

# Hoydoro

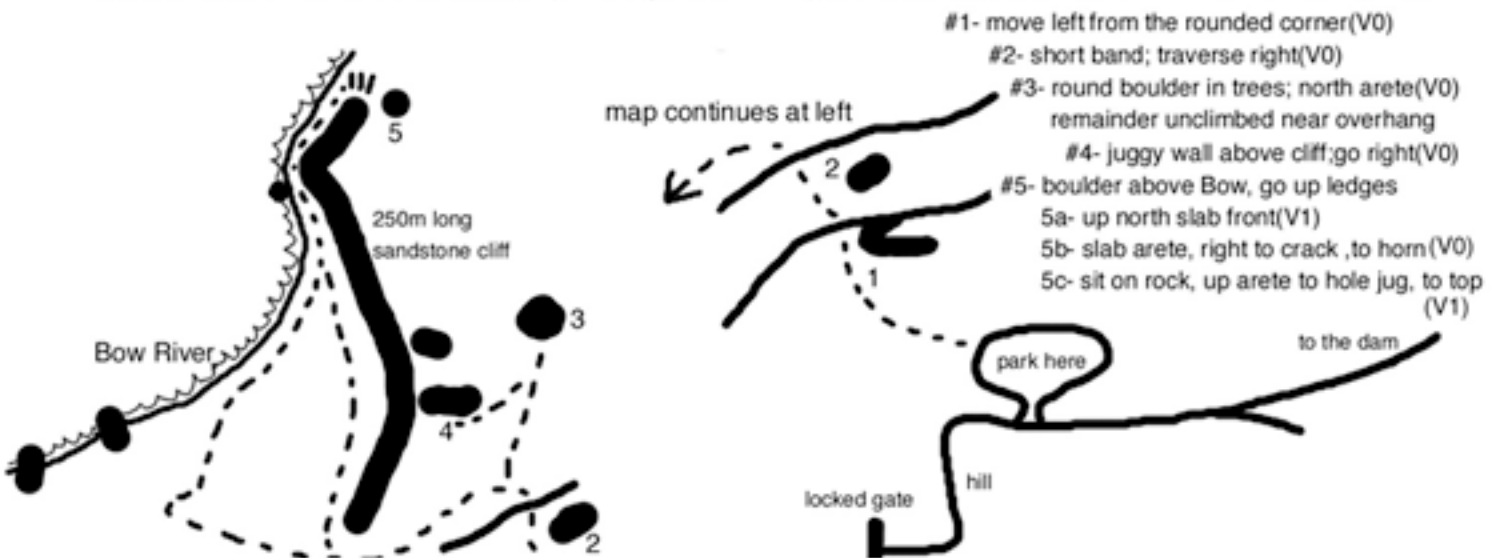
The Hydro boulders are on the private property of Trans-Alta just east of the town of Seebe, but the public has permission to hike and access this area only during the mid-week. The rock is about 1km before the hydroelectric dam therefore it is best to stay away from that area and only hike near the sandstone outcrops out of sight where the boulders are.

Even though the public is allowed to explore this area all signs should be respected, no littering, no loud noises - simply being respectful of this area. Furthermore, please drive the posted speed limit when in or near the town of Seebe.

From the #1X, go over the bridge; quietly and slowly drive through Seebe and keep right at a V intersection. Go up the hill passing the gate, and at the top make a quick left into a small parking area blocked with thick lumber. If the gate is locked, just leave and go elsewhere. Walk down an old road that winds to the Bow River. There is a 20m high sandstone cliffband which runs for 250m ending in the river but it is mostly loose and dirty and not recommended to boulder on. Over the years, hikers have made a maze of trails so directions are inaccurate. There are lots of broken bottles here so don't go barefoot.

This little map is to give an idea where the problems are so hikers don't go mindlessly bushwacking about.

There are no other rocks further east, only in the general vicinity of the sandstone cliffband. The view of Yam is nice.



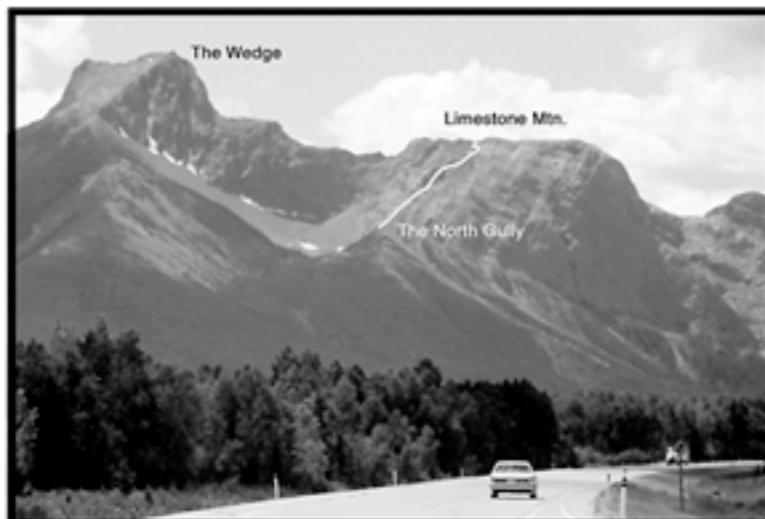
## Limestone Peak - 5.2 North Gully

FA - G.Cornell, May 2003

Not so much a gully, but steps of broken slab between two treed islands that extend up the north face of Limestone Mtn. It is an exposed scramble with one 5.2 section that's not worth a rope. The top out is directly on the flat summit.

From parking lot at Wedge Pond, hike the trail around the south side of the water and catch a good trail that heads up and left along a flowing creek. This is the same trail to scramble up the Wedge. Leave the trail high up where crossing the overgrown gully is dry of water and the North Gully is visible. Bushwack through forest to an open plateau. From here, walk up the crest that leads directly to the gully which overlooks the huge bowl below the Wedge. Easily scramble up nice broken slab between the right-most treed islands aiming for an obvious right-facing corner visible from Hwy.#40. Keep right and go up to the corner then, traverse left on exposed ground about 20m and go up a good crack on solid, wavy grey rock (crux) for 15m to the summit.

