

# Oak Creek Canyon

## Rock Climbing Inventory Statistics:

<u>Wall:</u>	<u># of Routes</u>	<u># of Bolts</u>	<u># of Anchors</u>
Solar Slab	9	28	28
Solar Slab Left	1	2	1
Solar Slab Right	4	8	7
Byrd Pinnacle	9	0	4
Black Arch Wall	2	7	2
Black Orpheus Buttress	7	18	13
Eagle Wall	3	141	21
Painted Bowl	7	51	17
Celebration Wall	4	17	4
The Coffin	1	0	0
The Fork	3	0	3
Blood Wall	1	0	0
The Triad	3	0	2
Afterburner Cliff	6	2	2
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>104</b>

13/60 routes field verified – 21%

4 new routes not found in literature

Route information and locations were identified based upon information gathered from *Red Rock Canyon: A Climbing Guide* (pgs. 312-335), *Rock Climbing: Red Rocks* (pgs. 286-308), *Red Rocks Climbing* (pgs. 75-99), *Red Rock Odyssey* (pgs. 94-107 and 186-201), and [www.climbingredrocks.com](http://www.climbingredrocks.com). Visual confirmation of bolts and anchors were made for climbs on the Black Arch, Blood and Celebration Walls. Some climbs in the Solar Slab Areas were also visually inspected for hardware. Data for the remaining walls is recorded as obtained through the literature review. Field verification was not carried out for the climb located on The Coffin. The long and dangerous approach and obscure nature of the climb justified the decision to focus efforts elsewhere.

# Oak Creek Canyon

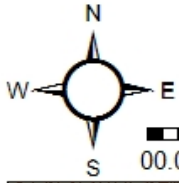
Rainbow Wilderness Area

## Legend

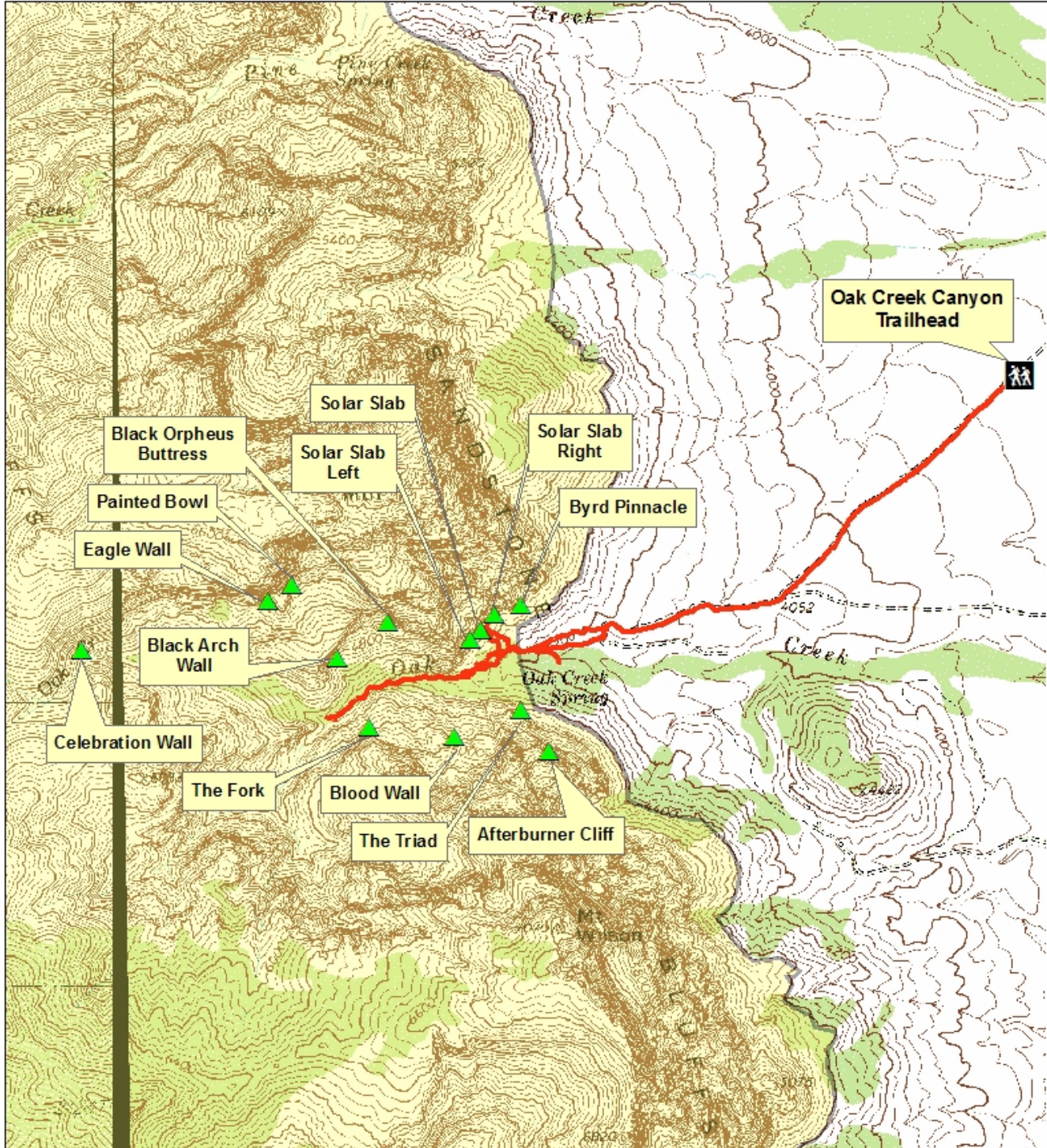
▲ Wall Midpoint

— Trail

■ Wilderness Area



Miles  
0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5



# Oak Creek Canyon

**Access:** Take the Scenic Loop Trail approximately 12.1 miles from the entrance booth until you see the sign for Oak Creek Canyon. Drive a short distance down the dirt road and park at the parking area with the view of Oak Creek Canyon between Mt. Wilson to the south and Rainbow Mountain to the north pictured here (Fig. 1 right). Climbs are accessed by hiking the Oak Creek Canyon Trail directly toward the canyon. After roughly one mile the Oak Creek Canyon Trail loops around to the south and heads back towards the parking area. Look for one of two trails that split off to the right and



continue west into the canyon proper. These trails are roughly parallel to each other about 40 yards apart and eventually join into one trail after about 200 yards. Braided trails continue west and provide access deeper into the canyon. Eventually the trail enters a wash and you are required to boulder hop and scramble to reach the climbs further on.



Fig. 2 & 3 (above/right): Trails leading into Oak Creek Canyon from the main trail. These trailheads are only about 40 yards apart. The trails run parallel to each other and eventually join each other.

# Oak Creek Canyon

## Solar Slab:

Fig. 1 (right): The Solar Slab area is a popular area with Upper and Lower tiers. The Lower Tier ascends the dark colored flakes and cracks to a white colored, bushy ledge. The Upper Tier climbs the white colored slabs to the top of the wall just where the sun is shining at the top of the photo. Approach via the Oak Creek Canyon Trail and continue west on either trail described above once the main trail begins to loop south. After approximately 350 yards turn right to hike north on heavily braided trails up the slope to the base of the cliff.

