

The Wild Wild West is a comprehensive guide to rockclimbing in the West End of San Miguel and Montrose counties in southwest Colorado.

bouldering - sport - cracks - aid  
easy - moderate - hard

Including:  
San Miguel River Canyon  
Norwood  
Naturita  
Highway 141 Scenic Byway  
The River Road  
Paradox Valley  
Big Gypsum Valley  
Slickrock  
and more

OVER 500 ROUTES  
ENDLESS BOULDERING  
FUN CLIMBING FOR EVERYONE



The Wild Wild West

Charlie Fowler  
Damon Johnston

Mountain  
World  
Media

# The Wild Wild West

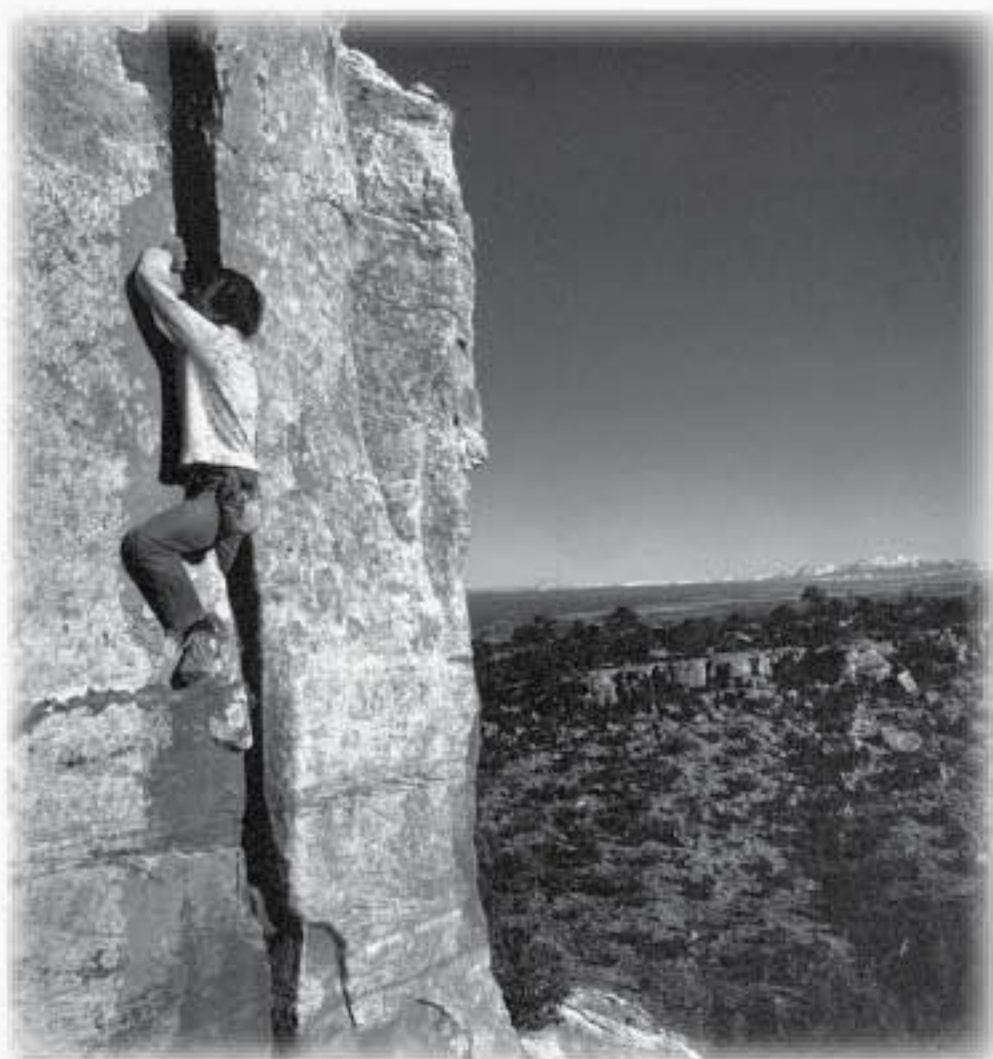
Rock Climbing in the Wild West End  
of Southwestern Colorado

Charlie Fowler  
Damon Johnston

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Climb Safe, Have Fun!



Just another wide crack in the desert  
CC photo

"What lies behind us and  
what lies before us are tiny  
matters compared with  
what lies within us."  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

### Acknowledgements

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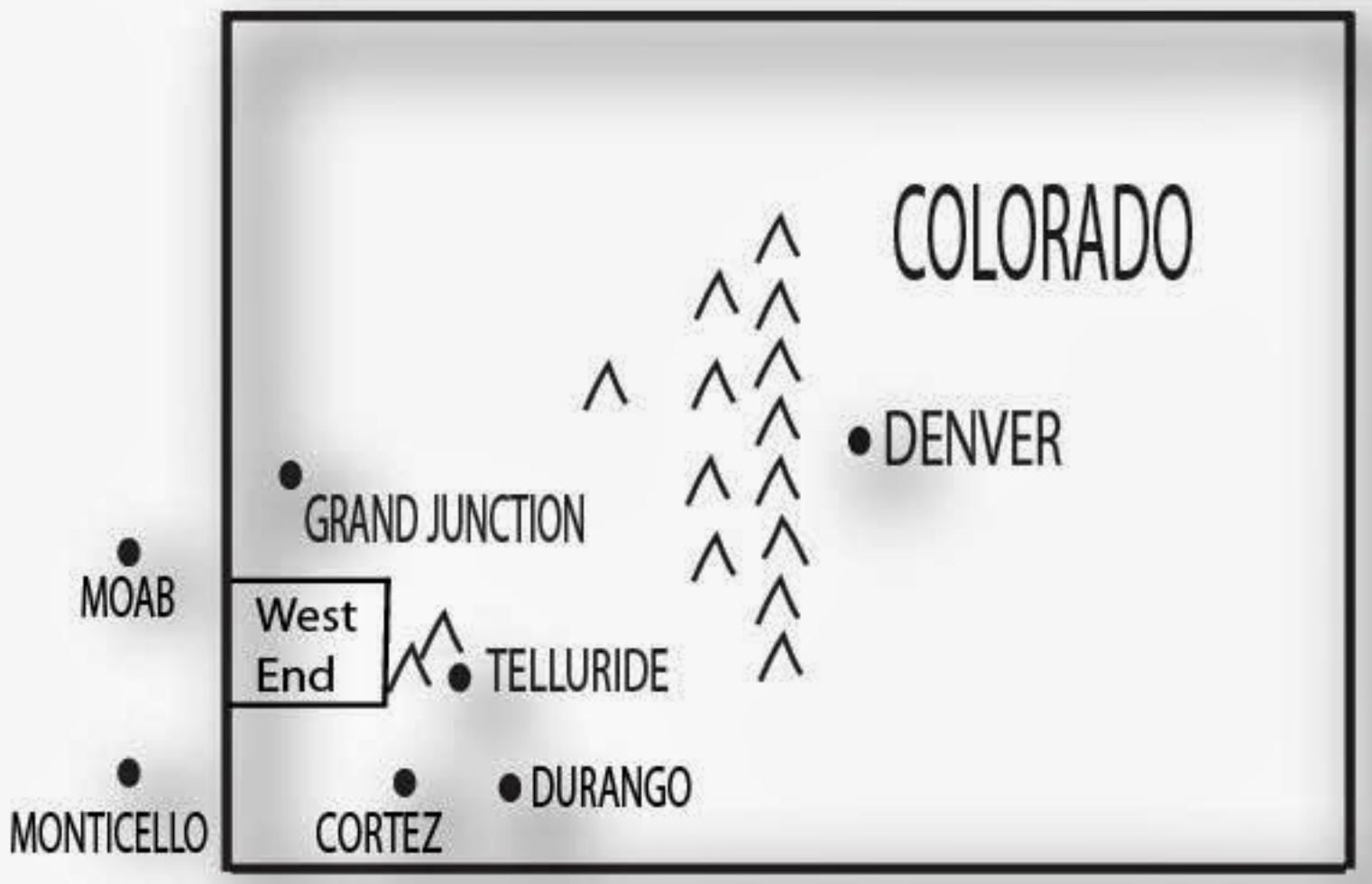
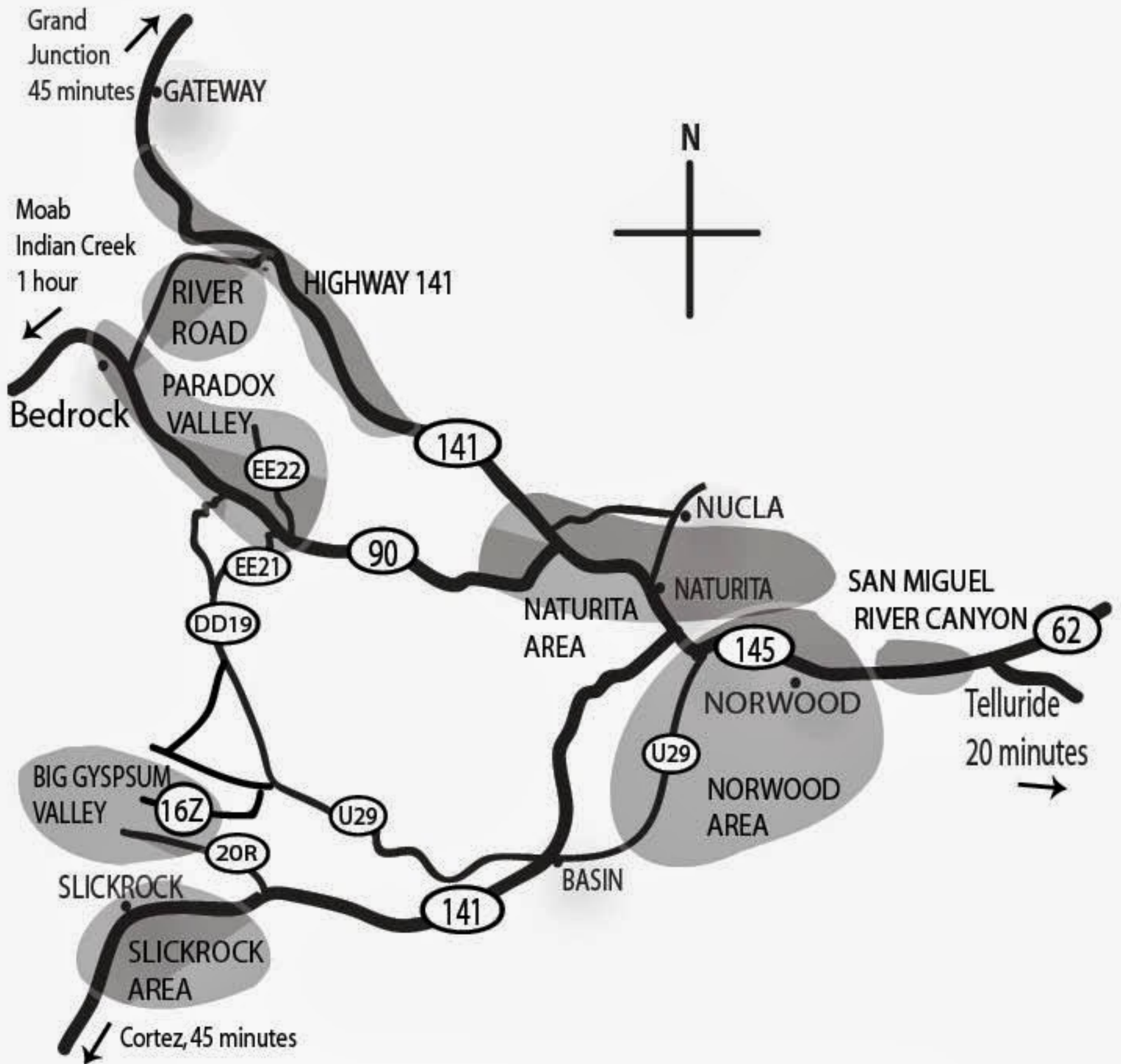
Kim Steiner  
Joel Coniglio  
Chris Boskoff  
Julie Hodson  
Josh Borof  
Mike Milne  
Eric Bjornstad  
Billy Mason  
Daiva



Joel Coniglio sportin'  
a mexican hat

all uncredited photos by Charlie Fowler

# West End Climbing Areas



# Introduction

## ***About This Guidebook***

This book covers selected rockclimbing and bouldering areas in the “West End” of Montrose and San Miguel counties in southwest Colorado. Over 500 sandstone routes are recorded, as are some of the many bouldering spots in the area. A more detailed guide to area bouldering is in the works.

## ***The Climbs***

Most of the climbs in this guide have been repeated by the authors and friends, nevertheless the information here is only approximate – use good judgment and climb at your own risk. This guide records only selected routes in various areas – routes of poor quality or near rock art are omitted. Many of the crags described in this guide have few routes, but lots of new-route potential. The scope for exploration and adventure here is vast.

Climbs in this guide range from 30 to 350+ feet long; many are short, less than 80 feet high. About half the climbs are bolt-protected, the others require gear. A selection of 2-3 sets of cams and wired nuts is sufficient for most gear routes. Some bolted routes require as many as twelve or more quickdraws. A 60 meter rope is recommended at 16Z, the Sunshine Slabs and Atomic Energy Crags. A 70 meter rope is recommended at Red Rocks; a 70 meter rope or two ropes are needed for several routes at Carpenter Ridge, in addition to many cams. Most routes are equipped with fixed belay/rappel anchors on top, however some routes at the Lost World, Atomic Energy Crag and nearby crags lack top anchors due to soft rock – bring a long rope to anchor off trees. Many of the routes in this guide have seen only a few ascents, therefore ratings should be considered tentative.

## ***Seriousness Warnings***

PG 13 Long fall possible, but fairly safe when led by an experienced climber.

R Could be serious consequences in event of a fall, injury not unlikely.

X Potentially very serious consequences in a fall, serious injury or death not unlikely.

Lack of a seriousness warning does not imply that a climb is safe.

All climbing is dangerous; risk cannot be eliminated from the sport.

## ***Quality Ratings***

some routes are rated for quality

\* pretty darn good

\*\* highly recommended

\*\*\* excellent climb, gotta do

Only routes worth climbing are included in this guide, routes without a star are still recommended.

**"Better a cruel truth than a comfortable delusion."**

**-Edward Abbey**

## ***New Route Information***

People who contributed to the establishment of a route or an area are sometimes noted, along with dates and other information. Corrections and additions welcome.

## ***Access***

Most of the climbing areas in this guide are located on BLM land. The exceptions are some climbs in the San Miguel River Canyon and Norwood areas, which are in the Uncompagrhe National Forest. There are at present no restrictions on climbing, however there are several protected species of plants and animals in these areas – do not disturb any plants or wildlife. Please don't climb within 50 feet of rock art. Access to some climbing areas in the Paradox Valley crosses private land – please leave gates closed and limit camping impacts there.

## ***Seasons***

Climbing is possible year-round, but the prime time for most crags is from early Fall through late Spring. Summertime temperatures can be hot in the sun; wintertime temperatures cold in the shade. Fortunately, most cliffs are south facing, meaning they are climbable throughout the winter. Summertime can be pleasant in the shade; good options for shade include the main area at 16Z in the morning, the Hueco Wall and Sand Dune Wall along the River Road, the Shady Side at the Lost World and Sewemup Mesa. Winter access can be a problem right after a snowstorm, as most cliffs are approach by dirt roads that can get real muddy. Good winter crags include the Black Wall, Carpenter Ridge, Red Rocks, AEC and Clay Creek. May and June usually see swarms of pesky gnats and other annoying insects – take alot of bug juice then.

## ***Camping***

There are many fine, free and undeveloped camping spots near the climbs, as noted in the area maps. Please use existing sites and campfire rings. Campfires are often banned during periods of high wildfire danger. There is no potable water available at any camp site – bring lots. Important: Limit the impacts from camping!


## ***Services***

Norwood, Naturita and Nucla are the nearest towns with a full range of services, including grocery stores, lodging, and gas. Bedrock and Gateway have limited services, including gas, food and beer. The Basin store has food and refreshments. The nearest climbing shops are located in Moab and Telluride.

## ***Emergency Medical***

The closest clinics are in Norwood and Naturita. Call 911.

# Map and Topo Symbols

 paved road (with designation)


 dirt road (with designation)


 trail

 crack

 face

 cliffband

 boulder or tower

 left facing corner

 right facing corner

approximate range  
of cracks:

thin - less than 1/2"

fingers - 1/2" to 1 1/2"


hands - 1 1/2" to 3"

fist - 3" to 4 1/2"


ow - 4 1/2"+

 ledge

 roof

 descent

 chimney

 groove or straight-in corner

 arete or outside edge

X fixed protection (does not indicate amount on a pitch!)

XX fixed anchor

# General Information and Suggestions

**Access Issues** – access to climbing areas is not guaranteed; rules, regulations and land ownership change frequently. Temporary closures to protect wildlife are common. Restrictions may be in place regarding fixed anchors, altering the rock and hammer aid. For current status, check locally or contact The Access Fund ([www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org), 1-303-545-6772)

**Respect Private Property** – most routes described in this guide are on public land, but access may pass through private lands. Continued access depends on respecting private property rights.

**Minimize Visual Impacts** – remove all garbage and incidental climbers' shwag such as slings, tape, back-off 'biners and abandoned gear. Always camouflage fixed anchors. Be discreet.

**Dispose Of Human Waste Properly** – use toilets where available, otherwise bury it or pack it out.

**Use Existing Trails** – the desert is an extremely fragile environment. Camp in designated or pre-existing sites.

**Campfires** are often banned in the region during periods of dry weather– check locally for current regulations. Always use existing fire rings where available and avoid making fires during periods of high winds. Bring your own firewood.

**Park In Designated Areas** – do not drive off the road or inconvenience other users.

**Do Not Disturb Cultural Or Historic Artifacts** – areas described in this guide contain many archeological sites; it is a Federal crime to disturb them. Ruins older than 50 years may be considered historic and are protected by law. Federal land managers commonly enforce a 50 foot buffer around rock art and other cultural sites.

**Fixed Anchors** should be placed for safety and resource preservation only, not for convenience. Webbing anchors should be avoided - they degrade quickly in the harsh desert environment and are unsightly. Many of the routes in this guide are on soft desert sandstone; it is imperative that all climbers visually inspect fixed anchors and be prepared to fix or replace those that are deemed unsafe. Some routes do not have fixed anchors due to poor rock, so plan accordingly. Do not lower directly off fixed anchors - otherwise they will wear out quickly and become dangerous.

**Please Do Not Climb When The Rock Is Wet** – sandstone is extremely fragile when wet; holds break off, cracks chip edges and fixed anchors can weaken and possibly fail.

## Abbreviations:

BLM Bureau Of Land Management  
USFS United States Forest Service  
TR top rope  
OW offwidth crack

“... because as we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns - the ones we don't know we don't know.”

-Donald H. Rumsfeld

## Route History:

Some of the people who helped established the routes in this guide:

BM Billy Mason  
MD Mark Dean  
SC Summer Colt  
CL Chris Logan  
ET Eric Tanguay  
DB Doug Berry  
KS Kim Steiner  
CC Cynda Crozier  
CF Charlie Fowler  
GFH Ginny Fowler Hicks  
DT Dee Thomas  
AS Amy Schilling  
JC Joel Coniglio  
KD Kip Davis  
MM Mike Milne  
DJ Damon Johnston  
CB Chris Boskoff  
JH Julie Hodson  
BE Bruce Erickson  
MW Mark Wilford  
AK Axel Koch  
RS Robert Saunders  
TJ Tom Jay  
JB Josh Borof  
PE Paul Emrick  
RM Rick Mendle  
SJ Steve Johnson  
MK Max Kendall  
DC Daiva Chesonis  
BH Barb Hunt  
FS Franci Stagi  
DM Dan McGee



Redemption Song JC photo

TR Todd Rector  
PW Pete Wagoner  
TK Tim Kudo  
MB Mike Bengé  
BB Brian Biega  
BS Ben Shafer  
JB John Burns  
SB Steve Blakesly  
CD Cathy Dunne  
KD Kevin Dunkak  
CG Chris Goplerud  
TRY TR Youngstrom  
WG Warren Gabbert  
KR Keith Reynolds  
RW Robert Warren  
KC Kyle Copeland  
TA Tor Anderson  
EW Eric Wright  
BK Bill Kees  
SW Steve Wood

“Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.”

-Albert Einstein

# Climbing Areas

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"There are only two mistakes one can make along the road to truth; not going all the way, and not starting."

-Buddha

# The Wild Wild West

Selected Rock Climbs in Southwestern Colorado



This guidebook features information on several unique crags in the canyons and mesas of Colorado's "West End".

Clay Creek

Lost World Crag

Atomic Energy Crag

Sewemup Mesa

16Z

Psycho Tower

The Black Wall

Sunshine Slabs

Red Rocks

Carpenter Ridge



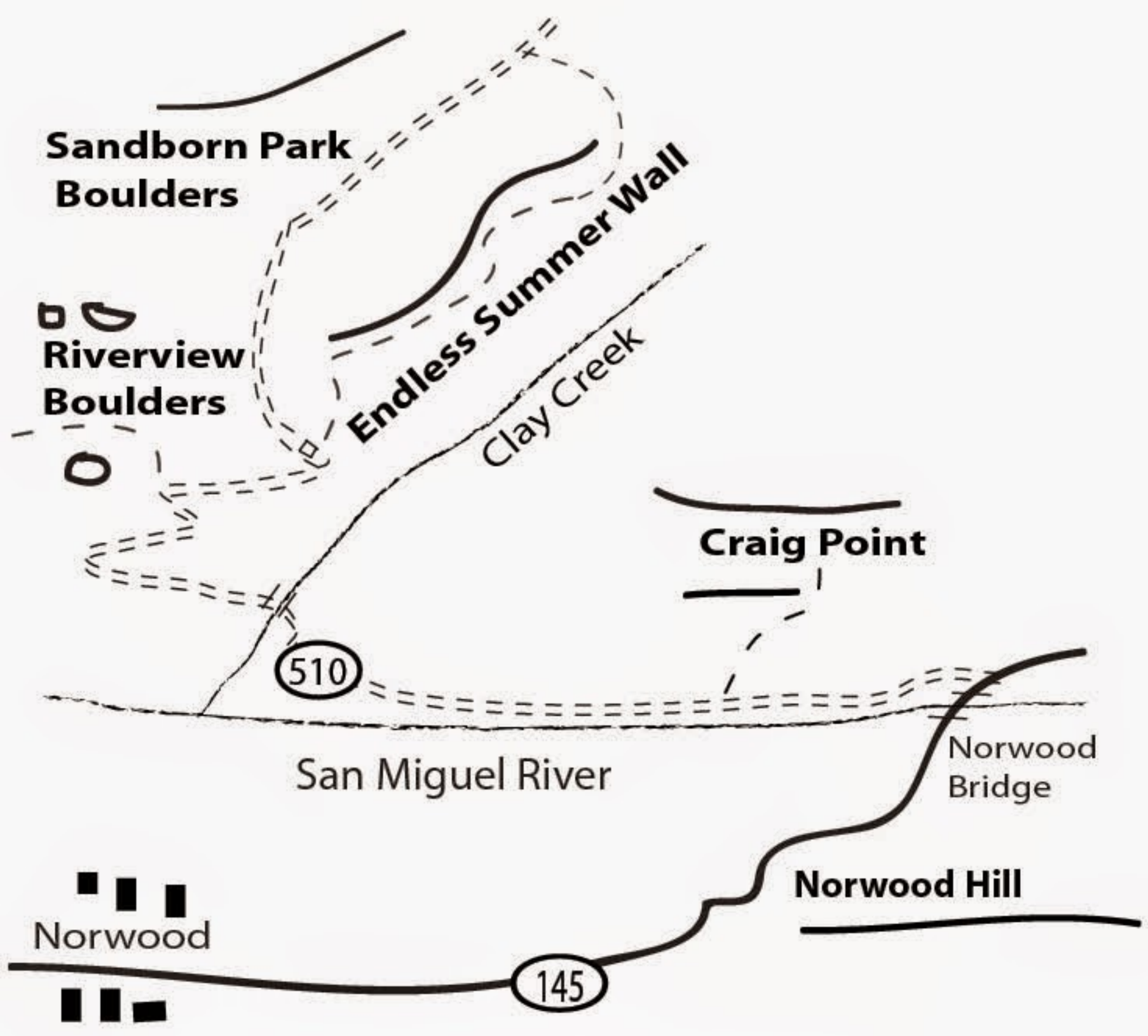
Many excellent bouldering areas are noted.



Paradox Valley Windgate

cover photo: Climbers on the Psycho Tower, Big Gypsum Valley

# Sandborn Park Road



Hang Ten, Endless Summer Wall

# Clay Creek

*Rock Type* Dakota Sandstone

*Height* 35 - 60 feet

*Climbing Style(s)* sport, some cracks

*Gear Suggestions* 8 quickdraws, 2 sets of nuts and cams for gear routes

*Seasons* yearround, summer can be hot

*Land Status* USFS

*Restrictions* none

*Road Access* regular vehicle

*Comments* 50+ routes from easy to hard

From Highway 145, at the bottom of Norwood Hill, take Forest Service Road # 510 (the Sanborn Park Road) 4.2 miles. Park at a prominent pullout on the left. A good trail leads to the crag - 10 minutes to the first climbs. The trail continues along the base of the cliff; it's about a half hour hike to the last climbs.

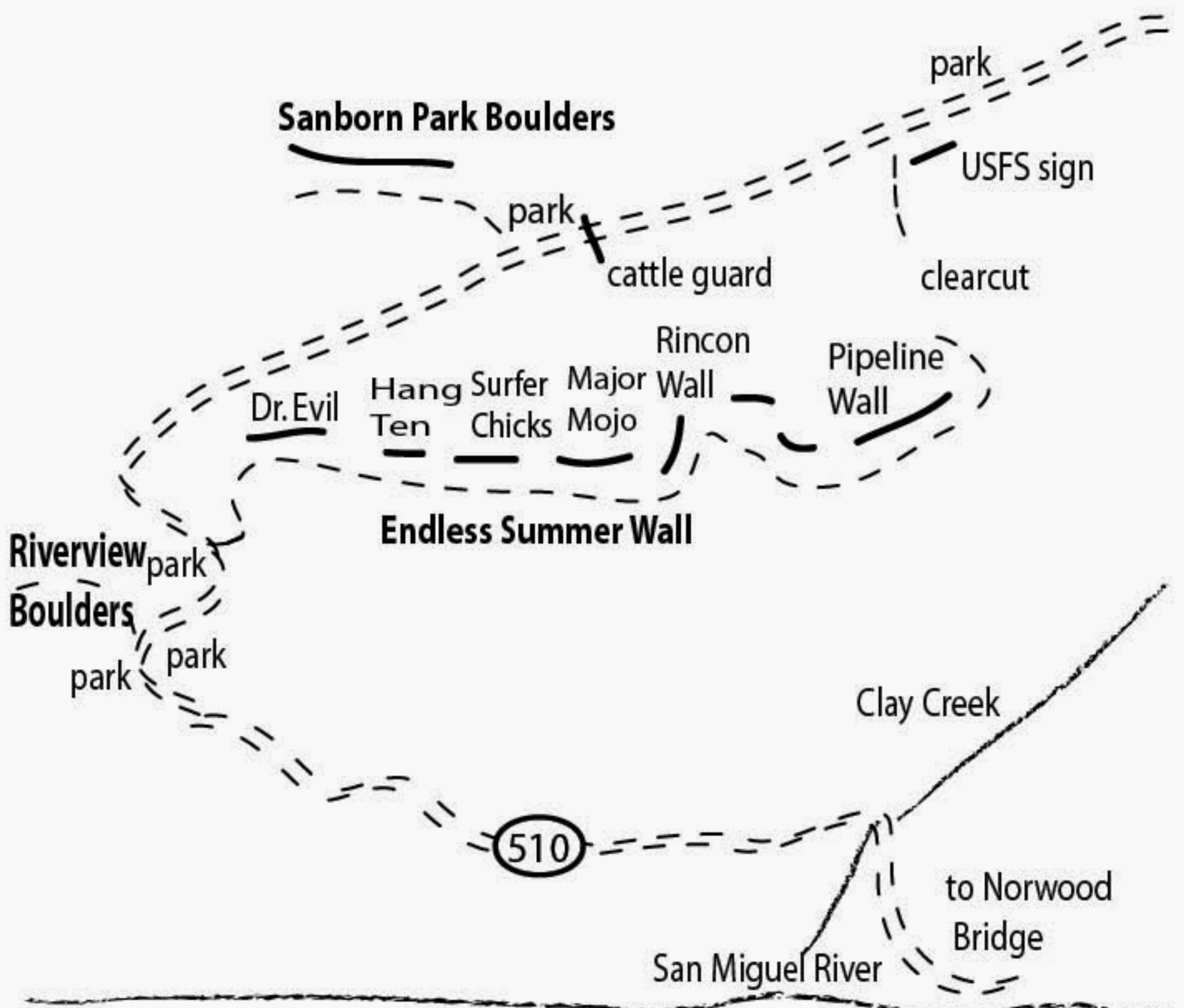
Climbs range from 30 ft to 60 ft high. Many are bolted, but several require gear. A rack heavy on small stuff, including micro cams, is advised. Most routes have fixed anchors on top. Currently, about 1/3 of the routes are 5.10, 1/3 are 5.11 and most of the rest are easier. There are some fun climbs for beginners, but the best routes are the hardest.



# Clay Creek Climbing Areas



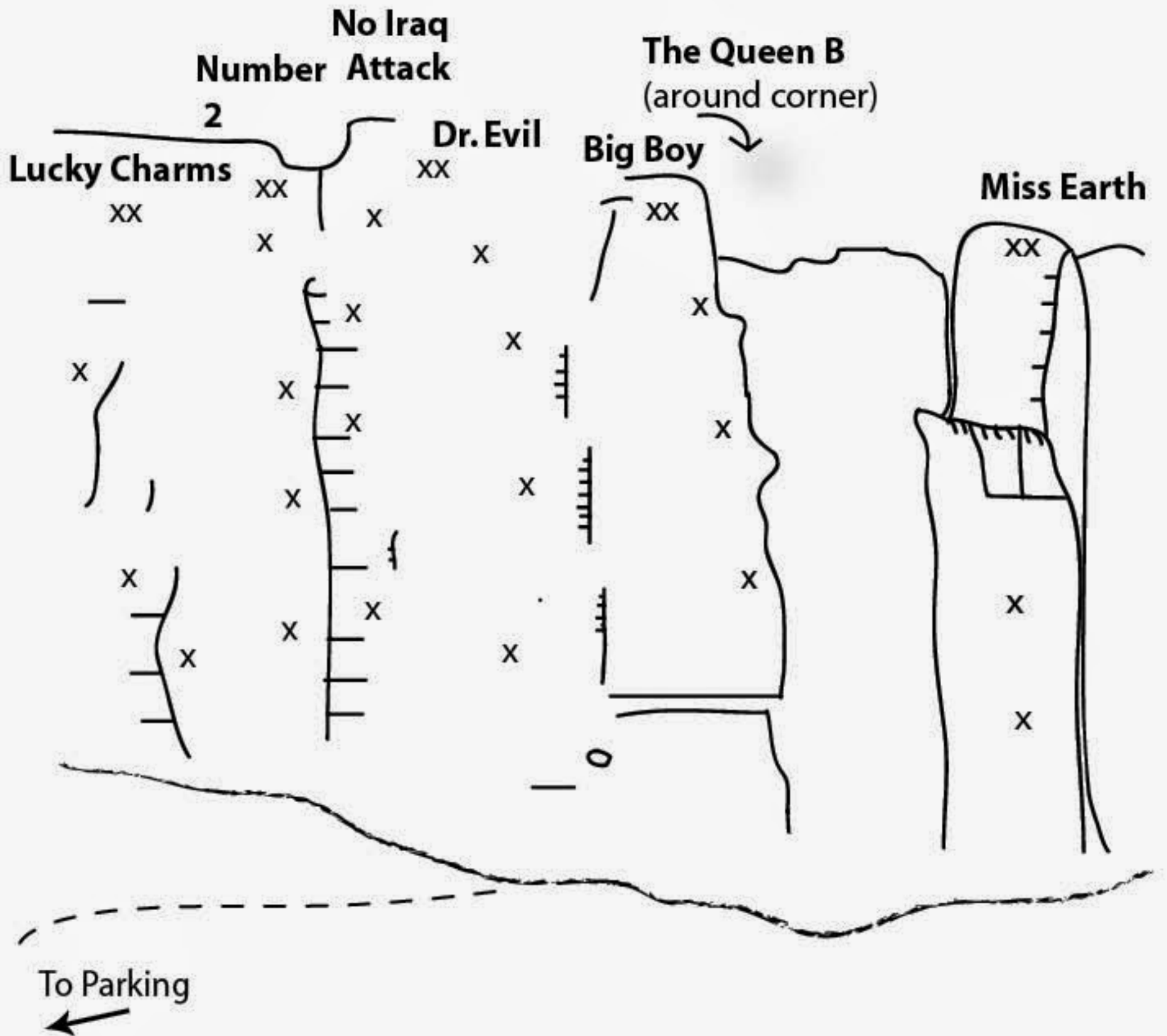
The Doctor Evil Wall



# Clay Creek Climbs

Routes are recorded left to right along the trail.

## Doctor Evil Wall



**Lucky Charms** 5.8 3 bolts CB,CF '01

**Number 2** 5.10 stemming corner 4 bolts CB,CF '01 \*

**No Iraq Attack** 5.10 4 bolts CB,CF '01

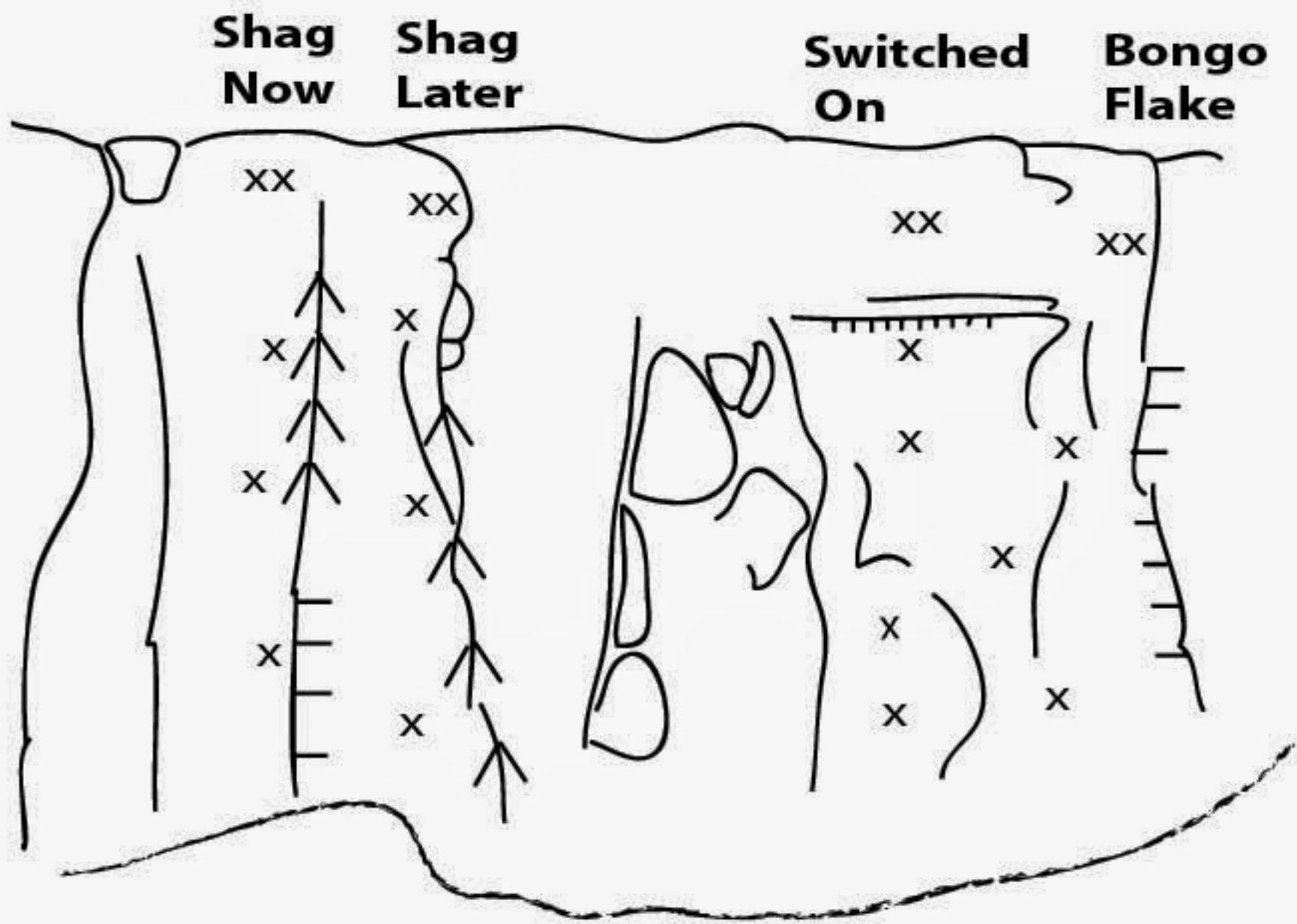
**Doctor Evil** 5.11 4 bolts CB,CF '01 \*\*

**Big Boy** 5.8 arete 3 bolts CB,CF '01

**The Queen B** 5.10- 3 bolts to Big Boy Anchor CF,DJ '03

**Miss Earth** 5.9 2 bolts, gear - fingers and hands CF,CJ, '03

# Clay Creek - Doctor Evil Wall



**Shag Now** 5.8 3 bolts DJ,CF '02

**Shag Later** 5.10 4 bolts DJ,CF '02

**Switched On** 5.9+ 4 bolts DJ,CF '02

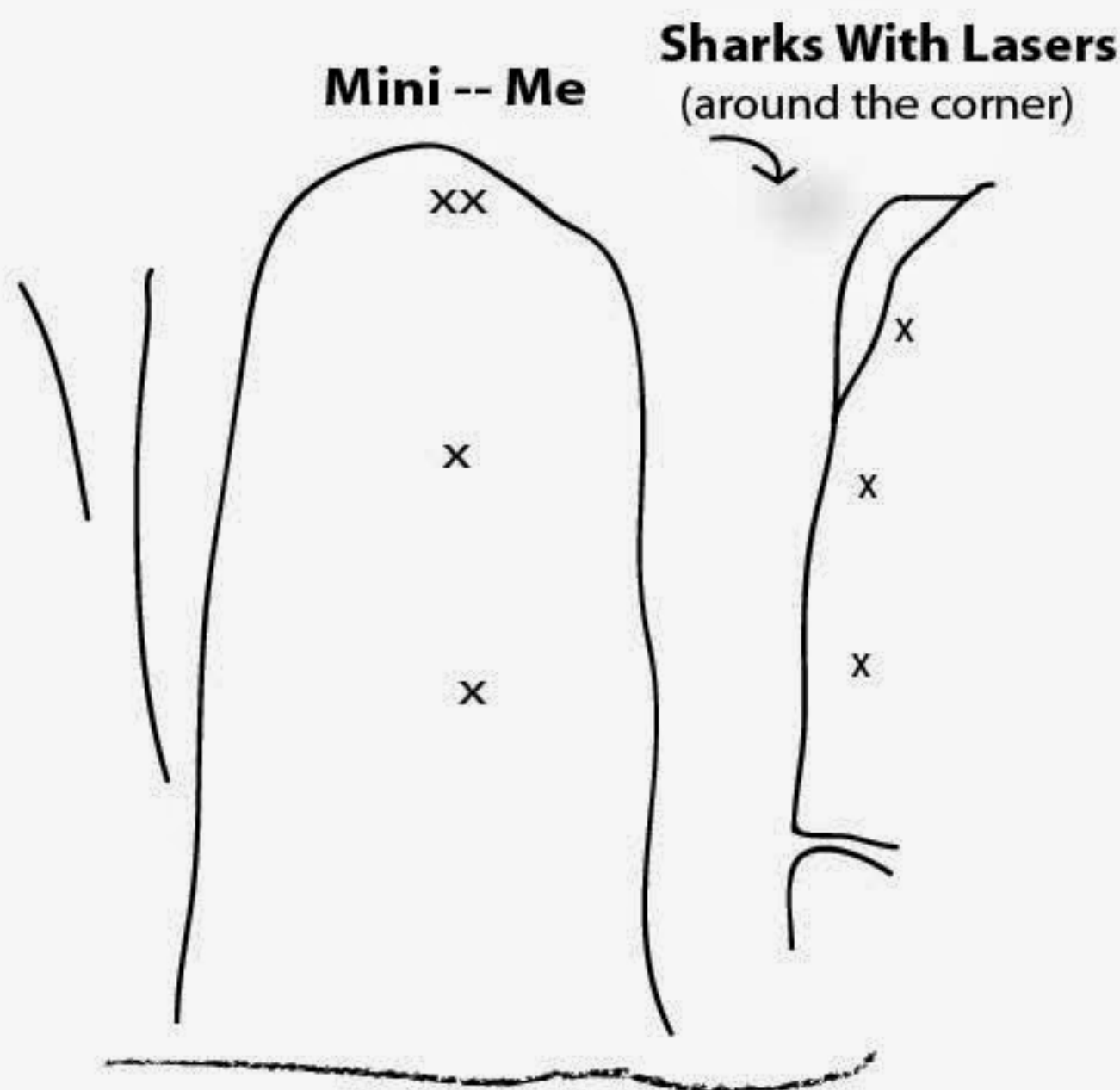
**Bongo Flake** 5.11 3 bolts, gear - fingers TR,PW \*

"Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it."

-Confucius

## Clay Creek - Doctor Evil Wall

**Rock Lobster** 5.8 crack up buttress, gear - finger and hand



**Mini Me** 5.8 2 bolts JH, DJ

**Sharks with Lasers** 5.9- 3 bolts JH, CF

no topos for the next few climbs, all by DJ, CF:

**Cactus Crack** 5.8 crack in corner, gear - finger and micro

**Head Games** 5.10 (boulder problem start) steep wall to overhang  
4 bolts

**Special Sauce** 5.10 overhanging handcrack, joins Head Games  
gear - hands \*

The Schoolroom, located on a buttress just north along the trail:

**The Hawk** 5.8 thin crack up buttress 1 bolt, gear - finger and micro \*

**Little Schoolgirl** 5.7 2 bolts

# Clay Creek

the next few routes are scattered further along the trail:

**Hang Ten** 5.11- juggy overhangs 4 bolts \*\*

**Surfer Chicks** 5.9+ overhanging wall 3 bolts

**Hang Loose** 5.9 corner to overhang 4 bolts

**Major Mojo** 5.12 overhanging edge 6 bolts, gear - hands

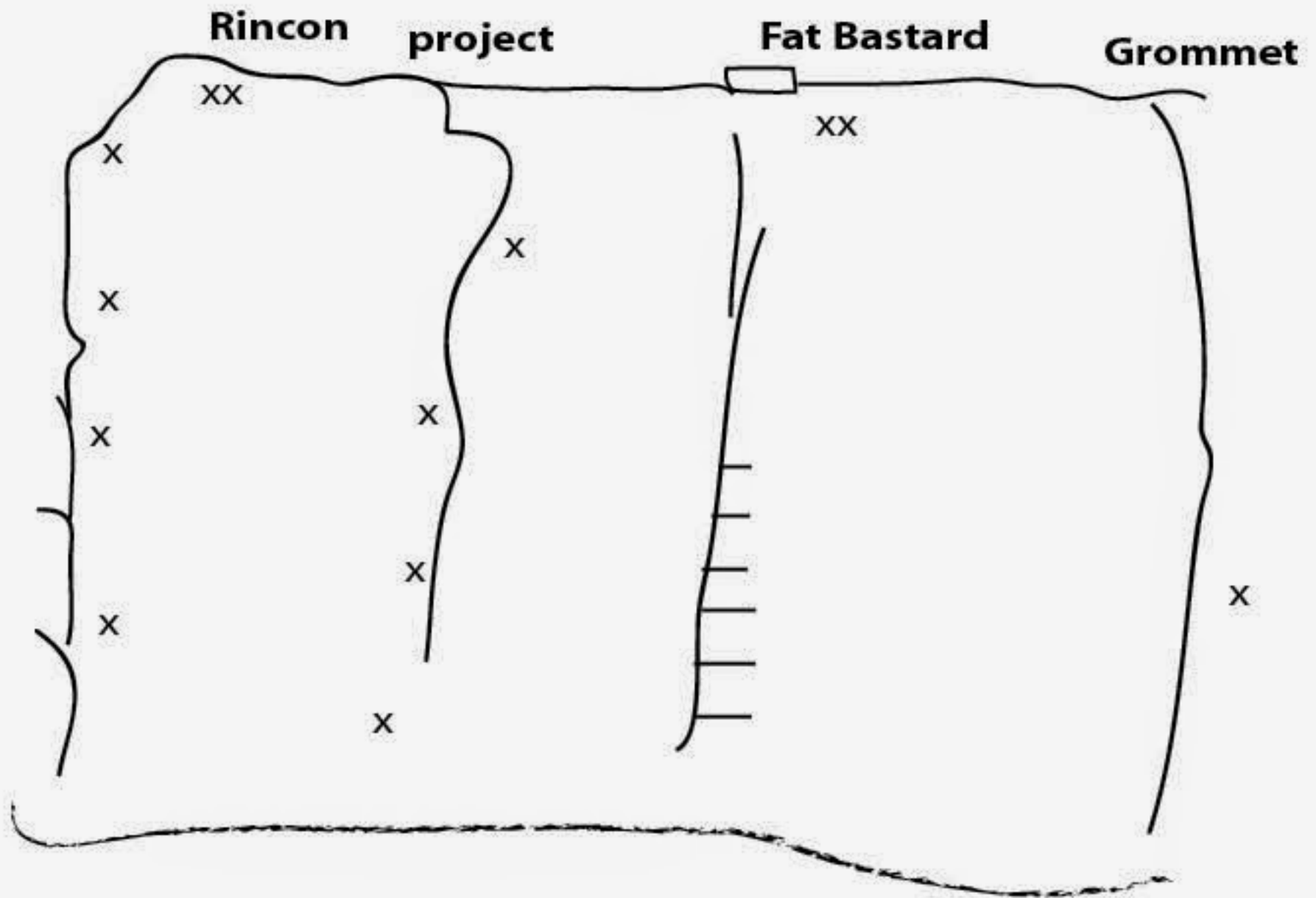
all established by DJ, CF '02 - '03



The ever-popular Hang Ten

# Clay Creek - Rincon Wall

Where the trail turns a corner, find these northfacing climbs



**Rincon** 5.11- 4 bolts

**Hard Project** 4 bolts

**Fat Bastard** 5.10 overhanging hand and finger crack to OW finish \*

**Grommet** 5.10 1 bolt, gear - hand and finger

not shown, to the right:

**Eagle's Edge** 5.9 5 bolts

**Zippit** 5.11 5 bolts \*

routes: DJ, CF

# Clay Creek - Pipeline Wall

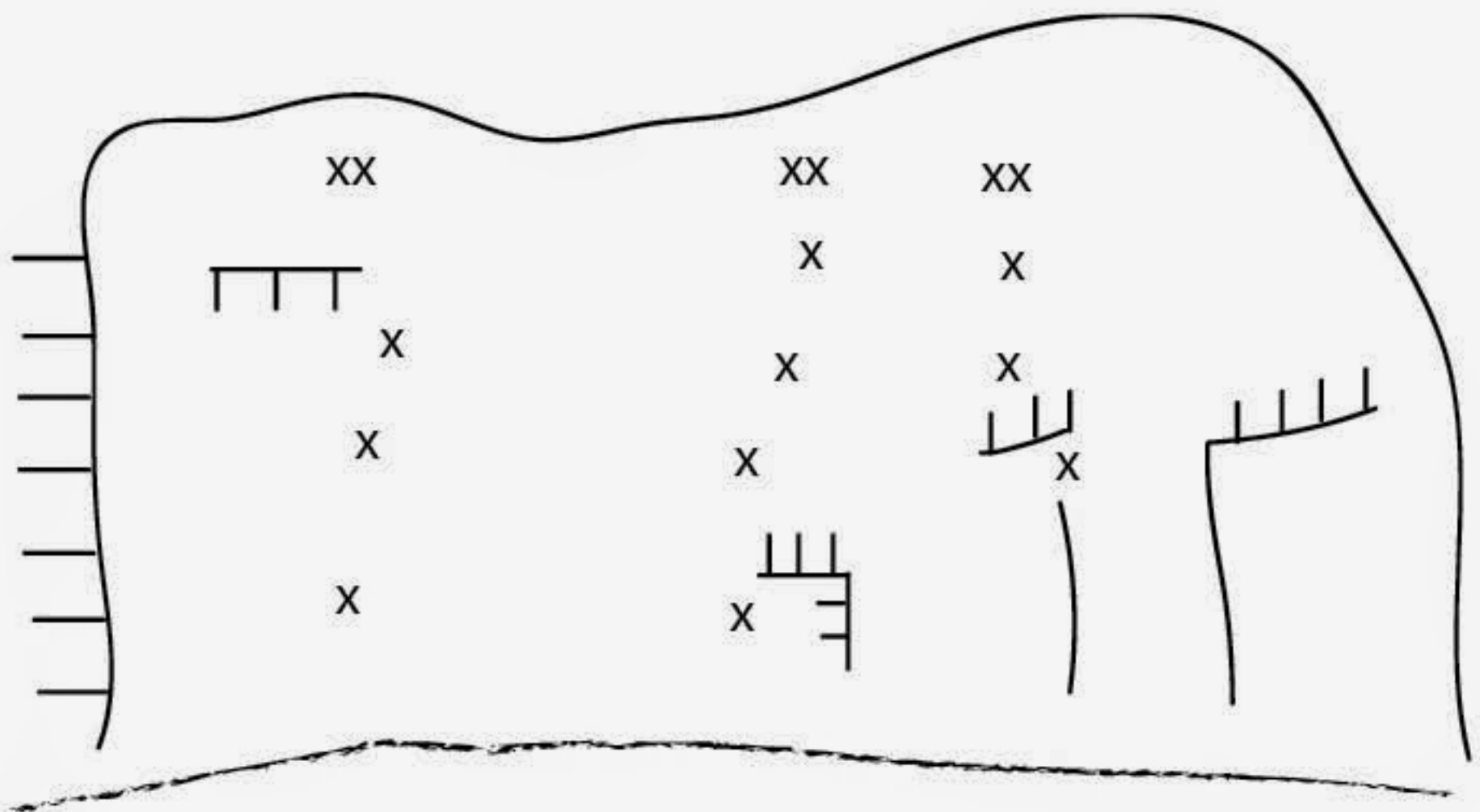
The highest and best wall at Clay Creek

"The secret of health for both mind and body is not to mourn for the past, nor to worry about the future, but to live the present moment wisely and earnestly."