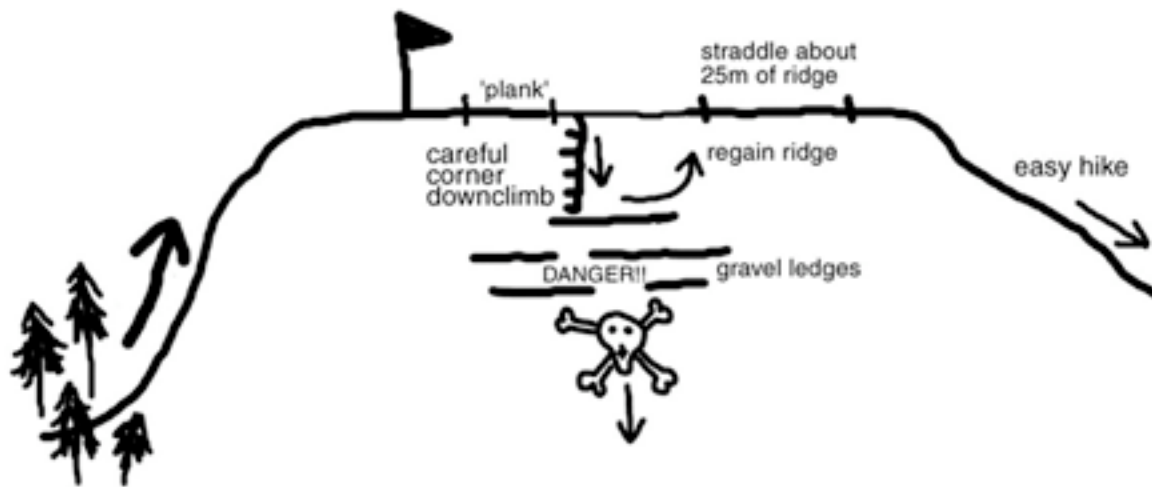
To descend, walk west to a scree slope and hike around the backside of Limestone to basin that leads NW down to the power-lines and follow an old road north back to Hwy#40 and eventually the parking lot. Expect 5 hrs. roundtrip.



The view from the traverse under the summit overhang-the 5.2 crux is behind the photographer. Rock shoes help up high.

# The Tsunamai

FA of the south ridge: G.Cornell, July 2000



Viewed from the north near Galatea or the Mt.Kidd golf course, The Tsunamai looks like a non-descript treed hill, however, coming north from the south near Fortress Junction, it is a striking fin.

This circuit route is a great alternative for when the weather turns foul as ropes/gear are not necessary, just sturdy boots and some nerve for exposure.

Park at Opal Picnic Rest Area and cross the shallow river at the bend in front of the parking lot. Bushwack up the treed slope above to the forested ridge. Hike to the start of the narrow rock ridge which rises dramatically up to the summit.

From the summit, the cruxes begin. This is a great hard scramble, as it is a very deceiving peak to be on: it looks lame from the north side, but from the summit to the down the north ridge is tricky and somewhat spooky in spots.

Walk a very narrow plank with a delicate touch-view the campers 500 ft. below! It can be excessively windy here so beware; straddling may be a better move than tight-rope walking it. When the plank narrows too thin, downclimb a short corner on the east face. Regain the ridge from some gravel ledges. Shimmy or carefully walk more ridge until it widens out and casual hiking commences.

Hike down the north ridge to Galatea Creek which must be crossed to catch the Galatea Trail back to the highway. Walk or hitch to Opal.

Highly, highly recommended scramble.



The Tsunamai from Desert Dome with river below. Route goes up the left ridge. Eau Claire Campground is at bottom left.



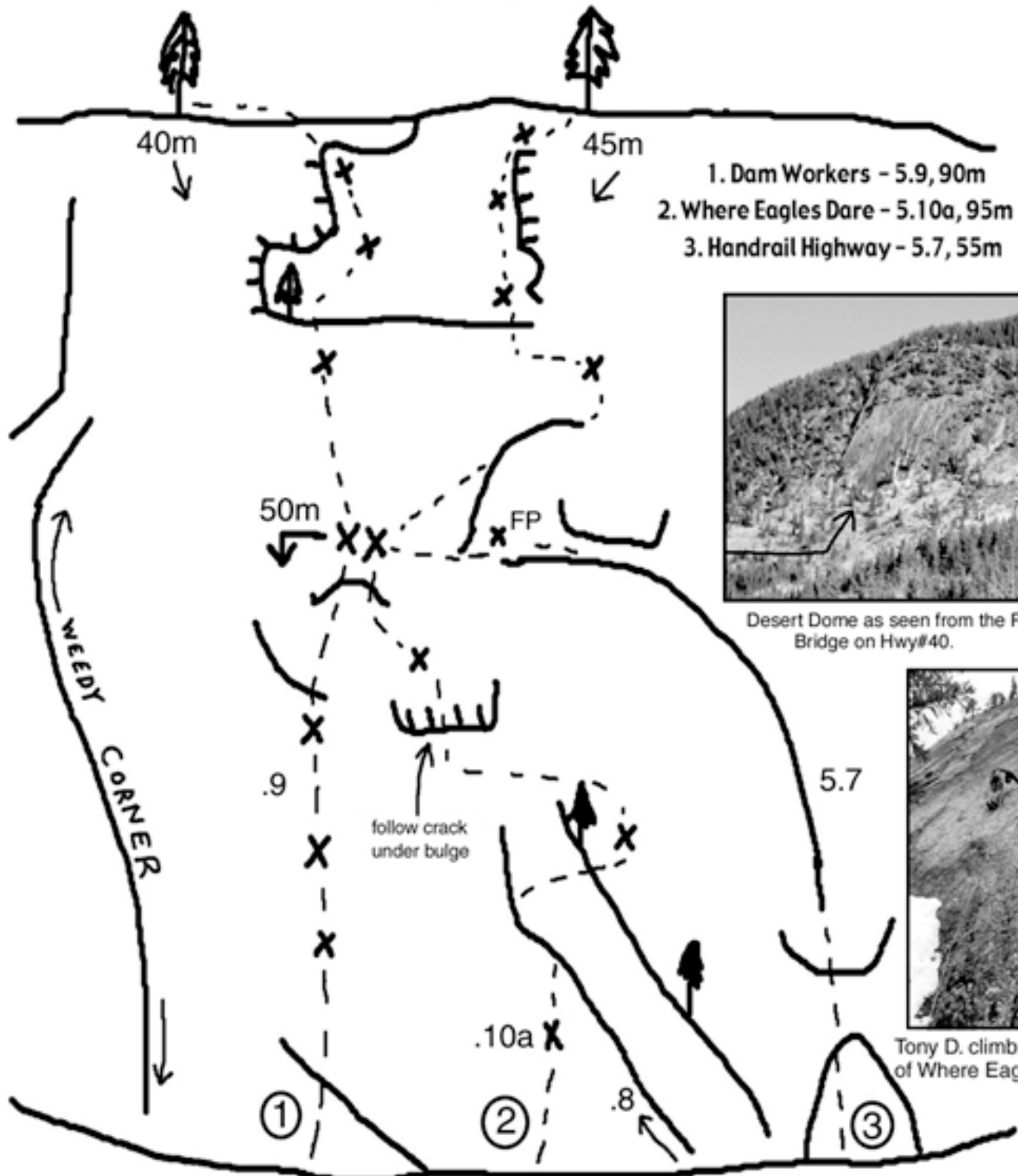
The Tsunamai from The Fold route on Mt.Kidd. Hwy#40 is at the left. The descent faces the camera and comes out at Galatea Creek.