<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
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9	28	28
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22% field verified



## Solar Slab Left:

Fig. 2 (left): A new climb was discovered on the varnished wall just west of the main Solar Slab area. Scramble along the base of the cliff to reach this climb. Negotiate dense scrub oak and cross a small gully to gain access to the route. Only one route was found here that was not mentioned in the literature review, but many more traditional lines are possible.

<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
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1	2	1
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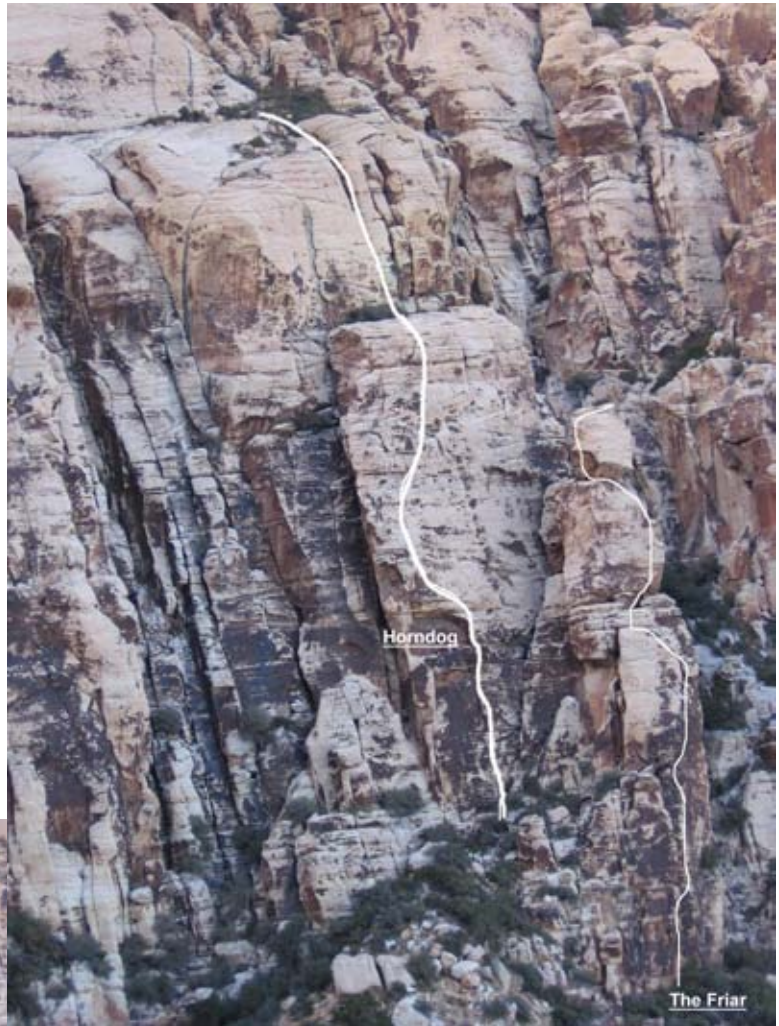
1 new route not found in literature

100% field verified

# Oak Creek Canyon

## Solar Slab Right:

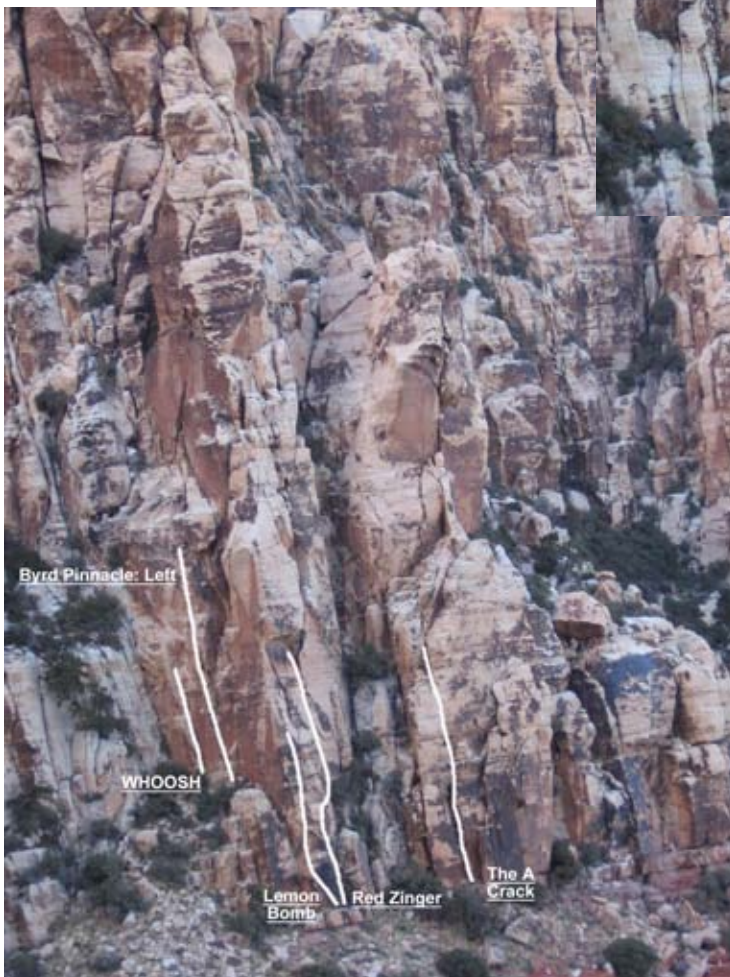
Fig. 1 (right): The right side of the Solar Slab area is located just east of the main wall. Access the same as the main Solar Slab area and scramble right along the base of the cliff to reach the climbs. The tall, white pillar with a boulder on its peak is referred to as The Friar. The climbs in this area ascend the black and white face to the left of The Friar and on The Friar itself.



**Routes**    **Bolts**    **Anchors**

4                    8                    7

1 new route not found in literature  
25% field verified



## Byrd Pinnacle:

Fig. 2 (left): To the east of Solar Slab Right are a series of smaller features along the southeast face of Rainbow Mountain, including the Byrd Pinnacle. Simply continue scrambling along the base of the cliff roughly 100 yards from Solar Slab Right to reach these climbs. Look for black, angular slabs at the base of the pinnacle.

