

For Immediate Release

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### **New Relationship Between Climbing Resource Access Group of Vermont and Vermont Agency of Natural Resources**

RICHMOND VT- Climbing Resource Access Group of Vermont (CRAG-VT), the local climbing access group and Access Fund affiliate, is pleased to announce the completion of an agreement between CRAG-VT and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). This agreement recognizes CRAG-VT as the representative for rock and ice climbers using state lands in Vermont.

This agreement formalizes the relationship between climbers and the state of Vermont and provides a communications channel between the Agency of Natural Resources to climbers. Along with the agreement, CRAG-VT has assisted the state in development of guidelines for use of Vermont state lands by climbers.

Rock and Ice climbing have been taking place on ANR lands since the 1930s with notable benchmarks such as Adi Joerg's 1964 audacious climb of the Elephant's Head in Smuggler's Notch and Tim and Rainsford Rouner's ascent of the world famous ice climbing route *The Last Gentleman* on Mt. Pisgah in 1976.

"Rock and ice climbing have a long history on Vermont state lands with groundbreaking ascents and world renowned rock and ice routes." said Seth Maciejowski, president of CRAG-VT. "CRAG-VT is pleased to assist the state in managing climbing activities on Vermont state lands to ensure that important natural communities can be protected while providing climbers with a wide breadth of options for climbing on state lands." continued Maciejowski.

The agreement will provide a reporting mechanism for the State Agency of Natural Resources to keep apprised of route development and use of ANR properties. For climbers, the agreement will remove ambiguity about regulations on climbing on state land.

"We are pleased to have a community partner representing climbers assist us in managing rock and ice climbing on ANR land." said Jessica Savage, Recreation Program Manager for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. "We see this agreement as a vehicle to provide climbers with guidelines to responsibly use climbing resources on ANR lands."

CRAG-VT looks forward to working with the state of Vermont to ensure continued access to public lands in the State of Vermont while protecting the unique environs associated with these properties.

*CRAG-VT is a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to the preservation of access to climbing resources in the state of Vermont through public and private partnerships and land ownership. CRAG-VT can be found on the web at [www.cragvt.org](http://www.cragvt.org) and can be reached at [info@cragvt.org](mailto:info@cragvt.org)*

*The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) is responsible for the conservation and management of Vermont's forest resources, the operation and maintenance of the State Park system, and the promotion and support of outdoor recreation for Vermonters and our visitors.*