# Desert Dome

FA's- G.Cornell and T.Devonshire, winter/spring 2000

**APPROACH:** park at Galatea or in the ditch on Hwy#40 and walk south a few hundred meters then make a 35 minute rising traverse up from the higher set of powerlines. The cliff faces SW and gets sun all day and is easily seen as a brown slab from the road when driving north.

**CLIMBING:** 2-pitch gear routes with a mutual bolted anchor and a few bolts for the runouts. The top is rapped from off big trees. Pitons are not worthy here but the diverse rack should include: Tri-cams, medium nuts, a full set of cams to 3" and TCU's. The rock is porous pockets on slab terrain and is sustained.



Desert Dome as seen from the Rocky Creek Bridge on Hwy#40.

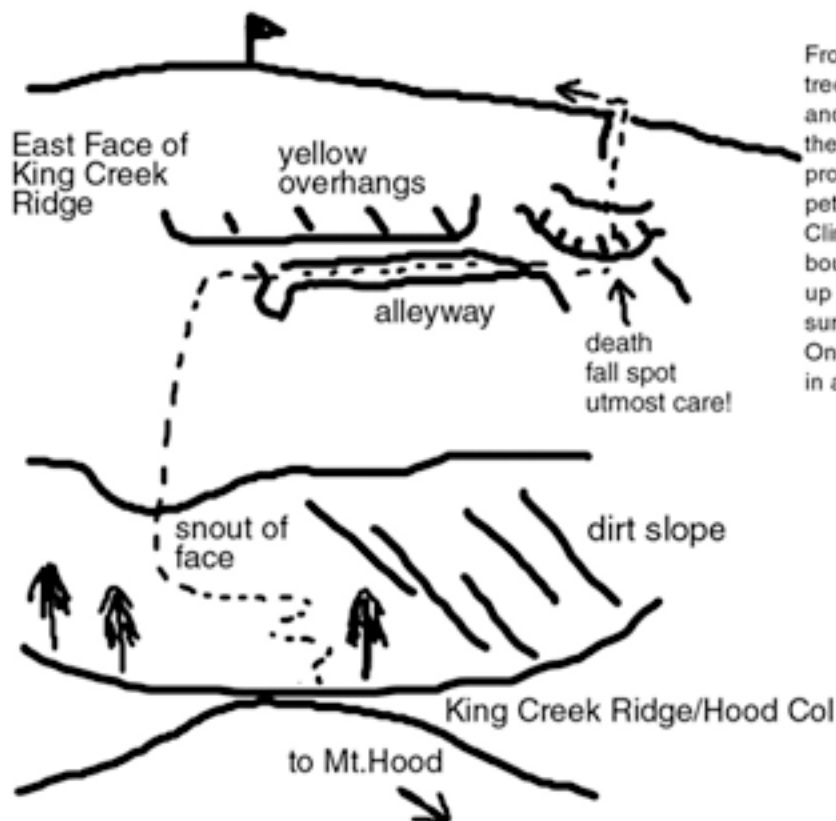


Tony D. climbs crux move of Where Eagles Dare

# East Face of King Creek Ridge, 5.3

FA- G.Cornell and J.Miller, spring 1999

A route only worth doing if you have descended from the Mt.Hood scramble, as it makes a much faster alternative to thrashing back down the forest. Once done, you will be on top of another summit in minutes, King Creek Ridge, and a good trail from here leads back to the parking lot at King Creek. Rope and gear is not required.



From the Hood-King Creek Ridge col, hike up a dirty treed slope to the base of the east face. move left, and climb the snout of broken rock for about 70m to the overhanging yellow wall. Take a spectacular, fun, protected alleyway right(north) about 100m until it peters out. Climb a slightly overhanging bulge(basically a bouldering move) on good positive holds to a bay, then up a shorter wall to the top. A fall anywhere here would surely be fatal. Once on top of the grassy ridge, hike to the summit in a few seconds. Take the trail down to the car.

## RUSTY WALL

Rusty Wall is a great hard slab climbing bouldering wall just in the ditch between Grizzly Creek and Hood Creek, making the approach all of five seconds.

It was cleaned in 2002 of loose rock and now makes a technical pump of about 35m, that is, if you can survive that long. So far, only the left end up to the obvious white square scar and from the scar to the far right has been traversed. The area around the square scar has not been climbed on.

Expect between V2-V3; a successful traverse of the entire wall would be in the range of V4/5.