**Routes**    **Bolts**    **Anchors**

9                    0                    4

0% field verified

# Oak Creek Canyon

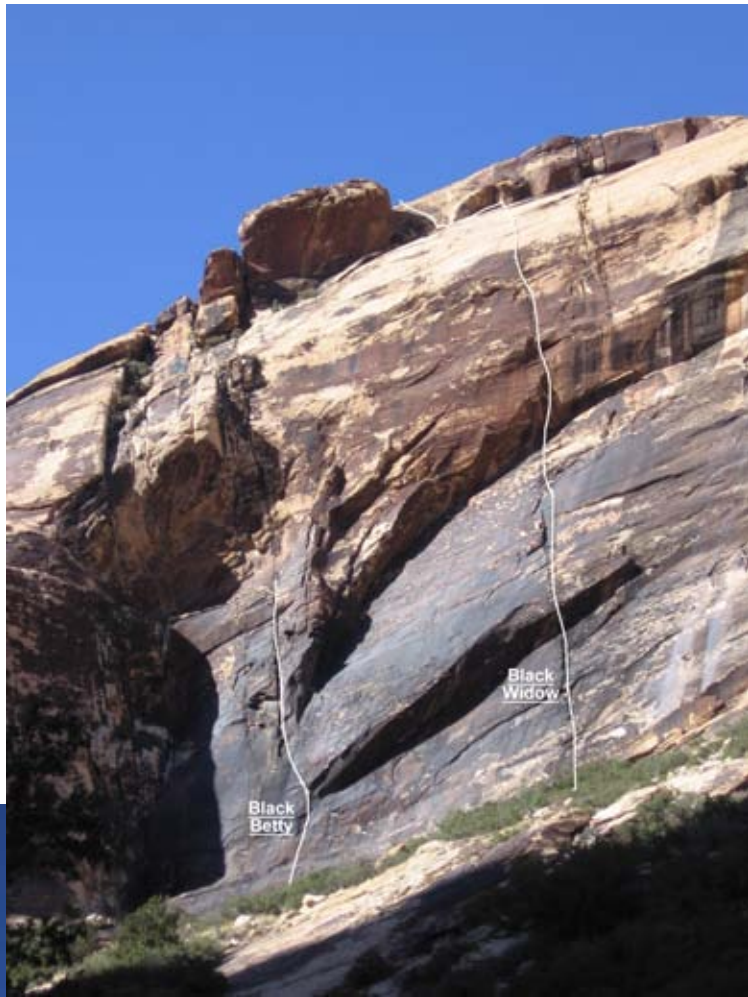
## Black Arch Wall:

Fig. 1 (right): This distinctive feature is found on the north side of the canyon facing southeast. Two mixed climbs ascend the left side of the feature. Access via the Oak Creek Canyon Trail, continuing past the Solar Slab areas. The trail continues west and becomes somewhat braided as it starts to descend into the wash running into the canyon. Continue in the wash until you see this feature to your right. Just past the arch the slabs become low angle. Easy scrambling up and through scrub oak allows access to the base of the climbs.

**Routes**    **Bolts**    **Anchors**

2                    7                    2

100% field verified



## Black Orpheus Buttress:

Fig. 2 (left): The Black Orpheus Buttress is a large, southwest facing feature just east of the Black Arch Wall. Approach as described above and continue on easy slabs along the base of the cliff. Reach the base of the climbs after traversing approximately 200 yards to the huge buttress in front of you. Descent from the top of the Black Orpheus Buttress requires rappelling down and to the west into the Painted Bowl. Some climbs in the Painted Bowl can only be access by climbing *Black Orpheus* first and descending.

**Routes**    **Bolts**    **Anchors**

7                    18                    13

14% field verified

# Oak Creek Canyon

## Eagle Wall:

Fig. 1 (below): The Eagle Wall has two of the most popular, more difficult routes in the canyon: *Eagle Dance* and *Levitation 29*. Both routes are heavily bolted and have pitches that may require some aid climbing. To reach this wall hike into Oak Creek Canyon until well past the point where you enter the wash. Continue past the Black Arch feature turning northwest when the canyon splits into two forks. Hiking will become more difficult as the canyon narrows and becomes filled with boulders and scrub oak. The Eagle Wall will appear on your right. Look for the distinctive eagle-shaped varnish in the middle of the lower portion of the wall. Just past the wall a 400-foot slab/ledge system drops down and allows access to the ledges above. Scramble up and right over these slabs/ledges until you are at the base of the wall.



<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
3	141	21
0% field verified		

<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
7	51	17
1 new route not found in literature		
14% field verified		

## Painted Bowl:

Fig. 2 (right): The Painted Bowl is a large amphitheatre to the east of the Eagle Wall. Climbs ascend the buttress just around the corner from the Eagle Wall on the south side of Rainbow Mountain. Access these routes by scrambling directly east from the Eagle Wall. Dangerous scrambling down to the base of the bowl leads to one climb not found in the literature review. Other climbs ascend the northwest corner of the bowl and are only accessible by descending from the top of the Black Orpheus Buttress described above.



# Oak Creek Canyon

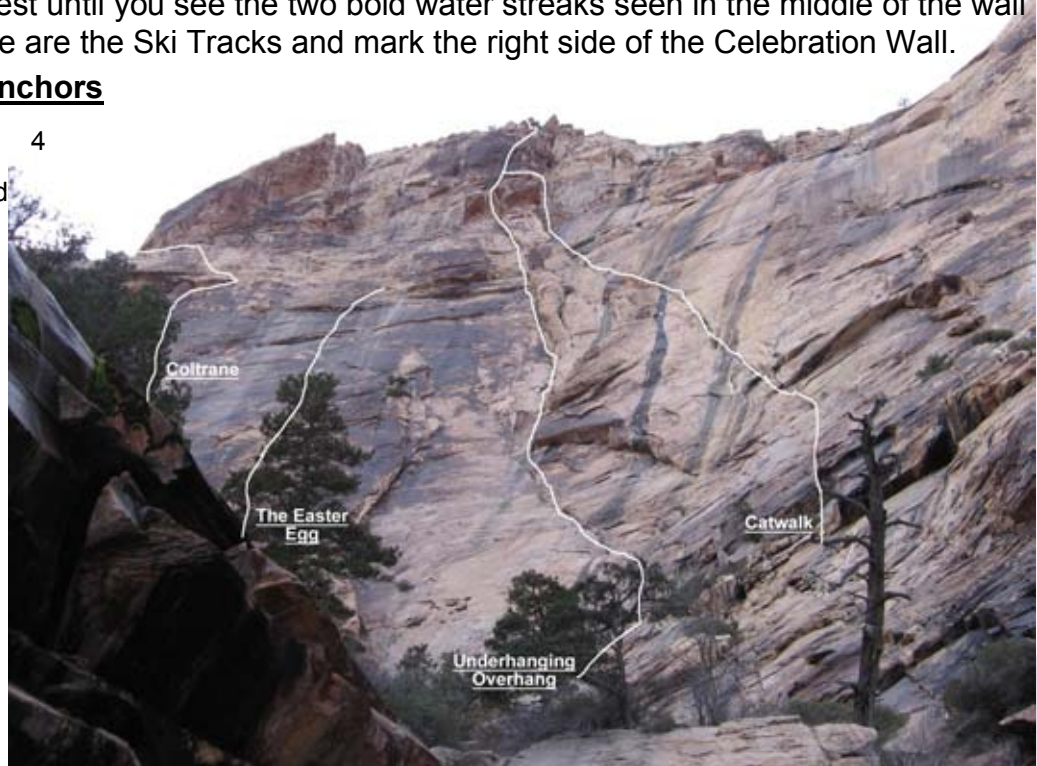
## Celebration Wall:

Fig. 1 (below/right): The Celebration Wall forms the far west end of Oak Creek Canyon. Hike into the canyon as described above and continue into the wash. Take the right (north) fork when the canyon splits and scramble over boulders and through scrub oak as the canyon narrows. Continue west until you see the two bold water streaks seen in the middle of the wall pictured below. These are the Ski Tracks and mark the right side of the Celebration Wall.