-Buddha

not shown, to the left (south):

**Snakepit** 5.10 4 bolts

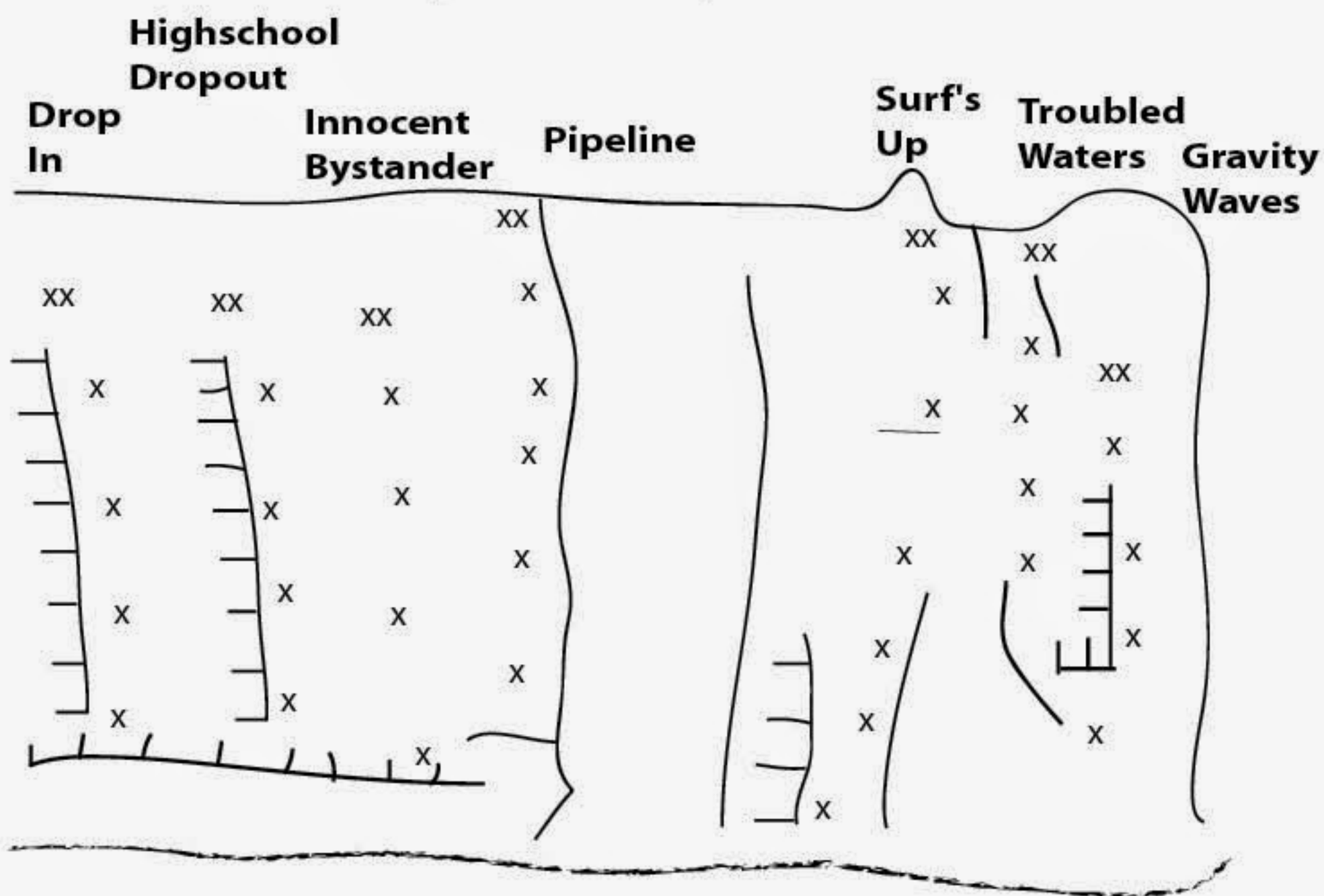


**Air On The Side Of Caution** 5.9+ 3 bolts DJ,CF

**Doctor Zoog** 5.10- 5 bolts JH,DJ,CF \*

**Swept Away** 5.10 4 bolts, gear (optional) - micro cams and small wires  
CF, DJ, JH

# Clay Creek - Pipeline Wall



**Drop In** 5.10 4 bolts DJ,CF

**Highschool Dropout** 5.10 4 bolts DJ,CF \*

**Innocent Bystander** 5.10 4 bolts CF,DJ

**The Pipeline** 5.10 start as for Innocent Bystander, move right 6 bolts DJ

**Surf's Up** 5.11 6 bolts DJ

**Troubled Waters** 5.12- 6 bolts, gear - hand, finger and micro cams CF \*\*

**Gravity Waves** 5.11- 5 bolts, gear(optional) - fingers CF \*\*

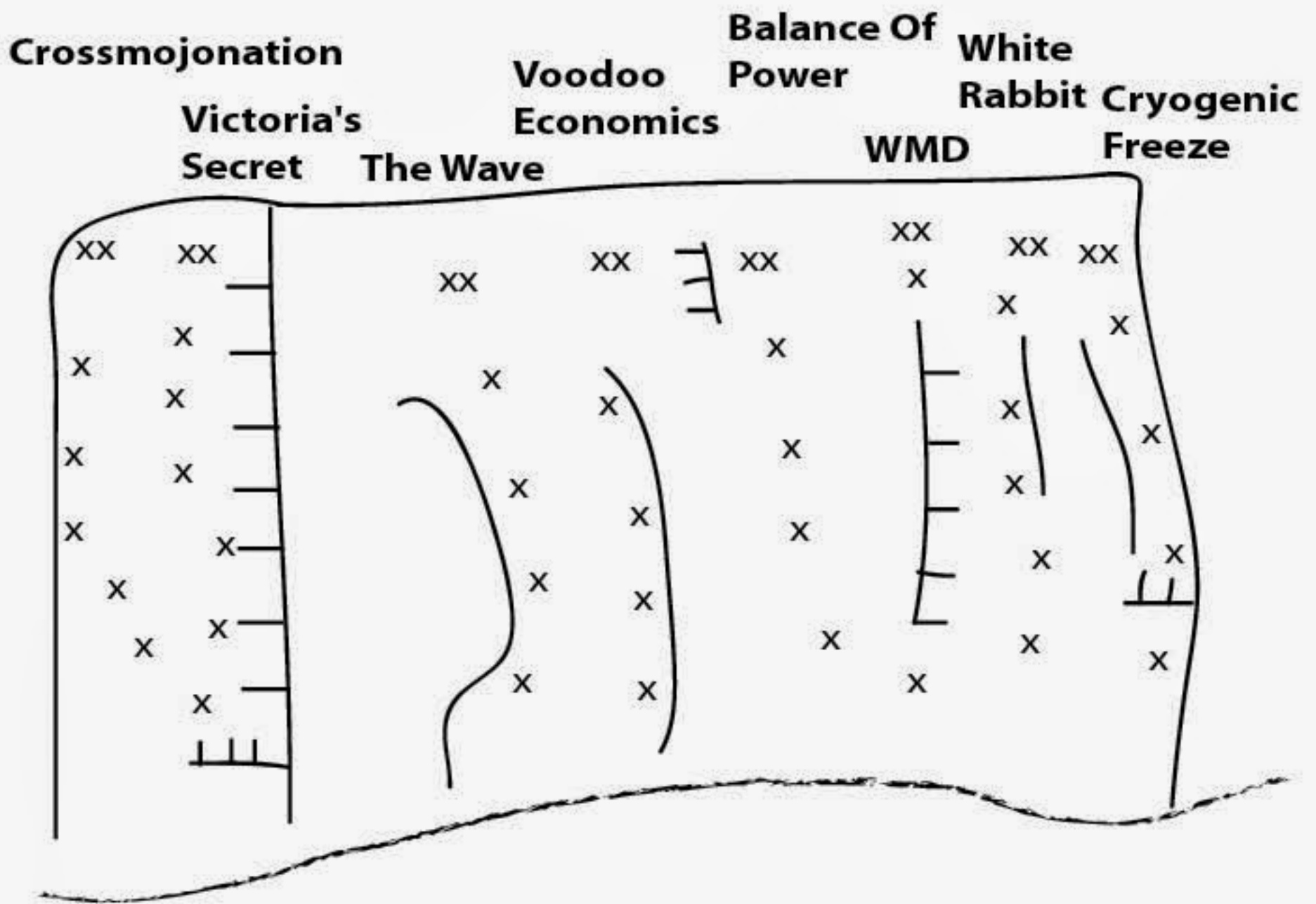
around the corner to the right:

**Supernova** 5.11+ the big buttress 7 bolts CF \*

**Stinger** 5.11 moderate face to hard finish 6 bolts DJ,CF

**Collateral Damage** 5.12- the prominent grey wall 5 bolts CF,DJ \*\*\*

# Clay Creek - Pipeline Wall



**Crossmojonation** 5.12- spectacular buttress 5 bolts CF, CB \*\*\*

**Victoria's Secret** 5.10+ 5 bolts CB, CF \*

**The Wave** 5.9 the thin flake 4 bolts DJ, CF

**Voodoo Economics** project the fragile seam/face 4 bolts

**Balance Of Power** 5.11 4 bolts DJ, CF

**WMD** 5.9 left facing flake/corner 2 bolts, gear - hand and finger CF, DJ

**White Rabbit** 5.12 bulging face/seam 5 bolts CF, DJ \*

**Cryogenic Freeze** 5.11 edge to overhang into corner 4 bolts DJ, CF \*



The River Road (Road Y11) is a scenic dirt road winding through canyons of the Dolores and San Miguel Rivers between Uravan and Bedrock.

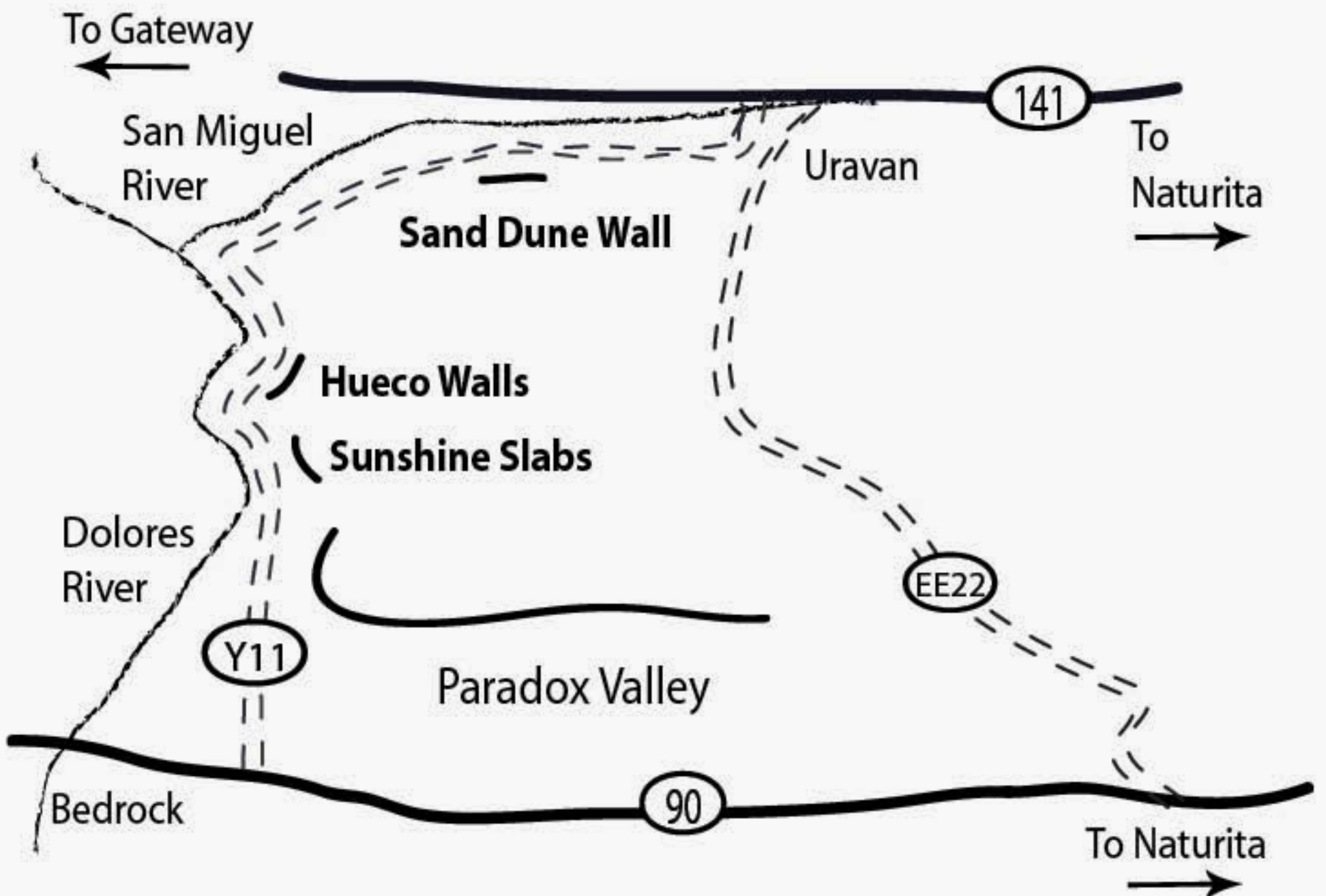


Sandstoner's Highway, Sunshine Slabs

JC photo



Let It Rain, Sand Dune Wall



# Sunshine Slabs

*Rock Type* Windgate Sandstone

*Height* 200 + feet

*Climbing Style(s)* Crack, Sport

*Gear Suggestions* selection of nuts and cams to 3 inches, 60 meter rope

*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none

*Road Access* regular vehicle

*Comments* warm and sunny crag with several moderate routes

This big, southfacing slab is located 5 1/2 miles along Road Y11 from Highway 90 in Paradox Valley.

Park along the road below the slab and find a steep trail leading up the hillside to the climbs.



Wide Open Spaces (left) and Manic Monday (right)

# Wild Open Spaces



Located approximately 5.5 miles from the intersection of Colorado 90 and Road Y11 near Bedrock.

Routes from left to right:

**Road To Nowhere** 5.8+ PG13 6 QD's Damon Johnston, Summer Colt '04

**Sandstoner's Highway** \*\*\* 5.9+, 2 pitches, gear: 11 QDs  
Joel Coniglio, Damon Johnston, Charlie Fowler '03

**Wide Open Spaces** \*\* 5.10-, 3 pitches,  
gear: one set of cams from smallest to 3", one set of wired nuts,  
6 QD's and several runners. Joel Coniglio, Charlie Fowler '03

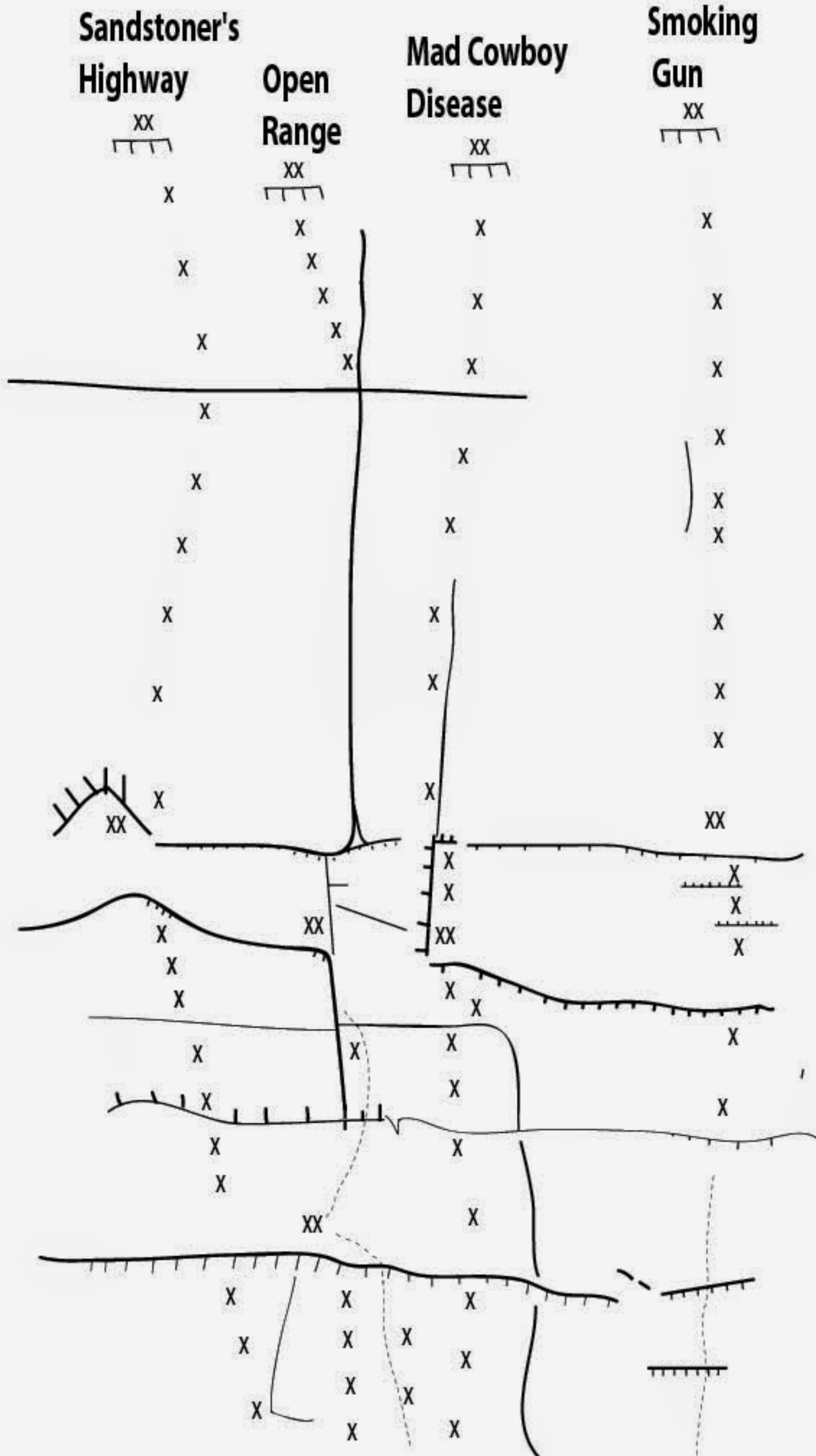
**Shock And Awe** \* 5.8 the direct, bolted pitch joining MCD, gear: 9 QD's  
Chris Boskoff, Damon Johnston, Charlie Fowler, Julie Hodson '03

**Mad Cowboy Disease** \* 5.8 pitch one, 5.10 pitch two,  
gear: small to medium wires, small cams to 2 1/2", 9 QD's  
(1) Joel Coniglio, solo (2) Damon Johnston, Joel Coniglio '03

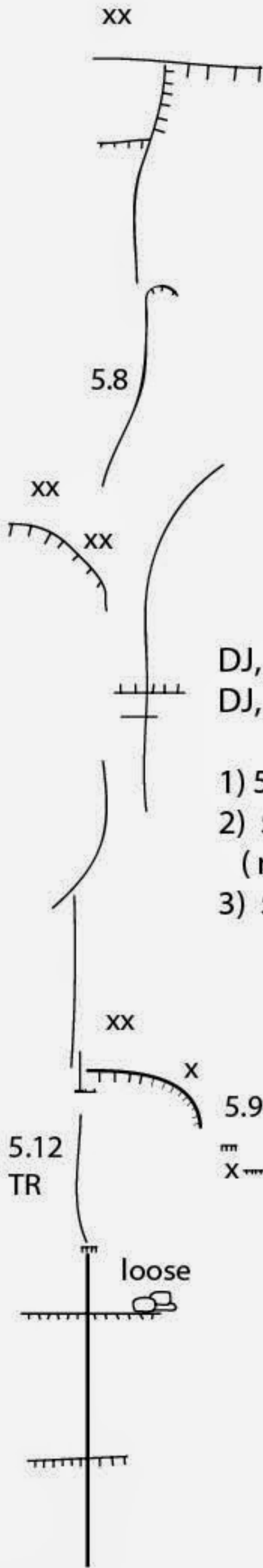
**Smoking Gun** \*\* 5.10 pitch one, 5.9 pitch two, gear: QD's  
Damon Johnston, Julie Hodson '03

"Do not anticipate trouble, or worry about what may never happen. Keep in the sunlight."

# Sunshine Slabs - Wide Open Spaces Wall



# First Light Wall



## Manic Monday 5.10+

DJ, DC pitches 1 and 2  
DJ, JH, CB, Rick Mendle pitch 3

- 1) 5.9 faceclimb up and left past several bolts
- 2) 5.10+ up finger and handcrack past small overhang (move to higher anchor for a better stance)
- 3) 5.8 flake to a corner - hands and thinner

# Hueco Wall

*Rock Type* Windgate Sandstone

*Height* 60 feet

*Climbing Style(s)* Top-Roping, Crack, Sport

*Gear Suggestions* long anchor rope for top-roping, 8 quickdraws

*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none

*Road Access* regular vehicle

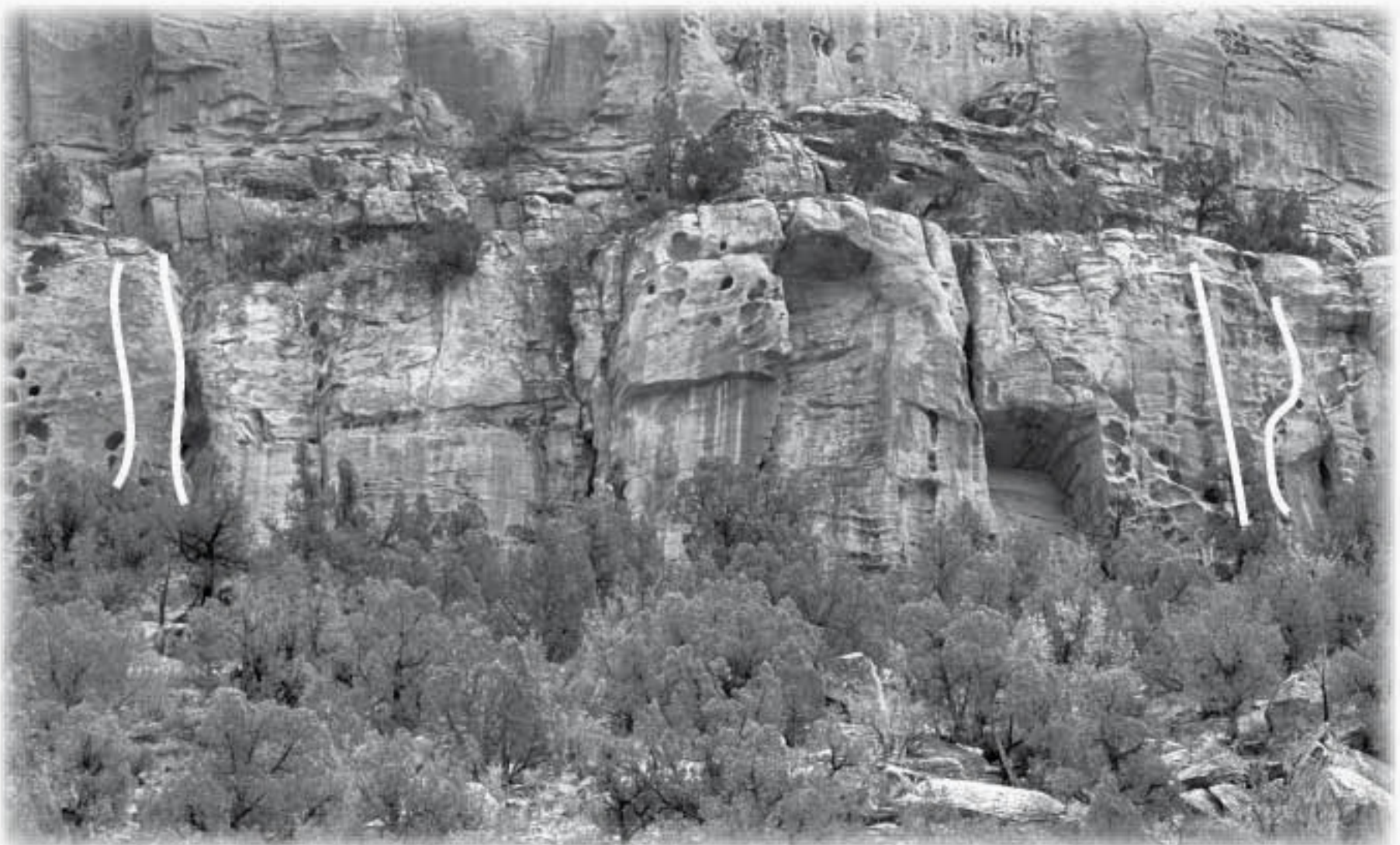
This wall is 6 miles from the new bridge at Uravan. Billy Mason and Charlie Fowler top roped about 12 routes years ago. Four climbs have been bolted since then. (DJ, CF '03)

**Tortilla Flats** 5.11 big huecos to thin edges

**Sucker Train Blues** 5.9 buttress

**Small Swift Birds** 5.10+ hueco column

**Midnight Ravers** 5.11 huecos, then up and right into bulge



# Sand Dune Wall

*Rock Type* Windgate Sandstone

*Height* 60 feet

*Climbing Style* Sport

*Gear Suggestions* 8 quickdraws

*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none

*Road Access* regular vehicle

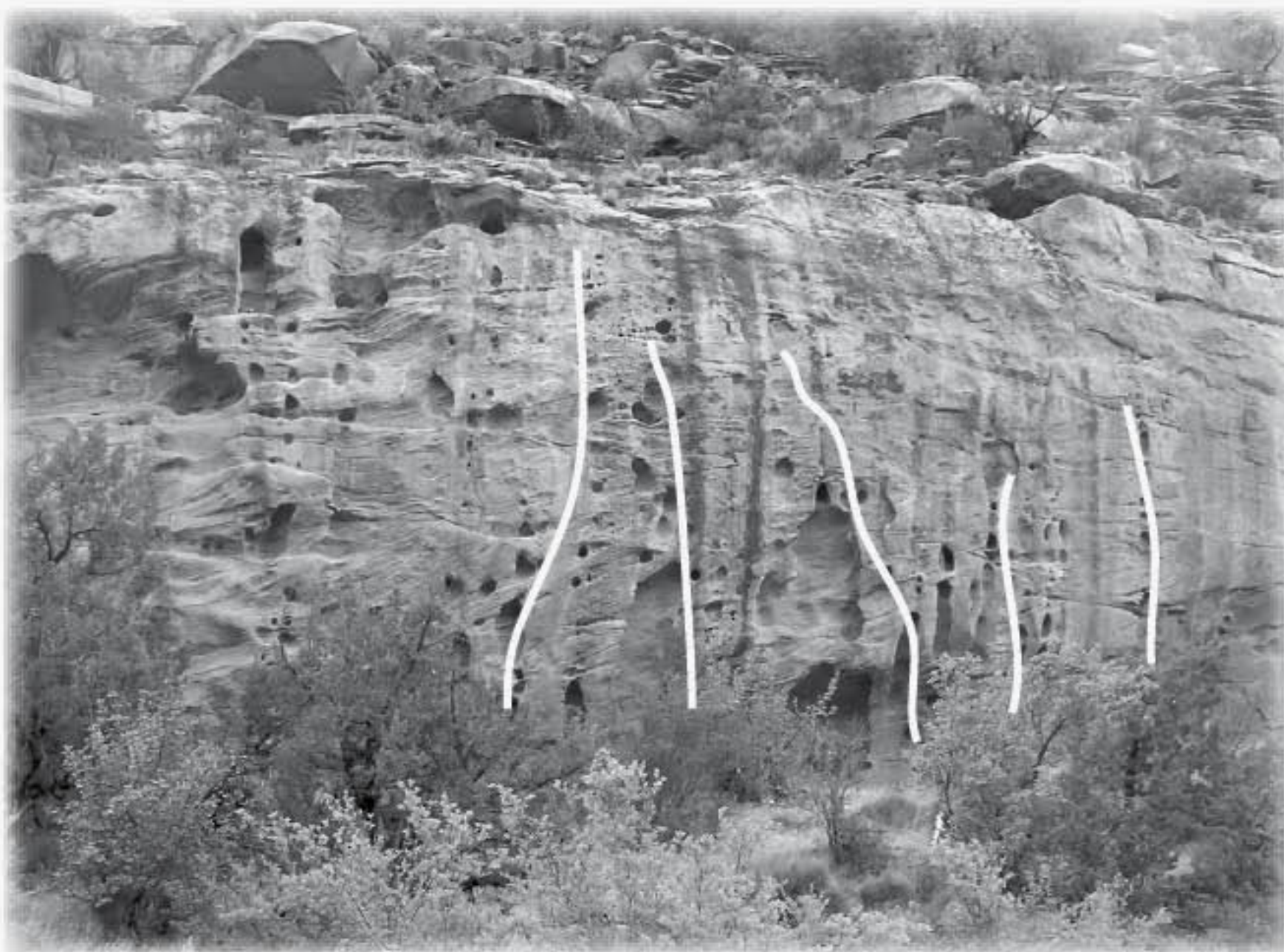
*Comments* very near the road, stays dry in a light rain

The Sand Dune Wall is 3 miles from the new bridge at Uravan



The Sand Dune Wall - strenuous hueco climbing

# Sand Dune Wall Routes



Routes from left to right:  
(a potential route to raptors' nest should be avoided)

**Let It Rain** 5.11 \*\*

**Bathtub** 5.11\* thoughtful, tricky climbing

**White Riot** 5.11/5.12, difficulty depends on how direct one climbs

**Cats And Dogs** 5.10 more steep, tricky climbing on big holds

**Brown Sugar** 5.10+ safety tip: stick clip first bolt on this one



across the river:

**Seeing Is Believing** 5.11

routes established by Billy Mason,  
Frank Caras and Charlie Fowler

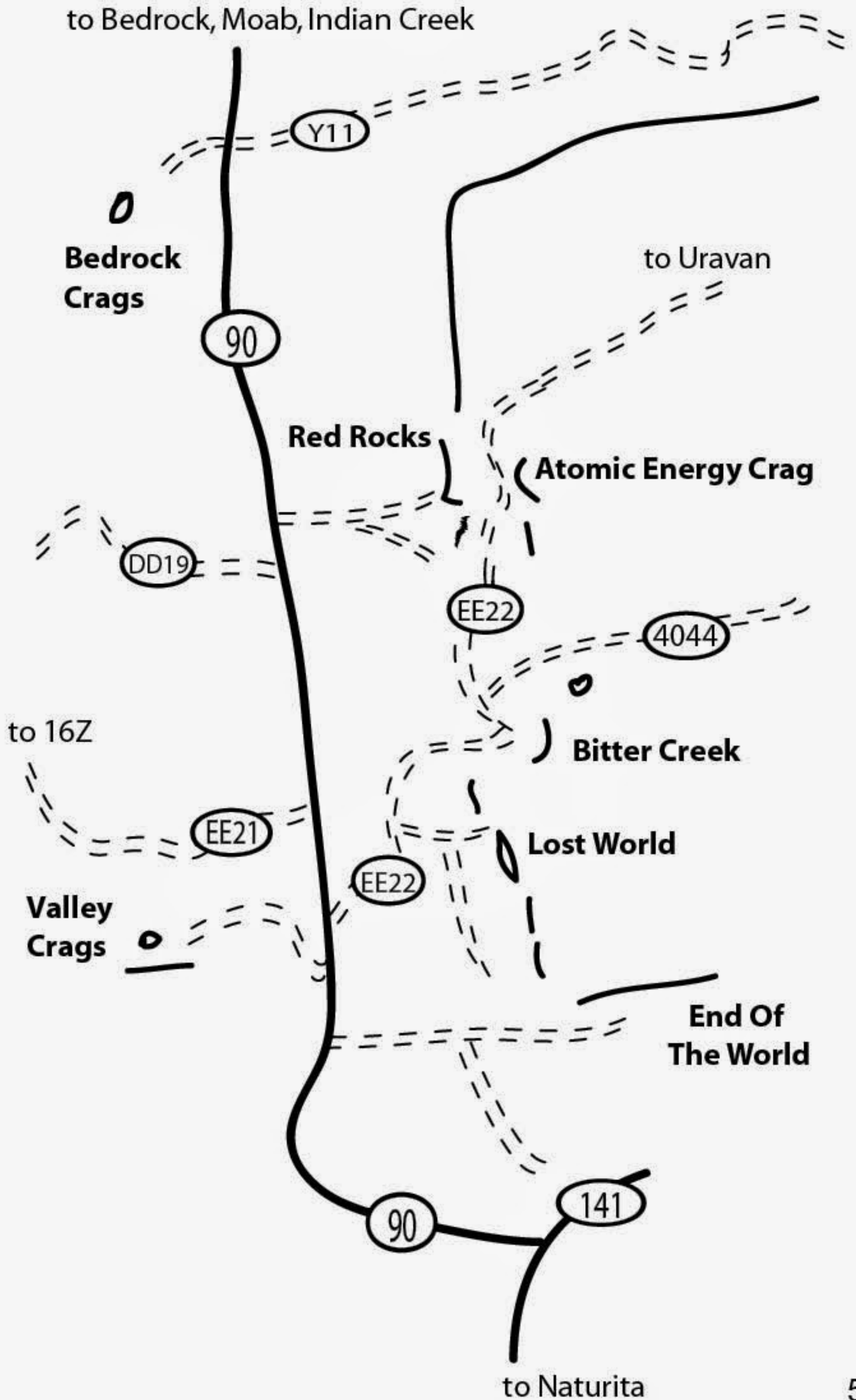
# Paradox Valley

The Paradox Valley is bound by miles and miles of Dakota and Windgate sandstone crags. Climbers have visited these cliffs since the 1970's, however most exploration and new route development has occurred in the last ten years. This area now has hundreds of routes, including the longest found in this guide. Furthermore, there is a lifetime worth of bouldering scattered throughout the valley.

Paradox Valley has been the home to many peoples for thousands of years. Please tread lightly.

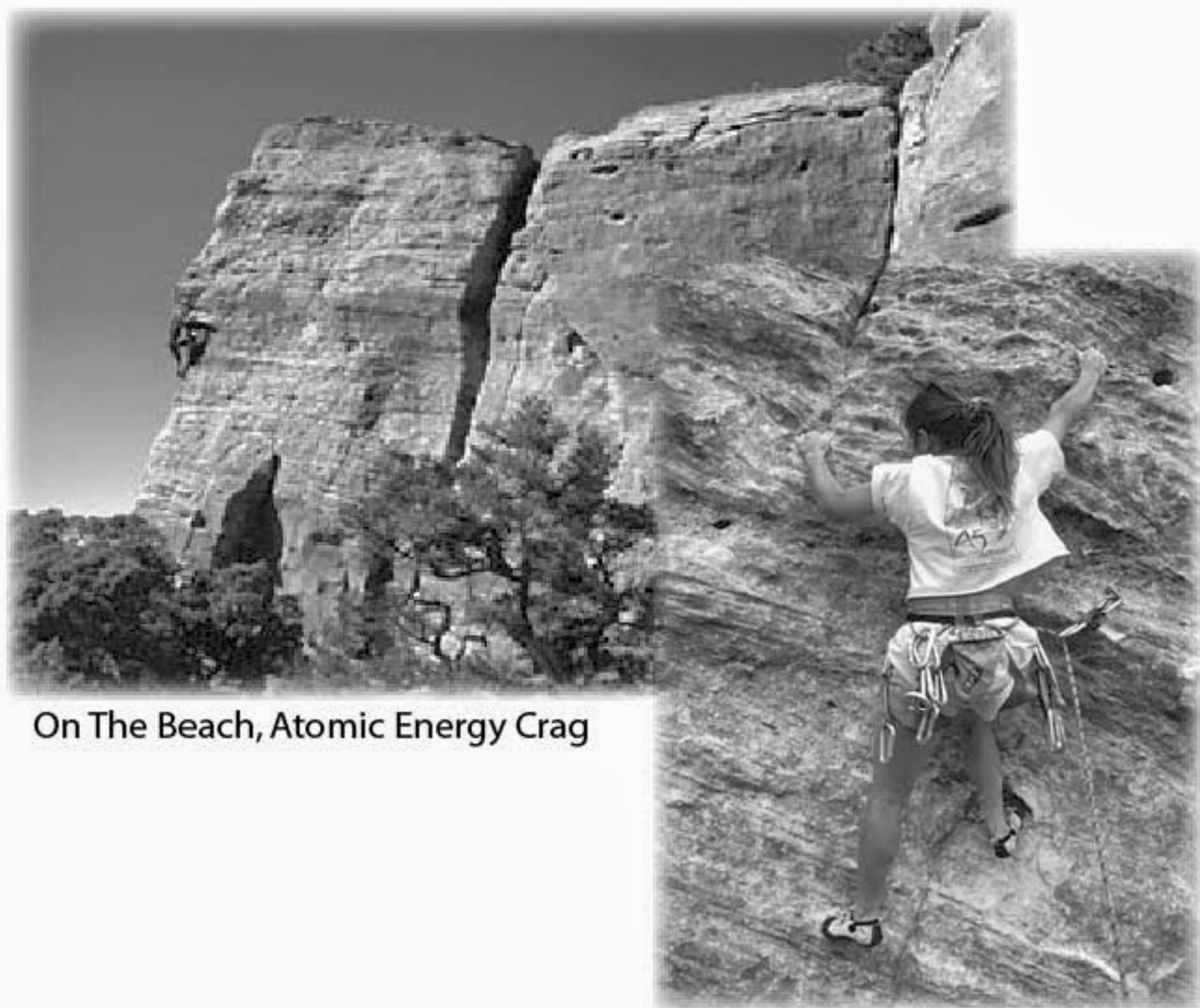


# Paradox Valley East



## EE22 - The Long Park Road

Road EE22 crosses from the Paradox Valley up over a plateau, then drops down to the San Miguel River at Uravan. Many crags and countless boulders are found along the road, including two of the most popular and developed climbing areas in this book - The Lost World and Atomic Energy Crags.



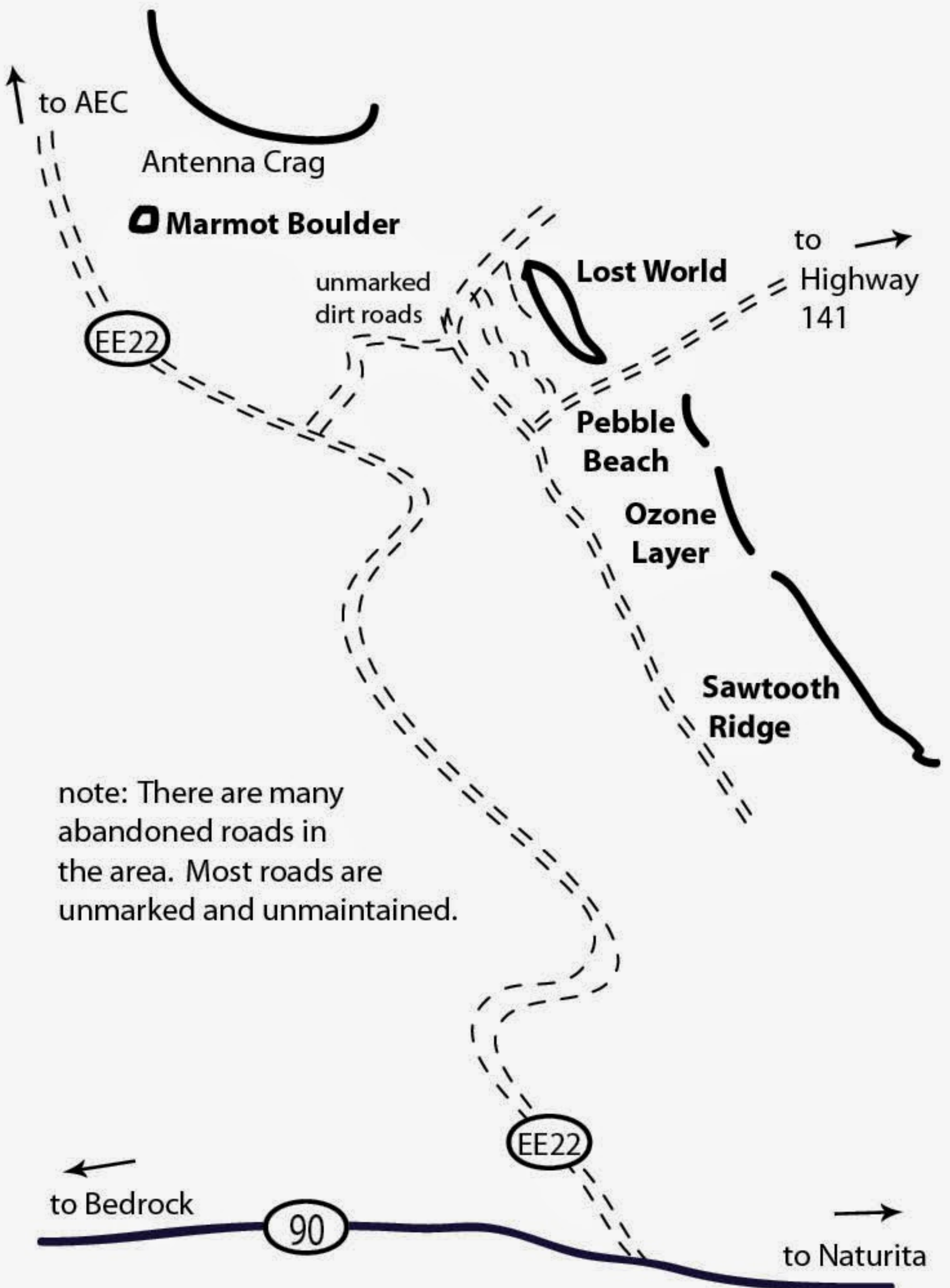
On The Beach, Atomic Energy Crag

Desert Rose, Lost World

Climbers have visited the numerous boulders and crags in this area for decades, however, it wasn't until the late 1980s that bolted routes started to appear. The abundance of short, moderate routes and the ease of top-roping most climbs has made the area popular with beginners.

There is an endless amount of high-quality bouldering along the road.

# Road EE22 - (The Long Park Road) East



note: There are many abandoned roads in the area. Most roads are unmarked and unmaintained.

