



Climbing Resource Access Group of Vermont

www.cragvt.org

info@cragvt.org

CRAG-VT Property Use Agreement

Background

CRAG-VT a not-for-profit (501(c)(3)) organization dedicated to preserving access and conservation of Vermont's climbing resources. We serve the climbing community of Vermont by gaining and preserving access to climbing resources in the state through land acquisition and landowner agreements. CRAG-VT is an entirely volunteer organization with no administrative overhead.

CRAG-VT owns parcels of land encompassing a number of climbing resources in the town of Bolton. CRAG-VT stewards these properties through maintenance of the trail networks and covering taxes assessed by the town of Bolton. These responsibilities are handled through volunteer labor by CRAG-VT members and through CRAG-VT member donations. As such, we would request that any group frequently using the properties consider how they can give back to the climbing community through donations of volunteer time or money.

CRAG-VT properties are further encumbered with public access easements held by the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) which have special use requirements as outlined in the Land Use plan documents for each parcel. These documents may be requested by contacting CRAG-VT at info@cragvt.org.

CRAG-VT properties are briefly described below.

The Quarry

Located off of Green Mountain Drive, this 35+/-acre property contains the cliffs known as "The Cat's Ass", "The Carcass" and "The Quarry". This location also provides access to the "82 Crag" which is on a privately held property adjacent to The Quarry.

Lower West Bolton Cliff

Located off the east side of Notch Road, this 5 acre property is home to a number of popular climbs which are easily top roped. The property also serves as the home for the recently relocated Long Trail.

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Upper West Bolton Cliff

This 18 acre parcel is located off the west side of Notch Road, and is home to many classic Vermont climbs. Climbs are generally difficult to set top ropes on and the cliff requires a 15 minute walk to reach the base.

Summary of General Guidelines for Group Use of CRAG-VT Properties

Below is a list of guidelines to be followed by groups using the CRAG-VT properties for commercial or personal activities.

1. No groups greater than 20 at a time on a single CRAG-VT property. The climbing resources are limited and all users should have an opportunity to use the resource. If your party is larger than 20 people, break into two groups and distribute your users across two of the properties.
2. Group leaders shall notify CRAG-VT at least 1 week in advance with cliff, date of use and anticipated number of users. Utilize the info@cragvt.org email above. If you do not receive a response back, do not assume that this implies approval. Try to email again. With your help in this regard, we can potentially notify other climbers of your presence and minimize conflicts.
3. Groups of more than 12 people are not allowed on weekends. Again, these crags are limited in size and there are typically far more people using the resources on the weekend.
4. Groups shall follow Leave-No-Trace principles (pack out all garbage, keep the volume down). Leave the properties cleaner than you found them and respect the neighbors. There are no fires allowed on CRAG-VT properties.
5. Groups shall limit the number of vehicles to 4. Parking is limited at these properties. Please attempt to carpool. Be sure to park fully off any roadways (such as at Lower West Bolton).
6. Use approach trails to the cliffs. These trails are laid out to follow survey boundaries and to avoid crossing adjacent private property. As such, we discourage off trail travel to reach the cliffs.
7. CRAG-VT takes no responsibility for the quality or availability of any fixed anchors at any of the properties. It is the responsibility of the group leaders to assess any fixed gear or natural anchors.
8. No motorized vehicles are allowed on CRAG-VT properties with the exception of established parking areas.
9. Group users shall review and sign this use agreement prior to use of the properties. This only needs to be done once for your organization. If there is a modification to this agreement, CRAG-VT will notify you of the change the next time you make a request to use the properties.
10. No camping is allowed on CRAG-VT properties.

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Specific Guidelines For Each CRAG-VT Property

The Quarry

1. Park in the Lower Quarry area and do not block the driveway. If all spots are filled, park your vehicle at Smiley school (west on Rte.2 ¼ mile from Green Mountain Drive) and walk back to the quarry. **WINTER USE:** In recent years, the quarry driveway has not been maintained in the winter due to the expenses associated with plowing. Park at Smiley school or at the Waitsfield telecom hut near the bottom of Green Mountain Drive. DO NOT BLOCK access to the telecom hut if you choose to park there. If there is more than 6" of snow on the ground, it is safe to assume that the road is closed. DO NOT go up and check to see if it's open. We have sensitive neighbors who do not like cars turning around in their driveway.
2. If the rope is "up" across the driveway during mud season, DO NOT drive up the quarry driveway. Softening of the road in the spring will quickly turn the access road into a muddy mess if this rule is not obeyed.
3. Peregrine Falcons have sometimes nested in the Upper Quarry. Check www.cragvt.org for info on Peregrine bans in the Quarry before making your plans.

Upper West Bolton Cliff

1. Parking for Upper West is along the shoulder of Bolton Notch Road. If all spots are taken, you may park along Bolton Notch road further to the north or south and walk along the road to reach the Old Long Trail crossing.
2. The approach trail for Upper West Bolton follows the Old Long Trail south off Bolton Notch road for approximately .3 miles to the marked turn off. This section is on private land. Review the green mountain club's group guidelines for use of this section of the LT (<https://www.greenmountainclub.org/the-long-trail/group-hiking/>)
3. Peregrine Falcons have sometimes nested at Upper West Bolton. Check www.cragvt.org for info on Peregrine bans in the at Upper West Bolton before making your plans.

Lower West Bolton Cliff

1. Parking for Lower West Bolton is in the maintained lot on the east side of Bolton Notch Road. There is parking for approximately 6 cars between the lot and the widened shoulder. Should you find all spaces occupied, park your vehicle in the Long Trail parking lot (east on Rte. 2) and follow the Long Trail back to Lower West (approximately ¾ of a mile).
2. The trail into Lower West Bolton from the parking area is on private property. You must stay on the trail and follow Leave-No-Trace principles.
3. Stay out of the special treatment area (marked with string and signs). Limit your impact to the base of the cliff and stay on the maintained trails.

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