<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
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4	17	4
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75% field verified



## The Fork:

Fig. 2 (right): Just before Oak Creek Canyon splits into two forks this area is found high on the south side of the canyon. Scramble 200 feet up difficult 4<sup>th</sup> class slabs directly across from the Painted Bowl to reach the climbs.

<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
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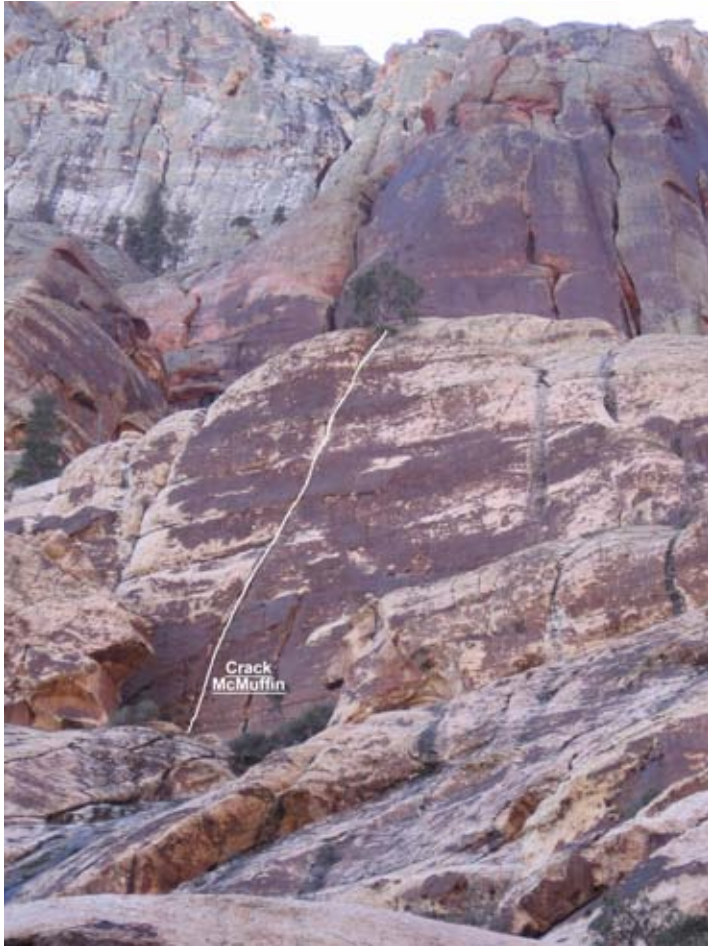
3	0	3
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1 new route not found in literature  
33% field verified





# Oak Creek Canyon



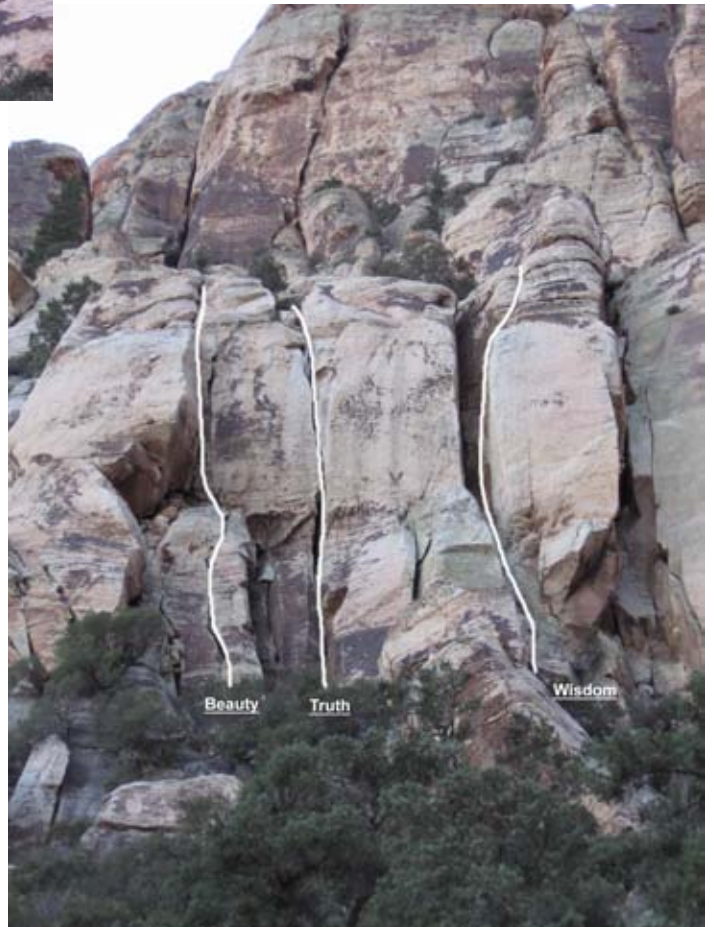
## Blood Wall:

Fig. 1 (left): The Blood Wall is a smaller face on the south side of Oak Creek Canyon beneath the massive cliffs that make up the true canyon walls. One known climb ascends the center of this wall to the tree at the top. Hike into Oak Creek Canyon past the Solar Slab areas. Continue west on braided trails until you enter the wash at the base of the canyon. Just past the point where you enter the wash (roughly 300 feet) you will see this wall above you on the left. Scramble up easy slabs to reach the base of the climb.

<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
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1	0	0
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100% field verified



## The Triad:

Fig. 2 (right): This series of cracks and off-widths is located on the south side of the entrance to Oak Creek Canyon directly across from the Solar Slab areas. Make your way into the canyon until you reach the wash that forms the canyon floor. Just as you enter the wash look for this wall above you to the left. Scramble up a steep slope with scrub oak to reach the base of the climbs.

<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
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3	0	2
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0% field verified

# Oak Creek Canyon



## Afterburner Cliff:

Fig. 1 (above): Afterburner Cliff is a northeast facing wall at the base of Mt. Wilson just outside of Oak Creek Canyon. Approach as for The Triad and continue south along the base of the mountain until you see the wall above you to the right. Scary 4<sup>th</sup> class scrambling takes you 200 yards up to the black and white cliff seen here. Six moderately-difficult climbs ascend the face.