# Sawtooth Ridge

*Rock Type* Dakota Sandstone

*Height* 15 - 50 feet

*Climbing Style(s)* bouldering, top-roping, cracks

*Gear Suggestions* 3 sets of nuts and cams for gear routes

*Seasons* Fall through Spring

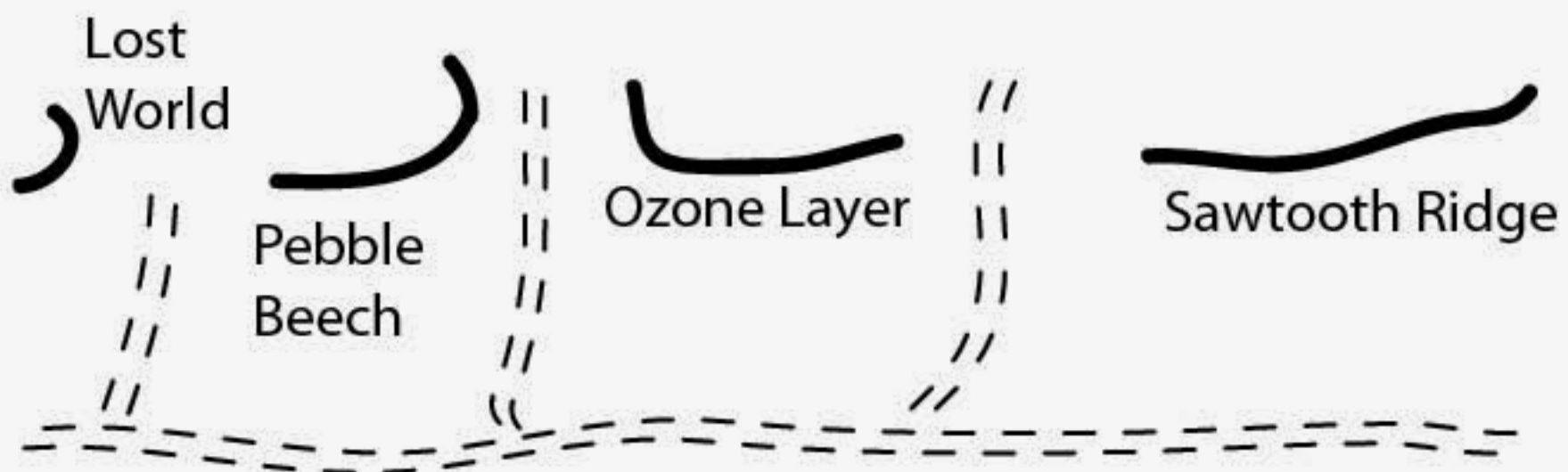
*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none

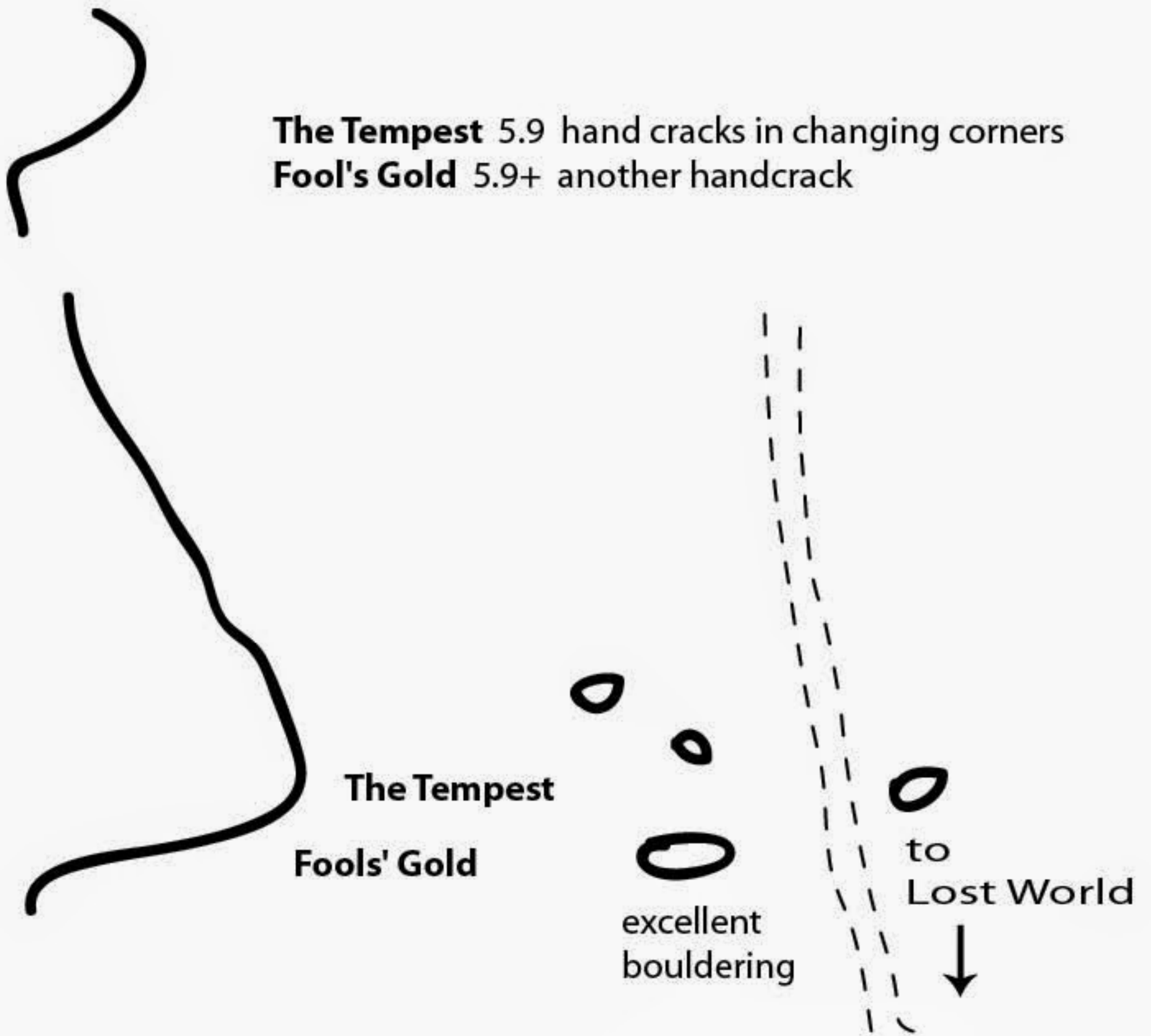
*Road Access* high clearance vehicle

*Comments* a good place for bouldering and top-roping on fine rock.

Sawtooth Ridge is the local name for the long, high escarpment of Dakota Sandstone above the Paradox Valley, including the Lost World and Atomic Energy Crags. This section of the guidebook refers to the section of the ridge east of the Lost World. Although there is potential for sport routes, most activity here has been on the many fine boulders scattered about. The cliffs are mostly of high quality stone, but disappointingly short - good for top-roping.

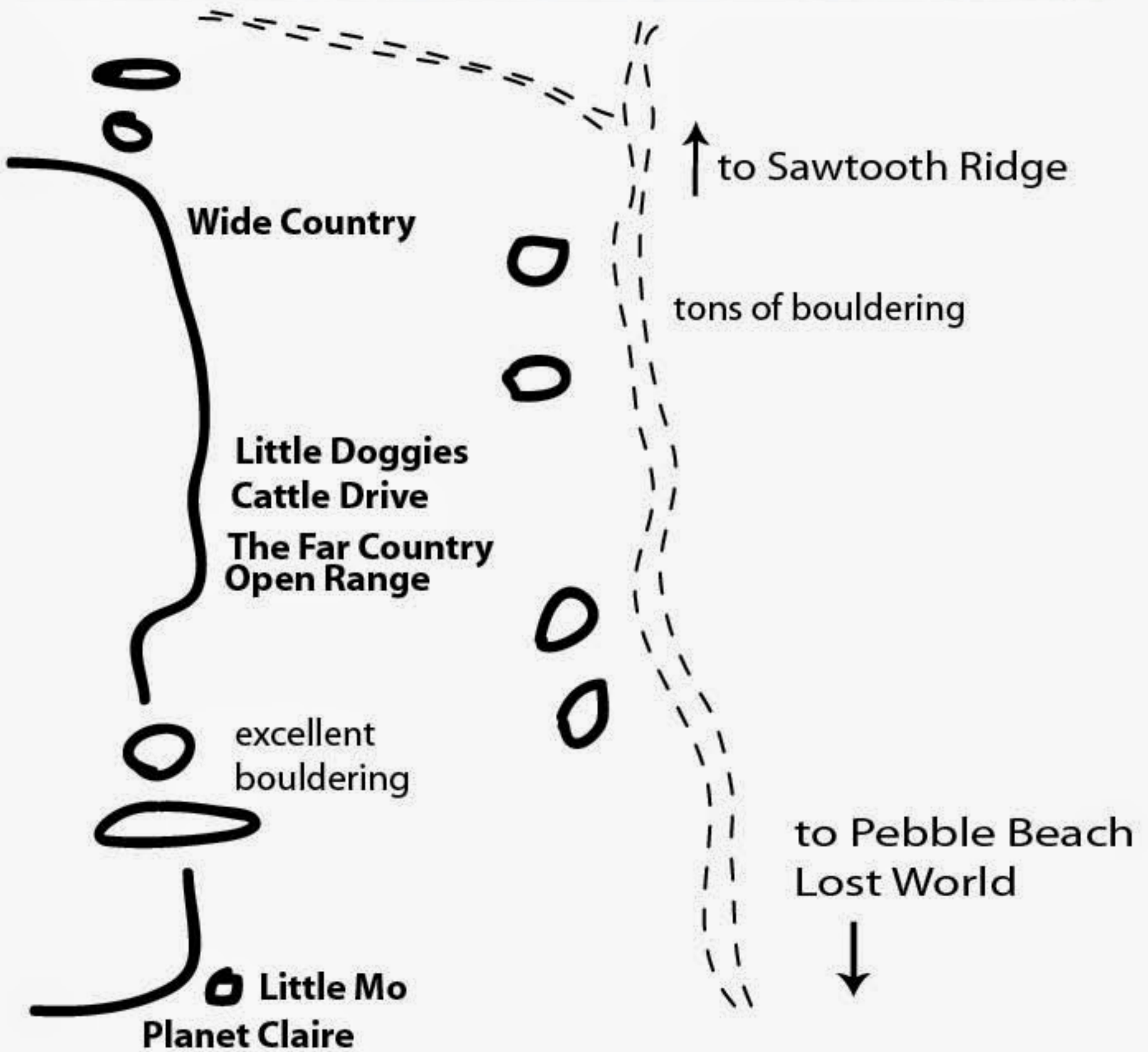


# Sawtooth Ridge



The highest cliff here is often referred to as the Sawtooth Ridge. 63

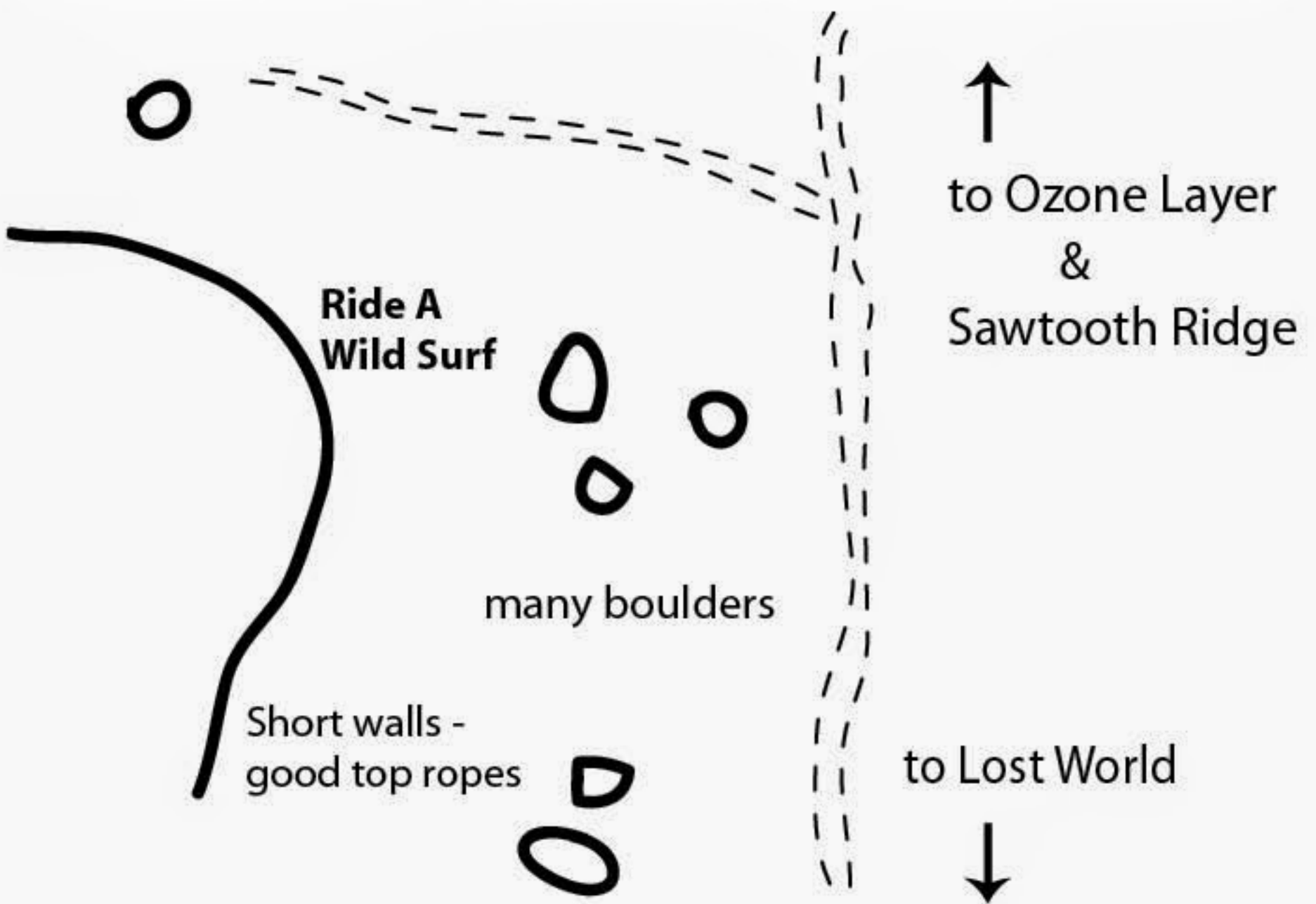
# Ozone Layer



- Wide Country** 5.9+ short splitter OW
- Little Doggies** 5.7 wide crack in leftfacing corner
- Cattle Drive** 5.6 another short wide crack nearby
- The Far Country** 5.9 thin seam up face
- Open Range** 5.9+ wide leftfacing layback flake
- Little Mo** 5.11 overhanging face on big boulder, TR \*
- Planet Claire** 5.9 steep rightfacing corner, wide to fingers



# Pebble Beach



**Ride A Wild Surf** 5.10+ steep crack in a leftfacing corner, mostly hands but with a wide section \*

Pebble Beach and the Ozone Layer are fun areas to explore.

"Spend some time alone every day."  
- the Dalai Lama

# Lost World

*Rock Type* Dakota Sandstone

*Height* 35 - 50 feet

*Climbing Style(s)* sport, cracks, some bouldering

*Gear Suggestions* 8 quickdraws, 2 sets of nuts and cams for gear routes

*Seasons* yearround, Summer can be hot on the sunnyside

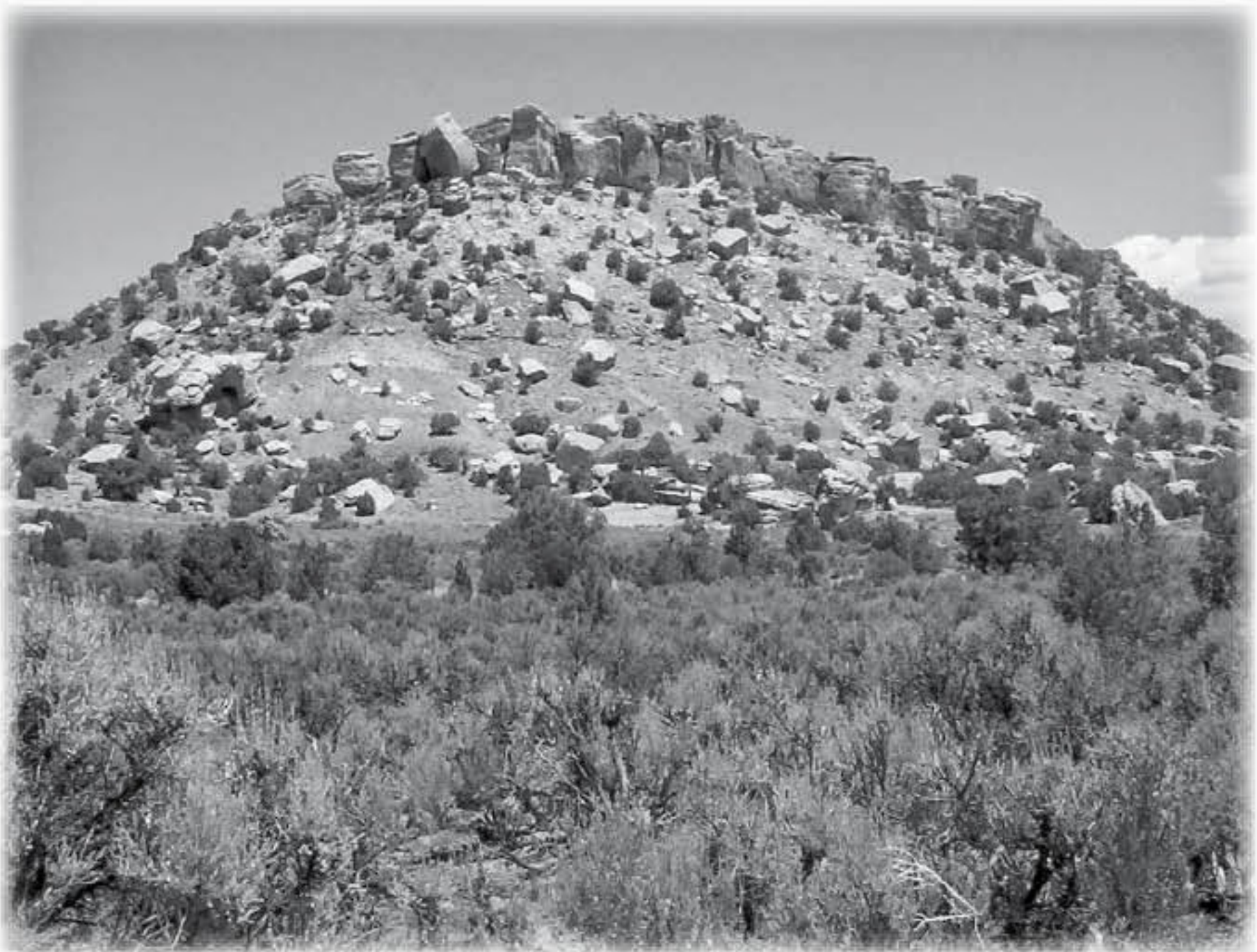
*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none

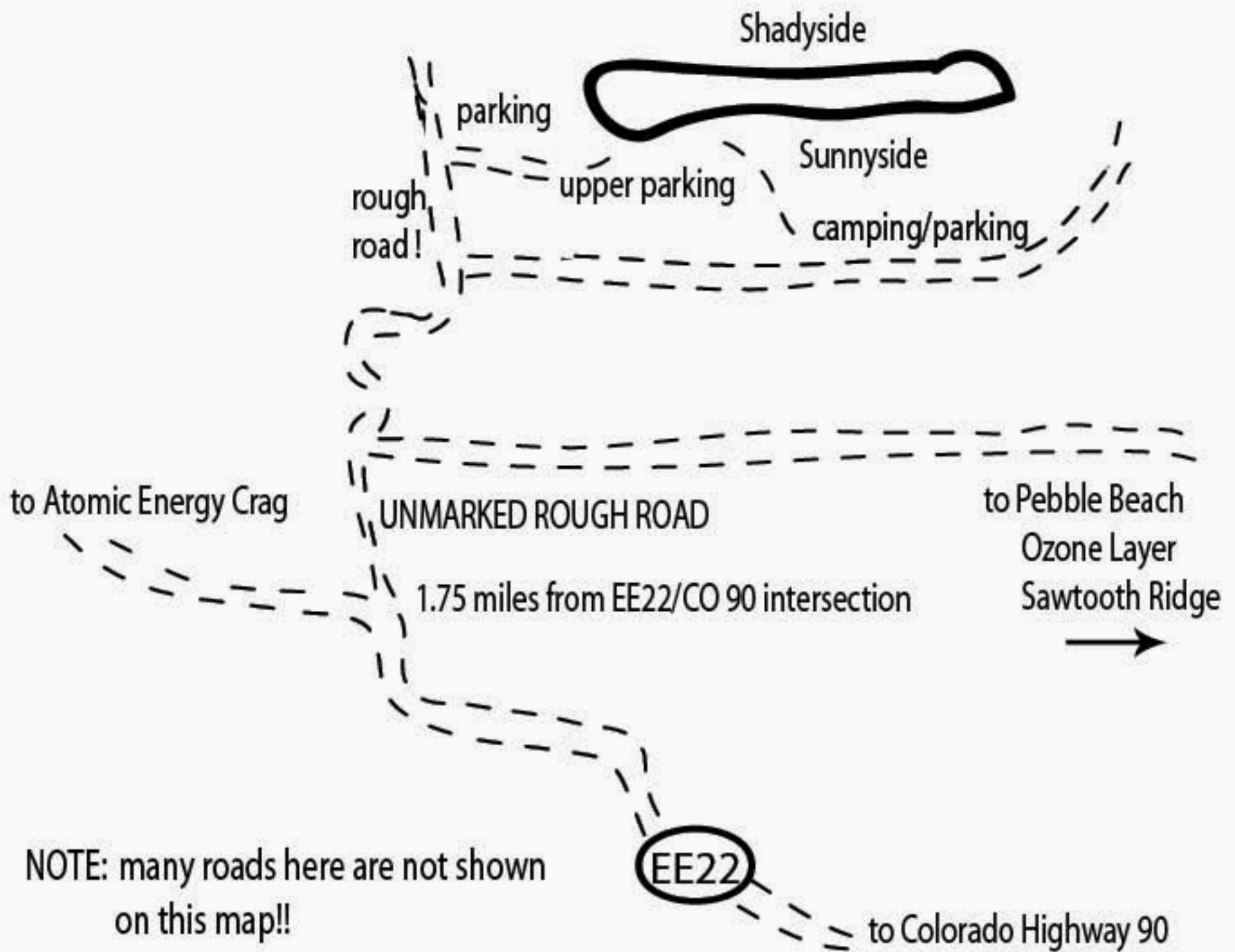
*Road Access* high clearance vehicle

*Comments* a popular crag, with about 75 short routes

Set high on a hillside, the Lost World is an extensive playground with numerous short climbs that are often top-roped. This is a popular place for beginners, but there are many difficult climbs, as well.



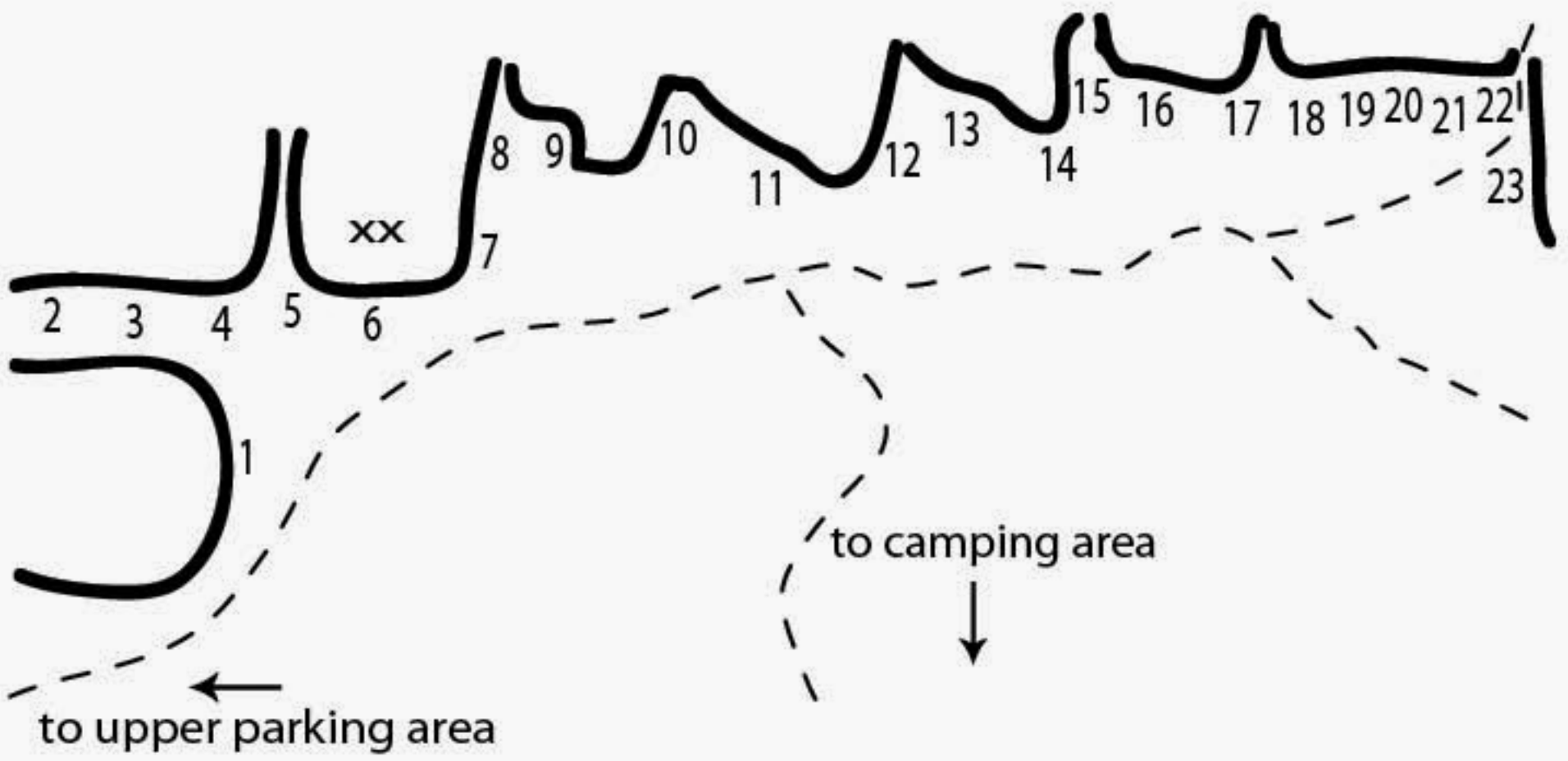
# Lost World Crag



Do The Right Thing TRY photo

A good crag with moderate to very difficult routes, this was among the first in the area to see extensive exploration. Due to the unreliable nature of the caprock (like petrified kitty litter) some of the routes do not have top anchors. A long rope can be used to arrange anchors off big trees. Over the years, top anchors have slowly appeared on many routes. Drilling here should only be attempted by climbers experienced at bolting soft rock.

# Sunnyside West



Doug Berry  
Hendrix In The West

# Sunnyside West Climbs

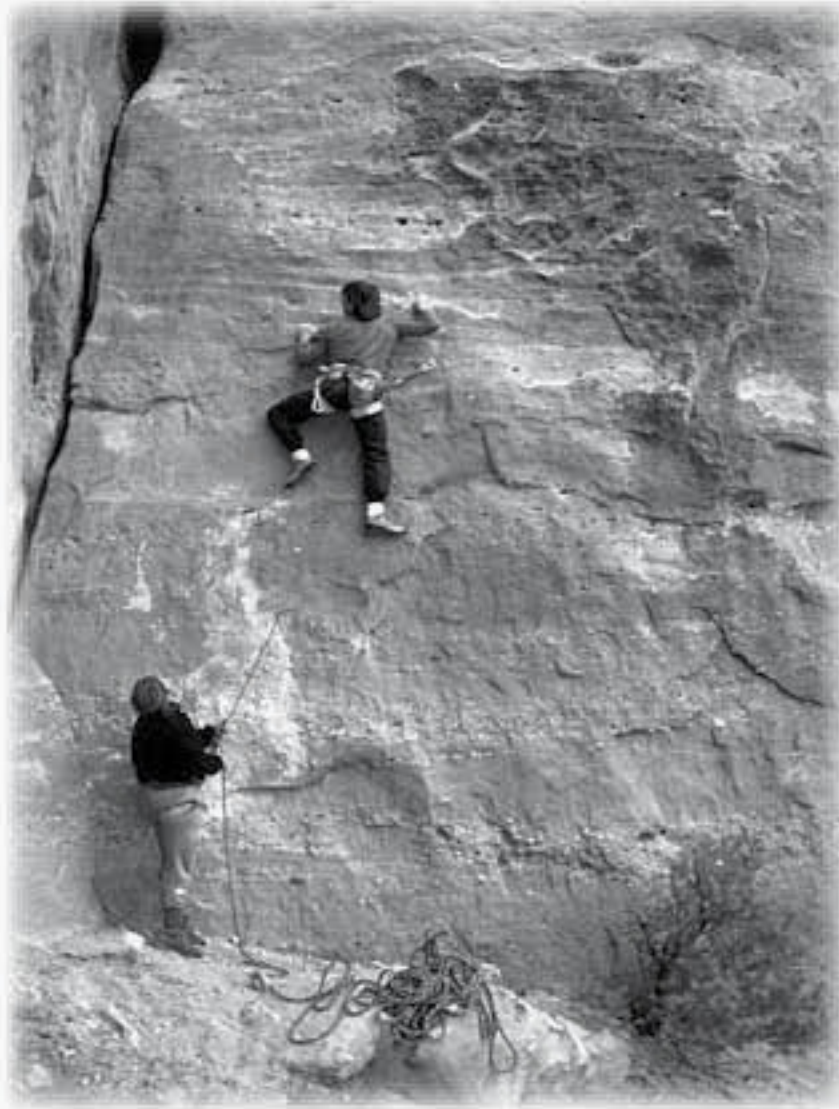
1. **Third Stone From The Road** 5.10 R/X face, no gear
2. **Countdown To Kickoff** 5.7 PG13 face
3. **Save The Children** 5.7 face, bolted
4. **Positively 4th Street** 5.8 bolted edge
5. **Whispering Wind** 5.6 bolted edge \*
6. **Hendrix In The West** 5.11- bolted face \*\*
7. **Pschedelic Hangover** 5.12- bolted face through bulge \*\*
8. **Cowgirls From Hell** 5.10 PG13 finger crack
9. **Trigger Happy** 5.10- left-facing corner to bulge
10. **Natty Rita Goes Shopping** 5.10 handcrack to face, one bolt \*
11. **The Big Shot** 5.9 OW
12. **Frontier Daze** 5.12 bolted face
13. **Cowboy Bar** 5.11+ bolted face to crack
14. **On The Border** 5.10 one bolt at the start to crack on edge
15. **Way Out West** 5.11 fingercrack through bulge to bolted face \*
16. **Silver Spurs** 5.9 short bolted face
17. **Poker Face** 5.10+ PG13 pocketed face, no bolts
18. **Make It Snappy** 5.7 finger/hand crack
19. **Low Route** 5.9 crack
20. **Hole in The Wall** 5.11 bolted face \*
21. **Big Brother** 5.8 OW
22. **The Dove** 5.11 bolted face to crack
23. **One Of Those Daze** 5.10 bolted face

The first bolted climbs on this crag were established by Doug Berry and Charlie Fowler in the late 1980s and early '90s. Several other climbers contributed routes in the early 1990s, when most new-route activity occurred. These people include John Burns, Kevin Dunkak, Dee Thomas, Brian Biega, Ben Shafer, Steve Johnson and Chris Goplerud.

"Be great in act, as you have been in thought."

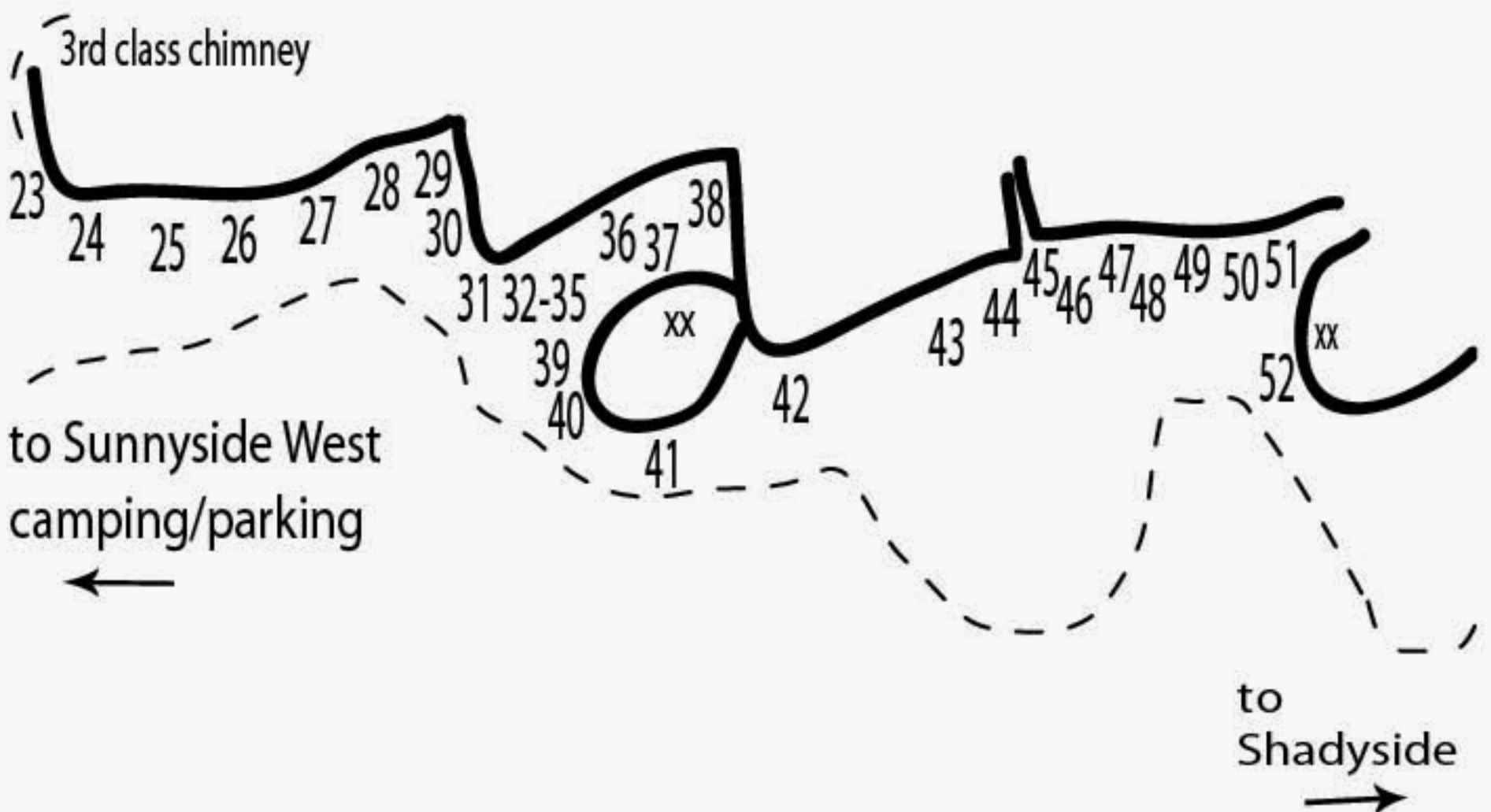
-William Shakespeare

# Sunnyside East



Antoine Savelli

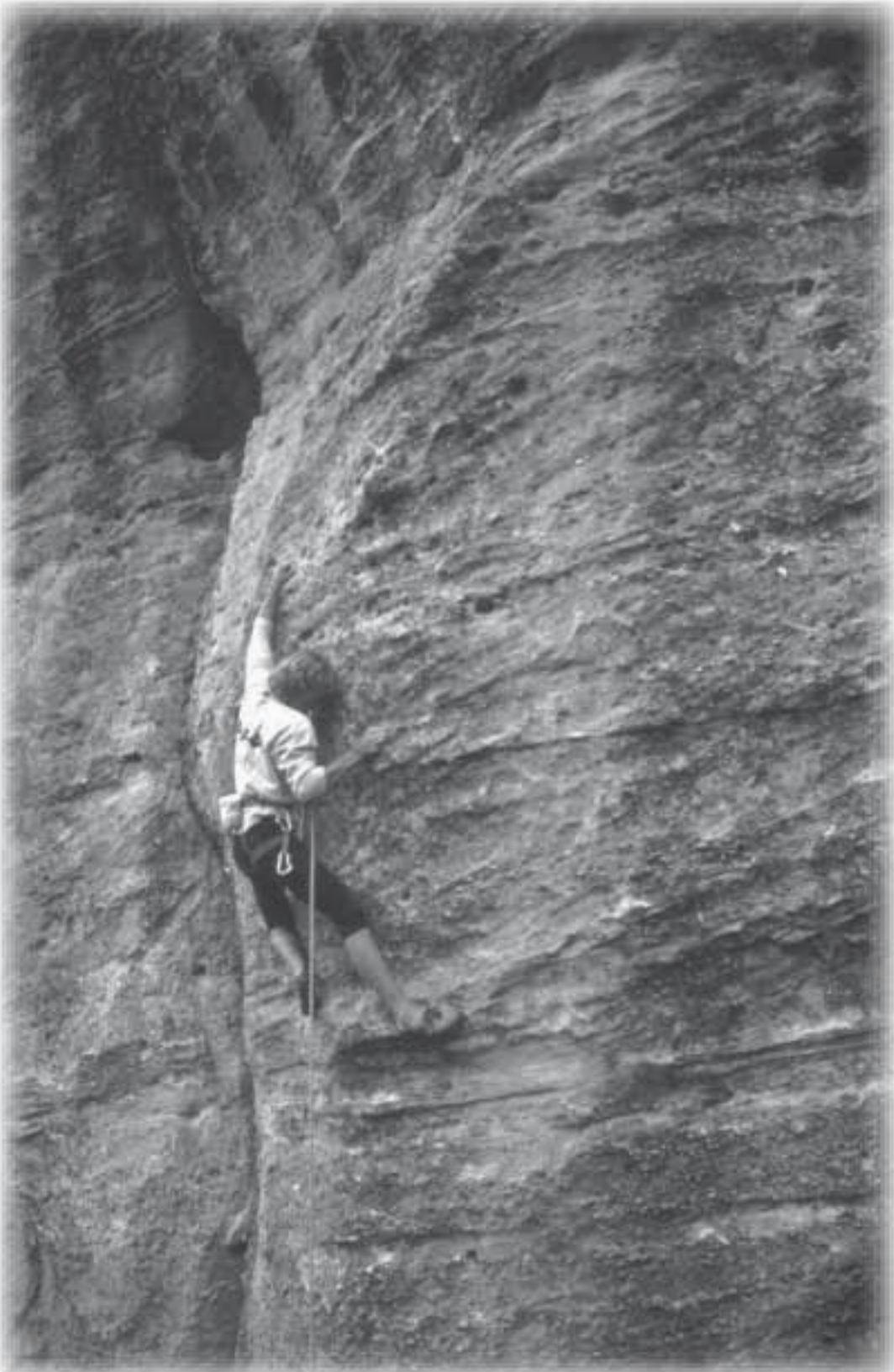
Spaghetti  
Western



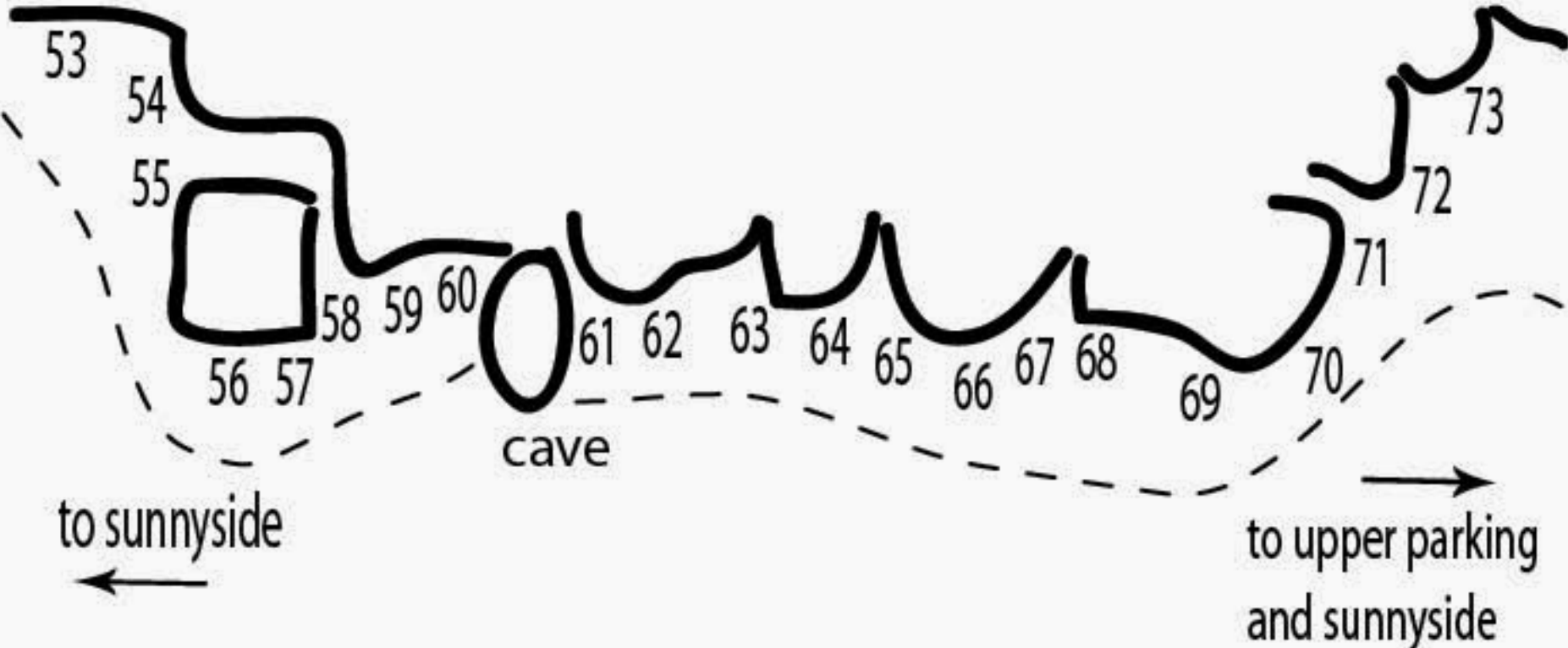
# Sunnyside East Climbs

23. **One Of Those Daze** 5.10 bolted face
  24. **Sand Creek Massacre** 5.12+ face, TR
  25. **Round Up** 5.9 OW
  26. **Have Gun Will Travel** 5.12+ bolted face \*
  27. **Hands Up** 5.10 OW
  28. **Wounded Knee** 5.9+ wide crack in the corner
  29. **Spaghetti Western** 5.11 bolted face \*
  30. **Hang 'Em High** 5.12- bolted face \*
  31. **Distant Thunder** 5.10 bolted edge
  - 32 – 35 top-roped face climbs:
    - Mombo Combo** 5.11
    - Crack Rash** 5.6
    - Terminally Cute** 5.10
    - A Hike With Natty Rita** 5.5
  36. **Do The Right Thing** 5.11 bolted face in the corridor \*
  37. **Do The Easy Thing** 5.7 slabby face on the giant boulder
  38. **Hanging Judge** 5.8 crack in the corner
  39. **Purple Daze** 5.9 bolted face on the edge of the giant boulder \*
  40. **Desert Rose** 5.10+ bolted face \*
  41. **Birds Of Prey** 5.12 steep crack to bolted face \*
  42. **The Brave Cowboy** 5.11 bolted face
  43. **Space Wrangler** 5.11 crack and face with bolts
  44. **Conan The Bulgarian** 5.11 face, TR
  45. **A Taste Of Honey** 5.9 face, TR
  46. **Grins And Giggles** 5.9 crack
  47. **Ghost Dance** 5.10 bolted face
  48. **Fat And Ugly** 5.7 crack
  49. **Cookie Monster** 5.10 bolted face
  50. **The Shortest Straw** 5.12- bolted face
  51. **Just Another Gorilla's Climb** 5.10 OW
  52. **Primrose Path** 5.10 slab to steep headwall, bolted
- Not shown: **High Noon** 5.11+ crack and face

# Lost World - Shadyside



Chris Goplerud on Fever In The Funkhouse



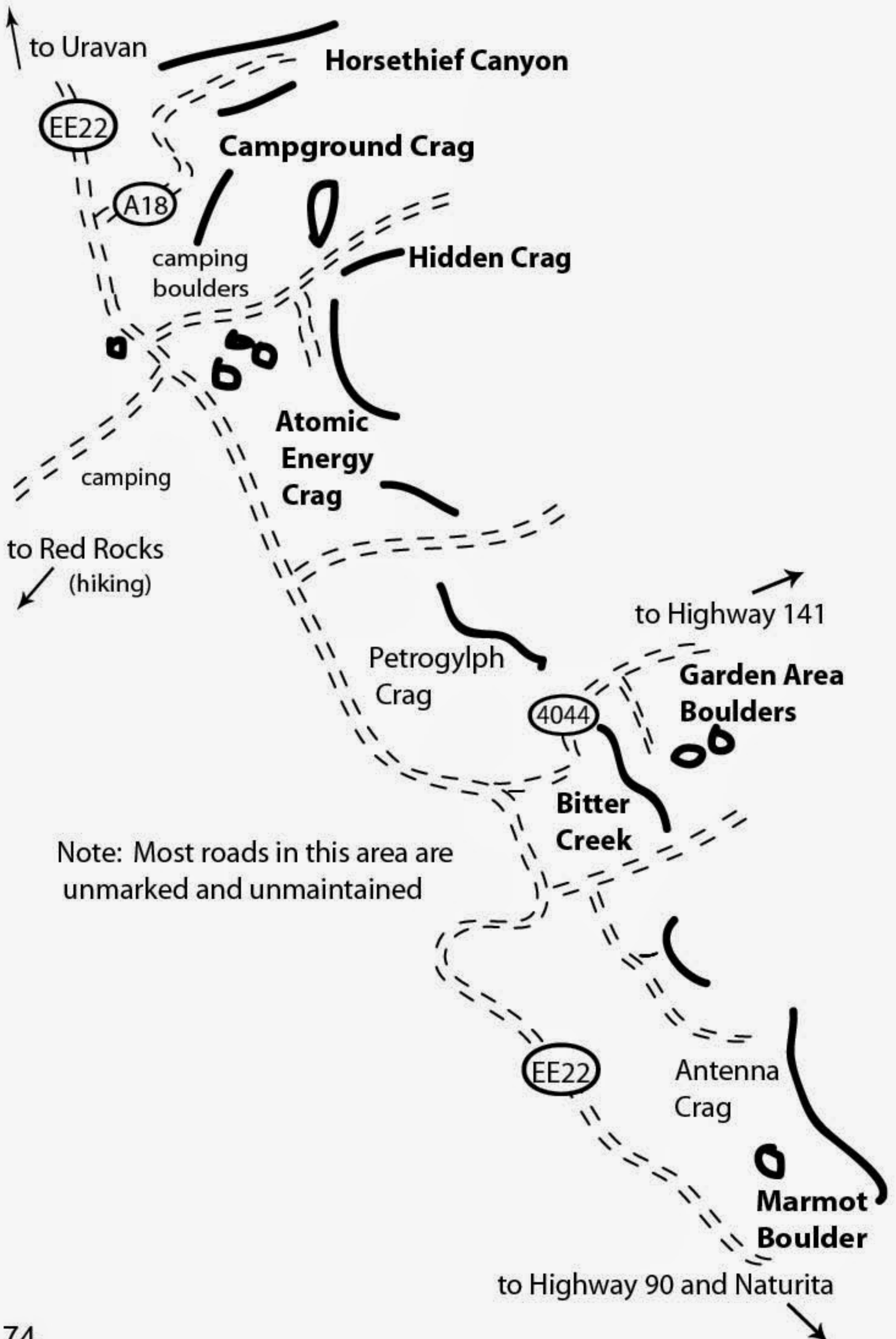
# Lost World - Shady Side

- 53. **Reach Or Screach** 5.9 short bolted face to overhang
- 54. **A Fistfull Of Nylon** 5.11- bulging edge
- 55. **New Kid On The Block** 5.10- on the edge, bolted
- 56. **Peables And Bam-Bam** 5.11+ bolted face \*
- 57. **Block Party** 5.11 TR
- 58. **Fingerprint File** 5.12- bolted face
- 59. **Punch Line** 5.11- bolted face
- 60. **Riot Squad** 5.9 R
- 61. **Dodge City** 5.9 R
- 62. **Bedrock Holiday** 5.10+ finger crack to steep face, bolt
- 63. **Fever In The Funkhouse** 5.11 bolted face to bulge \*
- 64. **Tarantula** 5.11+ bolted face \*
- 65. **Blind Justice** 5.11 bolted face \*
- 66. **Dakota Fields Forever** 5.10 bolted face
- 67. **Naturita Vice** 5.9 face and crack in corner
- 68. **Mod-Arete** 5.7 bolted arete
- 69. **Hired Gun** 5.11 bolted face
- 70. **To Brag Or Not To Be** 5.10 bolted face
- 71. **Not Necessarily Stoned** 5.10- bolted arete
- 72. **Big Easy** 5.6 PG13 pocketed face
- 73. **Low Budget Bolt Route** 5.5 PG13 (no bolts)

"To be worn out is to be renewed."

