

**Access Fund - Jeep
Conservation Team East**

**Project Report:
RUMNEY**

July 2019 - October 2019



Protect America's Climbing



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RESTORE RUMNEY CAMPAIGN

In 1994, Access Fund purchased 36 acres of private land in Rumney for climbing access. This purchase included popular areas such as The Meadows, 5.8 Crag, Orange Crush, and Main Wall. This land acquisition not only protected climbing, but also protected habitats for nesting raptors and rare plants. Access Fund held the land for a year while the Rumney Climbers' Association built the main parking lot and worked on the trails leading to the crag. The land was then transferred to the US Forest Service for long term protection and preservation.

In 2016, the RCA and Access Fund acquired 86 additional acres of land that include the Northwest Territories, Buffalo Pit, and Black Jack Boulders, among others.

Being an increasingly popular climbing area in the Northeast, Rumney faces severe erosion issues and other impact concerns. Access Fund's Conservation Team (CTeam) began a multi-year initiative this past summer to tackle critical issues on Rumney's trails and staging areas.



ORANGE CRUSH - BEFORE



ORANGE CRUSH - AFTER

Project Numbers

- 49 steps built
- 590 ft³ of wall built
- 92 tons of rock used

2019 Scope

Work occurred on the approach trail to Orange Crush and areas around The Meadows.

The approach to Orange Crush was previously a steep, eroded hillside. Climbers scrambling up this unstable path showered loose rocks and soil upon climbers below. The CTeam installed a 40-step staircase on this hill to stop erosion and give climbers a safe, sustainable path up the hill. The areas around Meadows also faced severe erosion concerns as seen by many exposed tree roots. The CTeam installed retaining walls and steps to protect the roots, mitigate soil loss, and provide climbers with an obvious path.

The CTeam had the support of an American Conservation Experience crew (ACE) for 5 weeks, the CTeam National for 2 weeks, and volunteer groups who came out for single days of work, including the MIT Outing Club, employees from Badger Balm, and many climbers within the Rumney community.

A special thanks to the USFS and RCA for their support both in generating volunteers and helping facilitate volunteer days.

PHOTOS



“Before” images appear on the left and “after” images appear on the right.

View from the top of the Orange Crush staircase. Previously, climbers stepped off the wooden ladder onto an eroded, loose landing. The CTeam built stairs and a retaining wall to make a stable landing.



Exposed roots below Flesh For Lulu in The Meadows were a major concern. The CTeam built a wall over the roots to protect them.



The CTeam built a wall to cover the exposed roots and a staircase along the cliff to provide climbers a sturdy path and prevent further erosion.



View of the stairs underneath Flesh For Lulu.



The left side of Meadows was extremely eroded. The CTeam built a series of retaining walls to stop future soil loss.



The ACE crew installed a staircase leading up to The Meadows to give climbers an obvious, easy path.

Future Considerations

Rumney is a mecca for climbing in the Northeast, bringing climbers from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Eastern Canada.

The restoration of this beloved crag will be an ongoing process for many years and relies on the support of the entire climbing community at Rumney. The next phase of the Restore Rumney Campaign will include work at Main Wall and 5.8 Crag. The goals of these projects will be to establish obvious trails and create sustainable staging areas, all while protecting and preserving the surrounding forest.