**Routes**    **Bolts**    **Anchors**

6                    2                    2

0% field verified

# Mount Wilson

## Rock Climbing Inventory Statistics:

<u>Wall:</u>	<u># of Routes</u>	<u># of Bolts</u>	<u># of Anchors</u>
Willy's Couloir	6	6	13
Horseshoe Wall	2	0	0
Aeolian Wall	8	116	36
Ramen Pride	2	0	0
Cactus Flower Tower	1	5	0
Ramen Pride Cliff	3	0	1
Dirtbagger's Compensation	1	2	1
Mt. Wilson South	3	0	2
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>53</b>

3/26 routes field verified – 11%

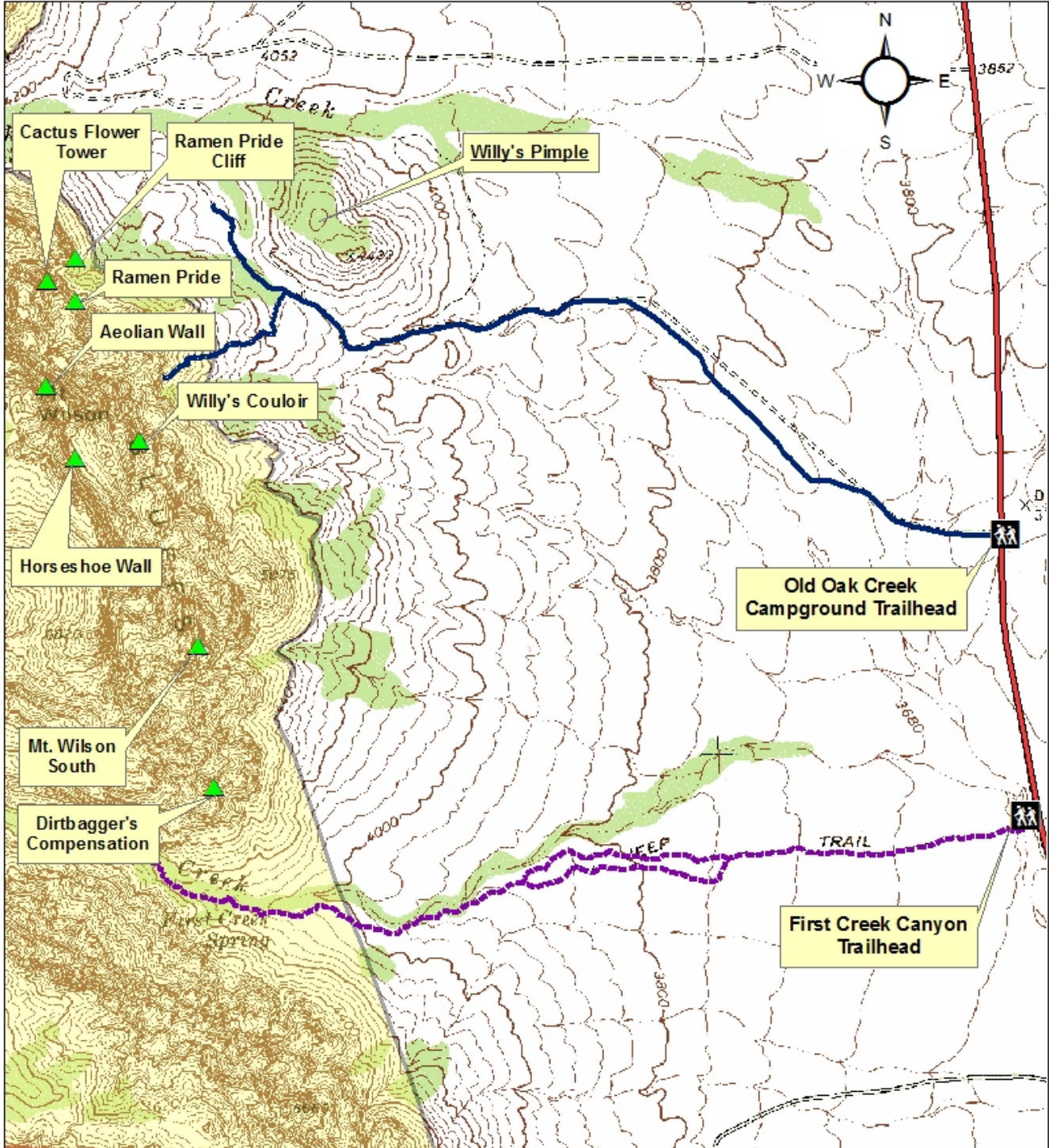
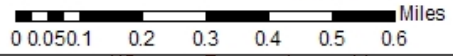
Route information and locations were identified based upon information gathered from *Red Rock Canyon: A Climbing Guide* (pgs. 337-354), *Rock Climbing: Red Rocks* (pgs. 312-323), *Red Rock Odyssey* (pgs. 168-185), and [www.climbingredrocks.com](http://www.climbingredrocks.com). The climbs on Mt. Wilson all require expedition style approaches over dangerous 5<sup>th</sup> class terrain and ascend several pitches to the top of the mountain. Visual confirmation of hardware was impossible to achieve on these climbs. The only exception to this was the Ramen Pride Cliff. This area features three single-pitch routes easily inspected from the ground.

# Mount Wilson

## Rainbow Wilderness Area

### Legend

- ▲ Wall Midpoint
- Trail
- First Creek Canyon Trail
- ▭ Wilderness Area
- State Highway 159



# Mount Wilson

**Access:** Mt. Wilson marks the beginning of the climbing areas in the Rainbow Wilderness that do not require you to drive the Scenic Loop Road for access. Take State Highway 159 from Las Vegas west toward Red Rocks National Conservation Area. Pass the entrance for the Scenic Loop Road on your right. Approximately 3.8 miles is a parking area for the old Oak Creek

Campground. Park here with the view of Mt. Wilson pictured to the left in your windshield. This is the best place to access the climbs on Mt. Wilson's northern side. Hike in on the old Oak Creek Campground road as it heads directly for the mountain. The trail eventually passes between Mt. Wilson and a small hill (Wilson's Pimple) to the east. Turn left and head directly west to access Willy's Couloir, Aeolian Wall, and Horseshoe Wall. Continue on the main trail another 400 yards past Wilson's Pimple to reach the Cactus Flower Tower and



Ramen Pride areas. Leave the trail and hike west to reach the climbs at the base of the mountain. The climbs on the southern part of the mountain are best accessed from the First Creek Canyon trailhead about 0.5 miles further on State Highway 159 (4.4 miles from the Scenic Loop Road entrance). Hike just over a mile from the parking area pictured below on heavily braided and sandy trails. When Mt. Wilson begins to dominate your view to the north leave the trail and cut across desert terrain to reach the base of the mountain.



# Mount Wilson

## Willy's Couloir:

Fig. 1 (right): Willy's Couloir is created by a huge fin of rock on Mt. Wilson's east face. Climbs ascend the white and pink rock behind the fin to reach the Horseshoe Wall on the ledge above. When the old Oak Creek Campground trail begins to curve north around Wilson's Pimple leave the trail and cut west up a hill. A large gully runs west through a breakdown in the rock. Bushwhack up the gully toward the base of the mountain. Sketchy scrambling takes you up and over a dark red band of rock. You should now be able to see the couloir reaching up and left. Scary 5<sup>th</sup> class scrambling continues up the gully using fixed lines and rappel stations to reach the climbs. A very involved approach and typical of those found on Mt. Wilson.