-Lao-tzu

# Road EE22 - (The Long Park Road) West



# Marmot Boulder

*Rock Type* Dakota Sandstone

*Height* 35 feet

*Climbing Style(s)* bouldering, top-roping

*Gear Suggestions* top rope setup, bouldering pad

*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none

*Road Access* regular vehicle in good weather

*Comments* a popular and convenient spot for top roping

The distinctive Marmot Boulder is found close to Road EE22, right below the Antennae Crag. Park at a pullout off EE22, or drive a rough road a bit closer.

The southwest ridge offers an easy way to the top; a top-rope setup can be rigged with a long piece of webbing or cord.



The Marmot Boulder is a good place to take kids climbing.

# Bitter Creek



*Rock Type* Dakota Sandstone

*Height* 10 - 30 feet

*Climbing Style(s)* bouldering, top-roping. a few cracks

*Gear Suggestions* top rope setup, bouldering pad

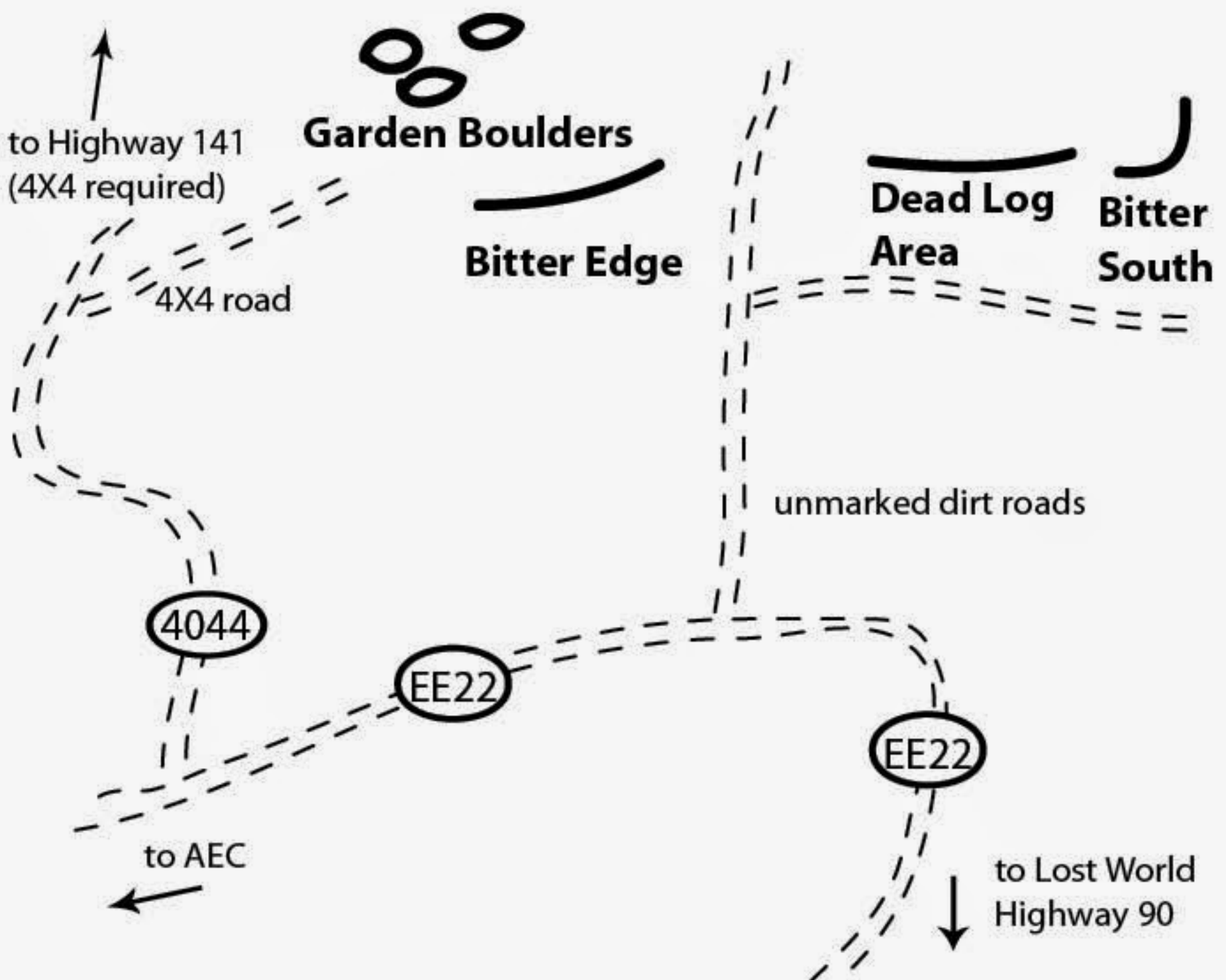
*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none

*Road Access* high clearance vehicle

*Comments* excellent bouldering and good camping



# Bitter Creek Climbing Areas



## **Garden Boulders**

This secluded, shady spot has some of the best bouldering around. Park at the top of the hill on road 4044 and hike up the rough road. The boulders are to the north of the road.



**Bitter Edge** Excellent bouldering and short climbs on superb rock. Good camping right by the boulders.



**Dead Log Area** Easily seen from Road EE22, this popular area has a lot of fine bouldering and top-roping on small cliffs and big boulders. Good camping nearby.

**Bitter South** More good bouldering on pebbly rock, just southeast of the Dead Log Area. Good camping by the boulders.



# Atomic Energy Crag

*Rock Type* Dakota Sandstone

*Height* 35 - 90 feet

*Climbing Style(s)* sport, cracks, bouldering

*Gear Suggestions* 8 quickdraws, 2 sets of nuts and cams for gear routes

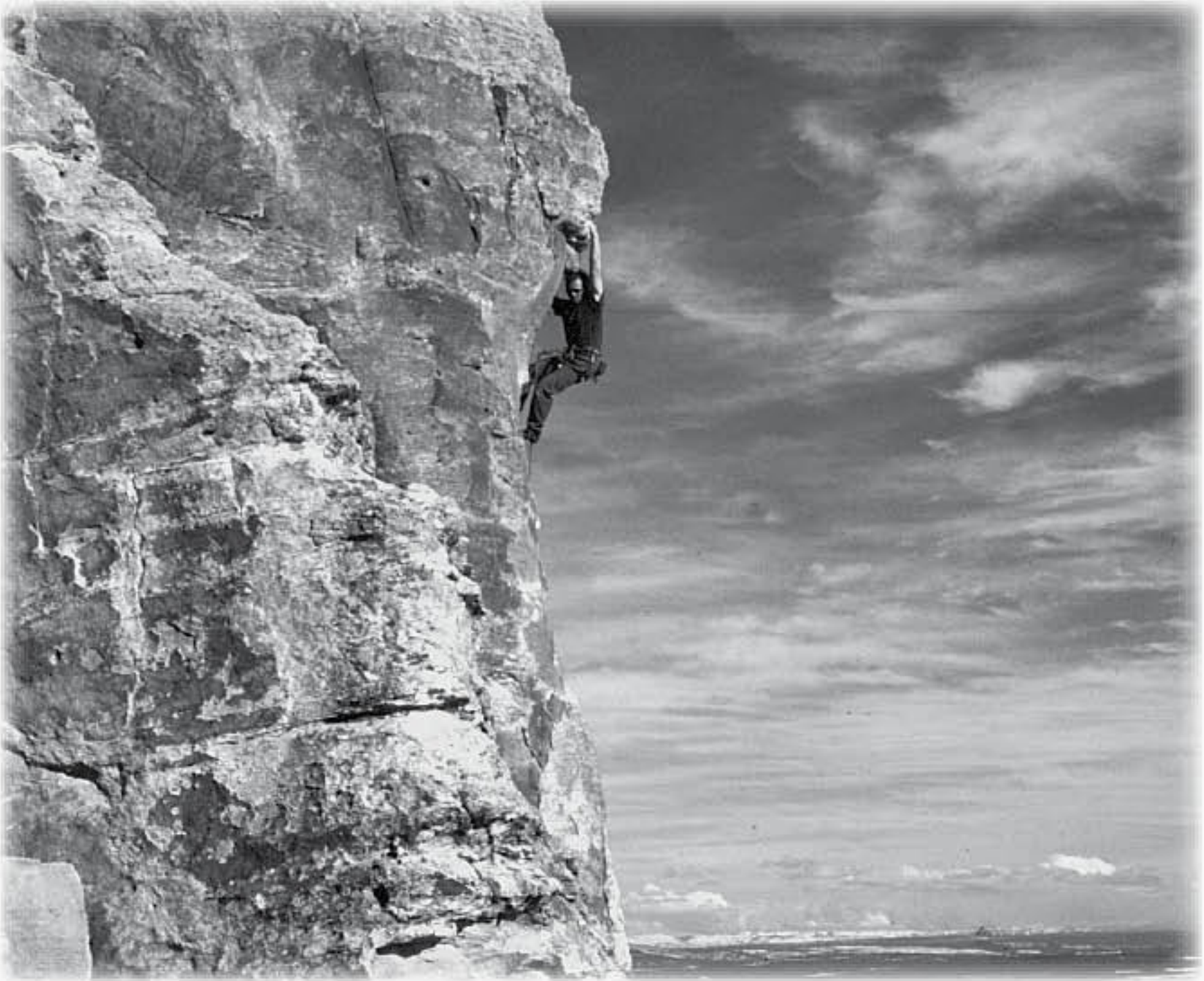
*Seasons* yearround, but can be hot in the Summer

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none

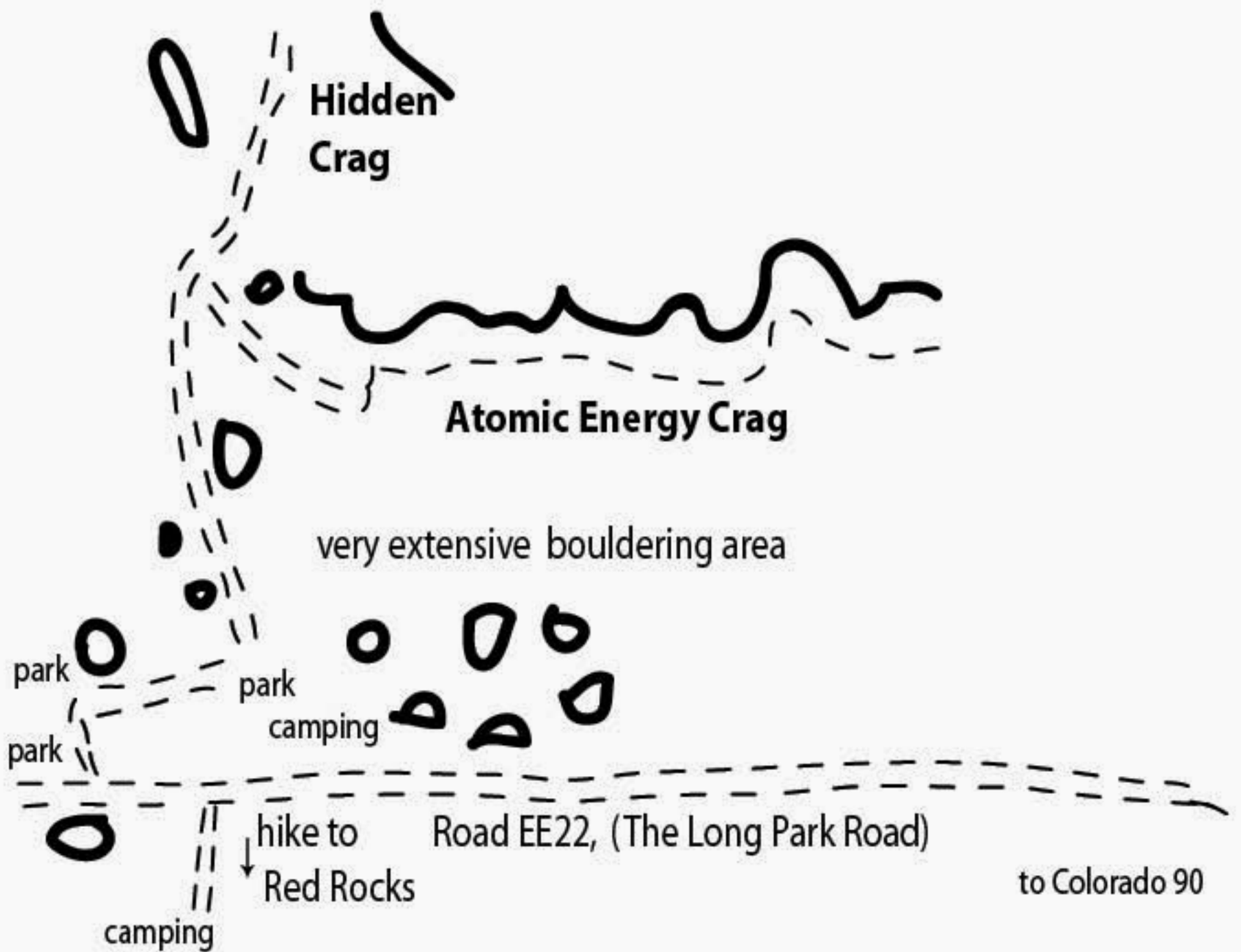
*Road Access* high clearance vehicle

*Comments* Perhaps the best crag along EE22, with over 35 routes and extensive bouldering.



On The Beach

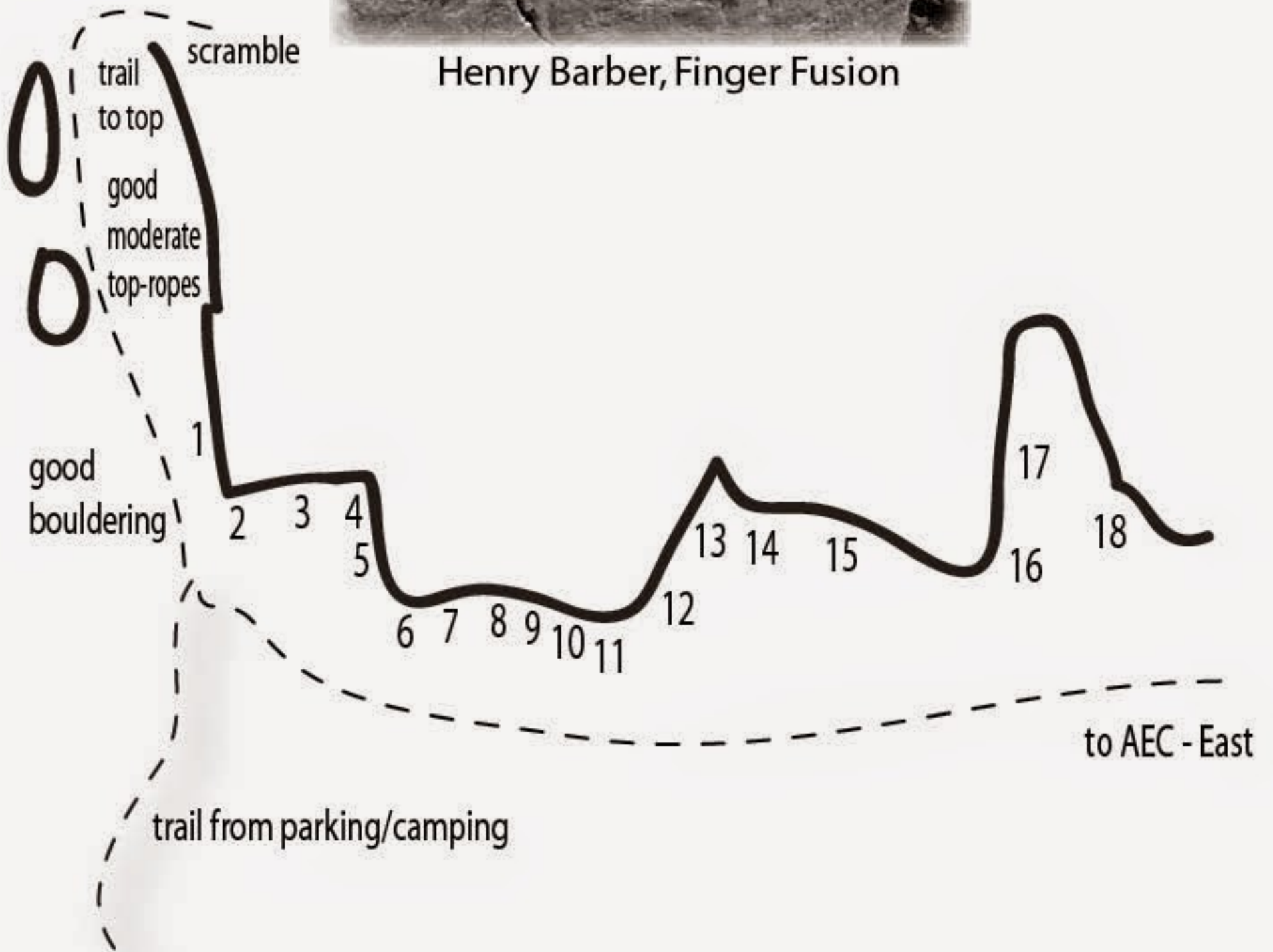
# Atomic Energy Crag and Boulders



# Atomic Energy Crag - West



Henry Barber, Finger Fusion



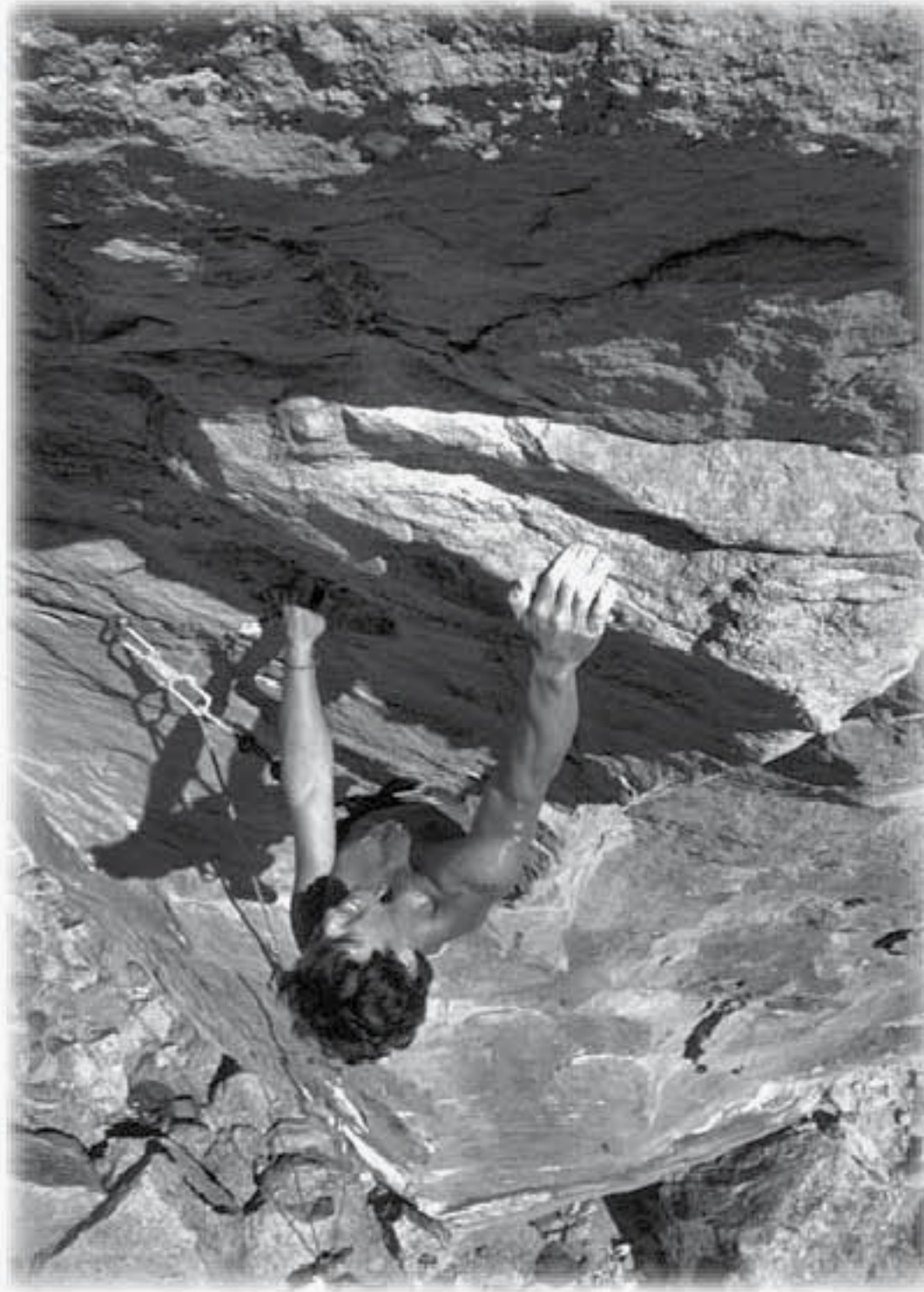
# AEC Climbs - West



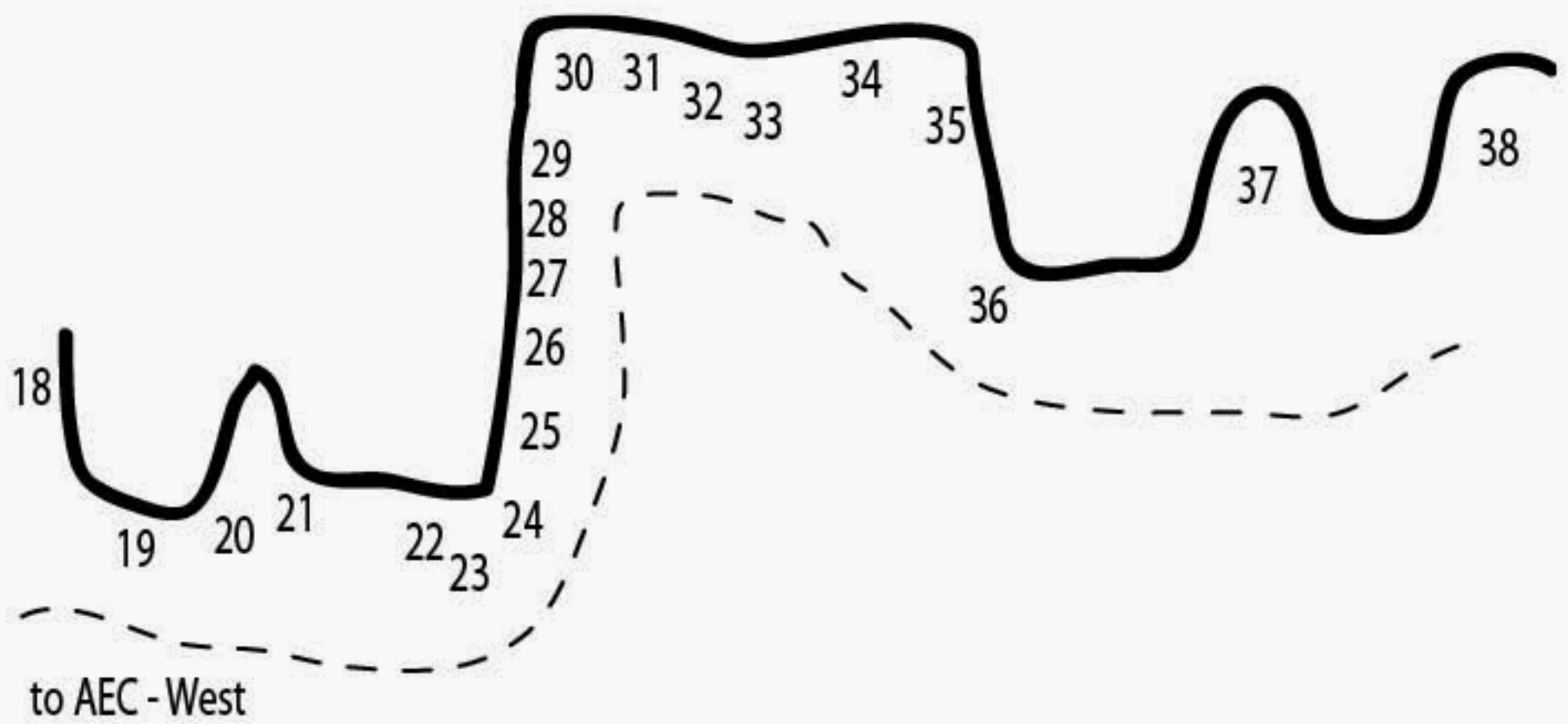
1. **Born To Be Mild** 5.7 bolted face
2. **Fried Chicken** 5.10 bolted face
3. **Fail Safe** 5.11 bolted face
4. **Coyote Corner** 5.9 OW to hand/fist crack
5. **Finger Fusion** 5.10+ finger crack \*
6. **Guns Or Butter** 5.11 bolted arete, fingers at start \*\*
7. **China Syndrome** 5.12- bolted face
8. **Mushroom Cloud** 5.8+ handcrack under roof
9. **Digging Ditches** 5.5 squeeze chimney
10. **Critical Mass** 5.10 R thin corner, a few bolts
11. **Fallout** 5.10 R thin corner, joins Critical Mass at the top
12. **Covert Action** 5.12 bolted face
13. **Rancho Deluxe** 5.10 overhanging hand and finger crack in an open corner, one bolt \*\*\*
14. **Firestorm** 5.11 finger crack to steep bolted face
15. **Off the Beaten Path** 5.9 wide crack
16. **Nuclear Free Zone** 5.12 bolted face/arete \*\*
17. **unknown** 5.12 bolted pocketed face \*\*
18. **Enola Gay** 5.12 bolted face \*\*

People have climbed at this crag for many years, but it wasn't until the late 1980's that the first bolted routes were established, mostly by Doug Berry and Charlie Fowler. Since then, many other people contributed to establishing climbs here, including Keith Reynolds, Henry Barber, Mike Bengel, Axel Koch and John Burns.

# Atomic Energy Crag - East



Doug Berry, Enola Gay



# AEC East



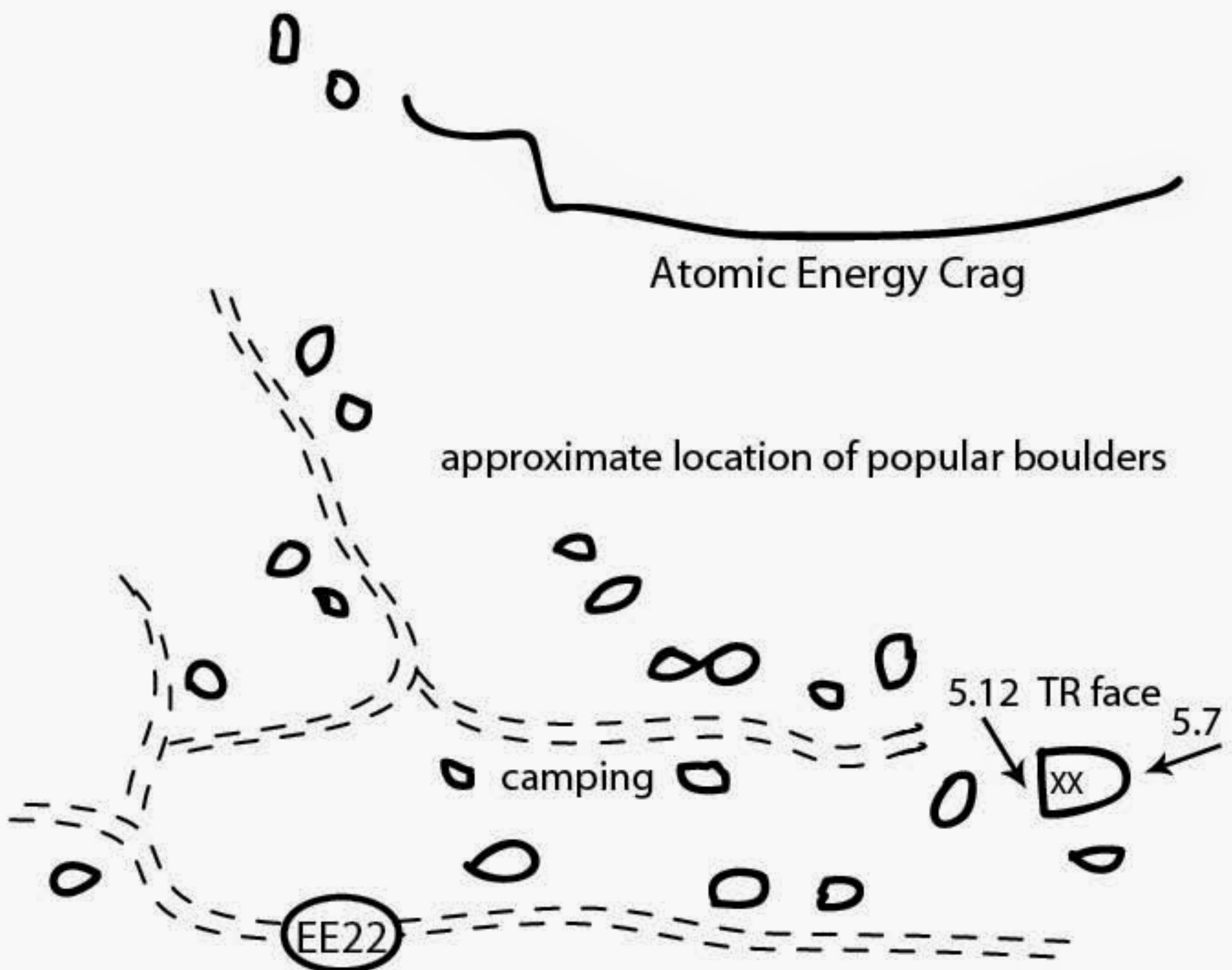
18. **Enola Gay** 5.12 bolted face \*\*
19. **Jukebox In My Mind** 5.12 bolted face
20. **It's A Breeze** 5.9 hands
21. **Steep And Deep** 5.8 undercling/OW
22. **Widespread Panic** 5.11 bolted face \*
23. **The Waste Dump** 5.11 top-rope face
24. **On The Beach** 5.11- bolted arete \*\*\*
25. **Dietary Supplement** 5.10+/5.9 finger crack, direct start is harder \*
26. **Tunnel Of Love** 5.6 OW/chimney
27. **Joy Stick** 5.10 one bolt face to finger crack
28. **Sugar Shack** 5.6 left-leaning flake
29. **Atomic Test Site** 5.12 bolted face \*\*\*
30. **Silly Savages** 5.7 wide crack and layback
31. **Pocket Change** 5.10 bolted face
32. **Rocket In My Pocket** 5.11 bolted groove to crux bulge
33. **Pick Pocket** 5.9 bolted face
34. **Deep Ecology** 5.9 OW
35. **Cowgirls In Heat** face, some bolts
36. **U235** 5.11 overhang to steep face, bolted
37. **Mixed Blessing** 5.8 OW
38. **Call Me the Breeze** 5.9 steep handcrack passing roof

# Atomic Energy Crag - Bouldering



Russ Burton throws the big mo

Excellent and extensive bouldering is located below the AEC



# Road A18

*Rock Type* Dakota Sandstone

*Height* 10 - 50 feet

*Climbing Style(s)* bouldering, top-roping. a few cracks

*Gear Suggestions* top rope setup, bouldering pad

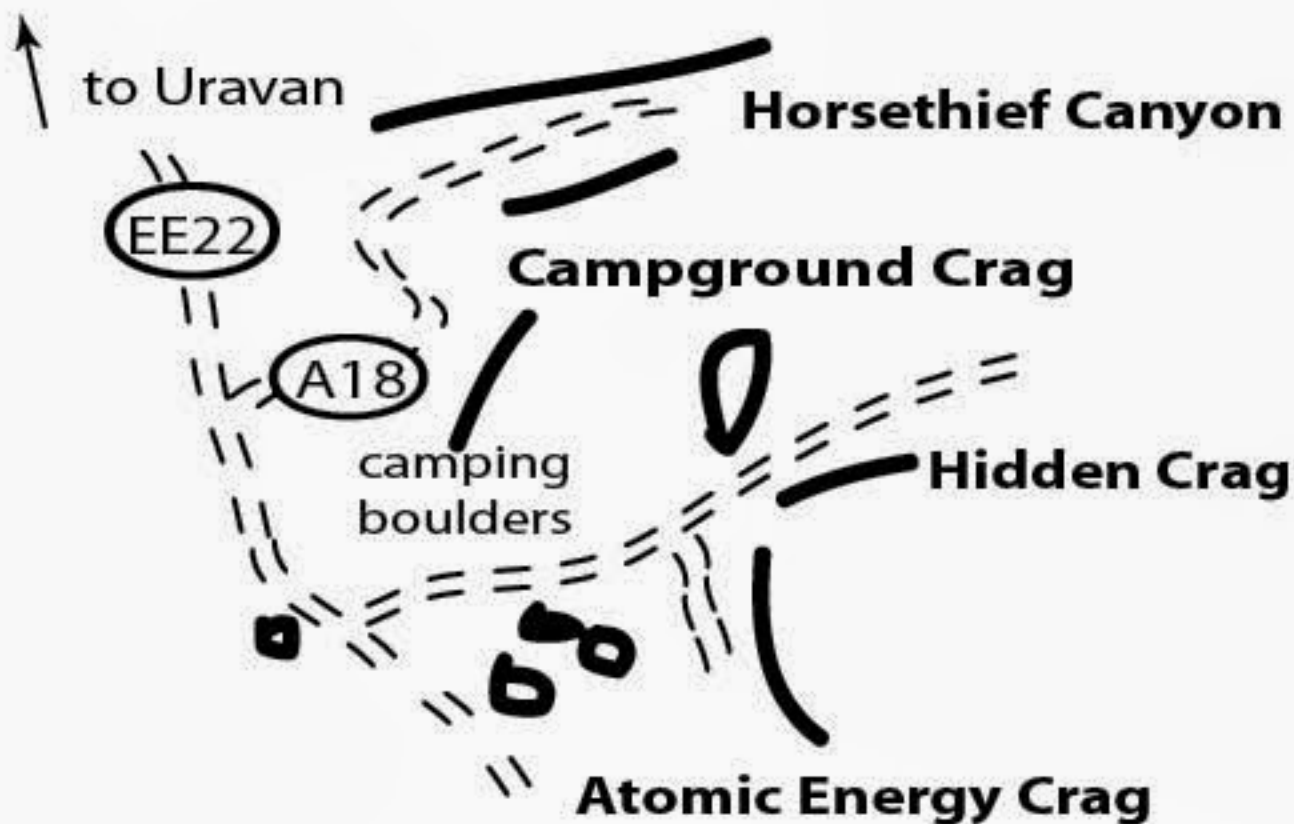
*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none

*Road Access* high clearance vehicle

*Comments* good bouldering and camping



**Campground Crag** A crag with some potential, there are nice campsites here and some good boulders below the cliff.



**Horsethief Canyon** Road A18 continues down this broad canyon, where numerous cliffs and boulders offer exploration for adventurous climbers.

# Red Rocks

*Rock Type* Navajo Sandstone

*Height* 80 - 200 feet

*Climbing Style(s)* sport, crack

*Gear Suggestions* 13 quickdraws, 3 sets of nuts and cams, long rope

*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* no climbing within 50 feet of petroglyphs

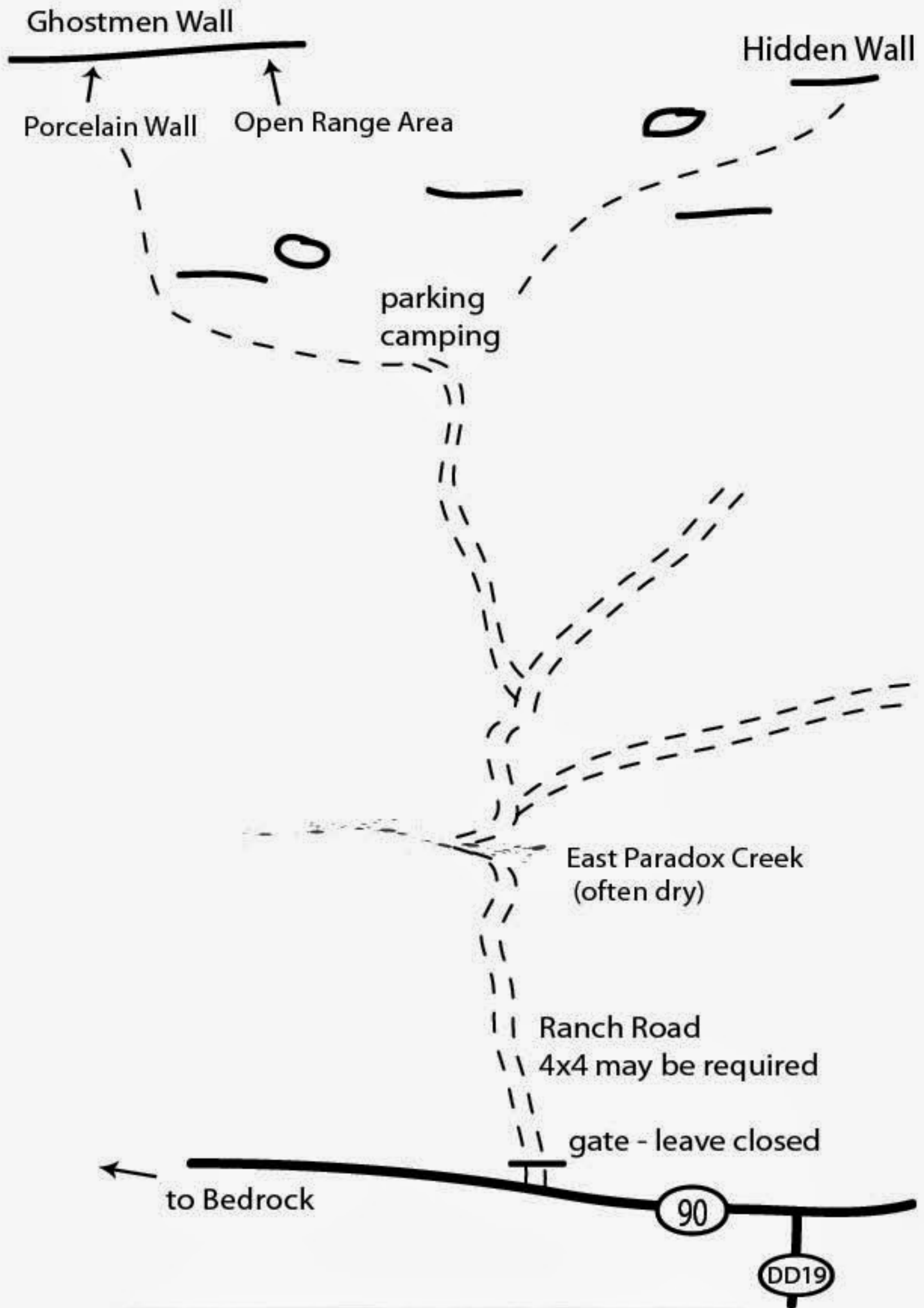
*Road Access* 4 X 4 recommended for the lower approach

*Comments* excellent face and crack climbing, a good winter crag

To approach Red Rocks, turn off Highway 90 onto an unmarked dirt road .2 miles west of mile marker 25. Please leave the gate closed. Follow the dirt road for a few miles, crossing East Paradox Creek. Park below rocks near power lines. The trail to the cliffs follows a creekbed heading to a dark tower; pass under this proceeding west, then directly up to the main cliffband (about 20 minutes from the car). Alternatively, the cliffs can be approached from Road EE22: From the AEC take a rough road leading south following the powerlines, when the road ends continue downhill to the cliffs (20 minutes).

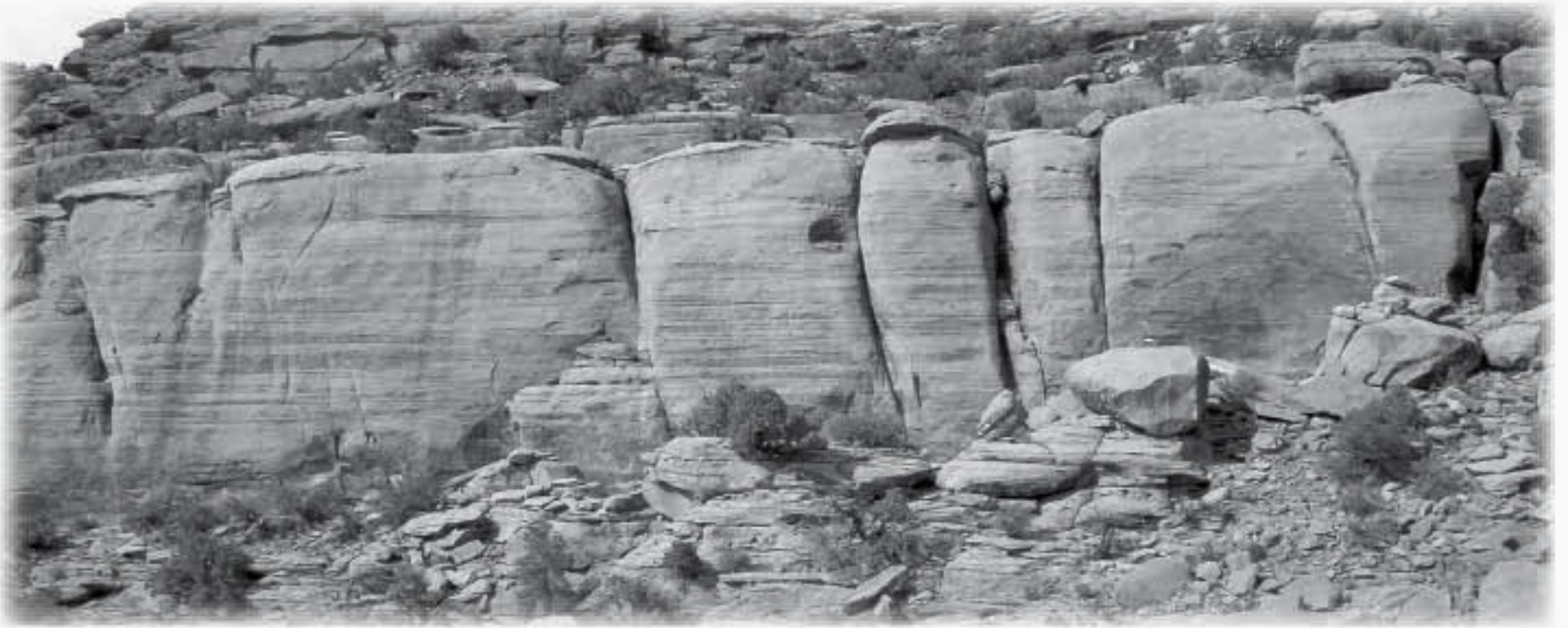


# Red Rocks Approaches

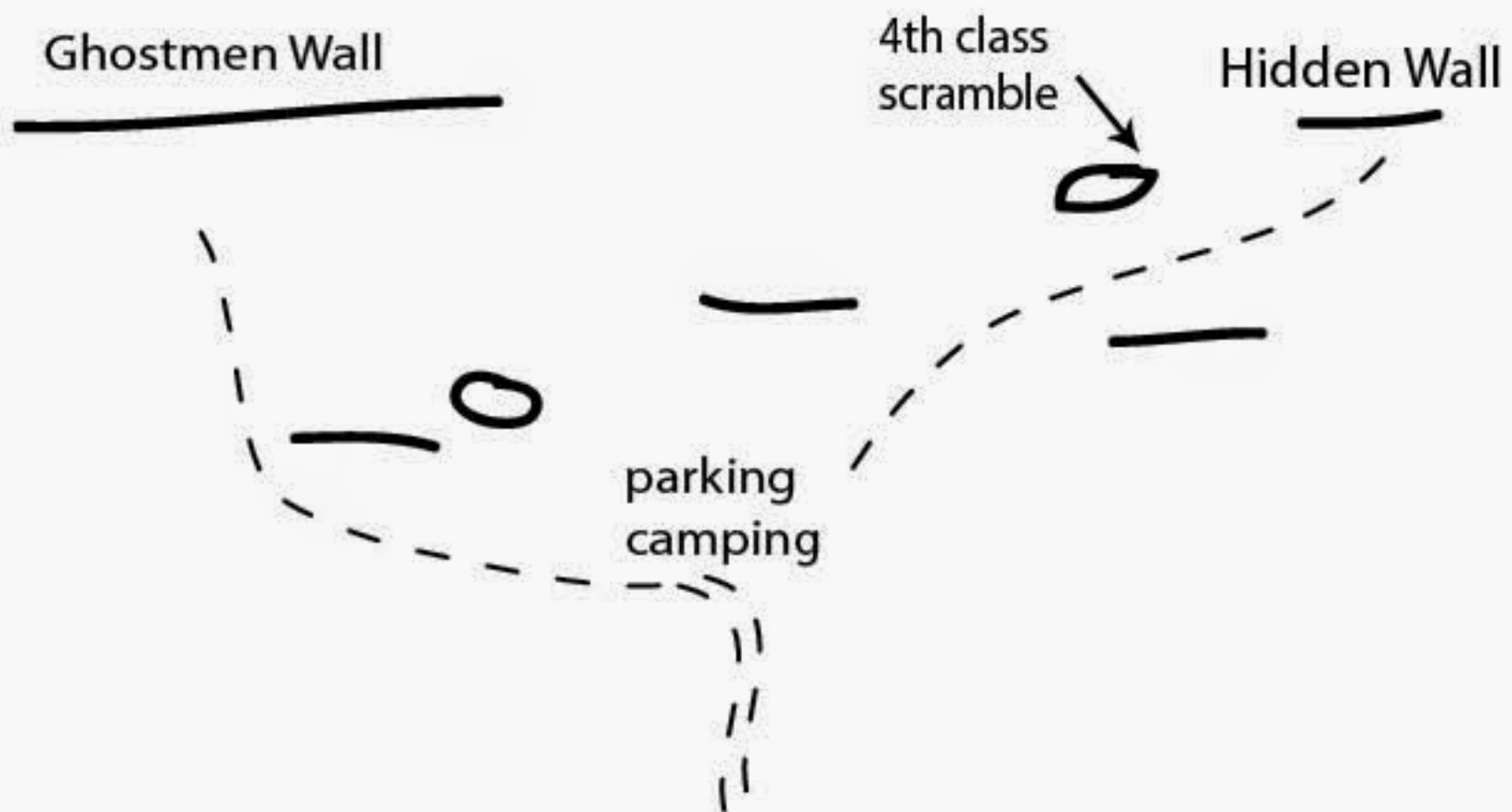


The road into Red Rocks

## Red Rocks - Hidden Wall



This long, but low (50 ft.) wall is home to a few good cracks and thin faceclimbs (top-roped).