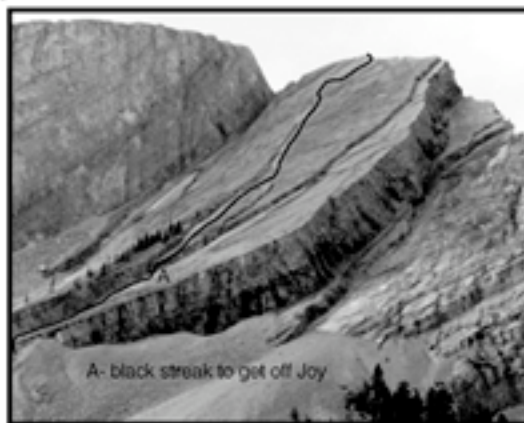
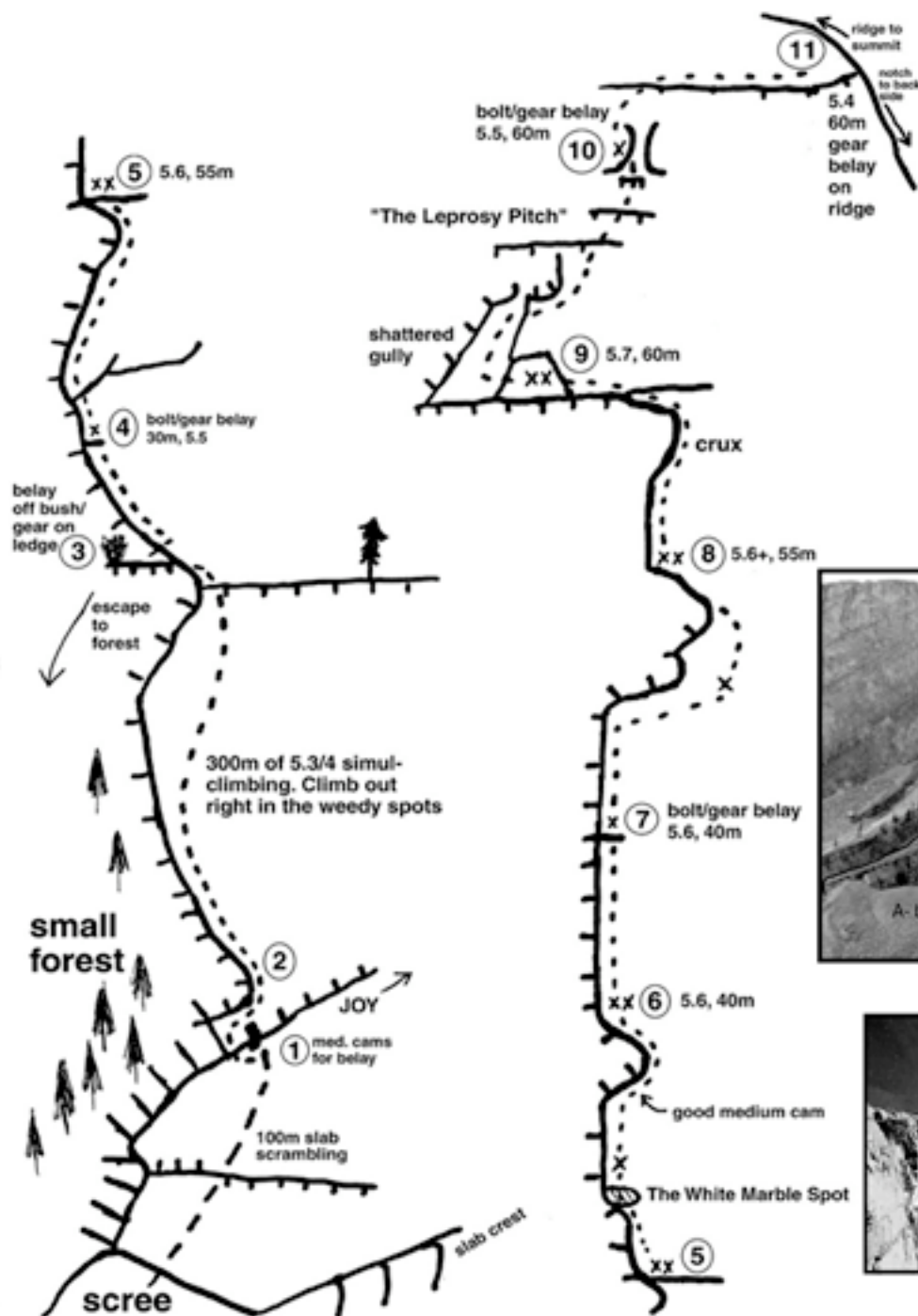
The girth of Rusty Wall near Hood Creek with Grizzly Peak above.

# The Shining Path, 5.7 600m

FA- G.Cornell and T.Devonshire, July 2002

Joy's new neighbour! The Shining Path is about 100m longer and takes the slim corner in the middle of the big slab. The route is slightly more runout especially on the crux and the rock is much looser than Joy. Take gear to 2"; pins, Tri-Cams, medium nuts and mandatory 60m ropes. Park at Upper Kananaskis Lakes North Interlakes lot and hike for a half hour along the old fireroad(keep right) to the end of the lake then slog up the scree slope to the base of the slab above the boulder field.

Start as for Joy, and scramble the first 100m of slab to a steep black streak on the left wall. Climb its' far left side and make a traverse right to belay(5.6, 25m). Belay at the last shrub out left after about 300m of 5.3/4 climbing. Go back out right and up the corner to a belay. Continue up the corner for 6 pitches to a big ledge with a 2 bolt belay. Go up a broken gully and make a rising sweep on horribly loose rock up to a tiny alcove with the last bolt. Traverse up and right to the ridge. Either take the ridge to the summit or downclimb 15m to a notch and down to the backside scree which meets Joy and hike off via a ramp to the meadows.



What we lugged up The Shining Path: many pitons, nuts, Tri-Cams, small-medium cams and 7 slings is likely enough as it's more runout than Joy.