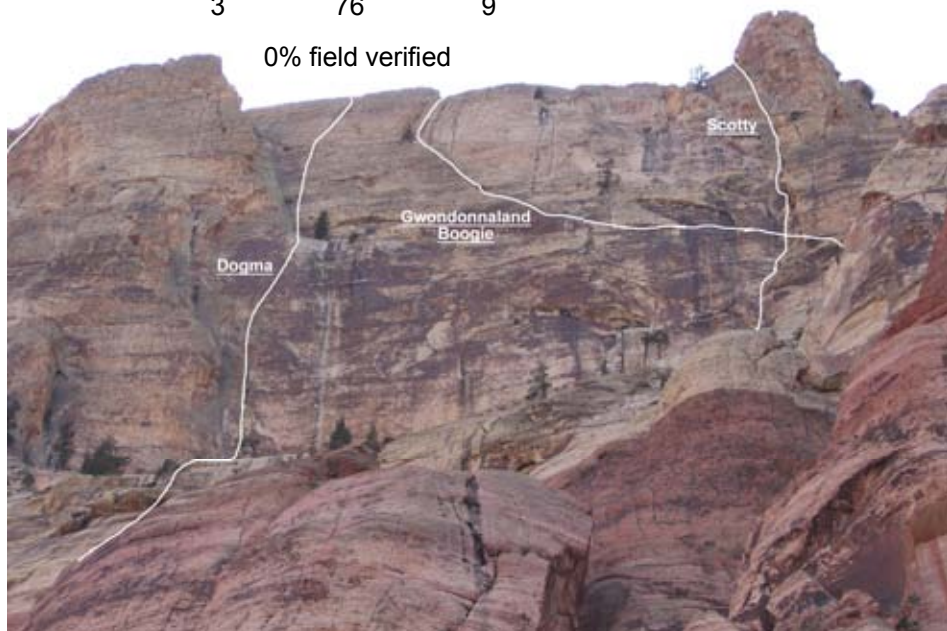
<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
6	6	13
0% field verified		



## Horseshoe Wall:

Fig. 2 (right): The Horseshoe Wall forms the dominant east face of Mt. Wilson. Access is made possible by climbing any of the climbs from Willy's Couloir to Sherwood Forest Ledge at the base of the wall. Alternatively you can continue up the approach gully to Willy's Couloir as it runs northwest along the base of the mountain. 5<sup>th</sup> class climbing and scary scrambling makes this approach slightly less difficult than climbing up via Willy's Couloir.

<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
3	76	9
0% field verified		



# Mount Wilson

## Aeolian Wall:

Fig. 1 (below/right): The northeast face of Mt. Wilson forms the towering Aeolian Wall. Just as the trail turns north around Wilson's Pimple a faint trail heads west toward the mountain. Follow cairns through the desert and up the slope to the base of the mountain. Continue following cairns up the approach gully to the northwest as it climbs toward the wall. Cairns lead up 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class climbing as the gully crests a ridge. Continue following cairns to reach the base of the Aeolian Wall. A typical Mt. Wilson approach with committing and sketchy scrambling over questionable rock.

<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
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8	116	36
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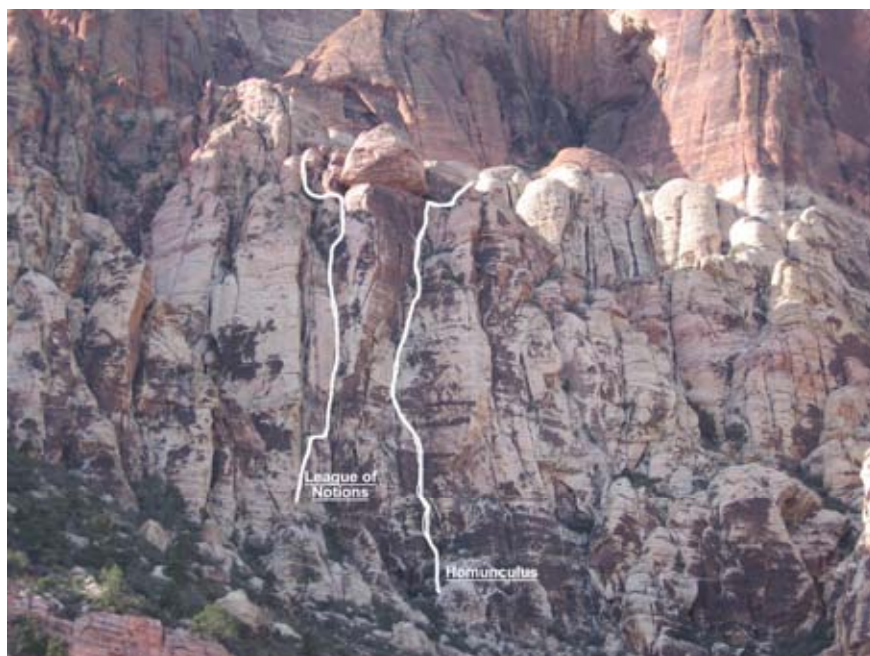
0% field verified



<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
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2	0	0
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0% field verified



## Ramen Pride:

Fig. 2 (left): Ramen Pride is the first of three areas located lower on Mt. Wilson's northeastern side. Access is gained to these areas by hiking the old Oak Creek Campground trail until well between Mt. Wilson and Wilson's Pimple. A distinct gully runs up and left (west) toward a huge pillar formation called the Cactus Flower Tower. Leave the trail and scramble up the gully until you see the area pictured here to your left. Look for the pillar capped by a large brown boulder on the south side of the gully before it narrows and begins to climb more steeply. The climbs ascend to either side of this pillar.

# Mount Wilson

## Cactus Flower Tower:

Fig. 1 (right): The huge, red pillar at the top of the approach gully mentioned for Ramen Pride above is the Cactus Flower Tower. One mixed route ascends its northeast face. Access this climb by scrambling up the gully past Ramen Pride. Continue up to a mossy slab high in the gully. Keep scrambling up to an alcove with a right-facing corner/chimney. This is the start of the first pitch. 5<sup>th</sup> class scrambling makes this another typically involved Mt. Wilson approach.

<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
1	9	1
0% field verified		



## Ramen Pride Cliff:

Fig. 2 (left): Contrary to what is reported in both *Red Rock Canyon: A Climbing Guide* and *Rock Climbing: Red Rocks* this cliff sits on the *right* (north) side of the approach gully mentioned above. Approach the same as for Ramen Pride but scramble up the right side of the gully to reach this east-facing cliff. This is one of the few areas at Mt. Wilson that doesn't require a very long and involved approach