Approach by hiking up the major wash towards a large tower, then hike and scramble up the side wash to the east till below the wall.

**Important Access Information:** No fixed anchors near the large towers; there are many petroglyphs nearby.



**Tower of the Anchiens** \*\*\*, 5.11a, FA: DJ, SJ 2014. Start on the “very” bottom-far-right of the west face. Climb through some very fun and exciting patina face. 12 draws and anchor rig. 90’

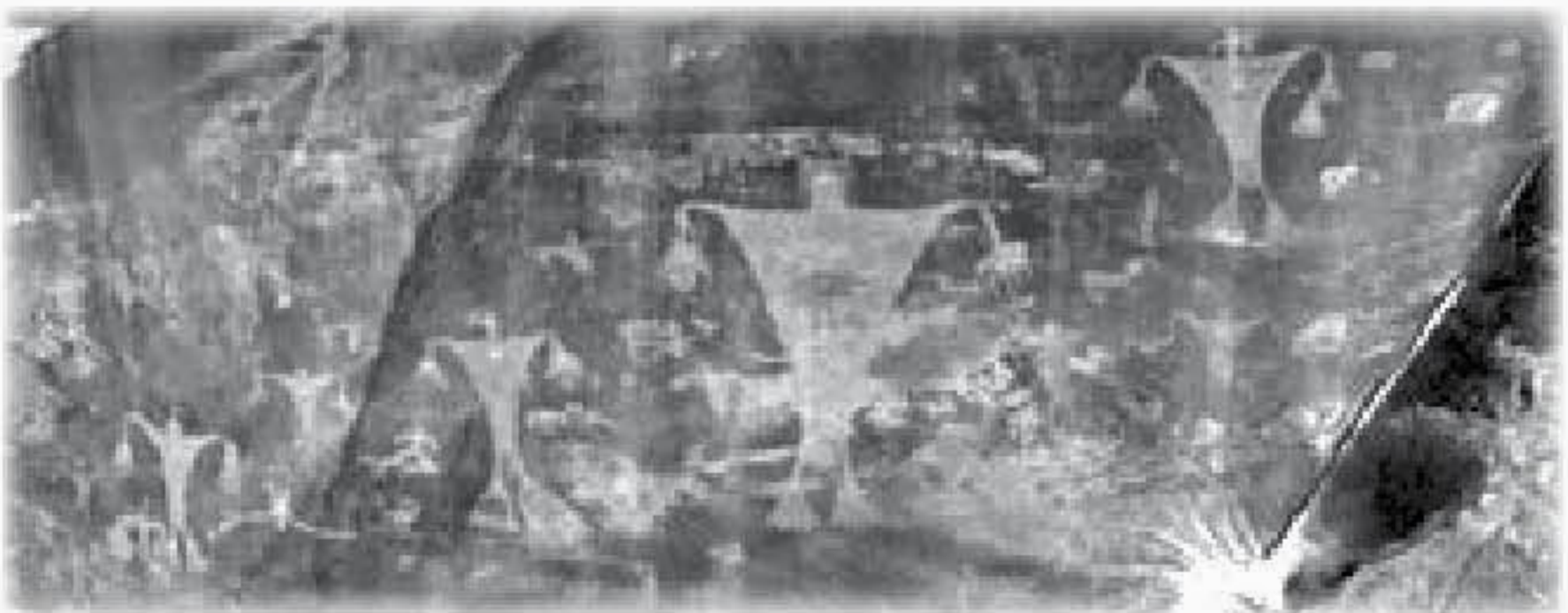
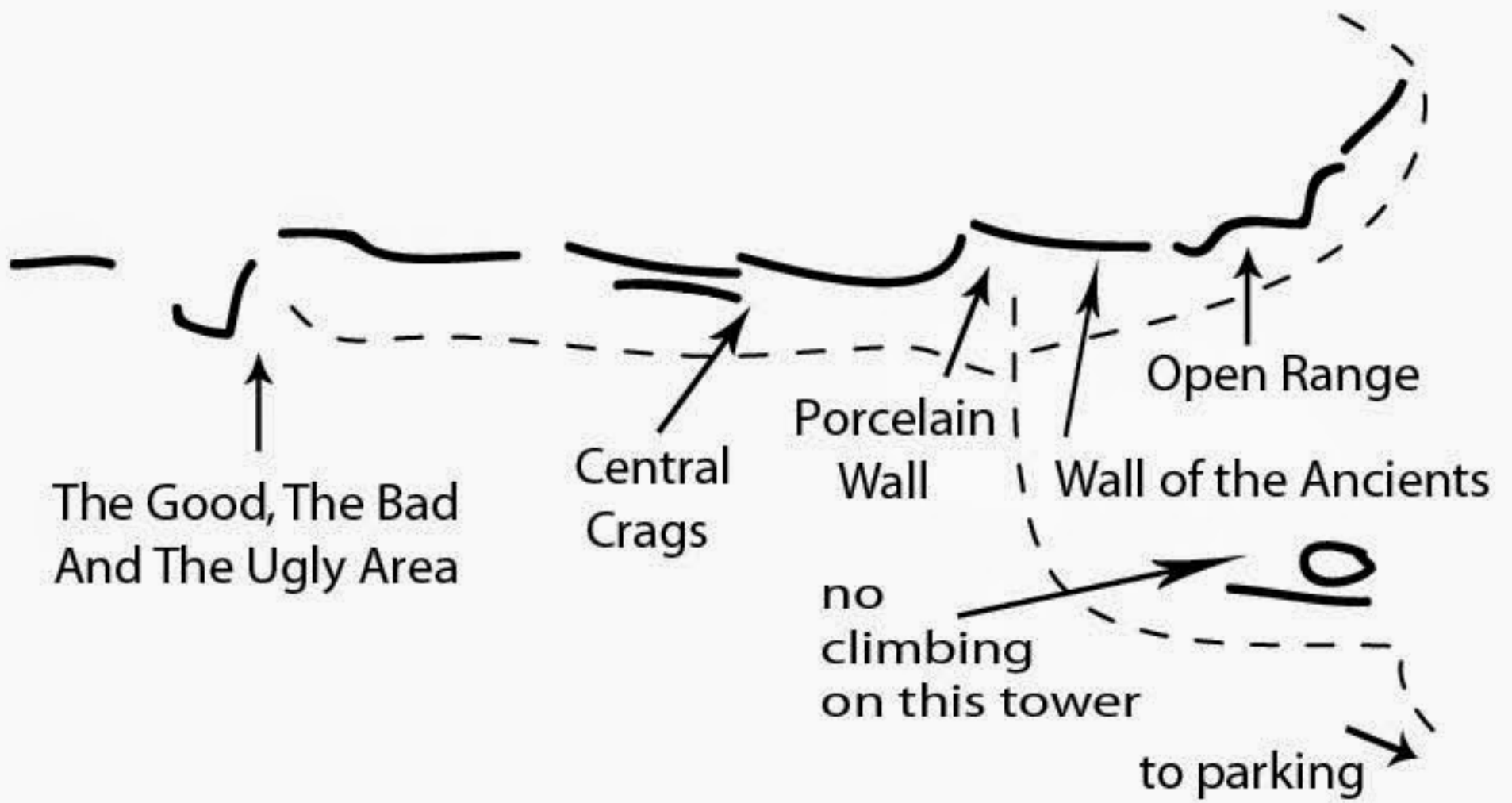
**Oli’s Slab**, 5.5. Scramble out to set up TR. Super fun for kids!

**PLEASE, DO NOT CLIMB ON NORTH SIDE OF THIS TOWER**--enjoy the Petroglyphs! --Black & White Photo to right.

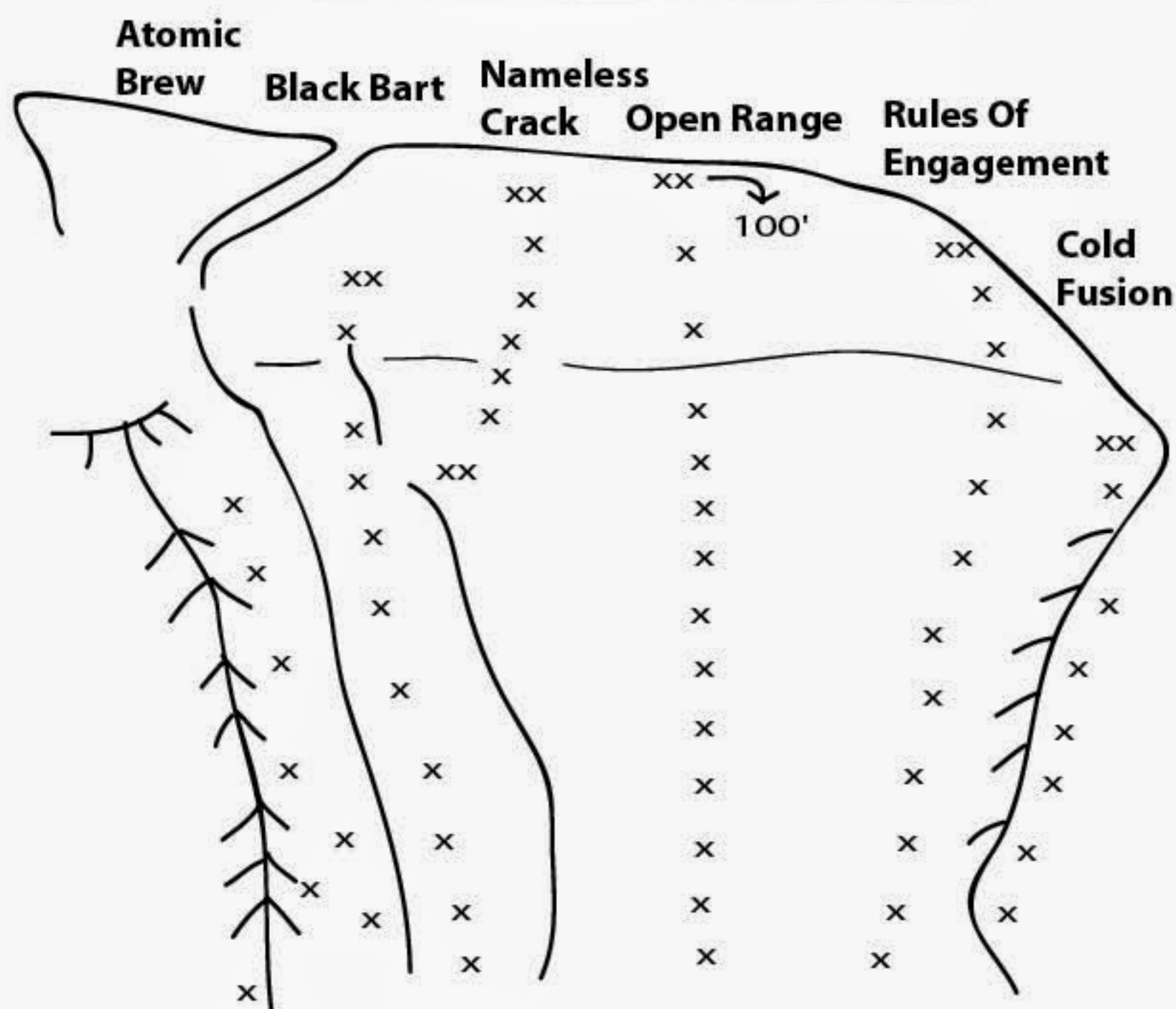
# Ghostmen Wall



An excellent crag with a nice variety of routes.



# Red Rocks - Open Range



**Atomic Brew** 5.11+/5.11 bolted overhang/arete,  
variation: traverse from right (easier) CF, CB, DJ, MD \*\*

**Black Bart** 5.10 bolted face CB, CF \*

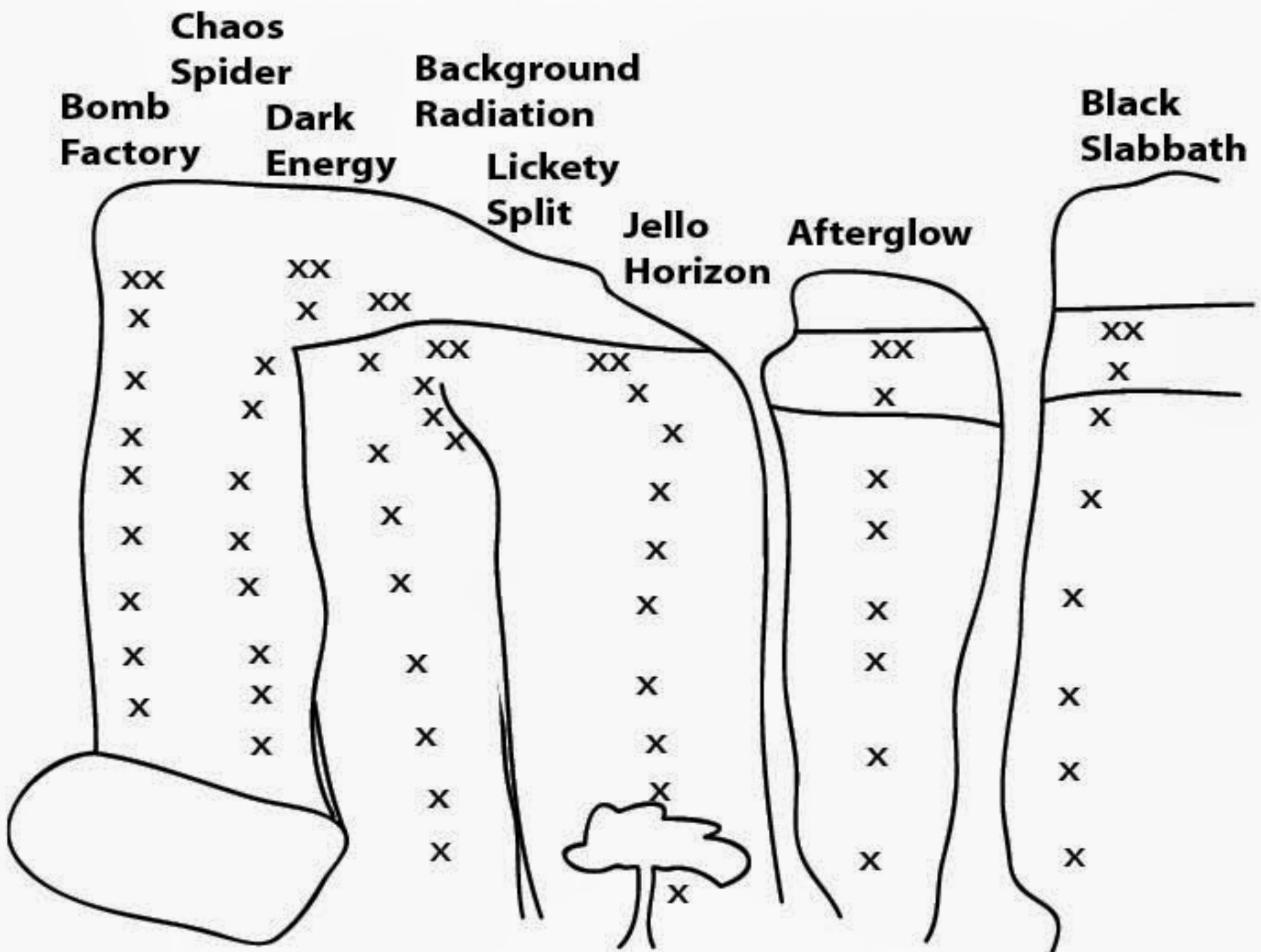
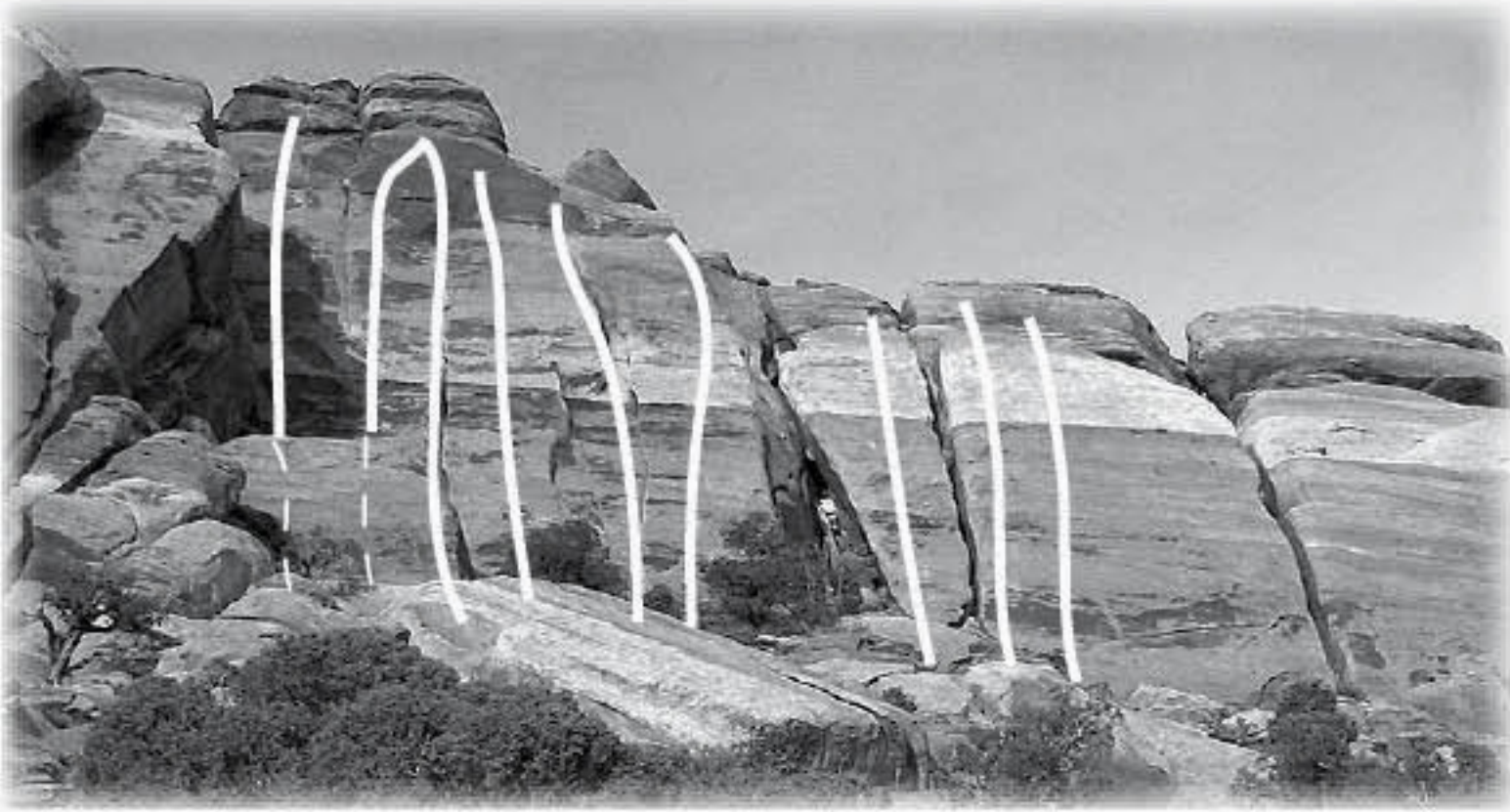
**Nameless Crack** 1) 5.9 wide handcrack 2) 5.11+ bolted face KS, TJ \*

**Open Range** 5.11+ long bolted face DJ, CF \*\*\*

**Rules Of Engagement** 5.10/5.11+ bolted face;  
to Cold Fusion anchor or continue up (harder) MD, CF, DJ \*\*

**Cold Fusion** 5.11 overhanging hueco wall DJ, MD, CF \*

# Red Rocks - Porcelain Wall



**Bomb Factory** 5.10+ bolted face 90 ft. CF, MD, DJ \*

**Chaos Spider** 5.11- bolted face 100 ft. CF, MD, DC, DJ \*\*

**Dark Energy** 5.10 flared crack to hands fingers face (1 bolt) 100 ft.  
KS, TJ (TR), MD, CF, DJ (lead) \*

**Background Radiation** 5.10+ bolted face 100 ft. DJ, CF, DC \*\*

**Lickety Split** 5.11 flare to fingercrack, stem and crux face (3 bolts)  
DJ, CF, DC \*

**Jello Horizon** 5.10+ bolted face 90 ft DJ, MD, CF \*

**Afterglow** 5.10+ bolted face 80 ft DJ, CF, MD \*

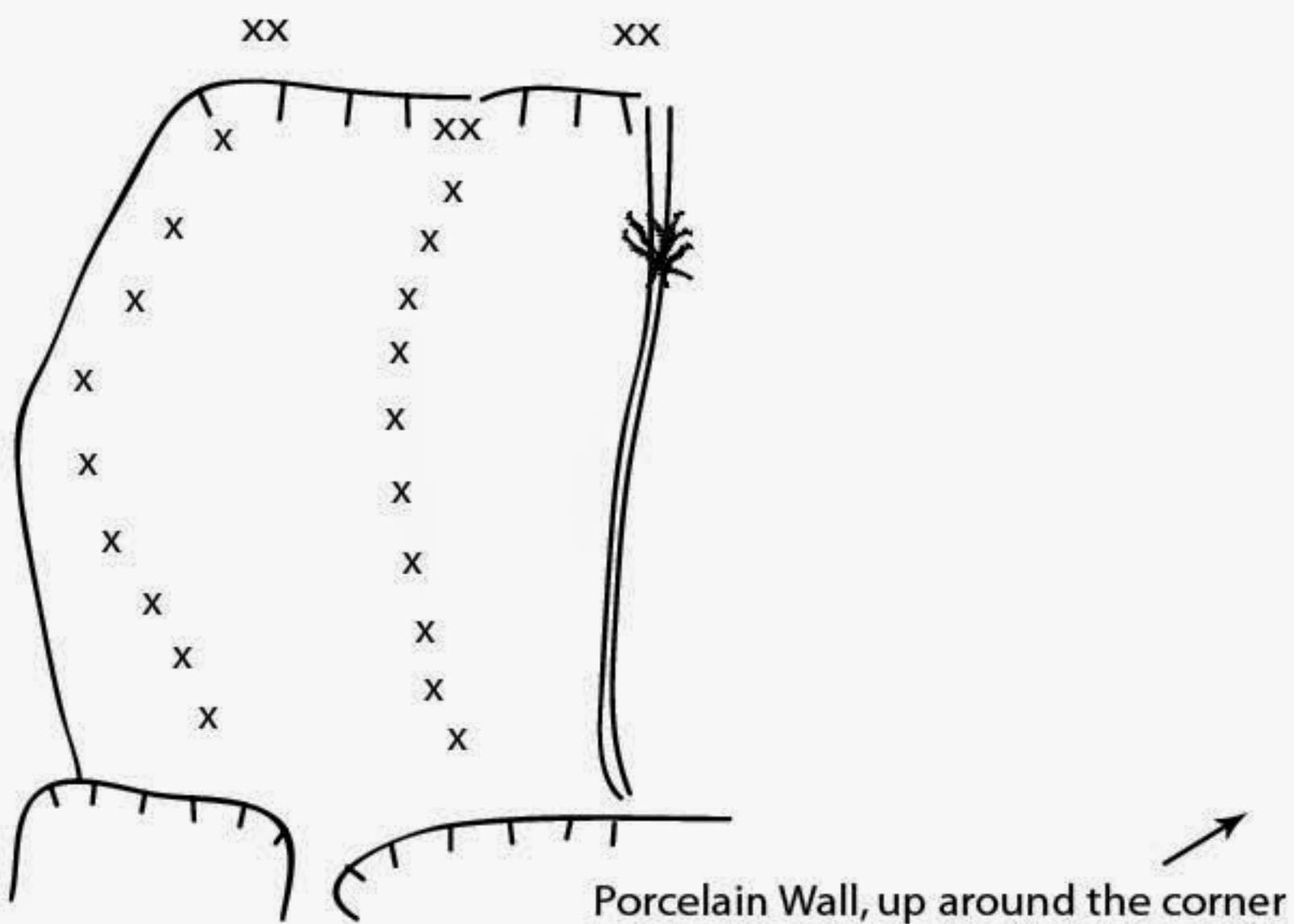
**Black Slabbath** 5.11- bolted face 80 ft. DJ, DC, CF \*

92 **Mystery Machine** 5.11 bolted face 80 ft. DJ, CF DC \*

# Red Rocks - Milky Way Wall



Reaching For Orion



- Reaching for Orion** 5.11 bolted face on left edge of slab  
DJ, SC Spring, 04
- Psycho Kitty** 5.12 bolted slabby face DJ, JH 9/04 \*
- Impeach Bush** 5.10 OW with bush near top

# Red Rocks - Technicolor Wall



routes recorded West to East:

These two routes are found in the corridor left of the Technicolor Wall:

**The Hideout** 5.10 splitter crack on buttress, through overhang CB, CF \*

**Shadow Dancers** 5.11 crack through two bulges, bolt to start CB, RS, CF \*

## **Technicolor Sunset \*\***

(1) 5.11 Thin bolted face to a big ledge CF, DJ, MD

(2) 5.11 original route: up wide crack, faceclimb right past bolt to leftfacing finger/handcrack CB, MC Spring, 04

direct start: past bolts directly to corner CB, CF

On the short buttress down and right of the Technicolor Wall:

**Bronco Billy's Wild West Crack** 5.9+ 1 bolt to crack, fingers to OW RS, CB, CF

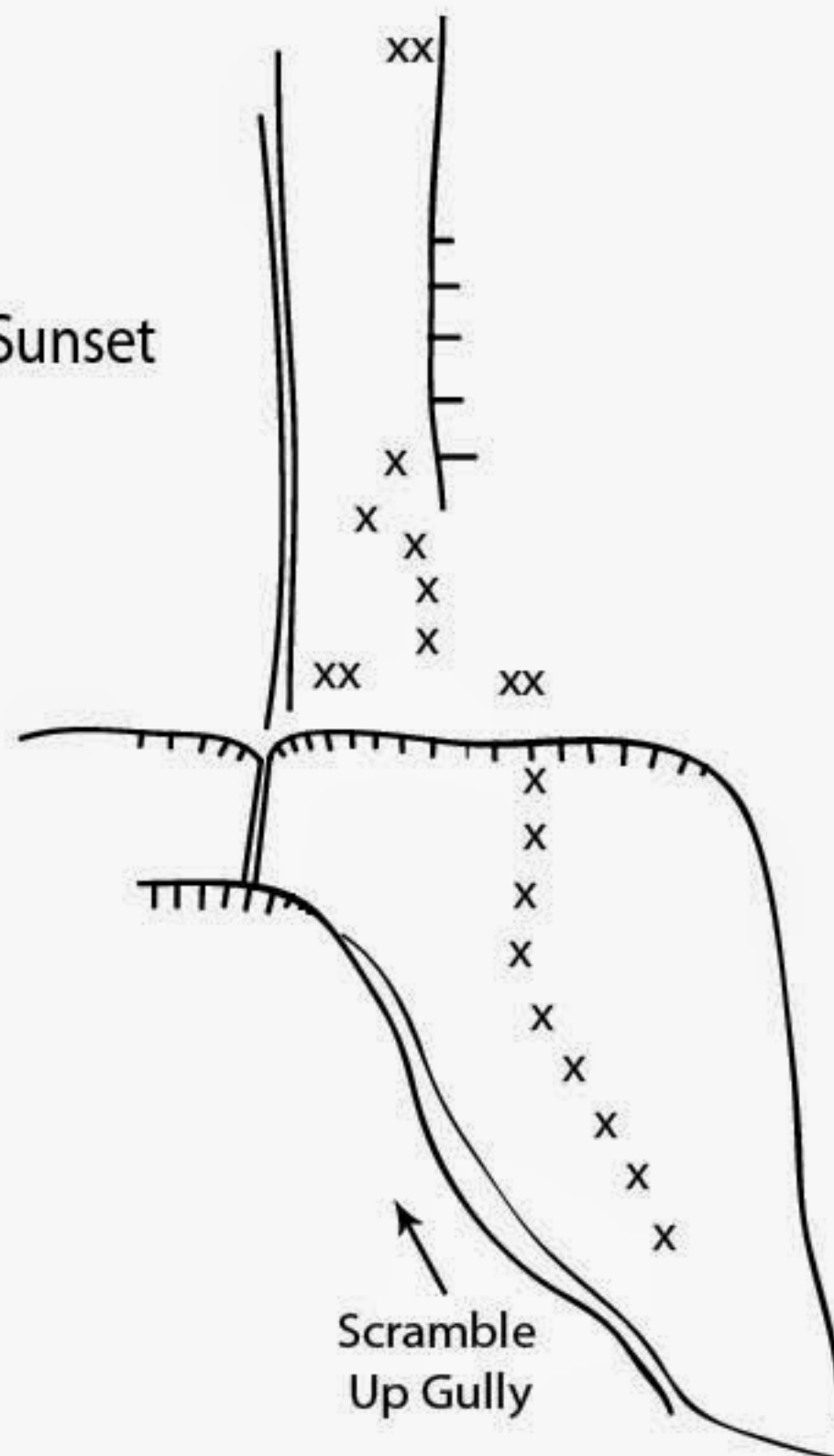
**Hue Cool Wall** 5.11 short handcrack to steep, bolted hueco wall 50 ft. CF, CB

# Red Rocks - Technicolor Wall

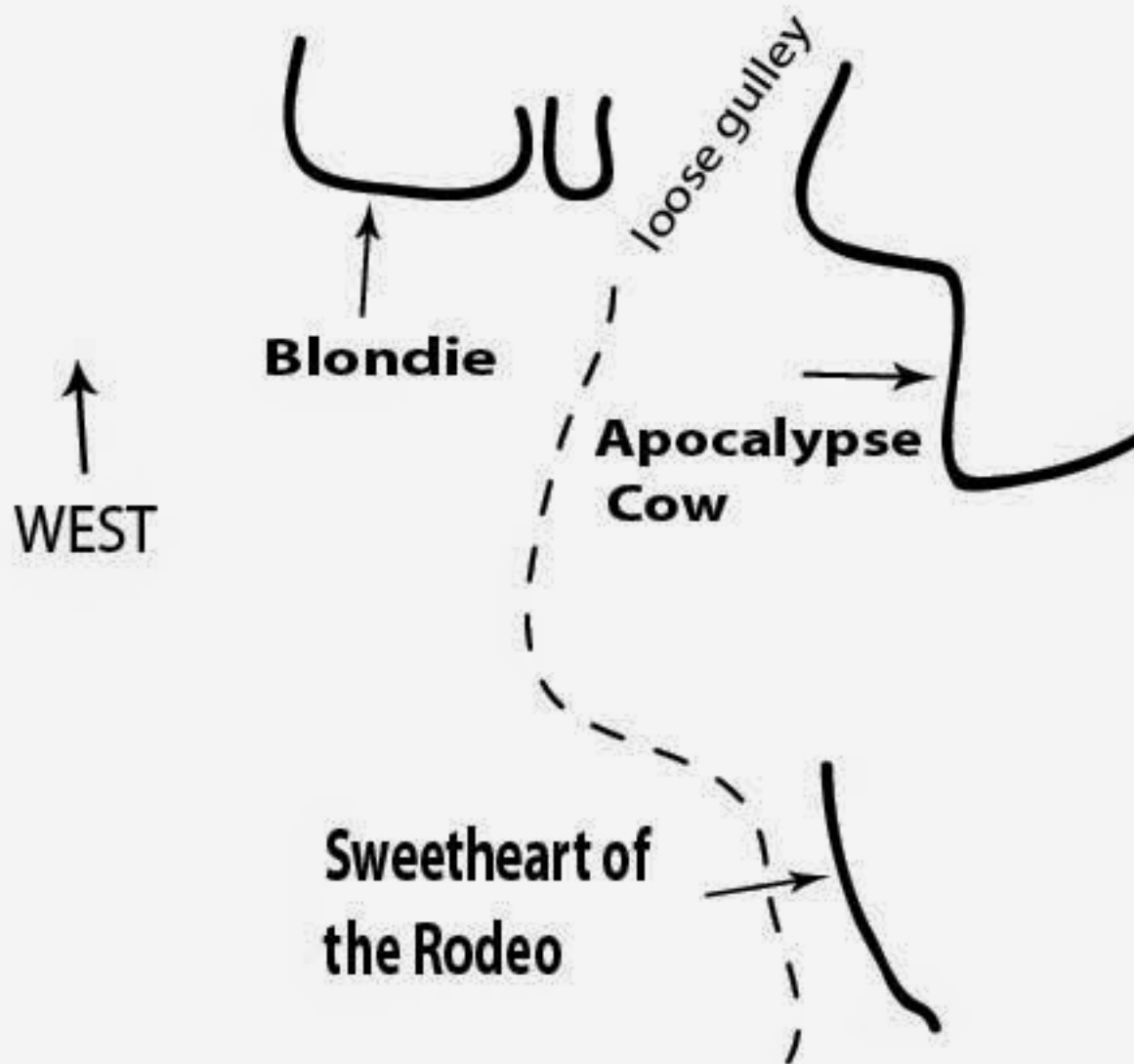


Chris Boskoff leads the first ascent of Technicolor Sunset, pitch 2

Technicolor Sunset

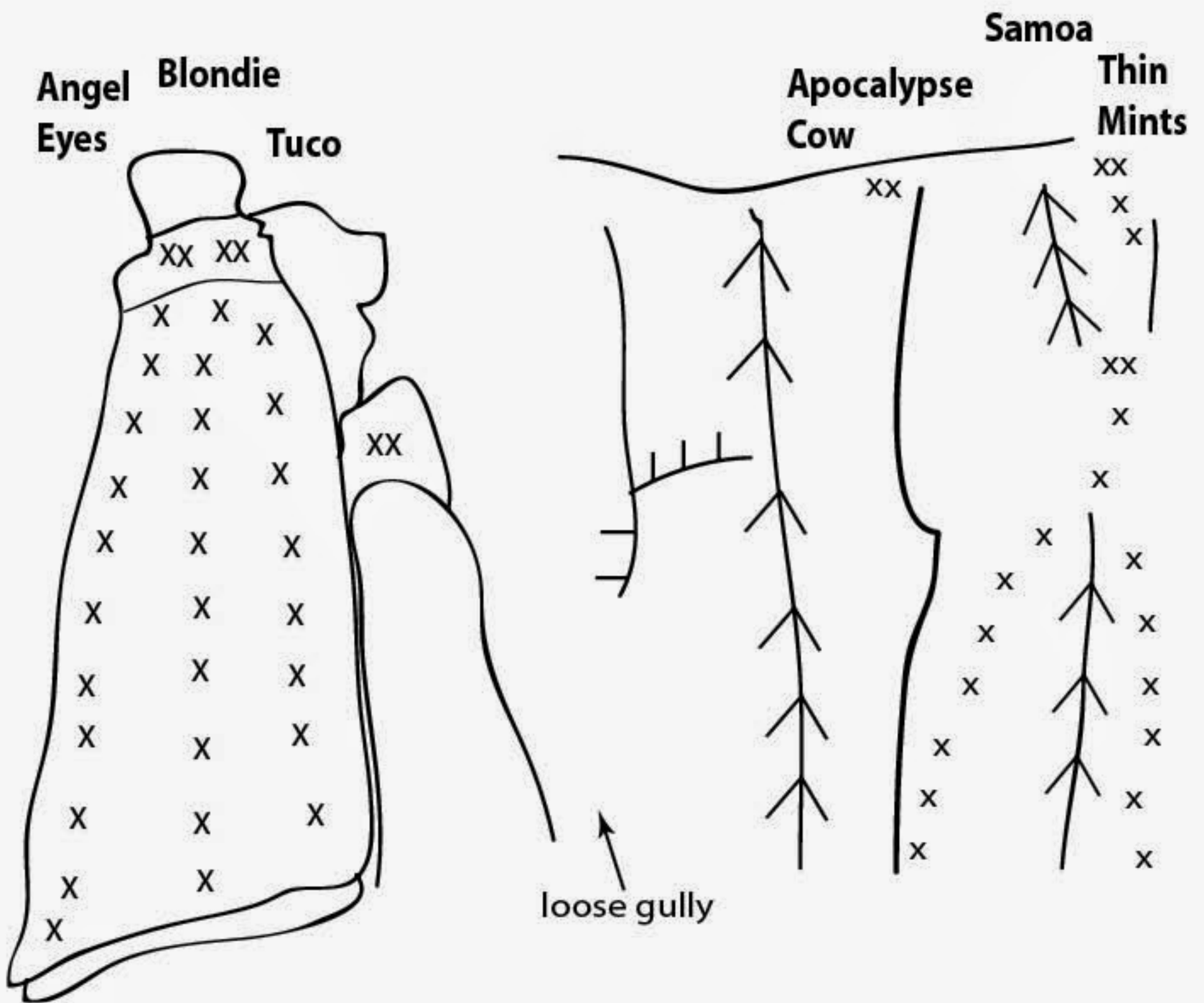


# Red Rocks - The Good, The Bad And The Ugly



DJ , Angel Eyes, winter '03

# Red Rocks - The Good, The Bad And The Ugly



**Angel Eyes** 5.11 bolted face/arete JH, CB \*

**Blondie** 5.11 bolted face JH, CB, CF \*\*

**Tuco** 5.11+ bolted face CF, CB, JH \*

**Apocalypse Cow** 5.10+ striking OW crack line 100 ft. CF, CB, JH \*\*\*

**Samoa** 5.11+ up and right across bolted face to arete CF, DJ, MB DC \*

Variation, 5.10 start directly DC, CB

**Thin Mints** 5.11+ bolted face MD, DJ, CF \*

**Red Heart** 5.10 crack/face (two bolts) finish to **Samoa** and **Thin Mints**  
CF, MD

**Sweetheart Of The Rodeo** 5.11 short bolted face CF, CB

# Carpenter Ridge



*Rock Type* Windgate Sandstone

*Height* 350 feet

*Climbing Style* Cracks

*Gear Suggestions* two long ropes and all your cams

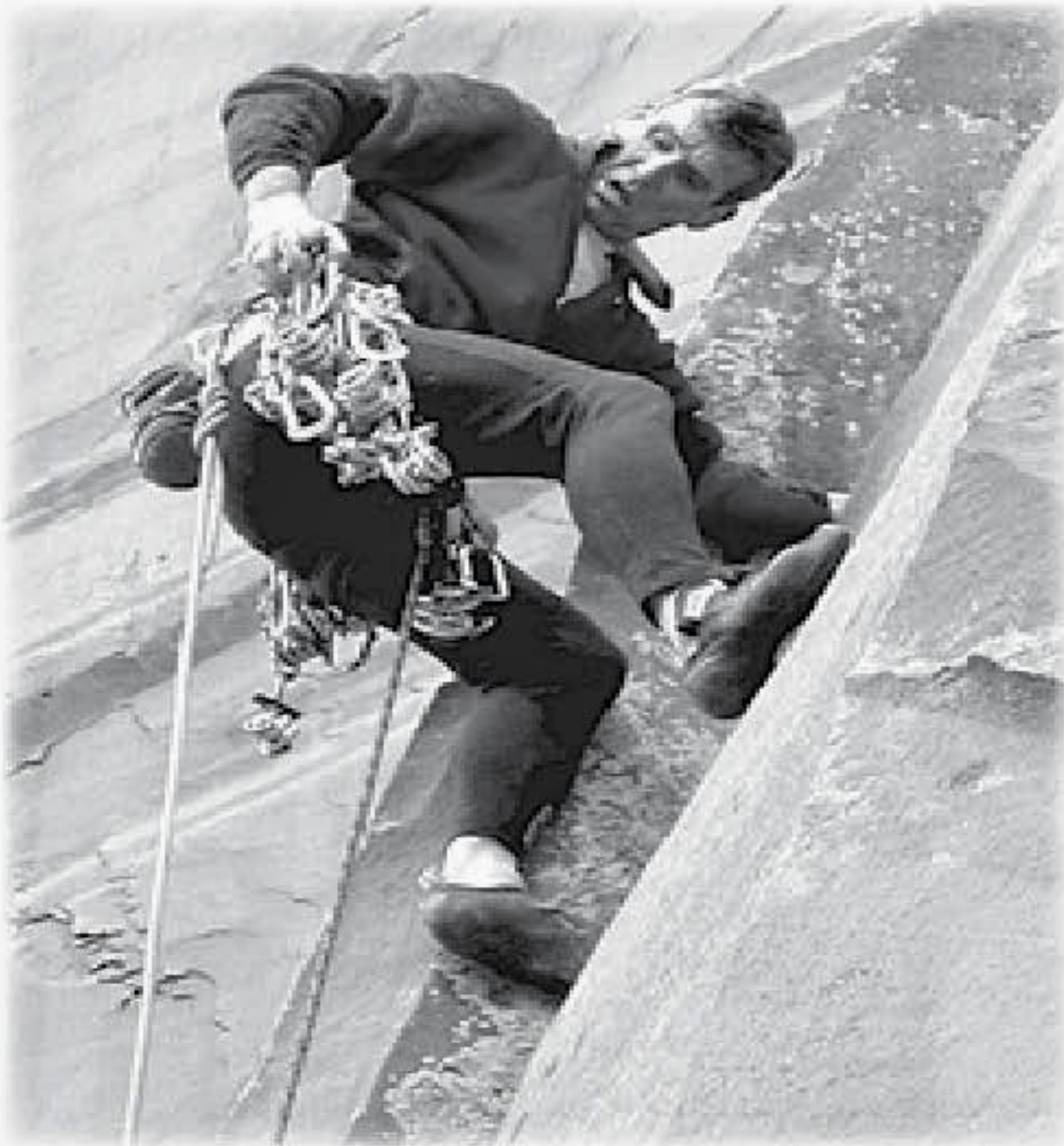
*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none, but limit camping impacts

*Road Access* high clearance vehicle

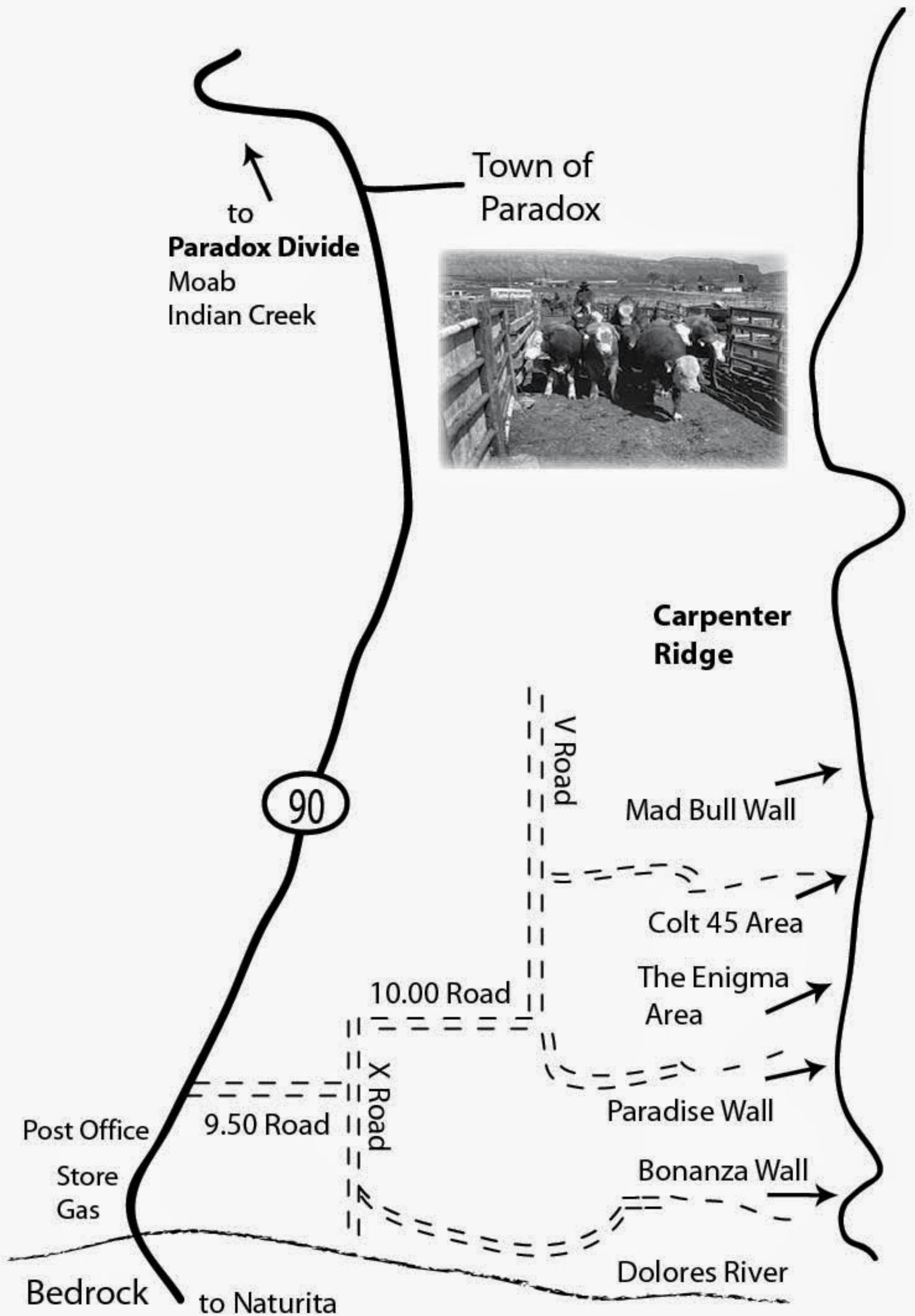
*Comments* fantastic crack climbing



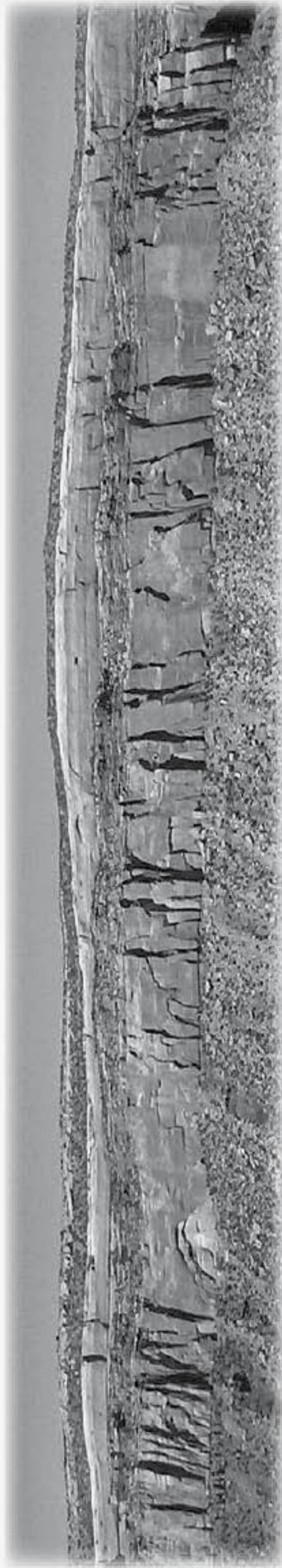
the first ascent of Mustang Sally January 2004

