



CLIMBERS COALITION

Winter 2015 Newsletter

Upcoming events

In Missoula and beyond...

Saturday November 14th: Full Gravity Day @ Bozeman Spire Gym. Youth and adult bouldering competition and largest fundraiser for the Bozeman non-profit youth climbing organization Touch the Sky. Great prizes and raffle items!

Sunday November 15th: Banff Mountain Film Festival, Wilma Theater, Missoula.

****Thursday December 3rd *****: WMTCC and Freestone are hosting a **membership social!** Swing by Freestone at **8pm** and enjoy Draughtworks beer on tap (free beer for WMTCC members, \$5 a cup otherwise) and meet other local climbers. **Jason Thompson**, a Bozeman area photographer, skier, and mountaineer, will be presenting a slideshow and talking about his work. Check out his amazing work here: <http://www.jthompsonphotography.com/>

Each member will also get the chance to cast their vote for the best local photo for this winter's photo contest (details below); the winner will be announced that night.

Help wanted

WMTCC is looking for help (again)! A few of our board members have moved away and we are in search of independently motivated people who can donate a few hours per month helping keep WMTCC up and running.

Specifically we are looking for a new treasurer, membership chair, and secretary.

If you are seriously interested in getting involved, please contact us! Board meetings occur once a month, but most work is done on your own.

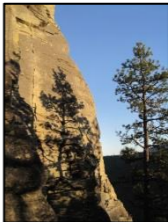
Holiday Food Drive: Defying Gravity, the Missoula non-profit that supports youth climbing and hosts the local Gnar Pirate climbing team is sponsoring a canned food drive in support of the Missoula Food Bank. Please bring non perishable food items to Freestone or REI to help out their cause. Learn more about Defying Gravity and their mission at defying-gravity.org

Annual Photo Contest

Send us your best pictures from this summer/fall from climbing in Western MT!
Limit 1 photo per person. Please include captions.

**Entries due by
December 1st**

**Winners
announced Dec 3rd
@ Freestone
during the Jason
Thompson
Slideshow Event**



Send to: wmtclimberscoalition@gmail.com

Prize to the winning entry!!

Mill Creek North Rim Update

On October 27th, Kurt Krueger, Dane Scott and Claudine Tobalske drove to the Stevensville Ranger District and met with the new District Ranger, Tami Sabol, as well as Deb Gale, the Bitterroot National Forest Wilderness Ranger. For those of you who attended the "Meet the Rangers" event at Freestone last spring, Tami is Dan Ritter's replacement; he retired in June and there was an interim ranger until recently.

We feel that the visit went well. Tami is a UM graduate, and used to climb (she remembers some scary top-outs at Lolo Pass). Although she had heard bits and pieces about the Mill Creek "situation", she wanted to start with a fresh ear and had bought a new notebook. Dane summarized the history of the North Rim development and subsequent conflict (trail covered, makeshift belay platforms ripped off, bolts bashed). We told Tami of the importance of the North Rim climbing area for beginning climbers; put things in perspective (a "crowded day" there may see about 20 climbers); and emphasized the fact that what's happening in the BNF in terms of climbing development is no different from what's happening in National Forests throughout the country.

Tami asked us what we specifically would like to see happen there. We'll be following up on this, and keep you posted. Meanwhile, remember that it is totally OK to climb at the North Rim; for now keep accessing the area through Pinesdale, carpooling as much as possible, and staying close to the base of the Tick Farm wall to keep erosion from spreading outward. We know it is difficult to find stable belay spots for a few of the climbs; hopefully nice, sturdy belay platforms will be built there in the future.



Action Alert – Help save the Land and Water Conservation Fund

As you might know, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a critical tool for protecting and enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities that expired at the end of September. LWCF uses a portion of royalties from off-shore oil and gas leasing to fund priorities for conservation and recreation, **including protection of climbing areas across the nation**. It has been described as America's most successful conservation program, and it has broad bipartisan support.

Unfortunately, reauthorization of this invaluable program is being held up in Congress by a vocal minority of extremist public lands opponents, lead by Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT), who is chair of the House Natural Resources Committee. Yesterday, Rep. Bishop released a discussion draft for a bill proposing to gut LWCF and redirect a huge portion of its funding to non-recreation and non-conservation projects.

Montana congressman, Rep. Zinke, is in a unique position to help. Rep. Zinke has been a tremendous supporter of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and, as a Republican on the House Natural Resources Committee, he is in a unique position to influence Rep. Bishop and encourage him to abandon his destructive path and allow a clean reauthorization of LWCF. He needs to hear from us to know that he continues to have the support of Montanans on this issue. Your voice could have an outsized impact on protecting public lands and saving this incredible program!

Please take a minute to share with Rep. Zinke how important LWCF is to you by following the link below:

<http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/50479/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=17715>

Membership

Thanks to everyone who has joined WMTCC! We are continuing to partner with the Access Fund to offer a joint WMTCC/AF membership. If you haven't done so yet this year, please renew your AF membership, and when you do so consider choosing the Joint Membership option! This option is \$50, and \$15 goes straight to WMTCC. The AF has been instrumental in helping us work with the Forest Service and private landowners, so please show your support.

WMTCC Membership benefits include: 15% off Missoula Park's and Recreations MORE courses and 10% off all Aerie Backcountry Medicine courses and retail items and.... best stickers around, generously donated by Michael Farr and his company **FARR SIDE SIGN!**

(farrsidesign.com)

Membership Options:

\$10 – WMTCC Only (join in person at Freestone, events, or online at wmtcc.org

\$50 WMTCC & Access Fund joint membership
www.accessfund.org/jmnew



To stay up to date with things, be sure to check our website (www.wmtcc.org) and our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/westernmontanaclimberscoalition) for the latest information about access issues, area openings/closures, events, and contests.

Have questions? Feedback? Concerns? Contact us:
wmtclimberscoalition@gmail.com