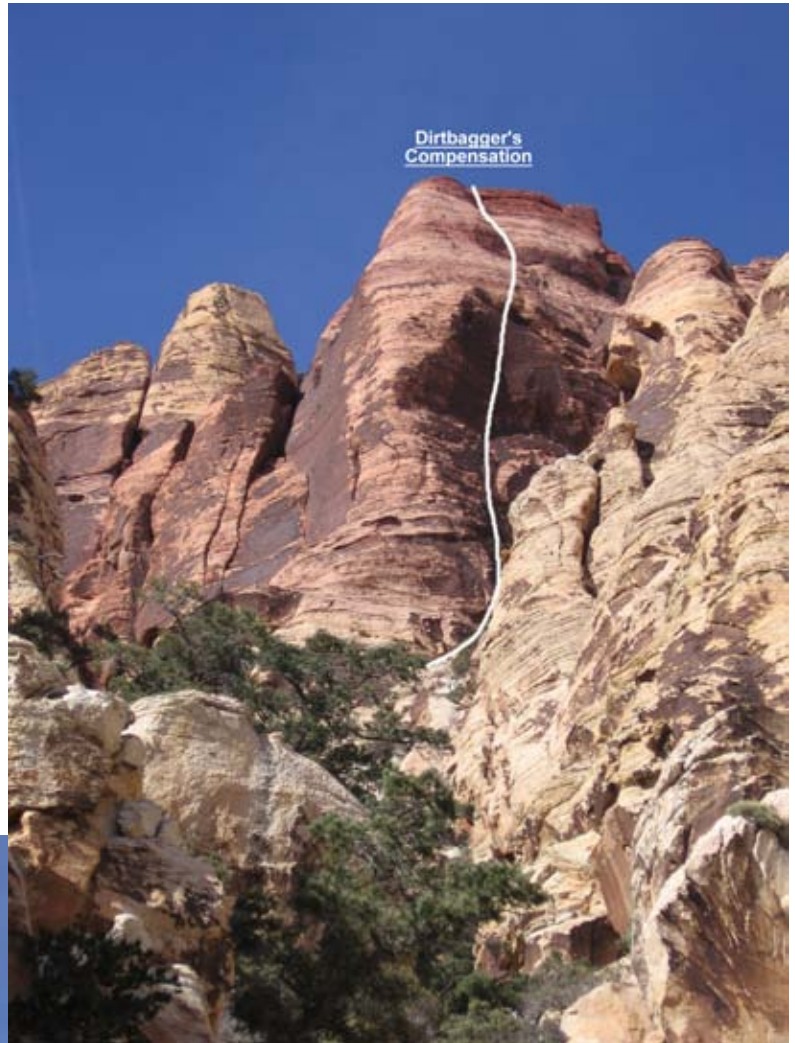
<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
3	0	2
100% field verified		



# Mount Wilson

## Dirtbagger's Compensation:

Fig. 1 (right): This red tower sits on Mt. Wilson's southeast corner and is accessed from the First Creek Canyon trailhead. Only one known climb ascends this pillar's varnished, southeast face (seen here on the right). Hike just over a mile on the First Creek Canyon trail system until Mt. Wilson towers over you to the north. Leave the trail and hike over desert terrain until you see an approach gully leading to the tower to your left. Moderate scrambling takes you up the gully to the base of the climb.



Dirtbagger's Compensation

**Routes**    **Bolts**    **Anchors**

1                    2                    1

0% field verified



## Mt. Wilson South:

Fig. 2 (left): Three climbs are located on the southern part of Mt. Wilson's east face. Approach from the First Creek Canyon trailhead as described above. Continue past the approach gully to Dirtbagger's Compensation after you leave the trail until you come to the next gully on your left. Scramble up and to the right (north) as the gully reaches the base of the mountain. Serious scrambling takes you up ledges to either the base of the Blue Diamond Ridge (left edge of the face seen here) or the notch between the face and smaller peak pictured to the left. Climbs begin at either of these places. These approaches are very involved and described as the some of the most serious approaches in Red Rocks.

**Routes**    **Bolts**    **Anchors**

3                    0                    2

0% field verified

# First Creek Canyon

## Rock Climbing Inventory Statistics:

<u>Wall:</u>	<u># of Routes</u>	<u># of Bolts</u>	<u># of Anchors</u>
Indecision Peak	5	0	1
Lotta Balls Wall	8	15	9
Alcohol Wall	5	8	4
Romper Room	8	4	6
First Creek Slabs	1+	0	1
Slippery Peak Apron	3	12	2
Raven Tower	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>31+</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>23</b>

24/31 routes field verified – 77%

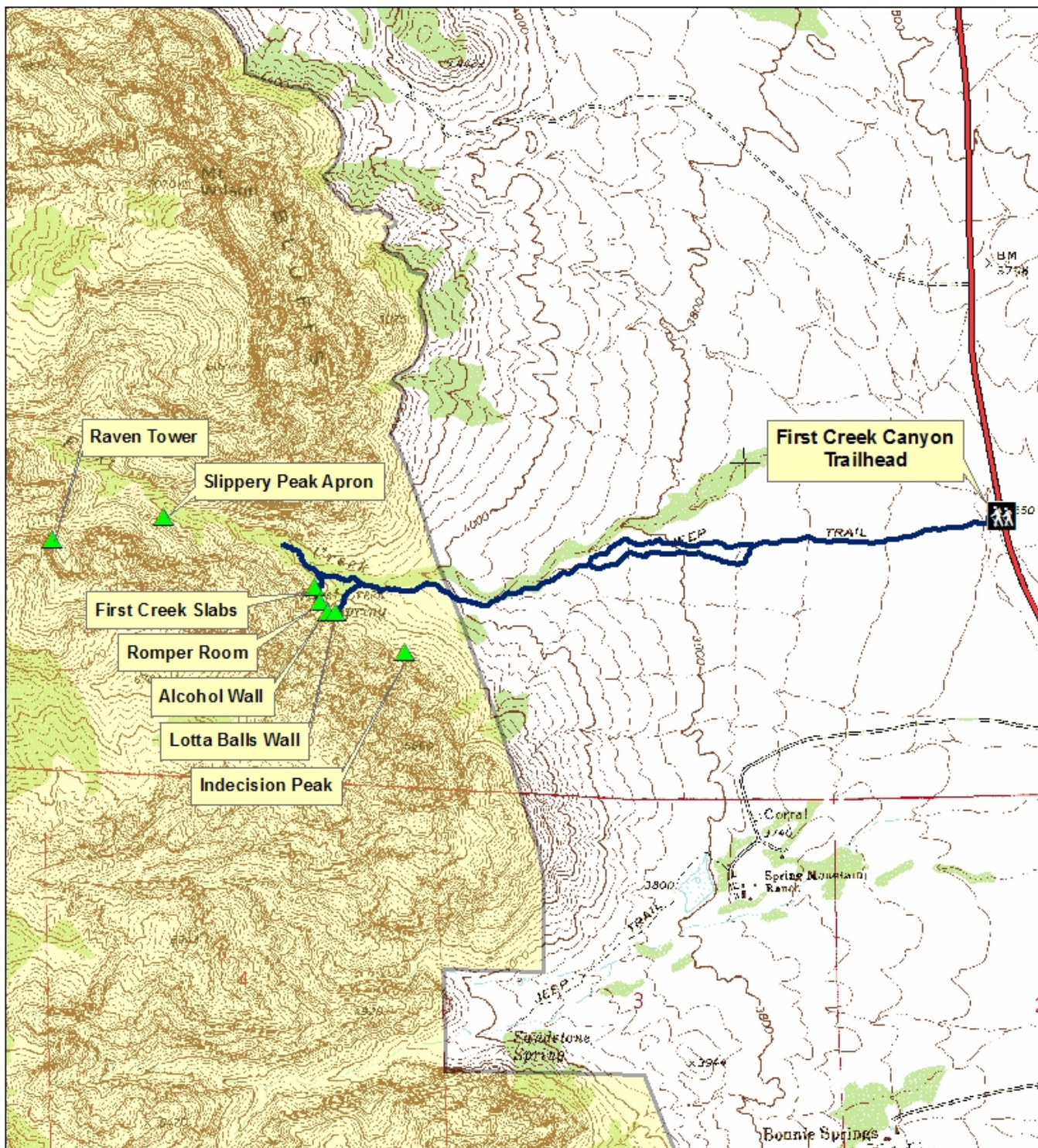
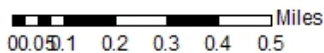
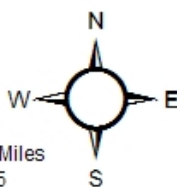
Route information and locations were identified based upon information gathered from *Red Rock Canyon: A Climbing Guide* (pgs. 356-365), *Rock Climbing: Red Rocks* (pgs. 326-335), *Red Rocks Climbing* (pgs. 70-73), and [www.climbingredrocks.com](http://www.climbingredrocks.com). The number of routes on the First Creek Slabs is listed as 1+ because only one route is listed in the literature and confirmed to exist by field survey. However, the literature makes mention of at least 6 more routes having been done in the area (*Rock Climbing: Red Rocks* pg. 332). These routes are said to be traditional in nature and thus no evidence of them was discovered during the field survey. All other routes, with the exception of those on Lotta Balls Wall, were field verified for bolt and anchor counts.