# The Great Wall Of



The Great Wall Of is a very impressive protrusion of solid yellow rock flowing down from a forested hillside up King Creek. Since there is a no-bolting ban in effect at King Creek, this wall is left to rot with Mother Nature. Going to the top of this wall would be dangerous highball, if one was so skilled, however it does have a few short problems low down. A short incomplete traverse has been a spanking embarrassment from the crack near the trail. However, a white handrail has been done (V0/1) near the top of the gully. Unfortunately, small tempting problems on the wall up the gully are plagued with slippery, downsloping landings(a toboggan ride on a mat!). Any problems attempted near the trail or near the large dead tree should have a mat.

To get to The Great Wall Of, park at King Creek. Hike down the main trail next to the creek. After about 10-15 minutes of walking a funny square snout of rock pokes out from a rockface at waist height. Continue another 20m to the next ridge-wall of rock touching the trail. The bouldering side faces south-east and is yellow-orange. It will be nice to hear if someone can make good of this thing of beauty.

## HANGGLIDER'S Gully(Mt.ROBERTA North Gully), 5.6

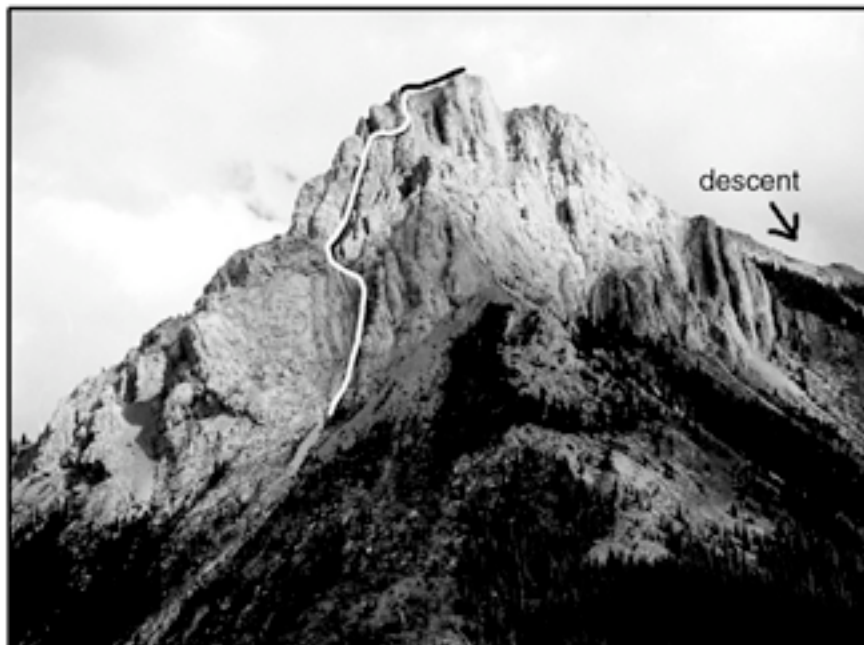
FA- G.CORNELL AND S.MIDWINTER, July, 2003

From Highway #40 in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park, Mt.Roberta looms so close to the road, however, it is still a two hour approach to the base of this route. A mountaineering route up a loose gully and ridge for six or seven full pitches which is easily scouted from the road. Only one short 5.6 crux with the remainder of the route 5.4 or less, therefore, bring pitons and a few various sized pieces, old Fieres or sturdy boots. It may be something to do when the snow is about to fall, but under winter conditions it would be a avalanche trap. Mt.Roberta sits opposite of Gap Peak on the southwest side of Highway #40.

The original summit register was there as of 2003 and it dates back to 1949! Since then only a half dozen parties have hiked up Mt.Roberta. Park at a closed gated turnout before the large bend below the peak(about 7km from the winter gate). Walk to the large bend and cross a small meadow, enter forest and cross Pocaterra Creek. Hike up the bushy hillside to the scree slope exiting the alleyway in the north face. Scramble up the scree corridor to its' end and belay on the left.

Climb the 5m left-facing corner beside a wet streak and top out onto a scree slope which is safest for the belayer by hugging the left wall up until you can cross over right at a notch/drop-off to a boulder with a one-bolt belay. Climb the 15m wide gully system above on ledges, keeping left, go over a short wall and belay on a tiny ledge on the left. Continue up the gully and move up right and back left over a bulging wall and go for 5m up and belay on cracked rock on the right. Continue up the left side of this loose gully then move right at the end of a small wall which splits the gully continuing up to the end. Surmount a short steep wall(crux) via a right-facing corner and belay at the back of the ledge. Step over right to a big ledge and belay around the corner(15m-short pitch). Go up open broken slabs and ledges to a belay ledge. Move right to a steepening ridge overlooking a drop, on good rock and belay on the ridge at the end of the rope. Hike across the scree chute and up to the summit.

Either descend by dropping into the steep SE bowl and hiking out (route of the first ascent), or walk down the SW ridge to a col and drop down into trees and scree to the old fire road (Pocaterra Lookout)which goes back out to Highway #40.(recommended way)



# Cornell's Corner 5.7, 150m

(SE Face of Belmore Browne Peak)

FA- G.Cornell and J.Miller, July 2000

From Sibbald Flats in Kananaskis, drive the dirt road south 14.5km on the Powderface Trail and park at a small pull-out.

Hike down to an old trail near a swamp then walk to a huge cutblock. Hike up it and through forest to the slabby base of the SE face, near the SE ridge. The route takes the wall just right of the big, main corner seen from the Powderface. From the boulderfield, scramble a short gully right of a gross red chossband. Scramble back left along a ledge towards the big corner to a poor one bolt belay and gear. The hike in is a good two hours. Descent is hiking down the SW slope back to the cutblock.