JC photo

# Paradox Valley West



# Carpenter Ridge Panorama



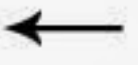
Mad Bull



Colt 45



The Enigma Area



Paradise Wall



# Mad Bull Wall



Up In Smoke, first ascent

routes recorded west to east:

- Up In Smoke** 5.11 rightfacing corner tips layback and stem DJ, JH, CF, CB 12/03 \*\*
- Outlaws And Angels** 5.10- fingers and thin hands to slot. CB, DJ, CF, JH 12/03 \*
- Just Another Desert Offwidth** 5.9+, 55 ft. CF, JH CB DJ 12/03\*
- Little Cowpokes** 5.9 hand and fingers in a rightfacing corner CB, DJ, JH, CF 12/03
- X- flake** 5.9 DJ, CB 11/03
- Mad Bull** 5.10 awesome handcrack in rightfacing corner, 80 ft. CB, DJ 11/03 \*\*\*

"Courage is being scared to death - but saddling up anyway."  
-John Wayne

# Colt 45



Chris Boskoff, Mustang Sally

routes recorded west to east:

(Big Arch)

**Blue Highways** 5.10+ fingertip layback to stem, finish up handcrack 90 ft.  
CF, JC, KS, CB\*

**Mustang Sally** 5.10- wide handcrack to fingers. 50 ft. CF, JC, KS \*

**Colt 45** 5.11- crack in leftfacing corner 65 ft. \* CF, JC, KS  
(top of approach trail)

**Tecate** 5.10 finger/hand to thin and stem (1 bolt) 65 ft. CB, CF \*

**Pacifico** 5.10+ layback/stem in leftfacing corner (hand and fingers) 60 ft. CF, CB \*



↑  
Up In Smoke

↑  
Mad Bull

↑  
Colt 45

↑  
Tecate

↑  
In Like Flint

# The Enigma Area



Three Eagles, CB photo

routes recorded west to east:

**In Like Flint** 5.11 takes a large right-facing corner system CF, CB 9/04 \*\*\*

- 1) 5.10 chimney/slot to roof, up crack in corner, step left (bolt) to large ledge
- 2) 5.10 up corner, easy OW to harder hands and fingers, ends on small stance
- 3) 5.11 slot (2 bolts) to layback around roof and up corner; layback and stem
- 4) 5.11 up corner: thin stem to hand and fingers, step left (2 bolts) to chimney
- 5) 5.11 left on large ledge, up rightfacing corner, fist, hands, fingers and stem  
gear: single 60 m rope, 2-3 sets lowe-balls and micro cams, 4 sets finger, hand  
cams, 2 sets fist and tight OW cams

**Daylight Bombing** 5.10- finger crack/stemming in rightfacing corner 60 ft.  
CB, CF, JC

**Hit It With Your Purse** 5.10 hand to Fist/OW crack in rightfacing corner 70 ft.  
JB, PE \*

**Three Eagles** 5.12 bolt at start, layback rightfacing corner, turn overhang  
to thin handcrack 70 ft. CF, CB JH \*\*\*

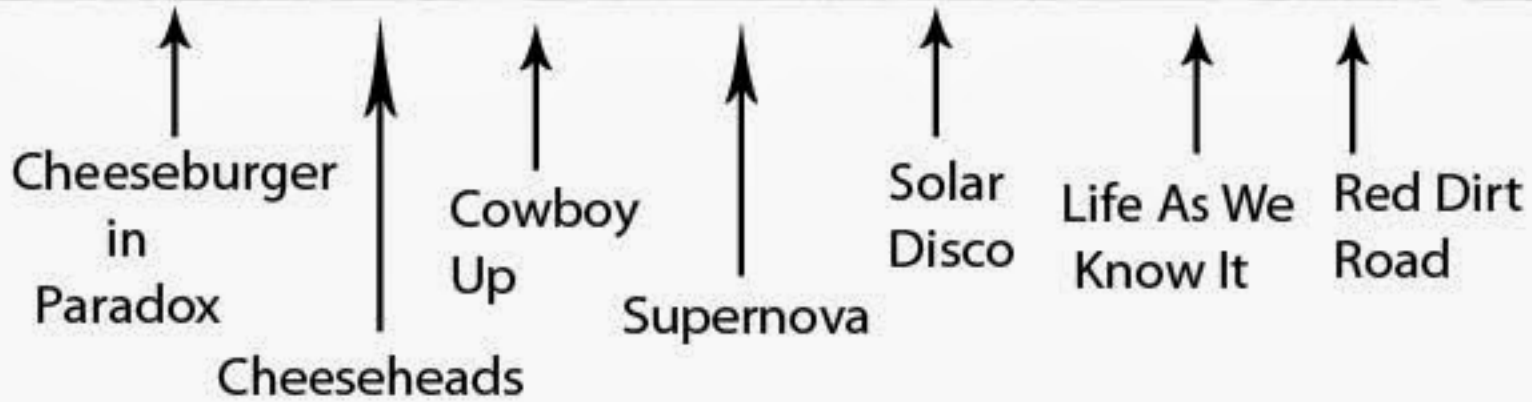
**Barney Rubble** 5.10+ tight hands 60 ft. JB, PE \*\*

**Offwidth Your Head** 5.9 OW in rightfacing corner 60 ft. CB, CF

**Little Cowgirls** 5.9 fingers/layback to hands and flare 60 ft. CB, JH

**Redemption Song** 5.12 past bolt to wild layback - tips to hands  
CB, CF JC \*\*\*

# Paradise Wall



routes recorded west to east:

**The Chocolate Milk Of Evil** 5.10+ DJ, Dave Smith

- 1) 5.10+ wide hands to fingers, start at bolt (direct start 5.11+ wide)
- 2) 5.9 continue up cracks and corner

(Top of approach trail)

**Thin and Thinner** 5.12- rightfacing corner, very thin crack BE \*

**Not Evil Enough** 5.11 splitter crack to big flare ow CB JH

**Stellar Haystack** 5.10 DJ, JH, TA \*

- 1) 5.10 big rightfacing corner
- 2) 5.9 continue up corner

**Cheeseburger in Paradox** 5.11 ET, CB \*\*\*

- 1) 5.11 small hands to big hands in leftfacing corner
- 2) 5.11 thin handcrack to big fingers

**The Cheeseheads** 5.11+ CB, JH, CF \*\*\*

- 1) 5.12- leftfacing corner, thin hands
- 2) aka **The Dickheads** 5.10 long splitter, mostly big hands

**Cowboy Up** 5.12 DJ, CF, CB, ET \*\*\*

- 1) 5.10 long pitch up prominent leftfacing corner
- 2) 5.12 splitter thin hand/big finger crack to left of big corner

**Supernova** 5.12 the incredible splitter line CF, CB 05/04 \*\*\*

- 1) 5.11 thin hands to small stance
- 2) 5.10 past blocky chimney to handcrack, to a good stance
- 3) 5.12 long pitch: hands to wide fingers (crux) to tightening fingercrack
- 4) 5.12- short pitch: roof, seam (some bolts) - beware of loose rock nearby  
gear: 2 long ropes, set of nuts, 5 sets of finger and hand size cams, 2 sets for fist  
rappel from top of pitch 3 straight down to rap anchors on The Horse Dance

**The Horse Dance** 5.12 C2 project

- 1) 5.12 thin tips crack to flaring corner/slot
- 2) C 2 thin aid up a splitter - bring many lowe-balls

**Cleared For Takeoff** 5.12+ super thin start to big fingers DJ, SC\*

**Solar Disco** 5.12 C1 DJ, SC \*

- 1) C1 5.12+ start as for CFT, move right to anchor
- 2) C1 5.12 face (3 bolts) to super thin crack to fingers
- 3) 5.12- mostly fingers, but some wide (hand/OW)

**Life As We Know It** 5.11 long pitch - fingertips to OW, mostly hands CF, CB \*\*

**The Hell That Was Paradox** 5.9+ chimney route up big rightfacing flake CF \*

- 1) OW and squeeze chimney to ledge
- 2) squeeze chimney following finger crack to top of flake

note: rappel Life As We Know It

**Collisto** 5.12- awesome thin hand/big finger splitter DJ, DCB \*\*\*

**Red Dirt Road** 5.10 hands to OW in rightfacing corner CB, CF \*

**Brushfire** 5.12- splitter fingers/tight hands just right of Red Dirt Road (shares start and finish/anchor) CB, CF \*

**Abu Ghraib** 5.10 two short, stout OW pitches CF, JC, CB

**Wild Bull** 5.10 handcrack/layback in rightfacing corner 120 ft. CB CF \*\*\*

“He who learns but does not think, is lost! He who thinks but does not learn is in great danger.”

-Confucius

# Bonanza Wall



The east side of Carpenter Ridge has seen a lot less climber traffic. There is good potential for several single-pitch freeclimbs and longer clean-aid routes.



CB and JC, first ascent of Cowboy Poker

left to right:

**Fashion Nugget** 5.10 handcrack in leftfacing corner 60 ft. CB, CF, JC \*

**Cowboy Poker** 5.10 steep handcrack that kicks back up slabby face 75 ft.  
CB, CF, JC

# Paradox Divide

*Rock Type* Dakota Sandstone

*Height* 40 feet

*Climbing Style* Bouldering, Cracks, top-roping

*Gear Suggestions* bouldering pad and top-rope setup

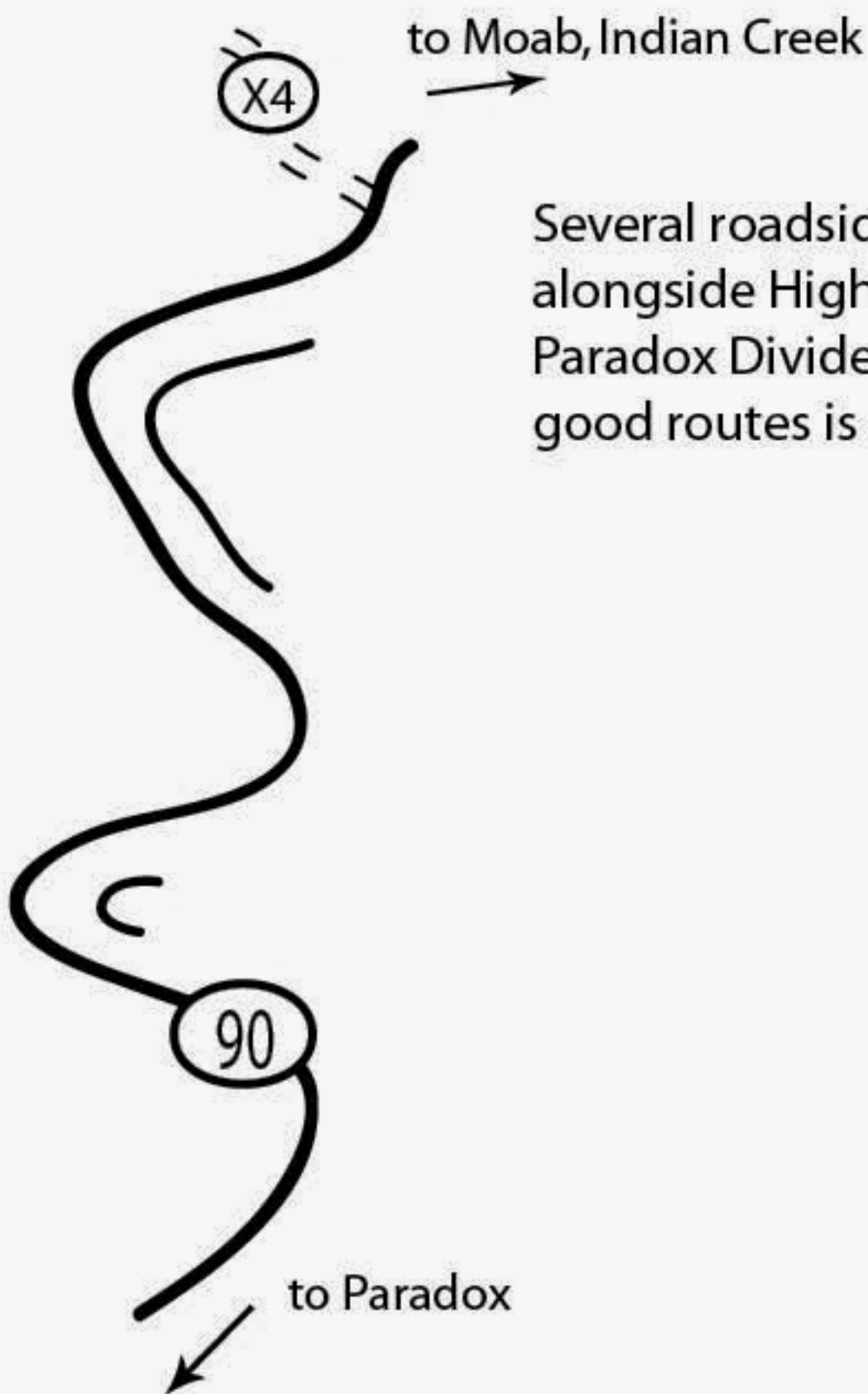
*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none

*Road Access* regular vehicle

*Comments* roadside crags with some potential for sport routes



Several roadside cracks and faces are found alongside Highway 90 on the south side of Paradox Divide. The best concentration of good routes is near Road X4.

# East Paradox



*Rock Type* Windgate Sandstone

*Height* 300 feet

*Climbing Style(s)* Crack, Aid

*Gear Suggestions* Many cams

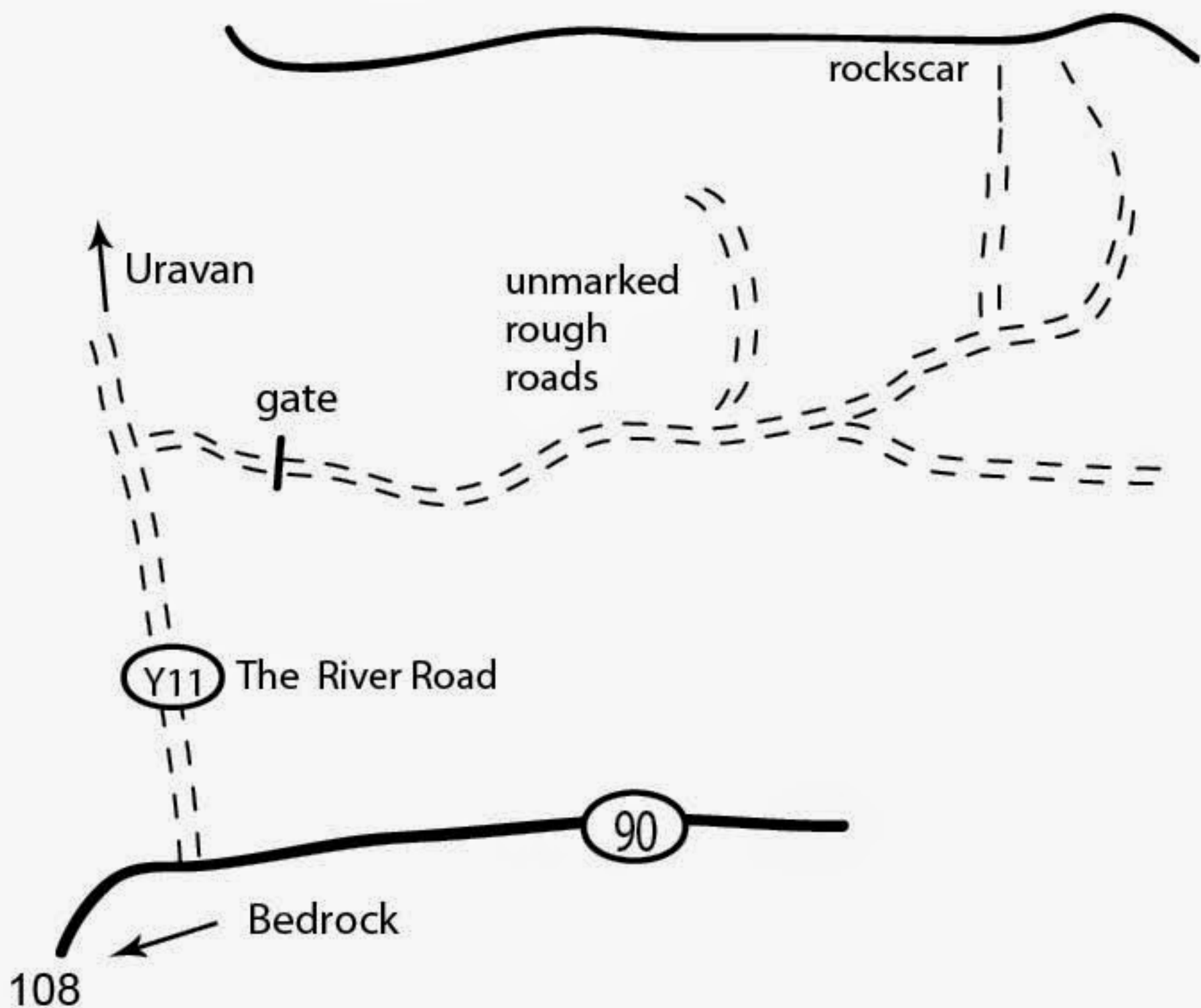
*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none, but access road crosses private land - leave gates as found

*Road Access* 4 X 4 vehicle recommended

*Comments* an area with good potential for long routes



# East Paradox - The Sanctuary Wall

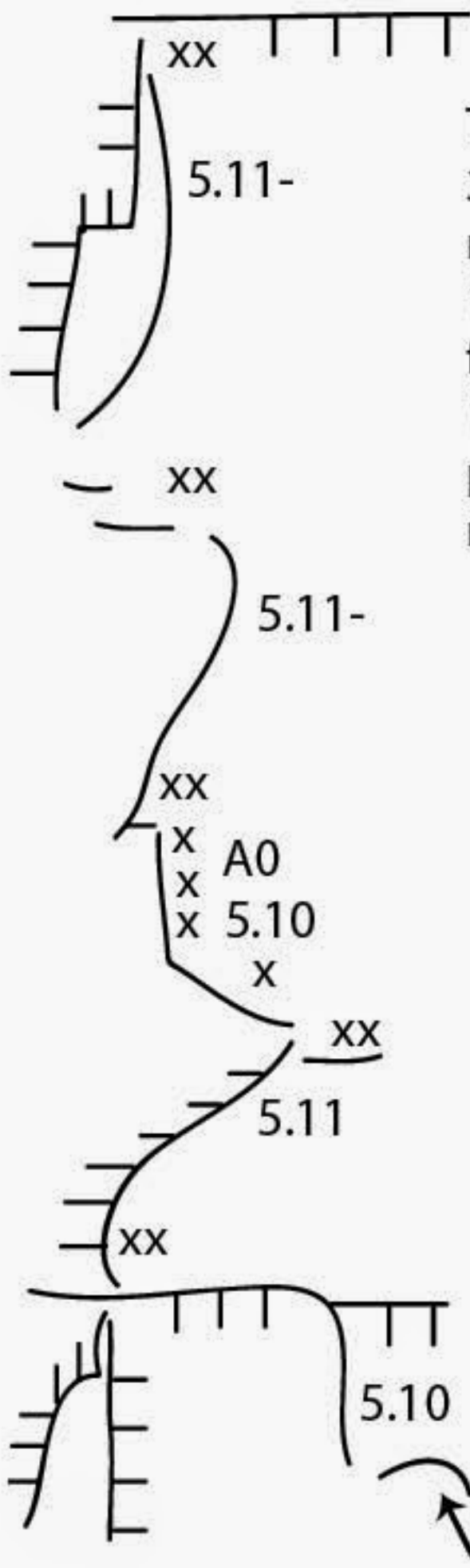
**Lizard Lounge** 5.11 A0 (or 5.12) 5 pitches, 280 feet \*\*\*

Damon Johnston and Charlie Fowler 8/'04

- 1) 5.10 hand, fist and OW crack to a big ledge.
- 2) 5.11 OW to fist, hands and layback up right-trending flake.  
note: you can leave all the big cams at the end of this pitch
- 3) 5.10 A0 (three points of aid) or 5.12 all free: Follow a seam, gear and bolts, to a small stance.
- 4) 5.11- Jam a wild handcrack in a flake to a good stance.
- 5) 5.11- Climb a chimney using a hand and finger crack for pro, finish up an easy rightfacing corner.

gear: 8 quickdraws, small assortment of thin and fingersized cams and nuts, many hand and fist pieces and a good selection of OW gear in the 4" to 5" range, one 6" piece.

descent: 2 1/2 rappels with a 70 meter rope



To approach the Sanctuary Wall, take the River Road 3/4 mile north from Highway 90 to an unmarked right turn. Follow this winding road for almost 1 1/2 mile to an intersection - go left here heading for the prominent rockscar. After a little over 1/2 mile, take an obscure left turn and head as far as possible towards the cliff, or continue straight on the rough road till it ends.



This route takes the cleanest line in the black varnished wall right of the big rockscar.

# Big Gypsum Valley

Bluffs of Windgate and Navajo Sandstone overlooking the Big Gypsum Valley provide hundreds of quality climbs and potential for many more.

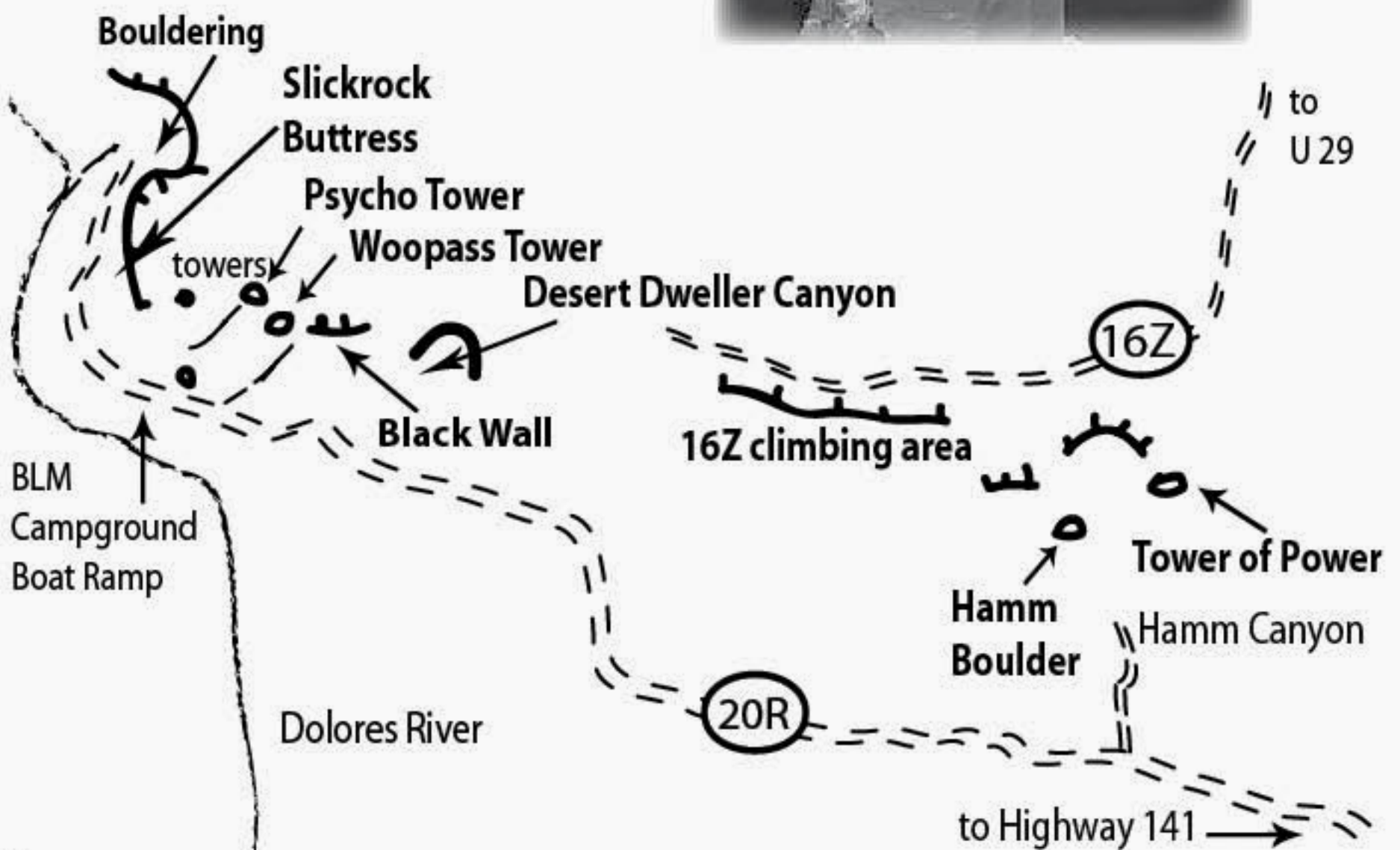
To approach 16Z, refer to that section of the guide; most other areas are reached from Road 20R, which is located off Highway 141 almost 24 miles south of the intersection with Highway 145, east of Naturita.



The Uncertainty Principle  
Hamm Canyon



Red Bull  
16Z



# Hamm Canyon

*Rock Type* Windgate Sandstone

*Height* 200 feet

*Climbing Style(s)* crack, sport

*Gear Suggestions* 7 quickdraws, 4 sets of cams for crack climbs

*Seasons* Fall through Spring

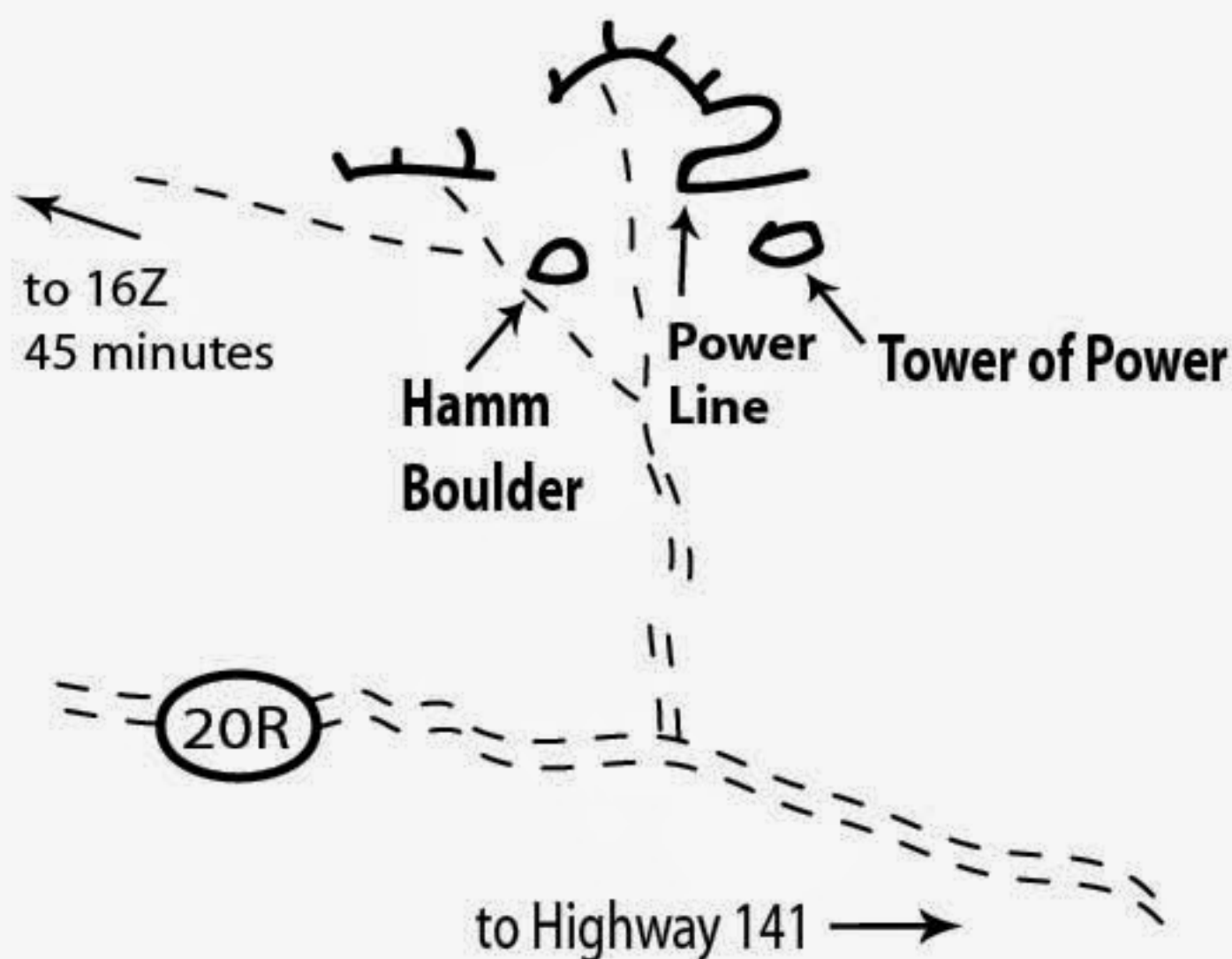
*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* no climbing near petroglyphs

*Road Access* high clearance vehicle

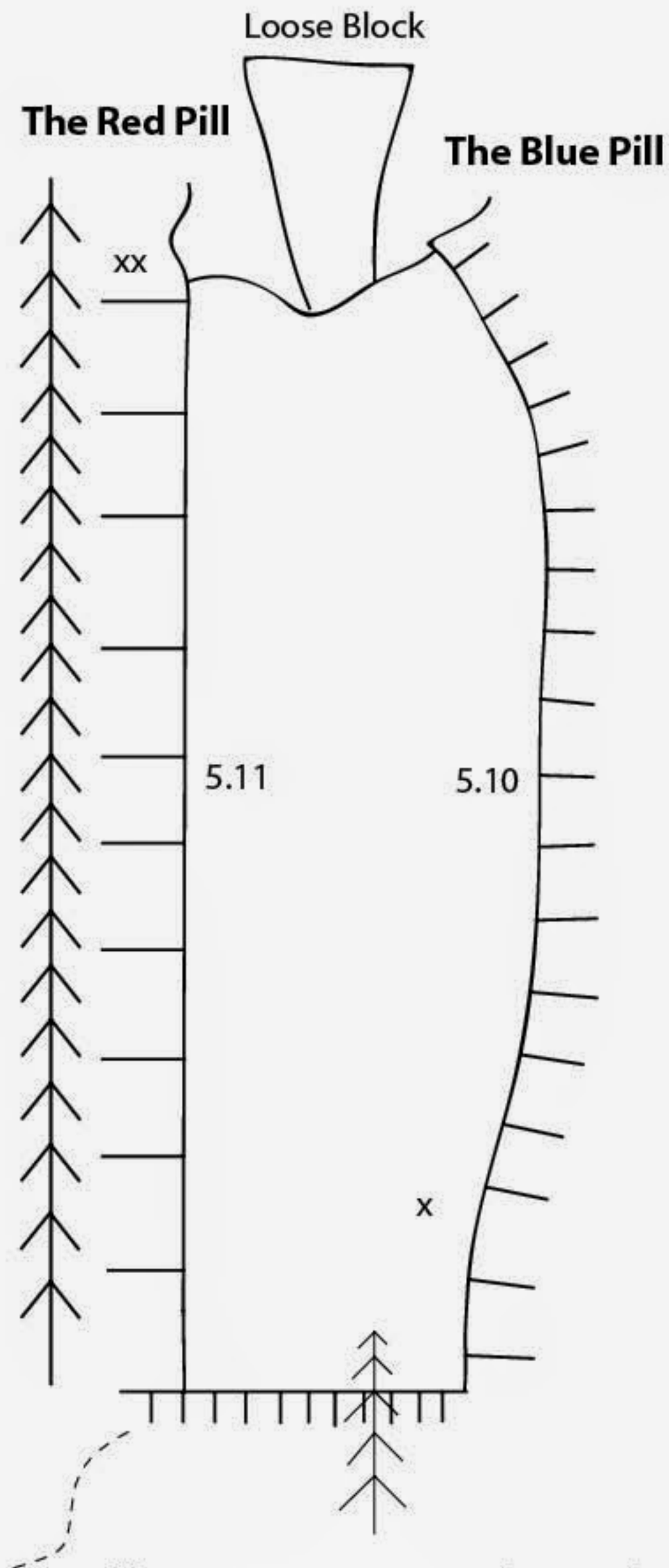
*Comments* A scenic spot, with nice camping and hiking as well as some interesting climbs.

From Highway 141, drive 8 miles down road 20R to an obscure, unmarked dirt road about 100 yards past a cattleguard. Take this road to it's end. Hike up the wash to access the boulder, walls and Tower Of Power.





# Hamm Canyon



These two routes are located on the big wall behind the boulder

**The Red Pill** 5.11 fingers 55 ft.

**The Blue Pill** 5.10 finger to hands 55 ft.

both routes established by DJ, Eric Wright winter '02

# Tower Of Power



## Tower Of Power

5.11R 3 pitches Max Kendall, Robert Warren Steve Wood 1990 \*\*

This fine climb takes the large leftfacing corner on the south face. Start by scrambling up to a ledge below the main corner.

- 1) 5.10+ widening hand crack up the corner 90 ft.
- 2) 5.11 continue up corner, turn roof right to large ledge 60 ft.
- 3) 5.8 face to top, poorly protected 30 ft.

gear: tiny cams through big hands (heavy on the hand size)

descent: find an anchor (somewhat hidden) on the northeast corner, one 80 ft. rappel

## Power Line

The impressive westfacing buttress left of the Tower Of Power sports an imposing crack line that may have been climbed recently. Further information is not known.

# Desert Dweller Canyon

*Rock Type* Windgate Sandstone

*Height* 100 feet

*Climbing Style* crack

*Gear Suggestions* good selection of cams to 3"

*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none

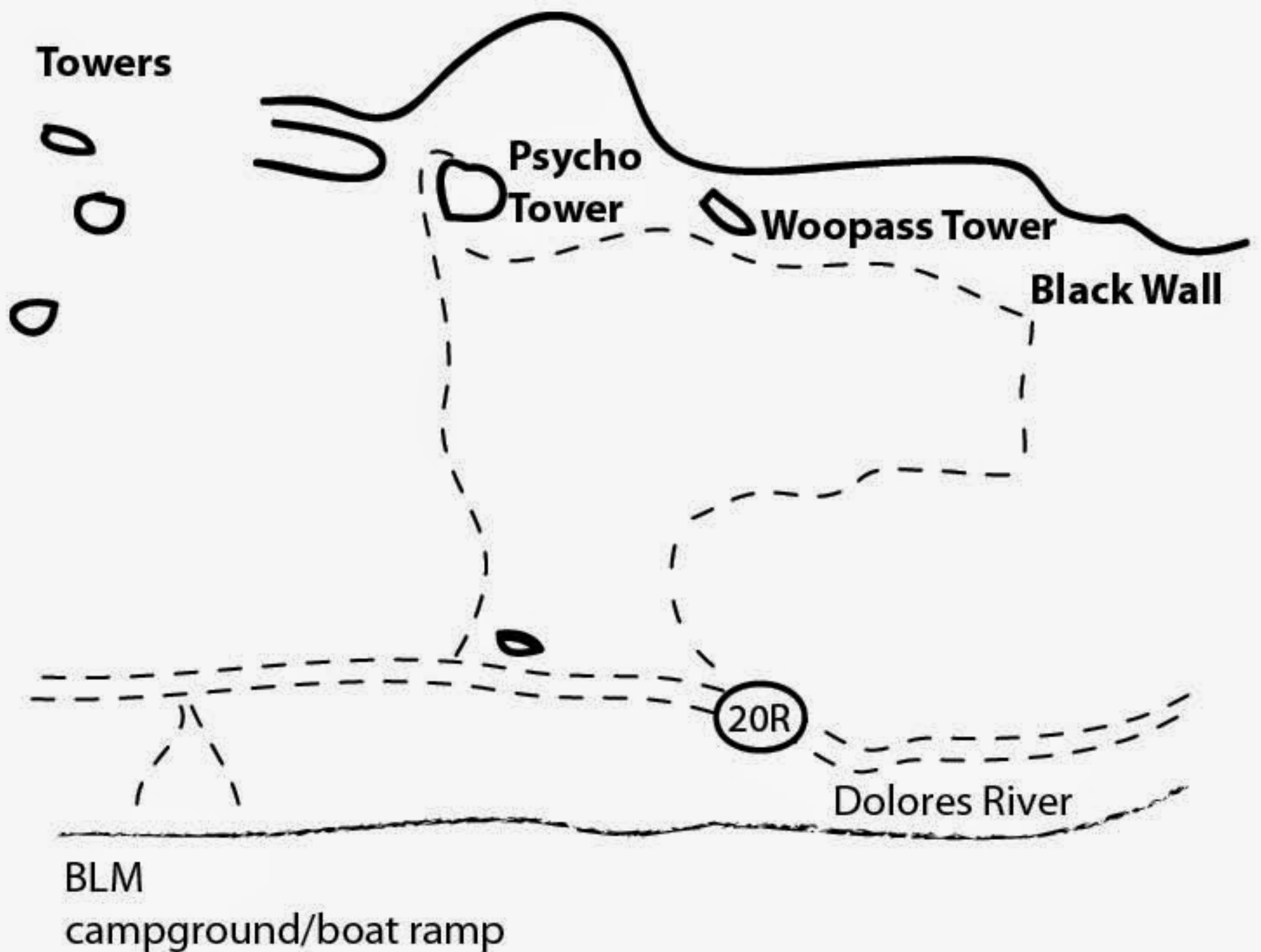
*Road Access* high clearance vehicle

*Comments* alot of potential for good crackclimbs



**Desert Dweller** 5.10 cracks to big hands KS,TJ \*

# The Psycho Tower and vicinity



## APPROACHES:

**Black Wall** - Park about 100 yards before the Pscho Tower parking area. Follow cairns up a steep trail to the wall. 40 minutes

**Woopass Tower** - Use the Psycho Tower approach and cut over to the tower or hike up the drainage to it directly. 35 minutes

**Psycho Tower** - Park near the obvious boulder with a splitter crack. A trail leads up the steep hill to the base. 30 minutes

**Towers Above the Campground** - Park at the campground and scramble up the steep hill directly to the towers. 40 minutes

# Woopass Tower



Psycho Tower

Woopass Tower ↑



Schwag Wall

## Woopass Tower

**Elephant Layback** aka **Can Of Woopass** 5.10+ the wide crack – take alot of really big stuff KS,TJ '97

descent: scramble down notch between tower and main wall. This climb can be top roped by scrambling up this way.

**Gunga Din** 5.9 C1 thin crack to summit from top of Elephant Crack  
KS,TJ '97

## Schwag Wall

**Shake Of The Schwag** 5.11 TJ,WG

- 1) 5.7 cracks in left-facing corner to ledge
- 2) 5.11 wander up intricate bolted face

descent: rappel

There is a potential 3rd pitch to the top up a crack

**Schlitz-Smear** 5.10 KS,TJ

- 1) 5.7 start as for Shake Of the Schwag to ledge
- 2) 5.10 long pitch to the top, mostly hands

descent: walk off

# Black Wall

*Rock Type* Windgate Sandstone

*Height* 100 feet

*Climbing Style(s)* crack, sport

*Gear Suggestions* 10 quickdraws, good selection of gear to 3"

*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none

*Road Access* regular vehicle, long dirt road

*Comments* warm and sunny crag with several quality routes

This is a fine crag in a scenic setting, with a nice mix of sport and crack routes. A good choice in cold weather, it's often balmy.



Towers Above  
Campground



Psycho Tower



Black Wall



**Black Wall**  
western end

**Stacked Blocks** 5.9 bolts to wide blocky crack TJ, KS '99

**Darkness Till Dawn** 5.10+ rightfacing corner and face to headwall KM, KD '99 \*

**Headwall Crack** 5.11 step right from anchors past bolts, up steep crack \*

**Doobieous Deliverance** 5.9 up and left into groove, seam to top KM, TJ '97 \*

**Black Walk** 5.8 start at DD, move up right past bolts and thin gear KS, TJ '99 \*

**Goofy World** 5.11- thin crack system, bolts TJ, KS '98 \*

**Tenderfoot** 5.10 R right angling crack, ow, shares start with GW KS, TJ



**Black Wall**  
central section

### **Summer Solstice Wall**

**Kamakazi Bride** 5.11 bolted face 5.10+ to first anchor CF, DJ '04 \*

**Little Gypsy** 5.7+ bolts TJ, KS '98 \*

**Sizzlin Summer Solstice Spectacular** 5.10 the beautiful arete TJ, KS '97 \*\*

**The Slot** 5.9+ dirty chimney (not shown) KS, TJ '98

**More Smiles For The Mile** 5.9 bolts and some finger/hand gear TJ, KS '98 \*

**Coalition Of The Drilling** 5.10 thin bolted face TR, CF '04 \*

**Rockin' Rhino** 5.10/5.11 wide hand splitter to first anchor, thin corner to second \*

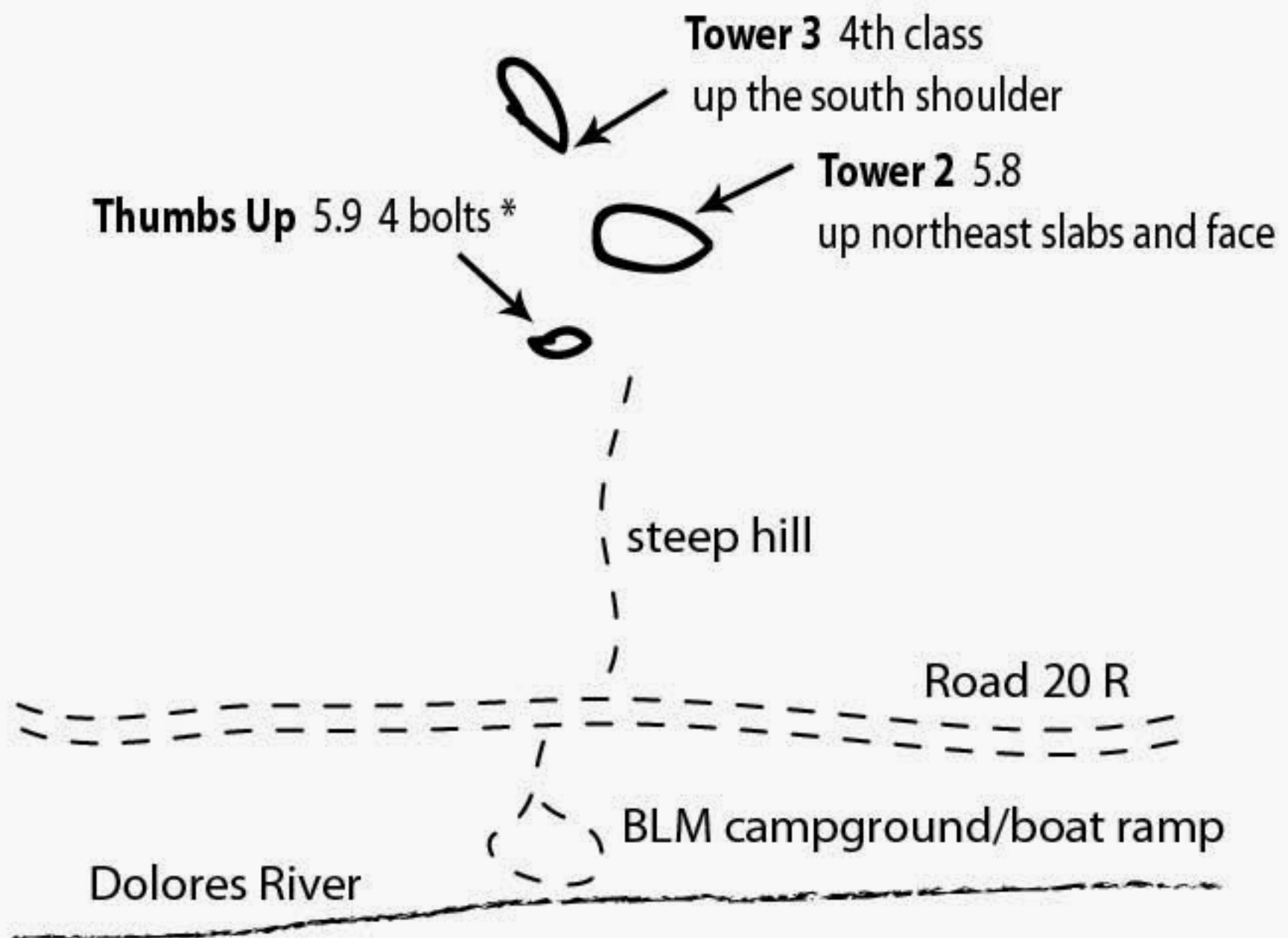
**Falluja** 5.12 overhanging hand and finger crack (to the far right, not shown) \* 131

# Towers Above The BLM Campground



Joel Coniglio on Thumbs Up

The BLM campground/boat ramp is 13 miles down Road 20 R from the intersection with Highway 141, about 1/2 mile past the Psycho Tower parking area.



routes established by Joel Coniglio, Cynda Crozier and Charlie Fowler, 1997

# Psycho Tower

*Rock Type* Windgate Sandstone

*Height* 200 feet

*Climbing Style(s)* crack, sport

*Gear Suggestions* gear from thin to 3", 6 quickdraws, long runners

*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none

*Road Access* regular vehicle

*Comments* A wild tower route with highly worthy variations

Located down Road 20 R about 12 miles from the intersection with Highway 141.



