE
- 2004

PLATINUM - \$10,000+

CLIF Bar - 1995

Petzl/Charlet Moser - 1991

Patagonia - 1992

prAna - 1995

The North Face - 1995

GOLD PLUS - \$7,500+

Archer Law Offices P.C. - 2003

MSR / Therm-a-Rest - 1995

Nike ACG - 2002

W.L. Gore - 1991

GOLD - \$5,000+

Campmor - 1991

Climb High/Mammut - 1991

La Sportiva - 1994

Maxim Ropes - 1992

Nalgene - 1992

Omega Pacific - 1992

Outdoor Research - 1999

The Spot Bouldering Gym - 2003

Trango USA & Stonewear

Designs - 1992

Weathered Stone - 1999

SILVER - \$2,500+

All Terrain - 2003

Arc'teryx - 1998

BlueWater - 1992

Boulder Rock Club - 1996

Dana Design - 2003

FalconGuides - 1998

Gregory Mountain Products
- 1993

Marmot - 1999

Metolius - 1991

Misty Mountain - 1994

Mountain Gear - 1995

Mountain Hardwear - 1996

New Belgium Brewing - 2000

Salomon - 2003

Sterling Rope - 1994

Touchstone Climbing Inc. - 1998

Vasque - 2003

MAJOR - \$1,000+

Amadeus Consulting Group
- 2004

American Bouldering Series
- 2000

Asolo - 2003

Big Up Productions - 2003

bluetrope Consulting - 2003

CAMP USA - 2004

ClimbersRock.com - 2003

Cloudveil - 1998

Crazy Creek Products - 1992

Gripped Magazine - 2004

Lowe Alpine - 1991

Montrail - 2002

Phoenix Rock Gym - 1997

Planet Granite Climbing Gyms
- 2004

Redpoint, Inc. - 2000

Rock and Snow, Inc. - 2003

Schwartz Communications,
Inc. - 2003

SuperTopo.com - 2003

Thule - 2003

Ultimate Ascents Inter. - 2003

VooDoo Holds - 2001

Yates Gear - 1993

CONTRIBUTING - \$500+

Advanced Base Camp - 1992

Alpine Ascents Inter. - 1998

Anker Climbing Equip. - 2003

Avery Brewing Company - 1998

AZ on the Rocks - 2003

Bearing Images - 2000

ClimbingBoulder.com - 2001

Excalibur DMM/Wild Country/
Red Chili USA - 1995

Extreme Engineering - 2004

Five Ten - 2004

Flannel Design - 2001

GearExpress.com - 2003

Higher Ground Roasters - 2003

JustRopes.com - 2004

Kind Coffee - 2003

Kristin Carpenter Public
Relations - 2003

Moonstone Mountain
Equipment - 2003

Mountaineers Books - 1992

Mountain Madness - 2000

Mountainsmith - 2003

Mountain Tools - 1991

Nicros - 1997

Osprey - 2003

Outland Mountain Shop - 2003

Pacific Edge Climbing Gym
- 1995

Phoenix BoulderBlast- 1997

PMI - 1991

Real Cheap Sports - 2003

Royal Robbins - 1992

Saltic Climbing/Trekking - 2003

The Magic Line - 2004

Tom K. Michael, D.D.S., P.S.
- 2000

Travel Country Outdoors - 2002

2 Trails - 2002

MEDIA PARTNERS

Alpinist - 2003

*Blue Ridge Outdoors
Magazine* - 1997

Camp4.com - 2002

Coreyography - 2002

Dan Bailey Photography - 2002

DrTopo.com - 2003

GetBeta.com - 2004

Hooked on the Outdoors - 2002

Integrity 7 Productions - 2004

Ousley Creative - 2001

Patitucci Photo - 2003

Second Chance Films - 2004

She Sends - 2004

SNEWS - 2002

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Memorials

The AF Memorial Fund was founded in 1998 to honor individuals who cared about the mountain environment. The following memorials were established in 2004.