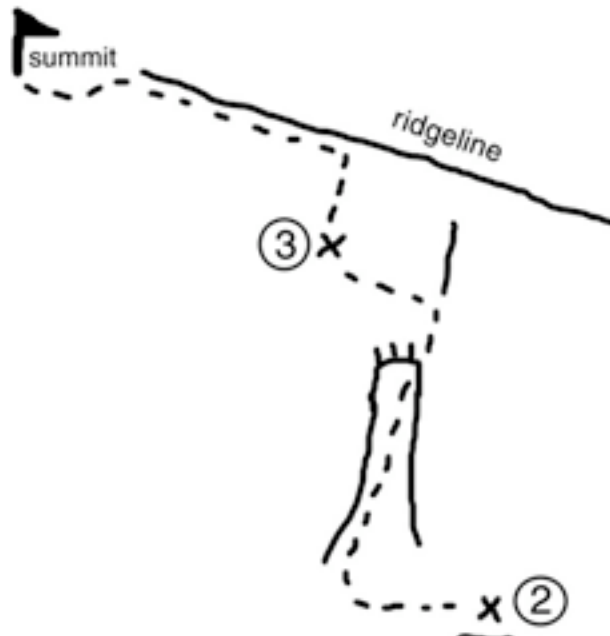
This is more a mountaineering route than a rock route. Recommended gear is a full set of nuts, small Tri-Cams, and medium cams. Oh yeah bring pins!

Pitch 1- from the one bolt belay, climb straight up to a notch then up a crack on poor rock to a small stance and a bolt/gear belay. (25m, 5.7R)

Pitch 2- A superb pitch, almost worth the hike! Go up slightly left over a tricky bulge and stem towards the corner moving down on black knobs and excellent rock to a great splitter crack. Follow the clean finger crack up through a slot in the roof to a nice ledge and a bolt/gear belay. (30m, 5.7)

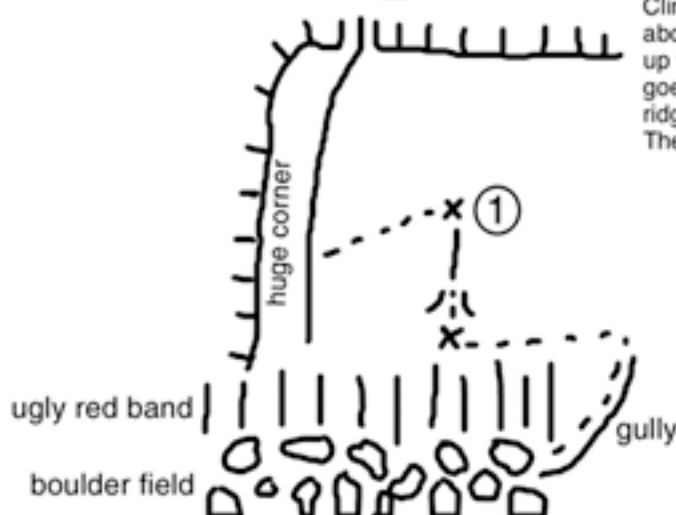
Pitch 3- Traverse left along a ledge then enter a parallel chute with a good crack on the left. Tackle the roof on the right which overlooks the belayer now. Stem the gully and move left to a ledge with a bolt/nut belay. (45m, 5.6)

Pitch 4- Climb up and left gaining the narrow east ridge to the summit. (50m, 5.5)



Climbers stand below the route. The white line gets you above the chossy red band to a one bolt belay. Go straight up to #1. Go down and left to an excellent crack which goes up to #2. Move left and up to #3. Go up and left to ridge to the summit(#4).

The main corner, obvious from the road, is on the left.

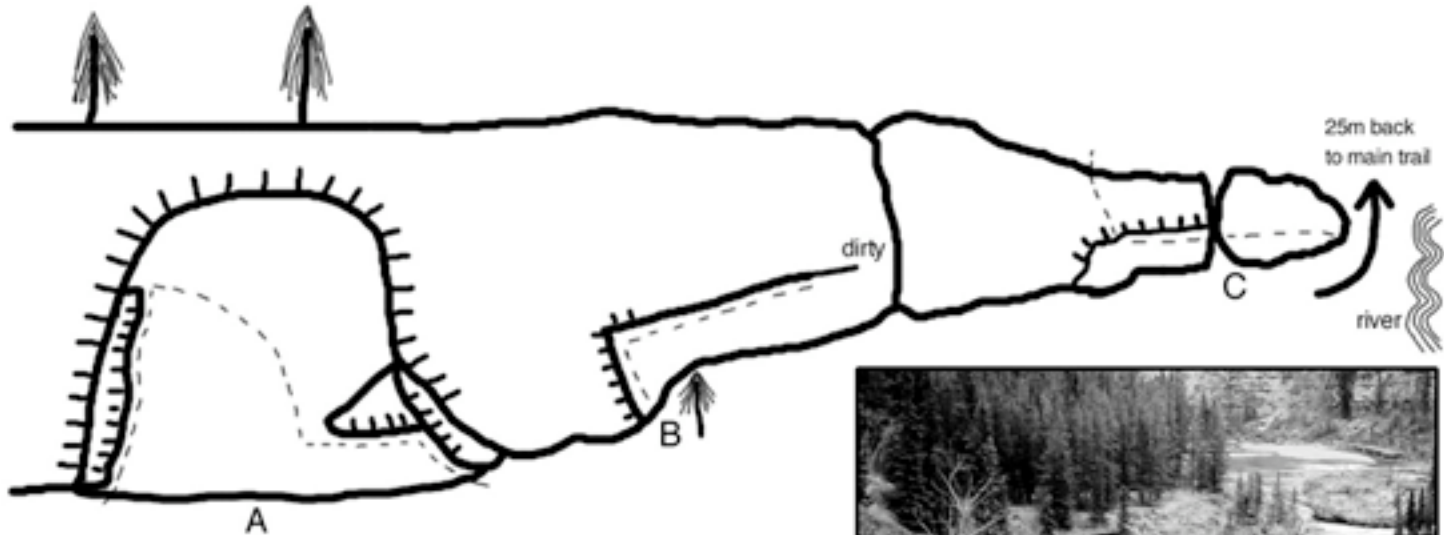


-"a rather pretentious name for a route but I don't think anybody will complain too much about this choss heap."  
*the author*

# ELBOW BEACH

A enjoyable bouldering spot with a very short approach, Elbow Beach to date has 3 worthwhile problems of different character, nicely situated with sand and suntanning sites at a bend on the Elbow River. Obviously a popular destination for hikers and partiers, the area has signs of delinquent behaviour like a scorched part of the wall from excessive summer campfires. Furthermore, some moron has decorated one overhang with a imitation native pictograph. Please, if you see garbage here, be above everyone and pack it out.