Psycho Tower (up and left) as seen from the road

# Psycho Tower Routes

**Psycho-Path** (Regular Route) 5.9 \*\*\* 3 short pitches  
Steve Johnson, Charlie Fowler, 1996  
with Kevin Dunkak on pitch 1.

Start from the north side - 4th class scramble to the exposed saddle below the west face.

- (1) Turn corner past two bolts, continue up tricky, exposed corners to a good ledge. 5.9, nuts, micro cams to hand crack
- (2) Traverse straight right then up wildly exposed face above the giant overhang to reach large ledge. 5.9-, bolted
- (3) Stem up shallow corner, then steep face to short handcrack. 5.9, bolts and hand crack

**Nameless Face** 5.11- \*\* Fine 1 pitch bolted face leads to Regular Route. Joel Coniglio 1997

Tough moves to start. Joins the Regular Route at the start of pitch 1.

**The Bear** 5.10+ \* The obvious crack start leading to the Regular Route. Kim Steiner, Charlie Fowler late '90s

Hands to OW - take alot of big cams (3" and bigger). This pitch joins the Regular Route part way up that climb's first pitch.

Descent:

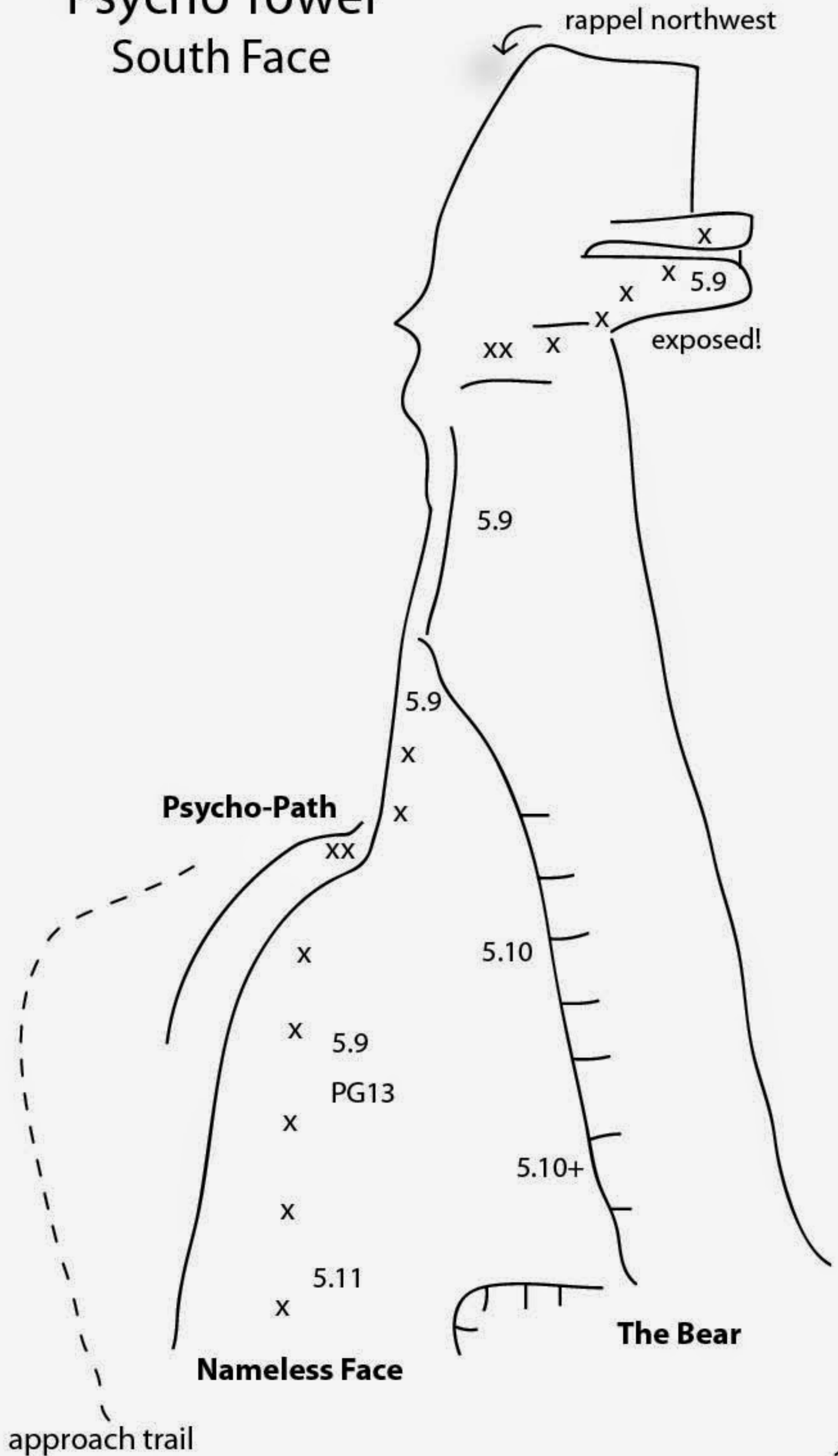
(1) One double rope rappel from summit down north face.  
or

(2) Two single rope rappels down northwest corner.  
There is a rap station on the northwest corner.

or

(3) One single rope rappel with a 70 meter rope to the first belay station below the west face. Scramble down from here.

# Psycho Tower South Face



# Slickrock Buttress

*Rock Type* Windgate Sandstone

*Height* 350 feet

*Climbing Style* crack

*Gear Suggestions* all sizes of cams and lots of them

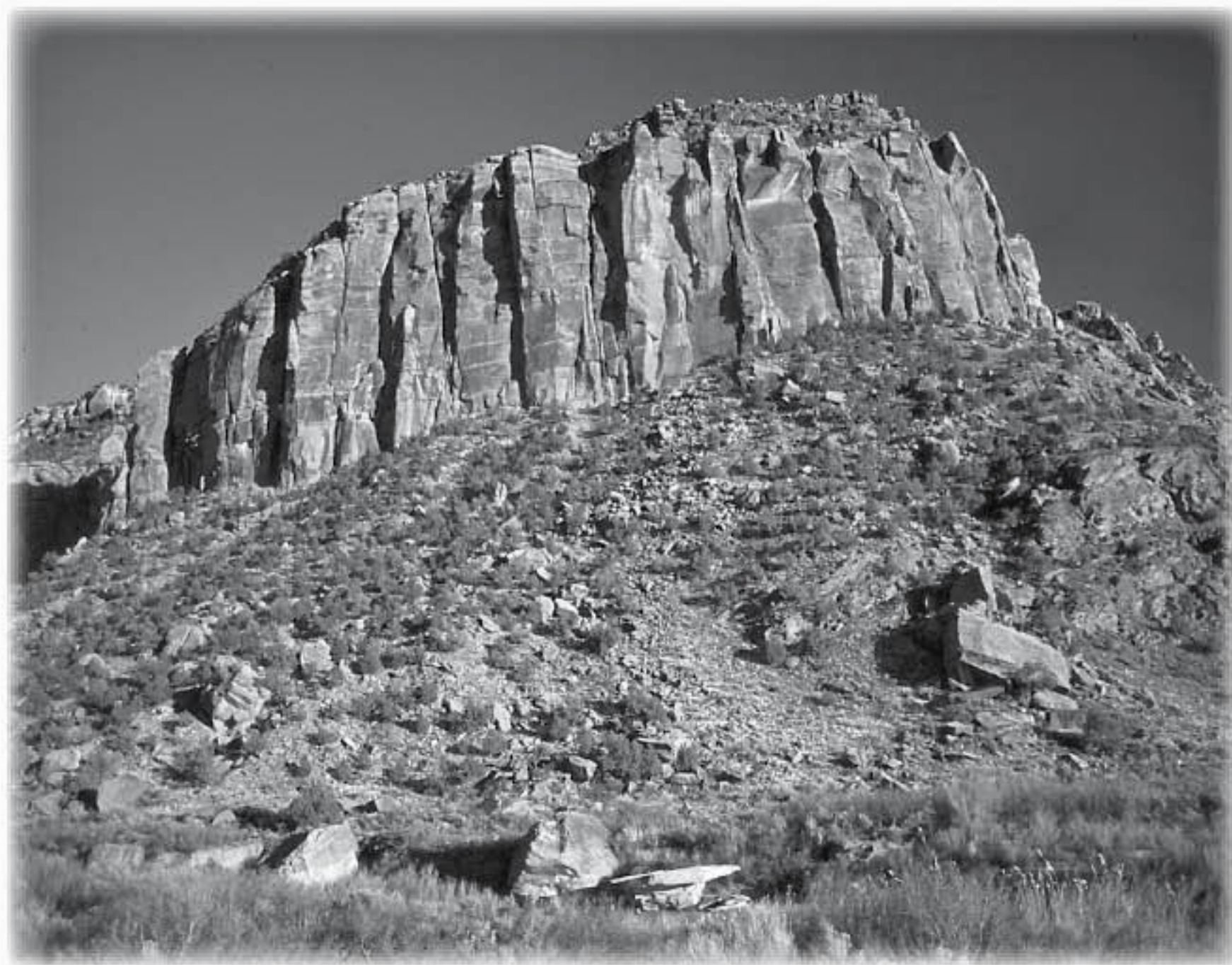
*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none, but downstream is a Wilderness Study Area - no fixed anchors are allowed there.

*Road Access* regular vehicle

*Comments* shady till the afternoon



This buttress is located about a mile west of the BLM campground on Road 20R. Park at some boulders just before the one-lane bridge (good camping spot).

There is a good bouldering area left of the buttress - take a right turn on a rough road just before the one lane bridge and head northeast to the obvious boulders.

# Slickrock Buttress Routes



left to right:

**Daisy Duke** 5.10 fingercrack in rightfacing corner \*

**Cholla** 5.11 handcrack in rightfacing corner/slot to flaring fun \*\*

**Strategic Hippie Route** 5.12 splitter finger crack widening to hands , layback \*\*\*

**Unsentimental Journey** 5.11 fingers to hands then back to finger splitter \*

established by DJ, CF '03

**Time-Pain Continuum** 5.10 R 3 pitches KS,TJ

1) 5.9 handcrack in rightfacing corner to bolt anchor

2) 5.10 bushy hand and fist crack into slot

unrope and walk 120 ft. right behind giant flake

3) 5.7 R poorly protected slab to top

Descent - walk off to the the south (right)

# Gypsum Gap

*Rock Type* Dakota Sandstone

*Height* 50 feet

*Climbing Style(s)* bouldering, top-roping

*Gear Suggestions* bouldering pad, top rope set-up

*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

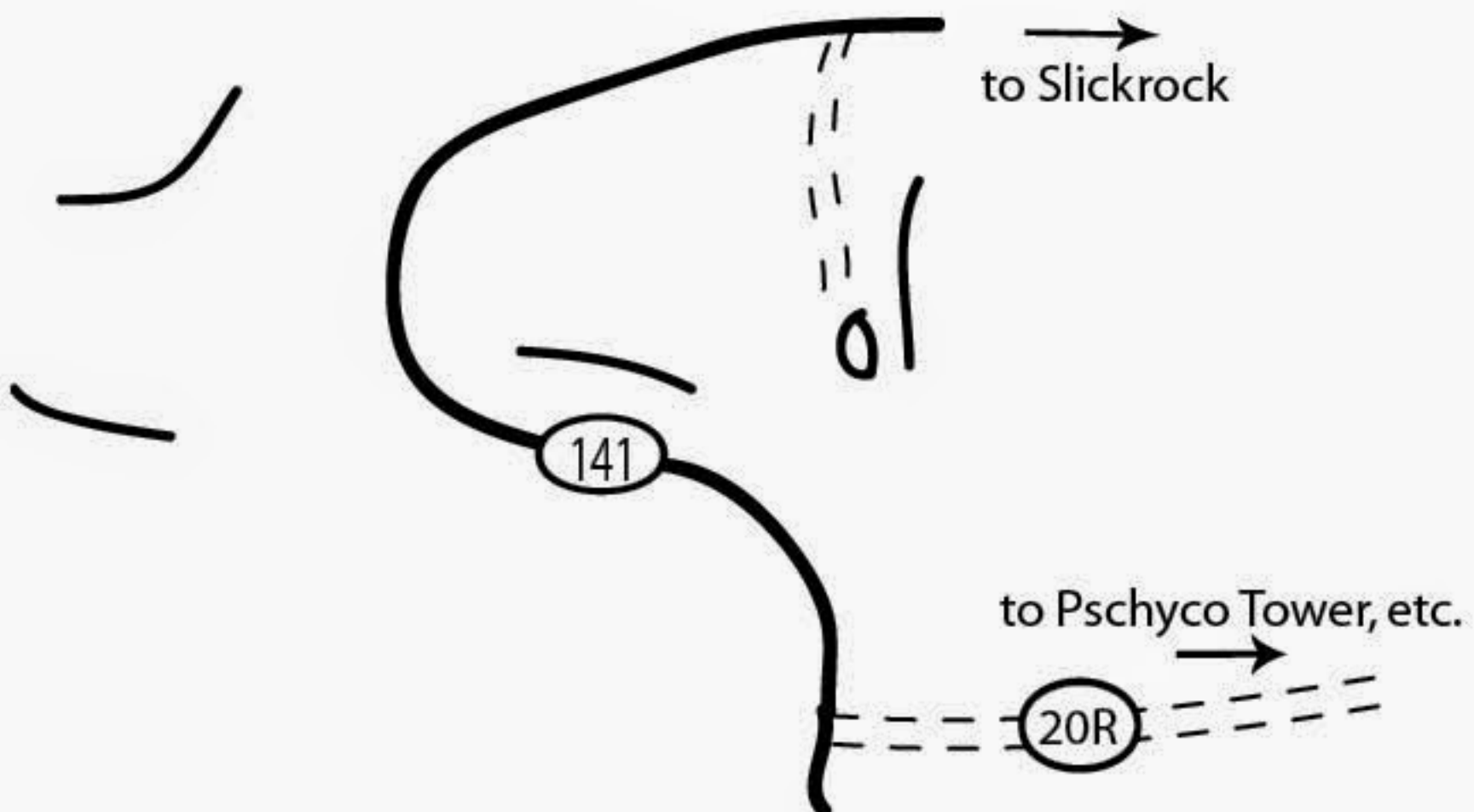
*Restrictions* do not disturb or climb near petroglyphs

*Road Access* regular vehicle

*Comments* A roadside bouldering and camping area



Turn on an unmarked dirt road just south of Gypsum Gap, about 1/2 mile past Road 20R and drive a short distance to the crags.



# Joel's Place and Kim's Spot

*Rock Type* Dakota Sandstone

*Height* 60 feet

*Climbing Style(s)* bouldering, top-roping, good sport potential

*Gear Suggestions* bouldering pad, top-rope setup

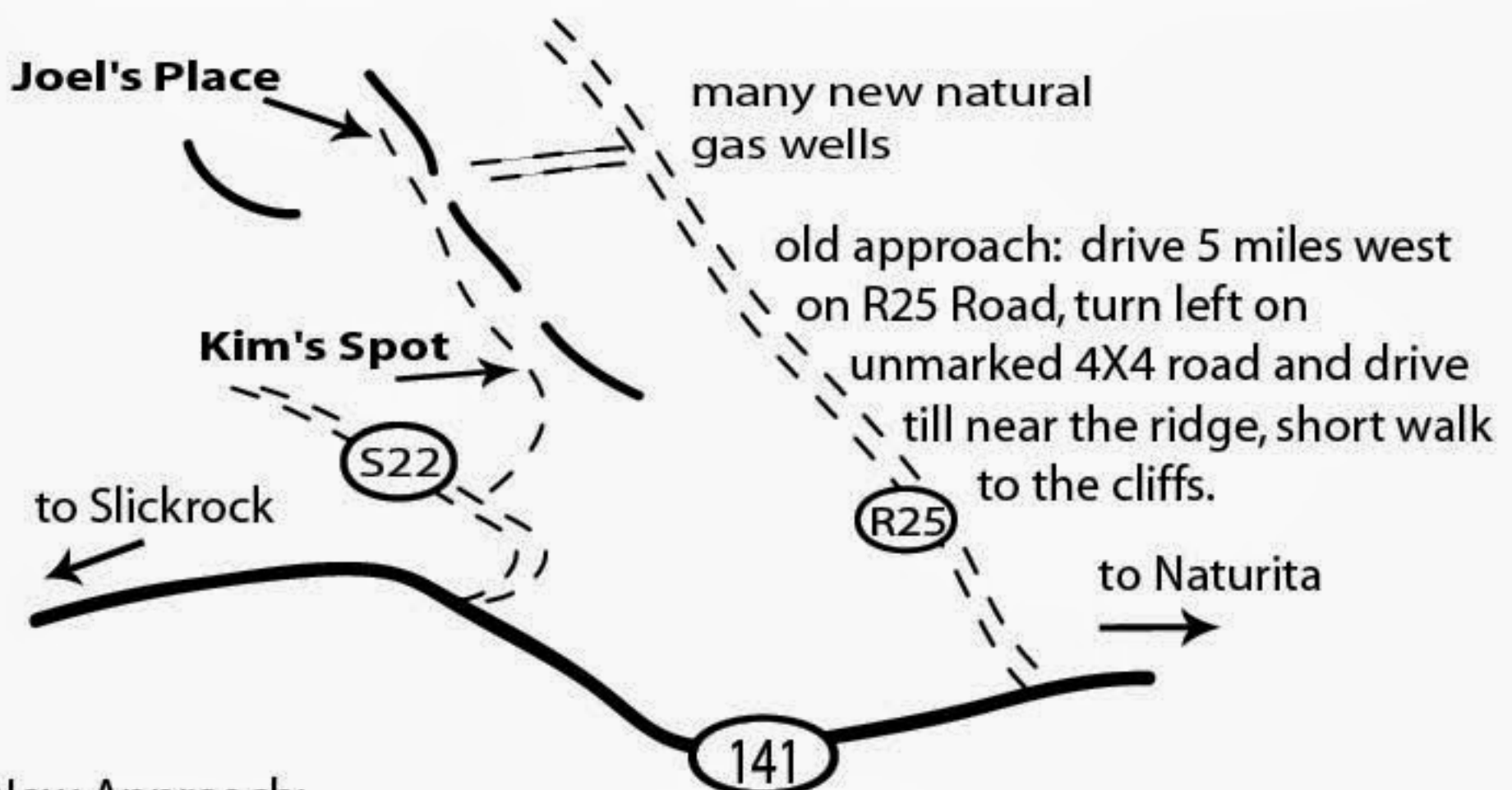
*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none

*Road Access* high clearance vehicle

*Comments* The long Dakota ridge overlooking the east end of Big Gypsum Valley. First explored by Joel Coniglio and Kim Steiner.



## New Approach:

Unfortunately, many new gas wells along R25 have made that approach impractical. Drive about 1 mile on Road S22. Hike up the hill 45 minutes to Kim's Spot. Another 20 minutes along the ridge leads to Joel's Place.



*Rock Type* Navajo Sandstone

*Height* 40 - 110 feet

*Climbing Style(s)* sport, crack, some bouldering

*Gear Suggestions* 3 sets of nuts and cams to 4 inches, 10 - 12 quickdraws

*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none, but please limit camping impacts

*Road Access* high clearance vehicle

*Comments* One of the most scenic and popular areas in the guide, with a wide selection of routes.

"May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds."

-Edward Abbey



# Getting to 16Z

16Z is out there, in more ways than one. The easiest way to get to the crags (that is, least likely way to get lost) is to go to the tiny community of Basin, on Highway 141 between Naturita or Norwood and Dove Creek. At Basin, turn west on Road U29; take it for about 15 miles till the intersection with Road 16Z. Turn left here and drive about 3.8 miles on a rough road to a pullout on the left. This is the normal camping spot. The cliffs are below the road. A high clearance vehicle is recommended for the drive. The road gets icy in spots in the winter and can be challenging.

Alternatively, 16Z can be approached from the Paradox Valley (Colorado Highway 90) via Road DD19 or Road EE21. It's easy to get lost attempting these roads - take a good map or go with a local. The fastest way to 16Z is via EE21, but there are a lot of obscure intersections.

16Z can be approached from Big Gypsum Valley by hiking up and left from Hamm Canyon, about 45 minutes to an hour hike. This is a good wintertime approach when 16Z may be impassable.

This area is the essence of a beautiful yet fragile desert environment. Please minimize impacts by sticking to existing trails, removing all litter, bringing your own firewood and leaving a clean campsite.

## distribution of climbs:



by style  
Crack Climbs 42%  
Sport Climbs 58%

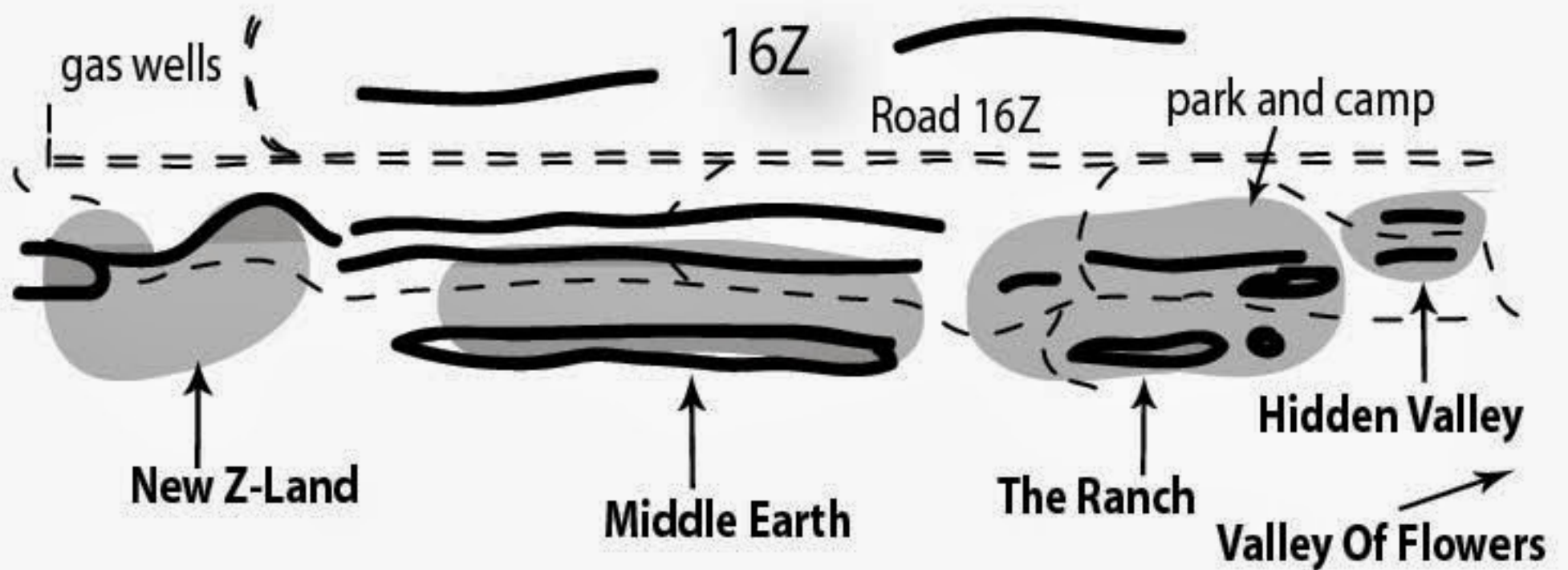
by grade  
5.12 and harder 8%  
5.11 34%  
5.10 32%  
5.9 and easier 26%



# 16Z climbing areas and approaches

view - approximately 1 mile

- - - trail/approach  
— cliff  
= = = road

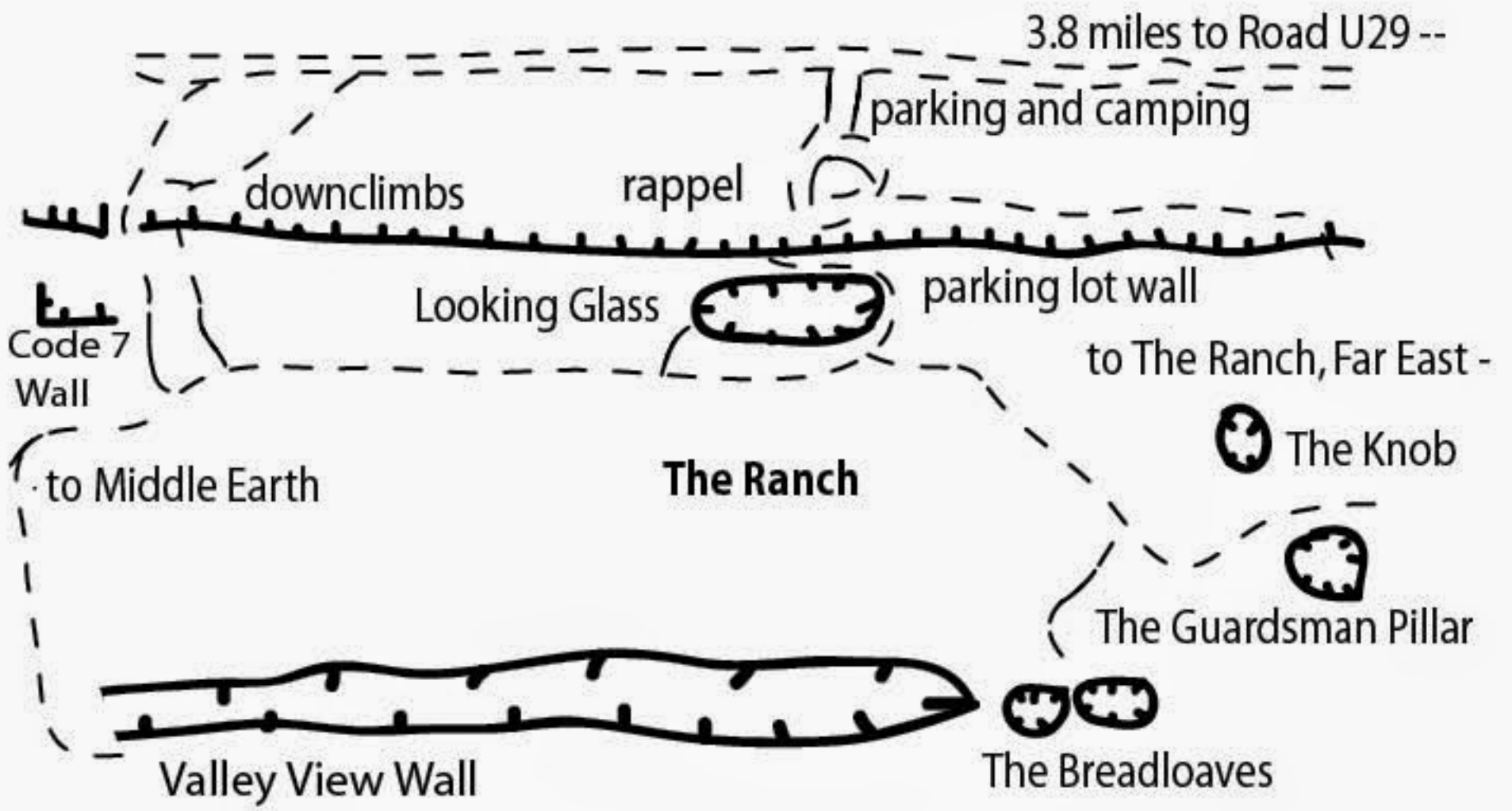


## Getting to the Climbs

The climbs at 16Z are in a hanging valley situated below the road and parking area. Several alternatives exist to get down there; all involve downclimbing 3rd or 4th class terrain or rappeling. The two most common approaches are these: Walk a few hundred yards west of the parking area along the cliff's edge, following cairns and a trail of sorts, then scramble down a loose chimney/gulley. Another good strategy is to walk and scramble down a few yards southwest of the parking/camping area till above a cleft between the rim and a large formation -The Looking Glass. Leaving a rope fixed here, rappel into the chasm and walk down to the valley floor.



## Overview of Central Area

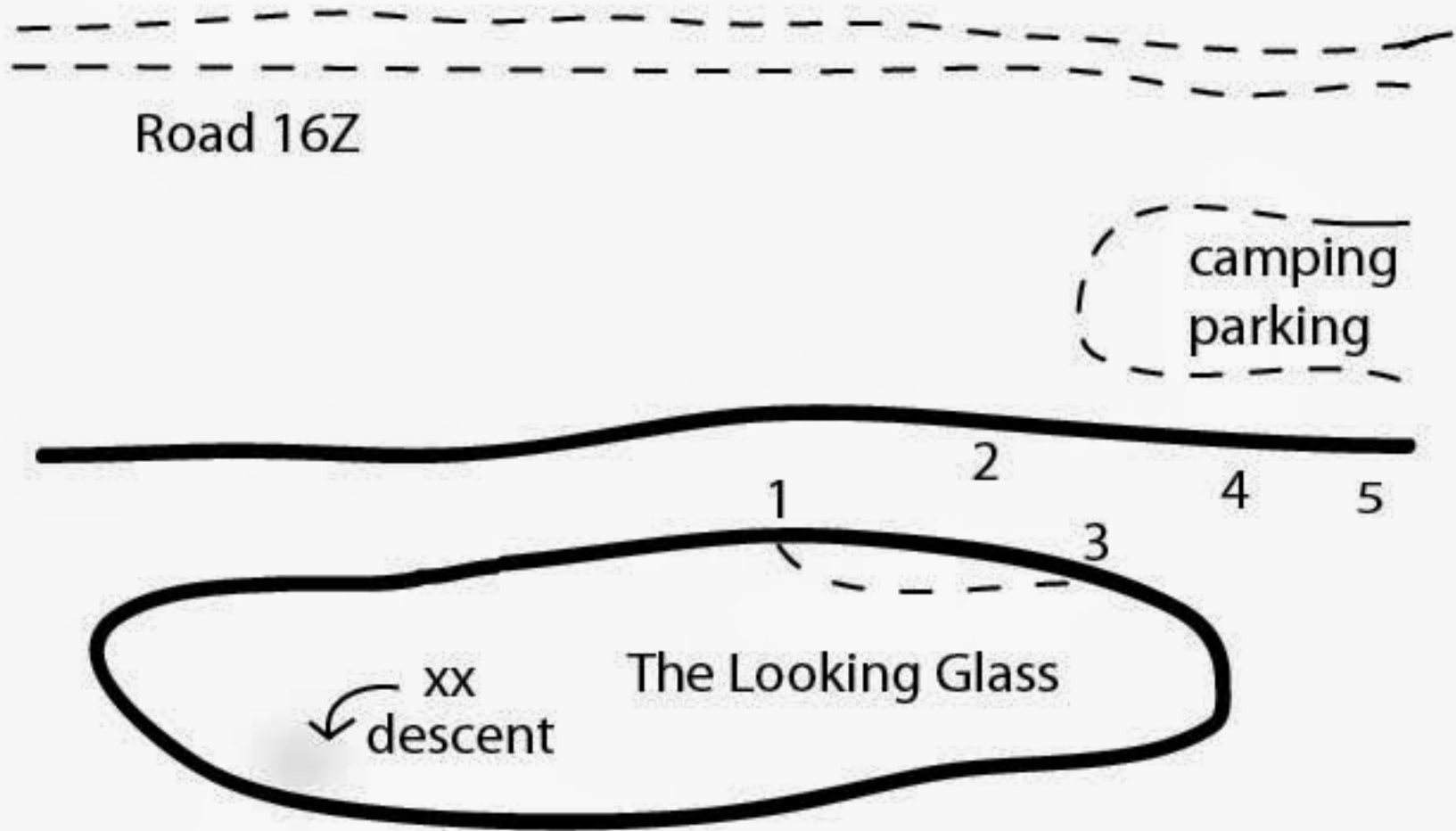


Summit Of Outlaws

# The Looking Glass

The Looking Glass is the large detached formation southwest of the camping/parking area.

Descent: Two rappels down **Max's Horse** or with a single 30 meter rap and some downclimbing.



The following 4 routes are located in the corridor between the Looking Glass and the main wall.

From the west to east:

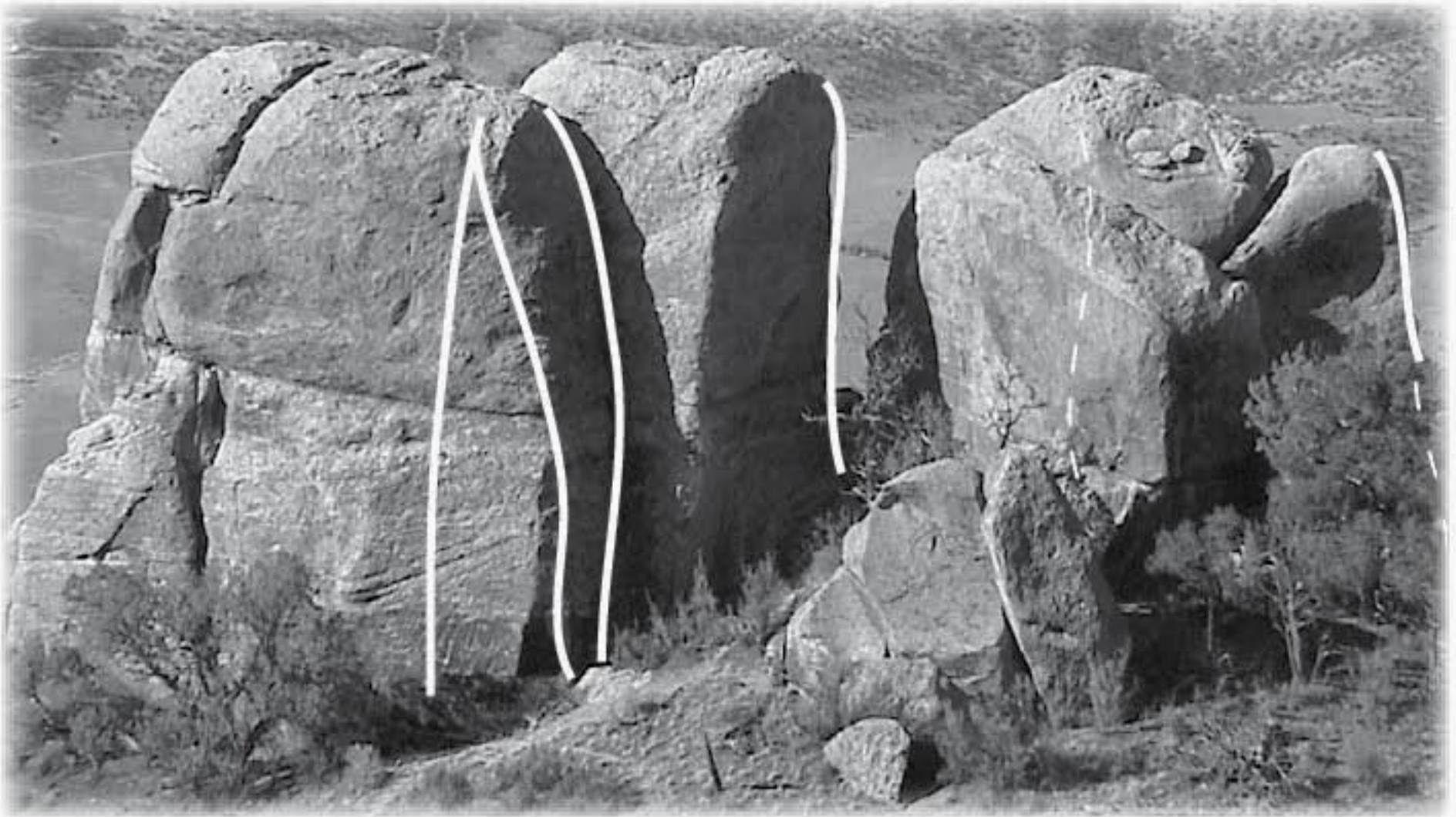
1. **Charlottes Web** 5.11 short finger crack to a window in the Looking Glass CF and friends '97
2. **Tailpipe** 5.10 hand crack on the main wall in the corridor.
3. **Through The Looking Glass** 5.10 2 pitches. (1) Chimney following a hand and finger crack - traverse right to belay at a window (same as Charlottes Web). (2) Out the window, over bulge past two bolts to the top. (1)CF, CC (2) CF, BM mid '90s \*\*\*
4. **Suddenly** 5.11+ fingercrack/groove to bolted face BM '90s
5. **Sugar Buzz** project - hard bolted line yet to be freed

two cracks have been climbed to the right:

**Shackled** 5.9 OW to tree anchor

**Ball and Chain** 5.9 OW just left of the Parking Lot Wall

# Breadloaves



Routes, left to right:

**Blazing Saddles** 5.11 bolted face, multiple cruxes CF, BM '96 \*\*

**High Plains Drifter** 5.9+ bolted face, fun but tricky BM, CF '96

**The Boy Scout Crack** 5.7 OW DT, CF '92 \*

**Divine Intervention** 5.11 quality bolted arete CF, CB '03 \*\*\*

(in corridor):

**Mutant Storm** 5.10 bolted face CF, MD, DJ '03

**Summit of Outlaws** 5.10- bolted arete DJ, CF '03

# The Ranch, Central



The routes, Looking Glass and Parking Lot Wall, left to right:

**Max's Horse** (1) 5.9 bolted face (2) 5.10+ hand and finger crack  
Max Kendall and friends, mid '90s \*

**Wednesday's Child** 5.10 bolted face

**Tape Ten** 5.12 very steep, wild crack, fingers through fist CF, BM '90s \*\*

**Arch Angel** 5.11 strenuous arching crack, hand and fingers CF, BM '90s \*

**Jules Verne** 5.11+ thin crack to bolted face CF, BM '90s

**Sleeping Beauty** 5.9+/5.10 striking finger and hand crack  
moving right at the crux makes it easier. JC, MM, KD mid '90s \*\*\*

**Grease Monkey** 5.10 bolted face JC, CF '90s \*

**Carpool** 5.10 bolted face \*

**Hitchhiker** 5.10 bolted face \*

**The S-Crack (AKA Watch The Road)** 5.9, hand and fist crack KS early '90s \*

**Potholes** 5.10+ bolted face, the best of the lot CF, BM mid '90s \*

# The Ranch, East



The routes, left to right:

**Erotic Poetry** 5.10+ tricky bolted face CF and friends mid '90s \*

**Mixed Media** 5.11- pretty bolted face and corner (fingers) BM, CF '90s \*

**McCall's Hired Gun** 5.11 bolted face (approach from top) BM, CF '90s \*

not shown - **McCall's Whisky** 5.9 crack BM, CL '90s

**Cadillac Desert** 5.10 wild crack /overhang, one bolt at top CF, DJ '04 \*

**The Odyssey** 5.12 handcrack to long bolted face BM, CL '97 \*\*

**Over The Top** 5.11 bolted overhang (above The Odyssey) BM, CL, CF '96 \*

**West End Politics** 5.9 crack KS, MM early '90s

**East End Politics** 5.9 crack KS, CF??

nor shown: **Fashionably Late** 5.9 thin crack in corner CF, CC ' late 90s

**Rip Curl** 5.11 bolted face/corner CF, BM '90s \*

**The Knob, (AKA Objet Dard Pillar)** left to right:

**Touch Tone** 5.11+ bolted face/corner CF, BM mid '90s

**You're Full Of Hormones** 5.12- bolted face CF, BM mid '90s

**Never Been Kissed** 5.11- bolted face BM, CF mid '90s \*

# The Ranch, Far East



left to right:

**Whole Lotta Love** 5.9+ OW in rightfacing corner BM,CL '97

**Ramble On** 5.9 face (bolt) to hand and fist crack BM,CF '97

**Bring It On Home** 5.10 face to fingercrack (bolt) BM,CL '97

not shown, in corridor: **Cold Cut** 5.9+ Offwidth BM,CL '97 \*

**Rip Curl** 5.11 bolted face/corner CF, BM \*

**Forever Youngstrom** 5.11- bolted face/corner \*\*



**Forever Youngstrom** 5.11- bolted face and corner JB, BM '97 \*\*

**Blackbird** 5.12- bolted shallow corner CF, CC '98 \*

**Zed's Dead** 5.11 bolted left edge of big flake CB, JH '04 \*

**Goldilocks** 5.9+ short bolted face on flake CF, CC late '90s

# The Ranch, Far East



left to right:

**The Usual Suspects** 5.10 bolted face DJ, CB, CF '03 \*

**Father Knows Best** 5.11 bolted edge CF, CB, DJ '03 \*

**Walking On Eggshells** 5.11 bolted edge CF, DJ, CB '03 \*

**Slim Chance** 5.10 short thin finger crack late '90s

**Crack Addict** 5.9 wide crack in rightfacing corner JH, CB, BC '04

# The Ranch, West



The Routes, left to right:

not shown: **Hollywood And Vine** 5.9 OW in big corner early '90s

**Spit on Your Dingus** 5.11 bolted face up a golden wall BM, CF '90s \*

**Zenith** 5.11+ steep seam - layback, crimp and pinch, bolted CF, DJ '03 \*

**Boulevard Of Broken Dreams** 5.12 bouldery bolted face CF, CB '03 \*

not shown - **Whaz Up** 5.10 hand to OW crack (no anchor - walk off)

**Hourglass** 5.10 Chimney - OW BM, CL '98

**Freezer Burn** 5.10 bolted buttress BM, CF '98

**Stormy Monday** 5.12? thin face project

**Ruby Tuesday** 5.11 fine bolted face CF, BM '90s \*

**Max's Horse** 5.10+ (1) 5.9 bolted face (2) 5.10+ finger/handcrack MK \*

**Wednesdays' Child** 5.10 bolted face CF, BM mid '90s

Overhanging cracks: **Tape Ten** 5.12, **Arch Angel** 5.11 CF, BM '90s \*

**Potholes** 5.10 nice bolted face CF, BM '90s \*\*

# The Ranch Far West



The routes, left to right:

**Sweet 16** 5.11 long, tricky bolted face \*

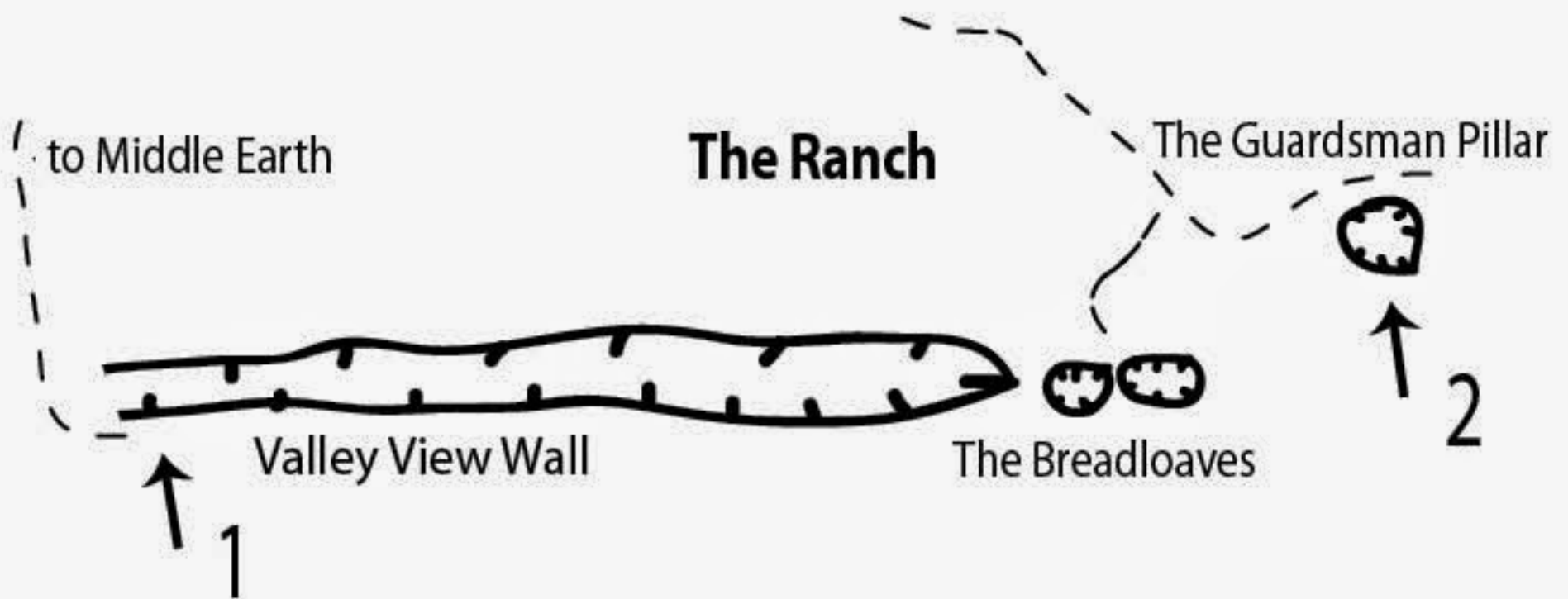
**Just 17** 5.11 same start, same anchor  
bolted face \*

(both routes BM, CF '96)

"Few things are impossible to diligence and skill. Great works are performed not by strength, but perseverance."

-Samuel Johnson

# The Ranch southern areas



## Valley View Wall

1. **Goldmember** 5.12- bolted face DJ,MD,CF '03

## Guardsman Pillar

2. **The Guardsmen** 5.10 fingers to hands BM '97

"My philosophy is that not only are you responsible for your life, but doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment."