Jeffrey Leigh Curry

Reese Martin

John McCarron

Grants

The Access Fund received grants from the following foundations and corporations in 2004.

Apple Foundation

Bakar Foundation

Boston Foundation

Boulder Community Foundation

Community Foundation of NJ

Vanessa Compton Foundation

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* denotes participation in monthly donor program

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 Colvin Center Climbing Gym
 Coyote Corner
 Cragmont Climbing Club
 Cross Country Connection
 CU Outdoor Program
 Down Wind Sports
 Eagle Rock School
 Eagles Nest Foundation
 Endy's
 Erehwon Mountain Outfitter
 Ethos Mountain Works
 Expeditions Unlimited
 Explorers Club of Pittsburgh
 Fort Lewis College Climbing Club
 Fox Mountain Guides
 Georgia Outdoor Recreation Program
 Granite Arch Climbing Center
 Great Outdoor Provision Company
 Hamilton College
 Hampshire College Outdoor Program
 Higher Ground Rock Climbing Centre
 Homestead Inn & Spa
 Hurst Sports Center
 Idaho State University
 Illinois Climbing Club
 Inner Strength Rock Gym
 International Wilderness Adventures
 Joshua Tree Outfitters
 Joshua Tree Rock Climbing School
 Kent Mountain Adventure Center Inc.
 Kern River Rock, LLC
 Kooteni Climbers
 Lancaster Climbing Club
 Little Rock Climbing Center
 Lover's Leap Guides
 Mazamas
 Michigan Ice Fest
 Midwest Mountaineering
 Minnesota Climbers Association
 Mizzou Climbing Club
 Mountain Goat Outfitters
 MTU Ridge Roamers
 Newenglandbouldering.com
 Nomad Ventures
 North Carolina Outward Bound School,
 Director of Operations
 North Wall, Inc
 Northlander Climbing
 NU Climbing Club
 NW Adventures
 Old Town Outfitters
 Outek
 Pacific Edge
 Paradise Rock Gym, Inc
 Pennsylvania Mountaineering Association
 Peregrine Outfitters
 Phoenix Rock Gym
 Pipe Works
 Poly Escapes
 Prairie Walls, Inc
 Pruett Publishing Company
 Quest Corporate Institute
 R.I.M. Club
 Redpoint Production, Inc.
 Rim of the World Climbing Club
 Riverat Whitewater Toys
 ROCK'n & JAM'n
 Rocks and Ropes of Tucson
 Rok Haus Indoor Climbing Gym
 Sanctuary Rock Gym
 Santa Fe Climbing Gym
 Sierra Mountain Center
 Skagit Alpine Club
 Skinny Skis
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 Sunrift Adventures
 Talus Climbing Service
 Terra Firma
 Texas Tech Outdoor Pursuit Center
 The Backpackers Shop
 The Bag and Pack Shop
 The Mountaineer
 The Mountaineers - Rec Access
 Commiteee
 The Rock Barn- Rhinoceros Mountain
 Guides
 The Spot Bouldering Gym
 The Warriors Way
 Trailhead Sports
 Triple Crown
 UCSB- Adventure Programs
 Uli, Inc
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 Ute Mountaineer
 Vail Rock & Ice Guides, LLC.
 Vertex Climbing Center
 Vertical Access
 Vertical Adventures
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 Vertical Endeavors - St. Paul
 Vertical Hold Sport Climbing Center
 W-Trek Outfitters
 Water Stone Outdoors
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 Wilderness Exchange Unlimited
 WildRays Photography
 Wilkes-Barre Rock Climbing Gym
 Williams Outing Club
 Wilson's Eastside Sports
 X-TREME Rock Climbing Center
 Yosemite Fitness
 Zen Lizard Systems

The Access Fund, PO Box 17010
 Boulder, CO 80308

Address Service Requested



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