From Bragg Creek, drive south and take Route 66 west for 18.5 km to the big popular Elbow falls parking lot. Walk the paved trail and take upper left branch. Before the left railing starts, leave the asphalt and get on a beaten path that hugs the river drop-off (beware of slippery slopes) heading SE. Soon when the trail branches at trees, hike up the steeper left trail that goes up and over a small cliffband (potential?) and continue on it east above the river. Before a stand of aspen trees, the bouldering area is visible below where the river bends with the obvious yellow arch of rock. Walk down the trail to the river bottom and carefully descend a short stepped cliff above the water. Hike back north along the sandy shore 50m to the problems. Caution: due to water levels Elbow Beach may only be safe to access in summer/fall. Landings are clutter-free. Variations await.



- A) Train Tunnel(V3/4)- from right side of arch, under bulge, up high on crimpers traversing left to top of right-facing crack and down. Reverse is grade harder.
- B) Slacklining (V1+)- go up right-facing crack, traverse right above a small tree and along a sweet jug-handrail then jump off.
- C) Idiot Pictograph(V2)- start near a deep pool and traverse left on dark rock with nice ledges, stem past the gully, cross the overhang where the 'pictograph' is painted, and up jugs to the top.

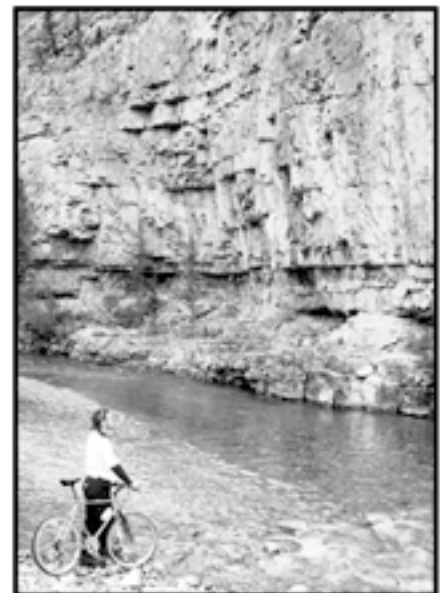


## Blue Bridge Wall

This questionable bouldering wall has not been climbed on and is included only as a teaser for unexplored Kananaskis terrain, but maybe deservedly so?

From Bragg Creek, drive south and follow Route 66 to the parking lot outside the campground at Little Elbow Recreation Area. Bike the road through the campground passing the gate and follow the Little Elbow Trail a few kilometers west to the blue bridge over the creek. The wall, about 25m high with downsloping holds, is above the bridge on the right.

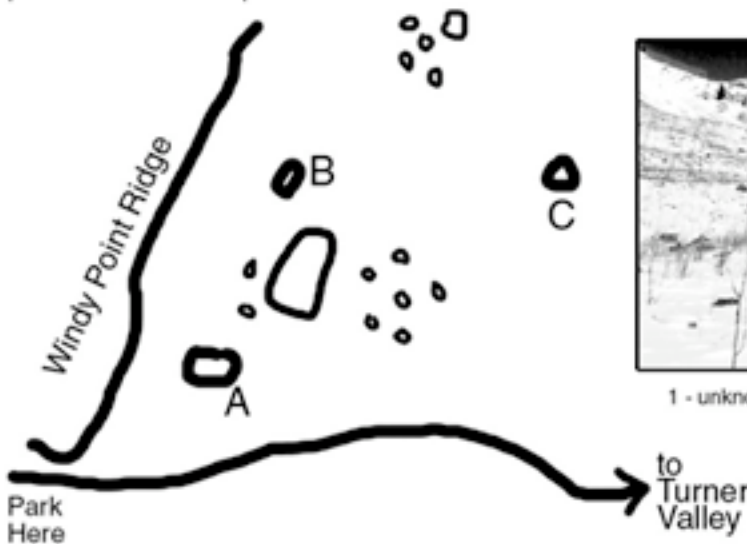
On the opposite side of the Blue Bridge. This is only half the wall.





# Cowpatties at Windy Point

From Turner Valley, drive about 5km past the winter gate for K-Country(closed Dec.1-May 15) and park in the pullout at the end of the long east-facing orange rockface(Windy Point Ridge). Hike up 100m into the meadow plateau to the first boulder. The Derelict is the egg-shaped boulder sitting alone from the scatter. Higher up the open draw are more boulders of unknown potential plus a slab between Spurs and Cleaver.



1 - unknown boulders up the draw

2 - the Derelict boulder is about 12 feet high

- A- 'Spurs'(V2) from the center overhang, traverse right using heel hooks. The left side has been done and is dangerously loose-avoid!
- B- 'Cleaver'(V0-) just up from an unknown slab, start on the north crest and go down on jugs. A circum-navigation may be interesting.
- C- 'The Derelict'(V1) on slopers up the center of the south face. A full traverse on slopers around this boulder would be a challenge.

# The Tiki Idol

From Longview, drive Highway #541 to Kananaskis. Park at a paved pullout on the north side of the road 5m past the Texas gate and 100m before the Kananaskis sign. This boulder is easily seen from the road.

Caution: this boulder may not be within K-Country boundaries.

A traverse of the north side of the stone has been done(V0) and the south crack facing the road has been cleaned however a thick iccap stopped a complete ascent. A few more problems still exist: only a small section needs cleaning and landings are tame.



A - the Tiki Idol shot from Highway #541 just east of the Texas gate  
This boulder is about 4m high

# FALLEN STAR

Park 200m north of Cowbell Crag and 50m south of the Texas gate. This slender rock is seconds from the road just in the forest above the ditch.

Crouch in the south cave and follow up to a nice crack and beyond (V2) - needs a sit-start ascent.

The remainder of this 20 foot high boulder may produce lines.