-Oprah Winfrey

# Code 7 Wall



The routes, left to right:

**Patience** 5.11 sustained bolted face CF, CB '03 \*

not shown: **3 Arms and a Leg** 5.11 bolted face

**Climb And Punishment** 5.11+ top rope face direct to I Spy

**I Spy** 5.11- nice bolted arete BM, CF '96 \*

**Stone Monkey** 5.9+ popular bolted face BM, CF '96

**It's All Good** 5.7 bolted face BM, CF '96

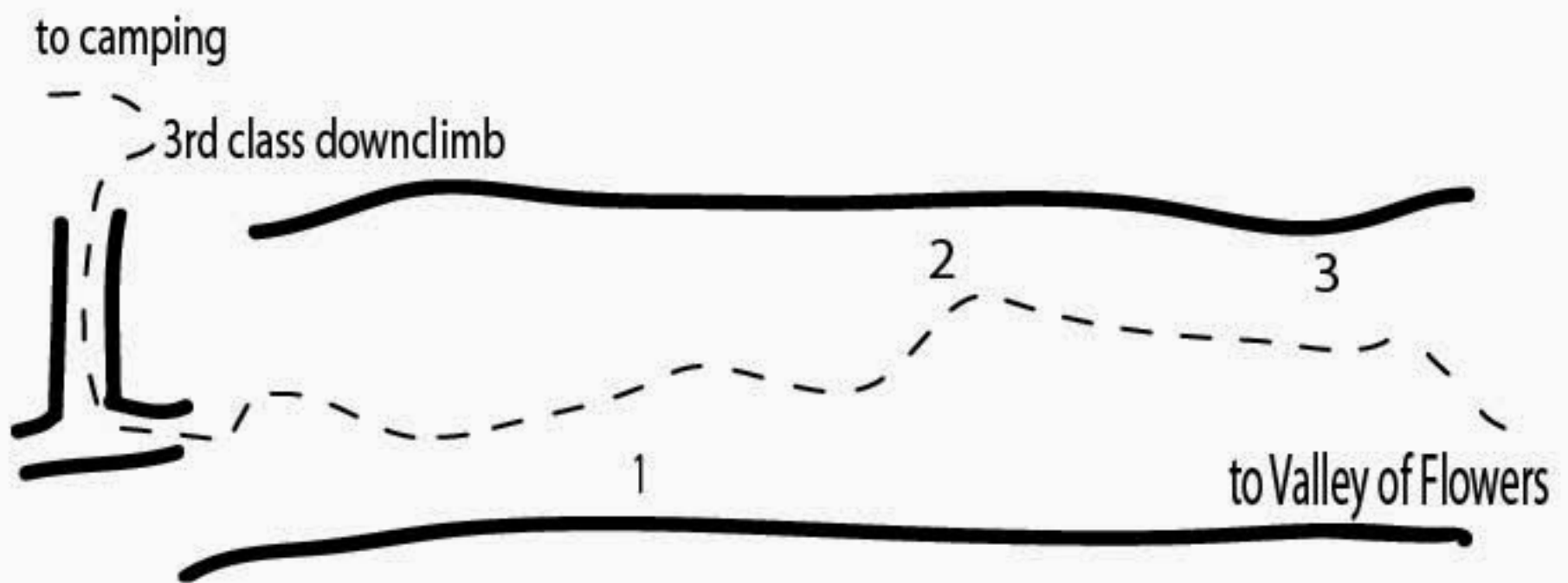
**Agents Of Virtue** 5.10 stem left facing corner, bolted DJ, CF, MD '03

**Waltzing Matilda** 5.10 bolted face BM, CF '96

**Zapateado** 5.10+ bolted face BM, CF '96

approach gulley 3rd class

# Hidden Valley

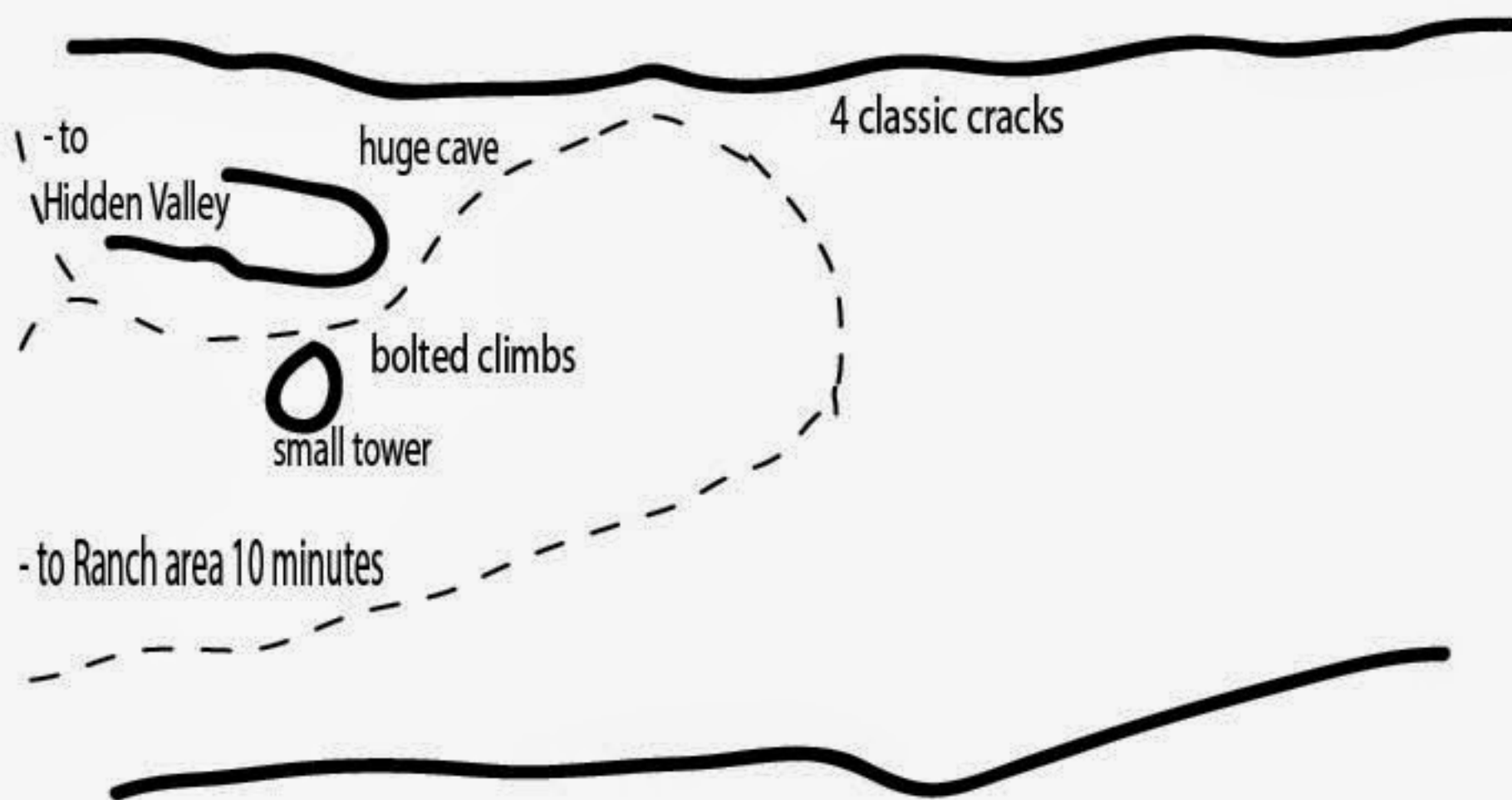


1. **The Jaws Of Life** 5.10 crack in prominent right facing corner - fingers to squeeze chimney CB, CF '03 \*
2. **Black Hawk** 5.10+ overhanging handcrack to OW CF '97 \*
3. **Homeland Insecurity** 5.9 OW in right facing corner mid '90s



Red Bull, Valley Of Flowers

# Valley Of Flowers



routes as encountered hiking eastward from Hidden Valley:

**Young At Heart** 5.9 short bolted face

**The Monsoon Season** 5.7 wide chimney to face DJ, JH, CF '03

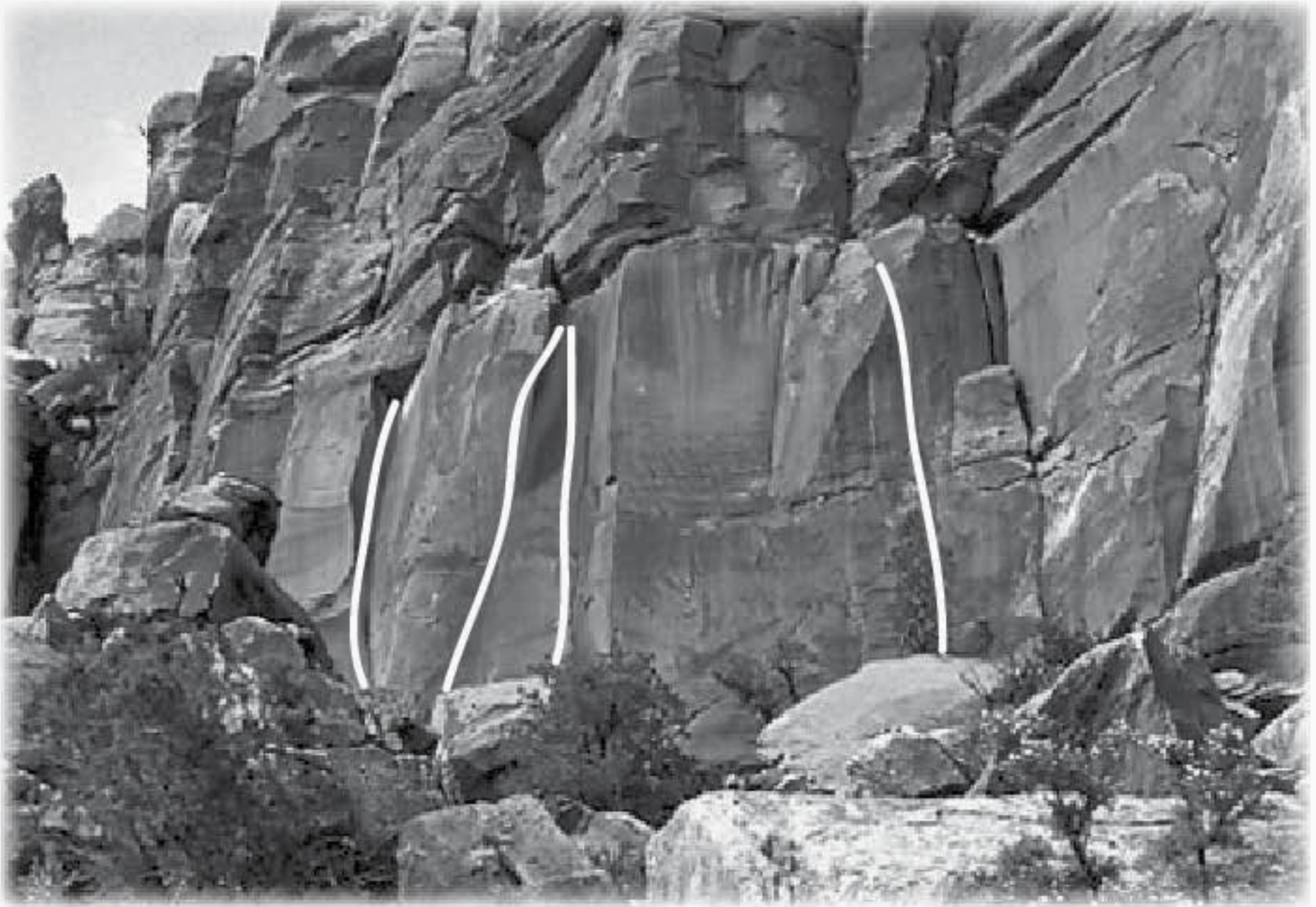
**Cloud Tower** 5.6 short fun tower, bolted JH, DJ '03

**Red Bull** 5.11 bolted buttress DJ, CF '03 \*\*

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

# Valley Of Flowers classic cracks



left to right:

**Off the Hook** 5.9 crack in corner CF,CC mid '90s

**Them Changes** 5.11+ switching corners crack CF,CC mid '90s \*\*\*

**Techno Love Parade** 5.10 hand and finger crack CF,CC mid '90s \*\*  
5.11 right variation start

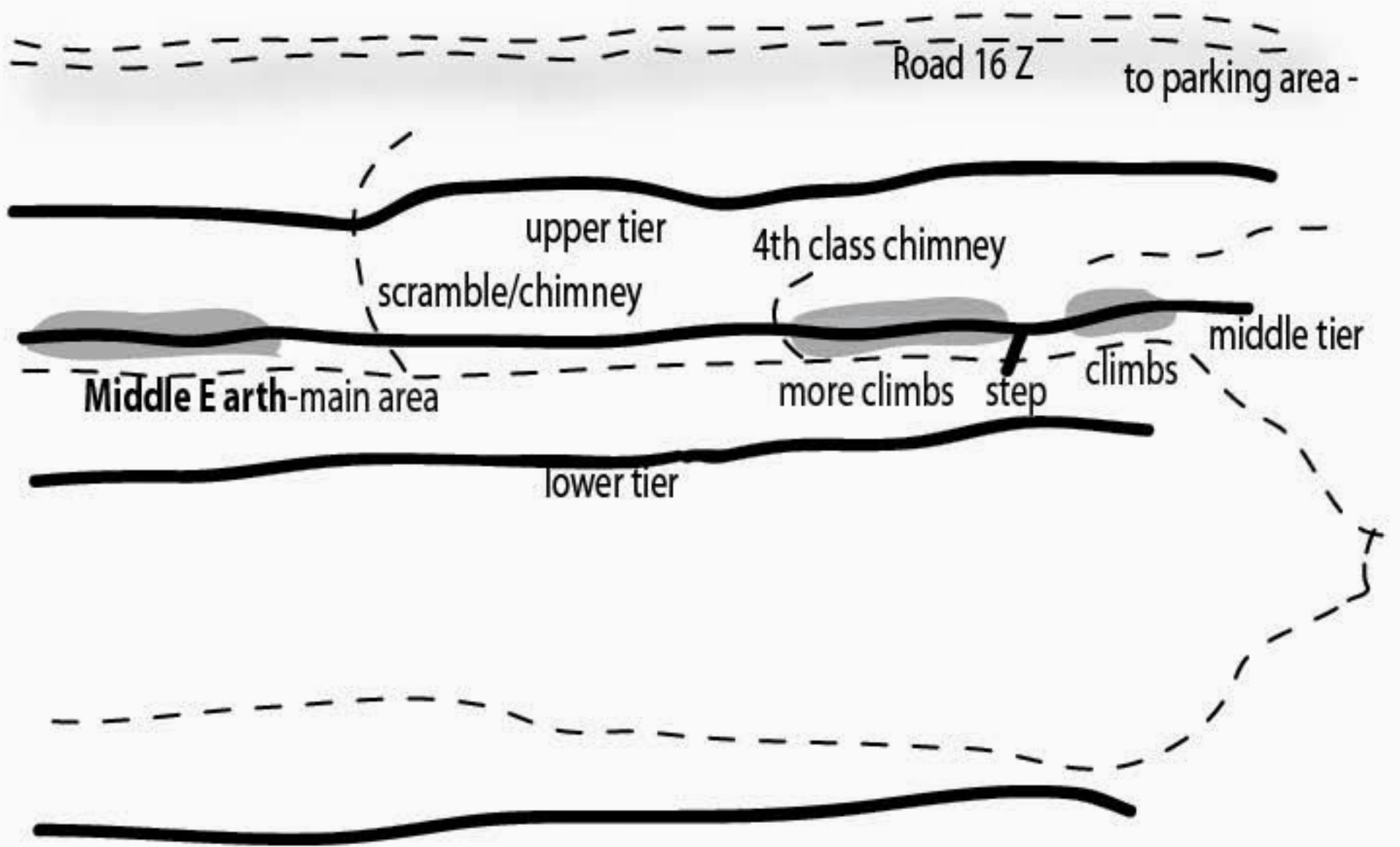
**Kim's Krack** 5.11+ hand to thin crack KS,TJ early '90s \*\*

# Middle Earth

This extensive area features many high quality short climbs, both crack and face.



Middle Earth as seen from New Z-land



# Middle Earth



The first climbs one encounters when hiking westward. Several short (30 - 40 ft.) bolted faces on solid stone:

**Moonlight Mile** 5.10 bolted arete CB,CF '03 \*

**Gato Blanco** 5.10- bolted edge CB,CF '03

**Rumors Of War** 5.10 beautiful golden bolted face CB,CF '03 \*

**Rags to Riches** 5.10+ bolted face, start off big boulder DJ,CF '03

**Blue Highways** 5.11 thin bolted face CB,CF '03

**Danger Kitten** 5.11- bolted face/seam DJ,CF '03

**Existential Puppie Dogs** 5.9 bolted face DJ,JH '03

# Middle Earth



continuing along the terrace:

**Middle Earthling** 5.9 bolted arete DJ, CF, DC '03

**Blue Nun** 5.10 bolted face CB, CF '03 \*

**Homecoming Queen** 5.9 crack, hand and fingers CB, CF '03 \*

**ZZ Top Rope** 5.11- bolted face, step off boulder CB, CF '03 \*

scramble up or down, 4th class

**Legend Of Zelda** 5.10+ bolted pocketed face CF, CB '03

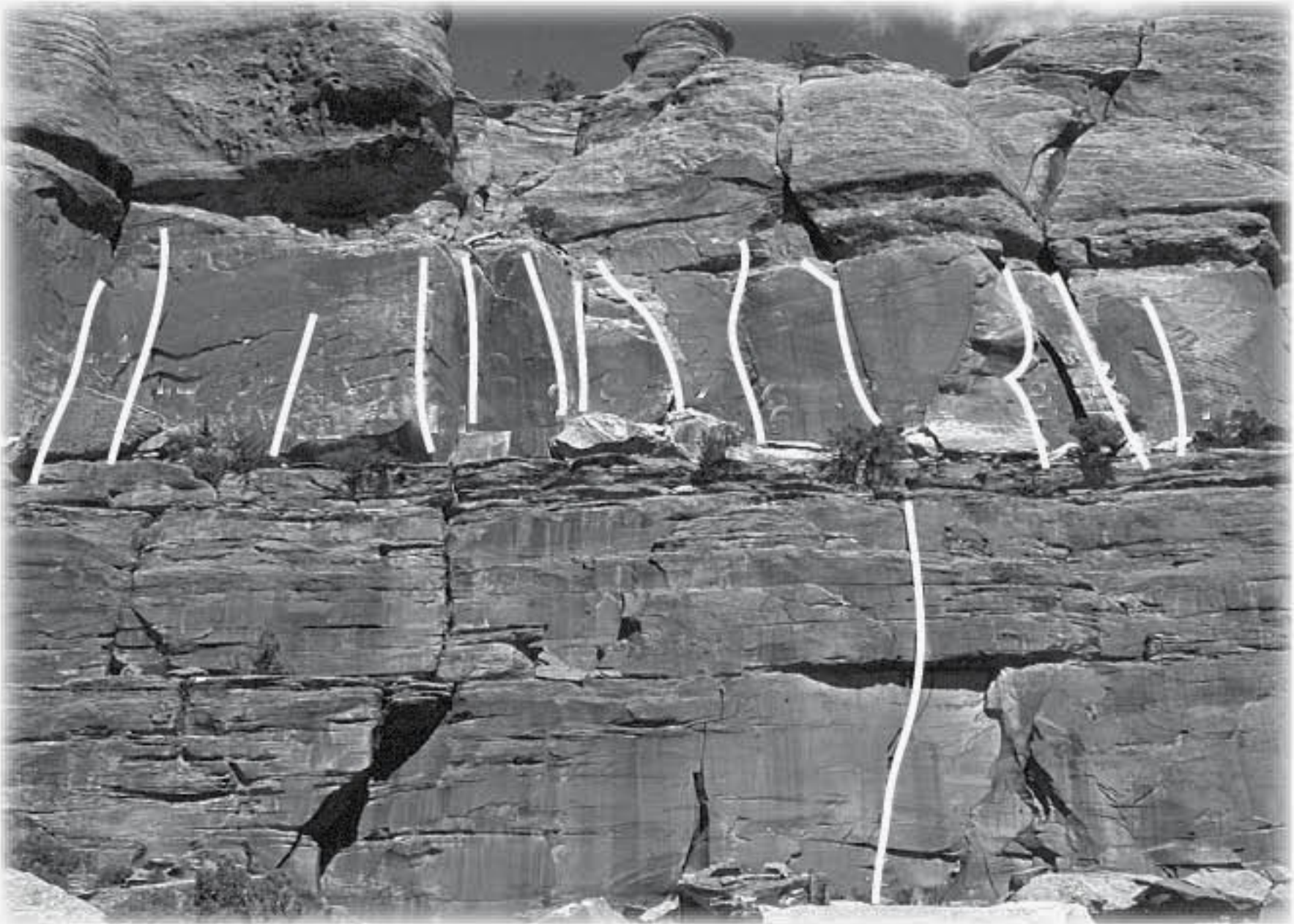
**Code Monkey** 5.11- bolted face CB, CF '03 \*

not shown, two obvious cracks in rightfacing corners, not far left:

**Blue Lagoon** 5.8 clean OW CB, CF '03 \*

**Blues Brothers** 5.10- fingers/stem CB, CF '03

# Middle Earth - main area



Alex Holz  
The Splitter



Steve Johnson  
Tasty Nuggets

## Middle Earth - main area

Not shown - **Tipsy Taxi** 5.11/12 very thin crack in a corner DJ, CF '03 \*

**Wetlands Violation** 5.9+ hands and fingers \*

**Poorer Than Dead** 5.10- hands and fingers \*

**To Z OR Not To Z** 5.11 bolted face CF, BM late '90s

**Water Is Gold** 5.10 bolted arete CF, BM late '90s

**Jumbo Queen** 5.9+ hand crack around overhang,  
shares anchor with WIG

**Resurrection** 5.11 crack on lower tier, fingers to fist CF, CC mid '90s \*

**The Splitter** 5.10 steep, awesome splitter handcrack CF, BM '96 \*\*

**Use It Or Lose It** 5.9 twin hand/finger cracks CF, BM '96

**Easy Street** 5.7 short cracks,  
makes a good approach pitch to top-rope nearby climbs

**The Wide Thing** 5.9 moderate wide crack in a corner

**Live Coals** 5.11 bolted arete, stick clip first bolt BM, CF '90s

**Tasty Nuggets** 5.10- stemming crack in the corner CF mid '90s

**Rapunzel** 5.11- bolted arete CF, BM '90s \*

**Uncharted Waters** 5.12 tough bolted face DJ, CF '03

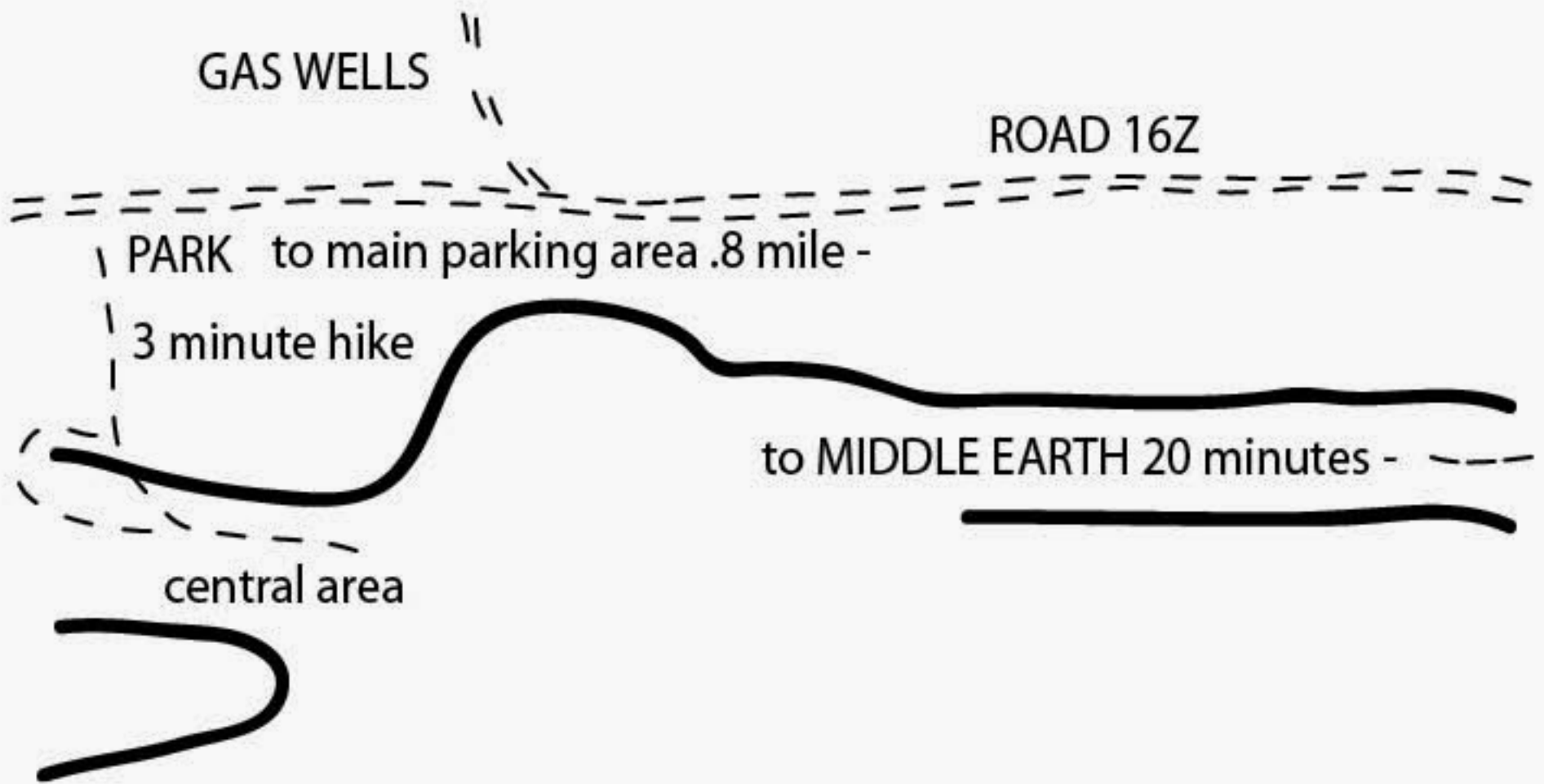
**Woman On The Verge Of A New Hairdo** 5.10 crack/bolted face  
CF, BM '98 \*

**Narcolep-Z** 5.9 handcrack/layback in a right-facing corner

Not shown - **Return To Zender** 5.10- short route up twin cracks

**Crystal Crack** 5.10 long hand and fist crack  
Jeff Cristol '90s \*

# New Z-Land



Routes, left to right

**The Big Enchilada** 5.11 wild hand and finger crack out a big roof CF, CB '03 \*

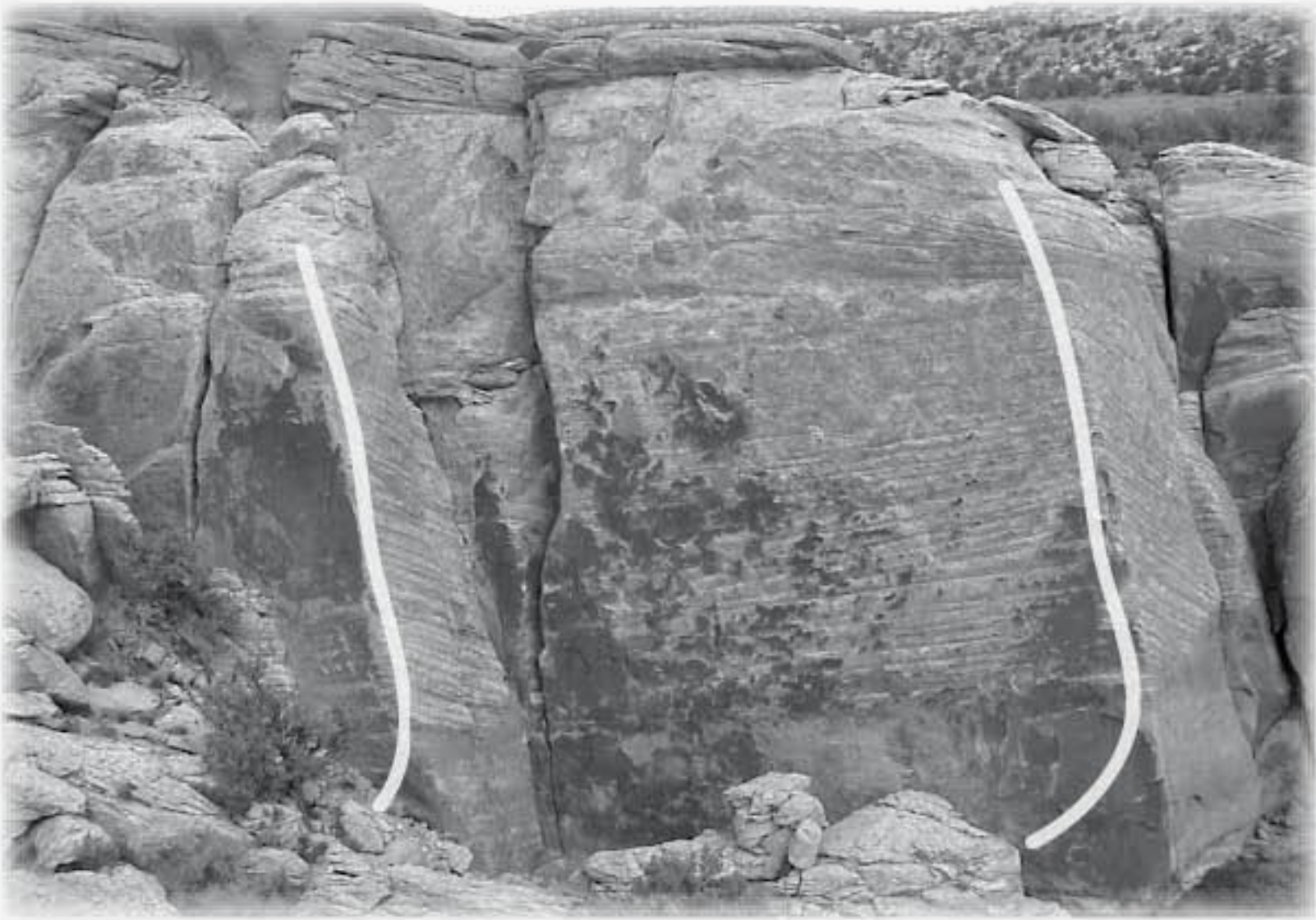
**Infected Brain** 5.10 fingertip layback CF, CB '03

Not shown, across the valley:

**It's Not Easy Being Me** 5.11 short bolted face CB, CF '03

**Caveman** roof crack boulder problem in corridor \*

# New Z-Land



Routes, left to right:

**Z-nolith** 5.11 high quality bolted arete/face CF, CB '03 \*\*

**Z-nophobia** 5.10 A0 (a point of aid or 5.12 move to gain bolted arete) DJ, CF '03 \*\*

not shown, on the wall to the right of Z-nophobia:

**Alpha-Zulu** 5.11 bolted face, start from hanging belay above big roof CF, DJ '03 \*

**War Babies** 5.10 bolted groove to face DJ, CF '03

## Remote Areas



The final section of this guidebook records some outlying crags that have seen some activity but are largely undeveloped yet may offer good potential for new routes and bouldering.



A good map of the region is highly recommended.

**Briefly Noted:**

### **Disappointment Valley**

South of Big Gypsum Valley, near Slickrock, this area lives up to its name. A small tower has been climbed at the west end of the valley, bouldering can be found along the Mineral Mountain Road to the south and there is great hiking and scrambling on the reefs of rock forming the north side of the valley.

### **Bull Canyon**

A very scenic and somewhat remote canyon west of Dry Creek Basin, best approached from Monogram Mesa via Road U29 or from Paradox Valley via Road DD19. The lower canyon has big walls of Navajo Sandstone in a spectacular setting.

### **Hieroglyphic Canyon**

Several miles past the Atomic Energy Crag, Road EE22 turns northeast, paralleling this canyon. Large Dakota Sandstone crags are found to the west of the road before it drops down to Uravan. A few cracks have been climbed here. Good camping, too.

# Monogram Mesa

*Rock Type* Dakota Sandstone

*Height* 60 feet

*Climbing Style* bouldering, crack, top-roping

*Gear Suggestions* bouldering pad and top-rope setup, many cams

*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

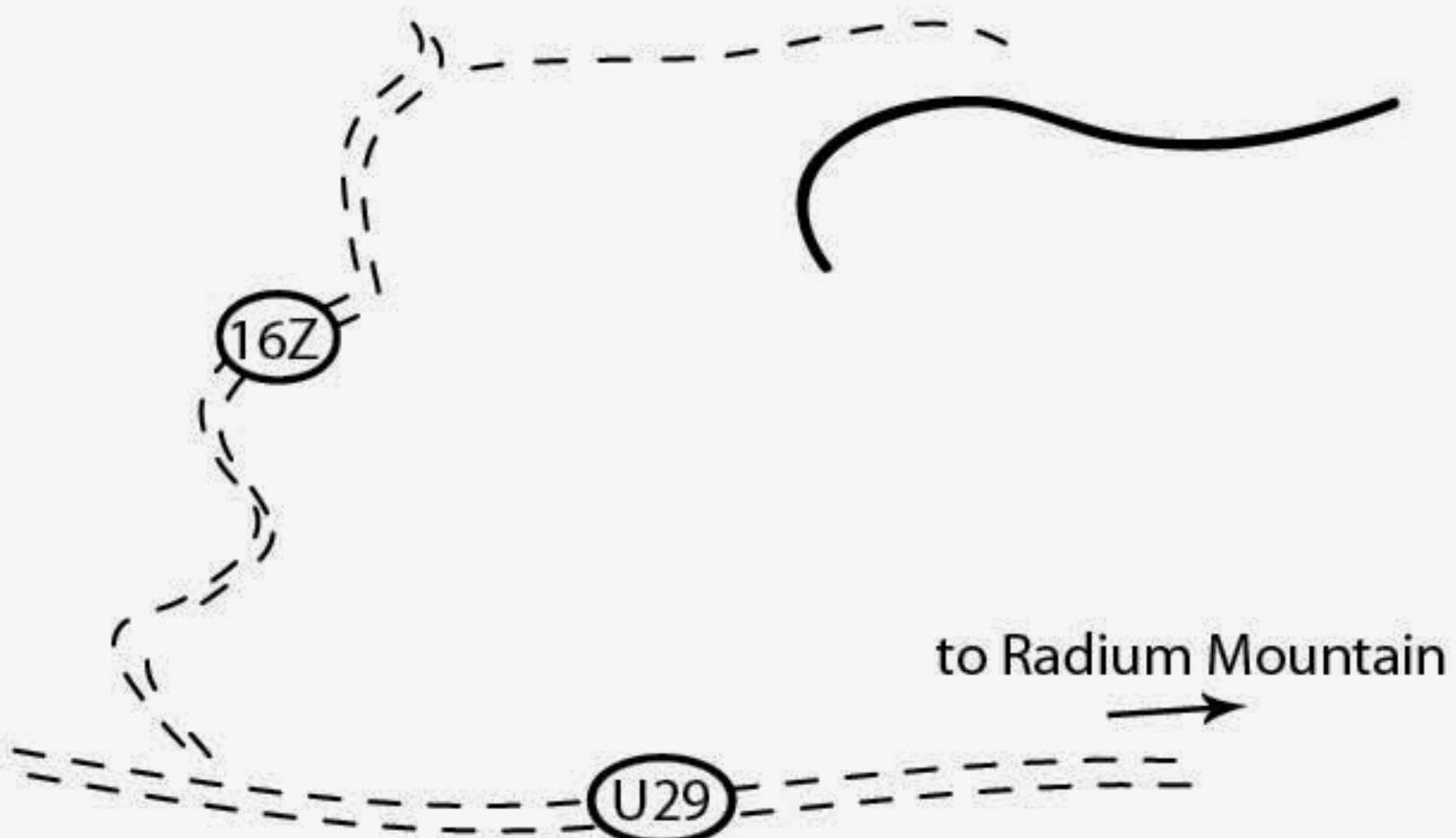
*Restrictions* none

*Road Access* high clearance vehicle recommended

*Comments* nice crag with some good potential for sport routes and cracks

The southfacing rimrock of Monogram Mesa overlooks Road 16Z, and is sometimes mistaken for the 16Z climbing area. Drive down 16Z till the cliffs are clearly visible above. Hike cross country and on abandoned mining roads to reach the crag, 45 minutes.

At least one crack has been climbed here, and it is likely this crag will see a fair amount of activity in the future.



# Radium Mountain

*Rock Type* Dakota Sandstone

*Height* 80 feet

*Climbing Style* bouldering, crack, top-roping

*Gear Suggestions* bouldering pad and top-rope setup, many cams

*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none

*Road Access* high clearance vehicle recommended

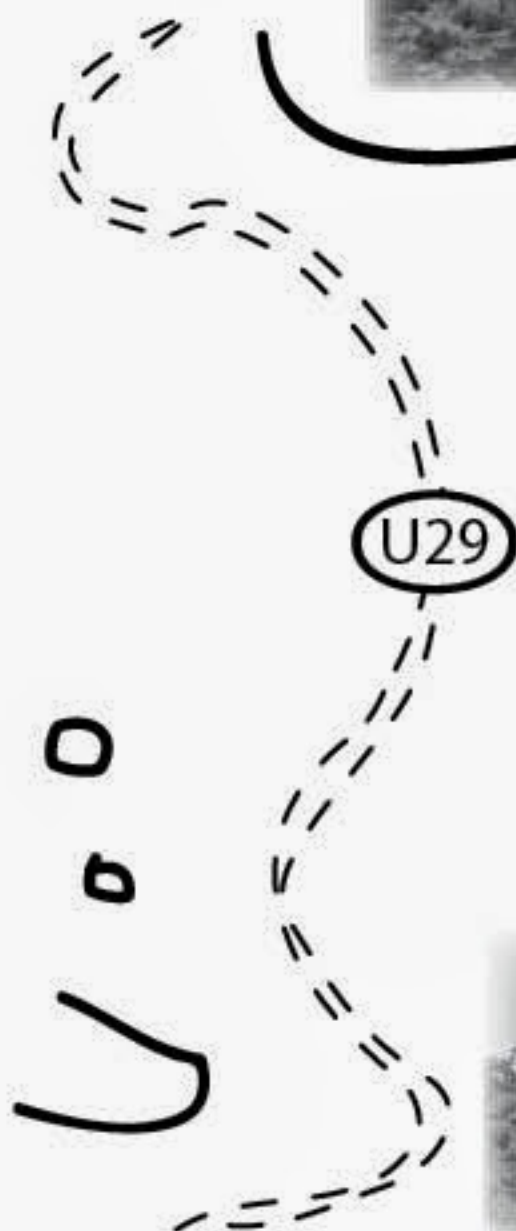
*Comments* nice crags with some good potential for sport routes

Radium Mountain is located on Road U29 5 miles west of the 16Z/U29 intersection. Wedding Bell Mountain is about 3/4 mile further west on U29.

A few cracks were climbed here in the late 1980s. Easy access and lots of rock could mean more routes in the future. The rock can be very gritty.



**Radium Mountain**



**Wedding Bell Mountain**

# Remote Areas



## Briefly Noted:

### **Slickrock Canyon**

The canyon of the Dolores River between Big Gypsum Valley and the town of Bedrock. This is currently a Wilderness Study Area - climbing is permitted, but fixed anchors are not allowed. Rangers have removed fixed anchors on some cracks in the area.

### **Salt Creek**

The north end of Sewemup Mesa. 7.2 Road leads into the Sindbad Valley, up a canyon lined with Windgate. A few cracks have been done, but in general the area is a disappointment.

### **Lower San Miguel River Basin**

Just past Calamity Bridge on Highway 141, several small canyons and crags are seen south of the road. The many boulders in the area tend to be gritty, but the cliffs themselves are often good quality. Some fine crack climbs have been accomplished here.

### **Big Gypsum Red Rocks**

The large Navajo Sandstones crags on the north side of the valley, about 7 miles from Highway 141. Some cracks have been climbed on the left side of the crag. Same rock as 16Z, but not as much potential.

"I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestioned ability of a man to elevate his life by conscious endeavor."

-Henry David Thoreau

# Tabeguache Creek

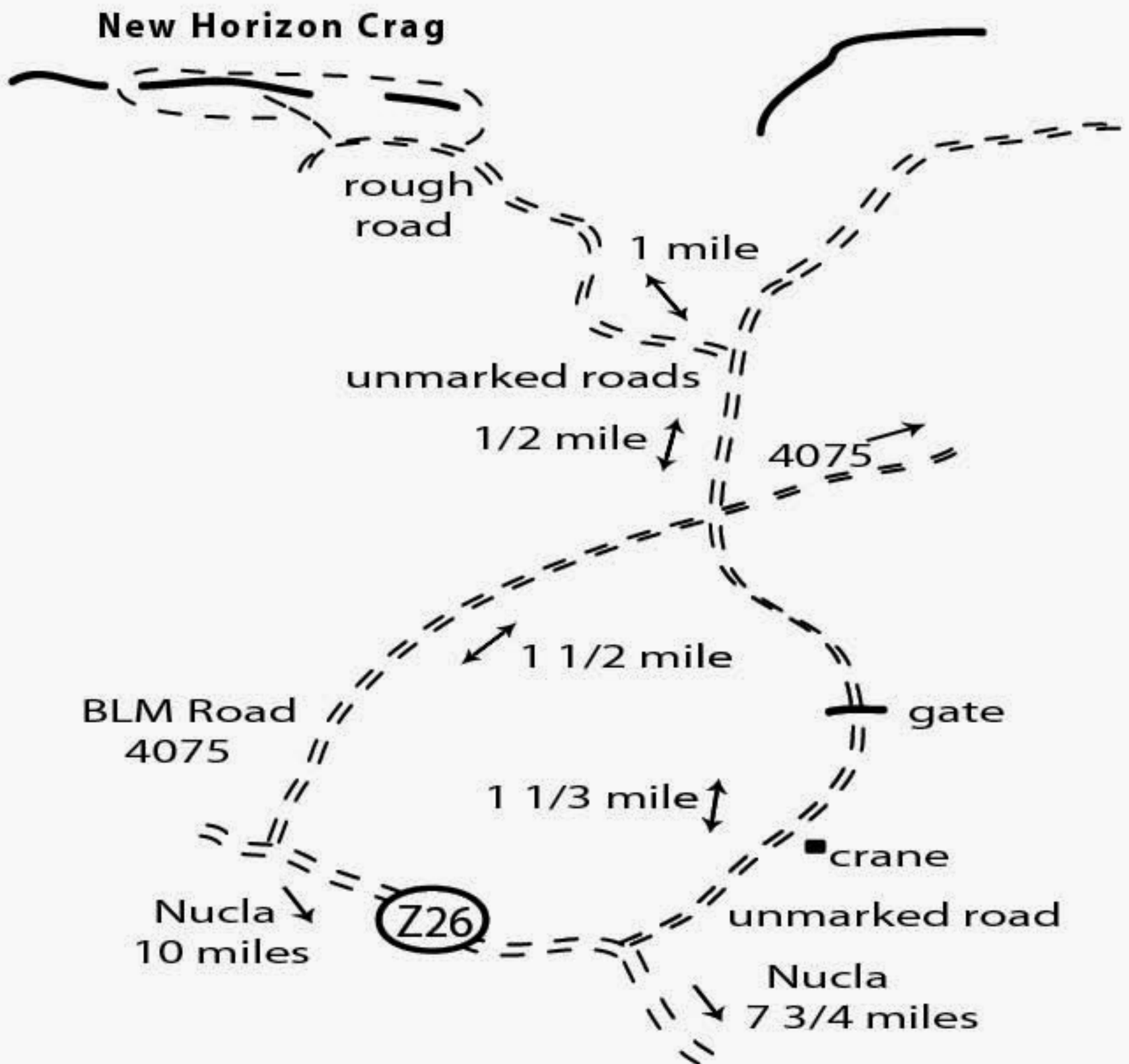
Northwest of Nucla, this region offers some fine exploratory climbing and bouldering. Crags can be approached via Z26 Road, V24 Road and Y25 Road.



Steve Johnson on a giant boulder near the road (V24 Road).



Damon Johnston  
New Horizon Crag



# Tabeguache Creek - New Horizon Crag

*Rock Type* Dakota Sandstone

*Height* 90 feet

*Climbing Style* sport, crack, top-roping

*Gear Suggestions* 60 meter rope, 12 quickdraws, a few nuts and cams

*Seasons* yearround, winters could be cold

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none

*Road Access* 4X4 recommended

*Comments* nice crag, with northern exposure and potential for a few dozen climbs.

Drive to the top of the crag on rough roads, about 10 1/2 miles from Nucla. Approach by rappeling routes, or walk down to the west.

routes recorded west to east:

**I Fall To Pieces** 5.11- short bolted buttress

**The Straight Story** 5.9 steep bolted wall

**Contraband** 5.10 gently overhanging bolted wall

**The Clean Air Standard** 5.11- overhanging bolted arete to face \*

**I Married A Fembot** 5.10 bolted face \*

**Lichen It Alot** 5.10- long arete, bolts with small cams at the top

**Cowboy Coffee** 5.10 bolted face/seam, one cam to start \*

**Tumbling Tumbleweeds** 5.11- the long, striking edge, bolted \*\*\*

**A Country Mile** 5.11 the other side of the edge, overhang at the top \*\*

**Fireball** 5.11 bolted wall

**A Burning Sensation** 5.11 bolted wall

**The Uprising** 5.9+ short, steep bolted buttress, one big nut to start

**Ruby In The Dust** 5.9+/511 long bolted buttress (5.9+) to anchor, finishing up overhanging headwall is 5.11 \*\*

**Jackalope Ranch** 5.11- pocketed wall to stance, then up face, bolted

**Fair And Balanced** 5.11 pockets and edges up tricky bolted face \*

# Third Park Buttress aka Mile 67 Crag

*Rock Type* Dakota Sandstone

*Height* 70 feet

*Climbing Style(s)* bouldering, crack, top-roping

*Gear Suggestions* bouldering pad and top-rope setup, wide cams

*Seasons* Fall through Spring

*Land Status* BLM

*Restrictions* none

*Road Access* regular vehicle

*Comments* nice crag with some good potential for sport routes



This crag is seen from Highway 141 north of mile marker 67. The cliff can be approached from Nucla by driving on obscure roads, it is mostly commonly approached by parking along 141 and fording the San Miguel River. Several cracks have been done; most are wide.

# The Best Of The West

## The finest routes and climbing areas



Red Rocks

### **Best Bouldering**

Atomic Energy Boulders p.78  
Speedway Boulders p.41  
Bitter Creek p.76

### **Best Areas for Beginners**

Lost World p.66  
Clay Creek p.22  
Calamity Bridge p.42

### **Best Areas For Moderates**

Atomic Energy Crag p.78  
16Z p.140  
Clay Creek p.22

### **Favorite Climbs**

Psycho Tower p.133  
Sandstoner's Highway p.48  
Through The Looking Glass p.144  
Rancho Deluxe p.81  
Mad Bull p.101  
Collateral Damage p.30  
Crossmojonation p.31  
Apocalypse Cow p.97  
In Like Flint p.103  
Psychedelic Pussycat p.105  
Angel Arete p.115  
Tumbling Tumbleweeds p.173  
Divine Intervention p.145

### **Best Crack Climbing**

Carpenter Ridge p.98  
Sewemup Mesa p.113  
16Z p.140

### **Best Sport Climbing**

Red Rocks p.86  
16Z p.140  
Clay Creek p.22



16Z

### **Best Areas For Hard Climbs**

16Z p.140  
Carpenter Ridge p.98  
Sewemup Mesa p.113

### **More Favorites**

Hang Ten p.27  
Hendrix In The West p.69  
On The Beach p.83  
Atomic Test Site p.83  
Open Range p.90  
Sleeping Beauty p.146  
Cheeseburger In Paradox p.104  
Technicolor Sunset p.94  
Tower Of Power p.126