# BIG HILL SPRINGS PROVINCIAL PARK

This family dayuse area was included purely for the unexpectedness that there is some bouldering here, yet it's nowhere near K-Country. Many climbers may have gone here as toddlers and never been back as it is great family picnic spot. Watch out for children at play and young lovers. Respect all signs, try to avoid chalk, don't scrub, don't cuss or act disorderly as this is a family site. Please help remove any trash you see. The rock on the first 2 areas is full of holes and jugs and is shockingly bomber; the third rock seems more like granite, featureless and overhanging.

To get to Big Hill Springs from Calgary, take the #1A west and about half way to Cochrane, turn north on the paved #766 for 10 kilometers. At a four way stop, turn left (west) on the #567 and drive for about 5km. Turn left at signage for the park and go 2km to a large parking area with a public washroom and end of the road.

Walk across the road to the main picnic tabled area along the creek and hike up the beaten trail to the first rock, about 150m from the parking lot. It is next to a concrete water canal. To get to wall #2, hike up the pleasant trail along the creek to a 1m high rockwall that extends out north. From a viewpoint wood bench, take a path down to the creek, cross it to see the bouldering.

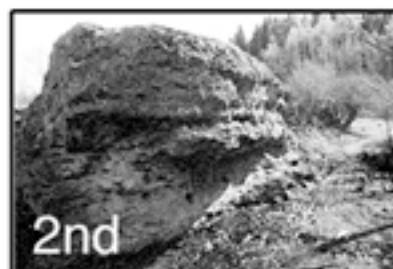
The creek is about 1m wide and 1 foot deep. To get to the third boulder, continue down the main trail past the wood bench for a few minutes. Instead of continuing up the very steep trail (a lovely walk that goes through the woods for 3/4 km and returns back to the parking lot - no more boulders further) walk past into trees and it is on the left. Such a great place to start kids bouldering while mom gets the picnic ready!

3rd - a very compact boulder with a crazy overhang that has slopers to allow one super hard problem (unclimbed?)

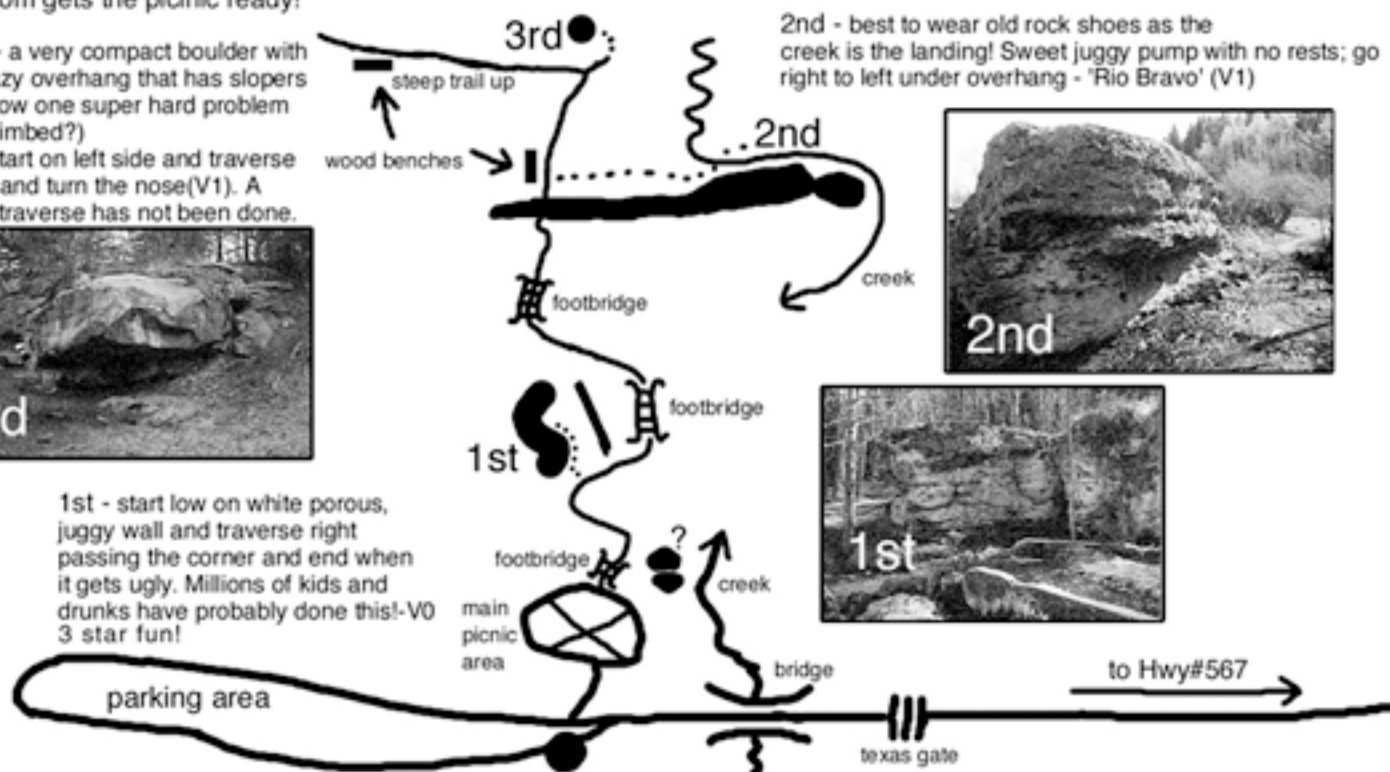
Or, start on left side and traverse right and turn the nose (V1). A total traverse has not been done.



2nd - best to wear old rock shoes as the creek is the landing! Sweet juggy pump with no rests; go right to left under overhang - 'Rio Bravo' (V1)



1st - start low on white porous, juggy wall and traverse right passing the corner and end when it gets ugly. Millions of kids and drunks have probably done this! - V0 3 star fun!



**Your Route Goes Here in the Next Update!**

**Help re-popularize Kananaskis**

**mountain climbing**

**Submit your secret route or that forgotten gem**

*see pg.2 for more details*