# First Creek Canyon

Rainbow Wilderness Area

## Legend

- ▲ Wall Midpoint
- Trail
- Wilderness Area
- State Highway 159



# First Creek Canyon

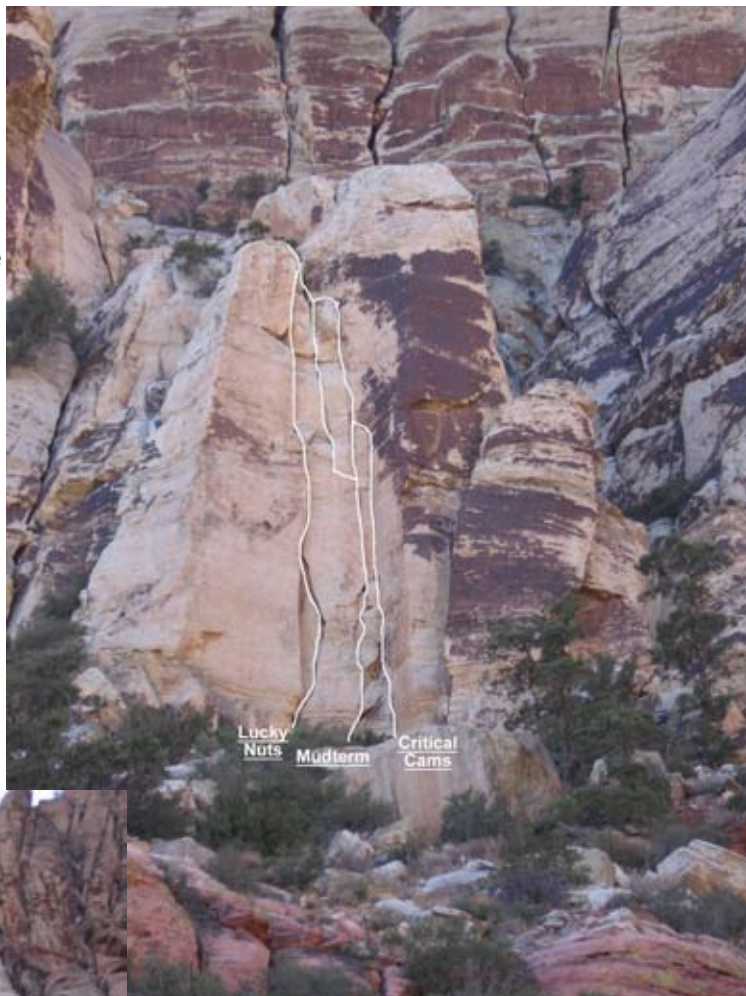
**Access:** The First Creek Canyon trailhead is located on the right side of State Highway 159 approximately 4.4 miles past the Scenic Loop Road entrance. Park here and begin hiking down heavily braided and eroded trails toward the mouth of the canyon to the west. Routes here are located on the south side of the canyon to the left as you hike in.



# First Creek Canyon

## Indecision Peak:

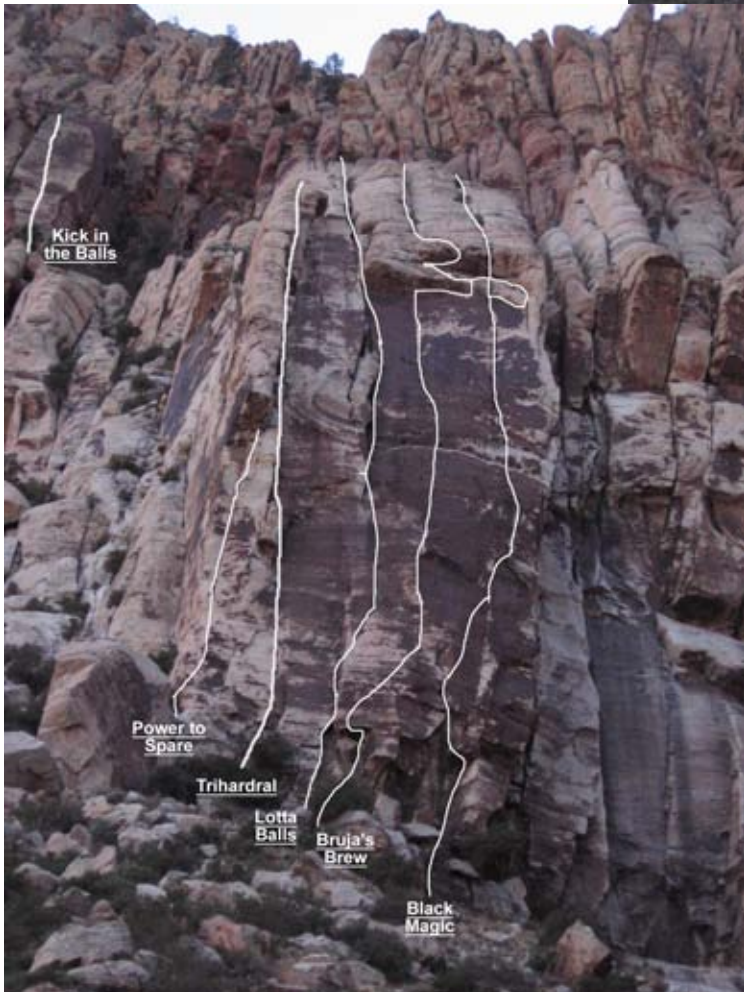
Fig. 1 (right): Indecision Peak is a small, white pillar located low on the southern side of the mouth of First Creek Canyon. Hike the First Creek Canyon Trail until it splits with one fork going down to the creek and the other staying high above the wash to the left. Take the higher trail until you are below a pink band of rock. Leave the trail and head south uphill to the base of the pillar.



**Routes**    **Bolts**    **Anchors**

5                    0                    1

100% field verified



## Lotta Balls Wall:

Fig. 2 (left): The Lotta Balls Wall is the first of a series of four walls on the south side of the canyon as it begins to narrow above First Creek. Hike into the canyon as described above, keeping to the higher trail above the creek. When the wall is directly to your left look for a faint access trail heading directly to the base of the climbs. One route (the jagged crack barely visible in the upper left-hand corner of the photo) is only accessible after climbing any of the routes on the main wall.

**Routes**    **Bolts**    **Anchors**

8                    15                    9

25% field verified

# First Creek Canyon

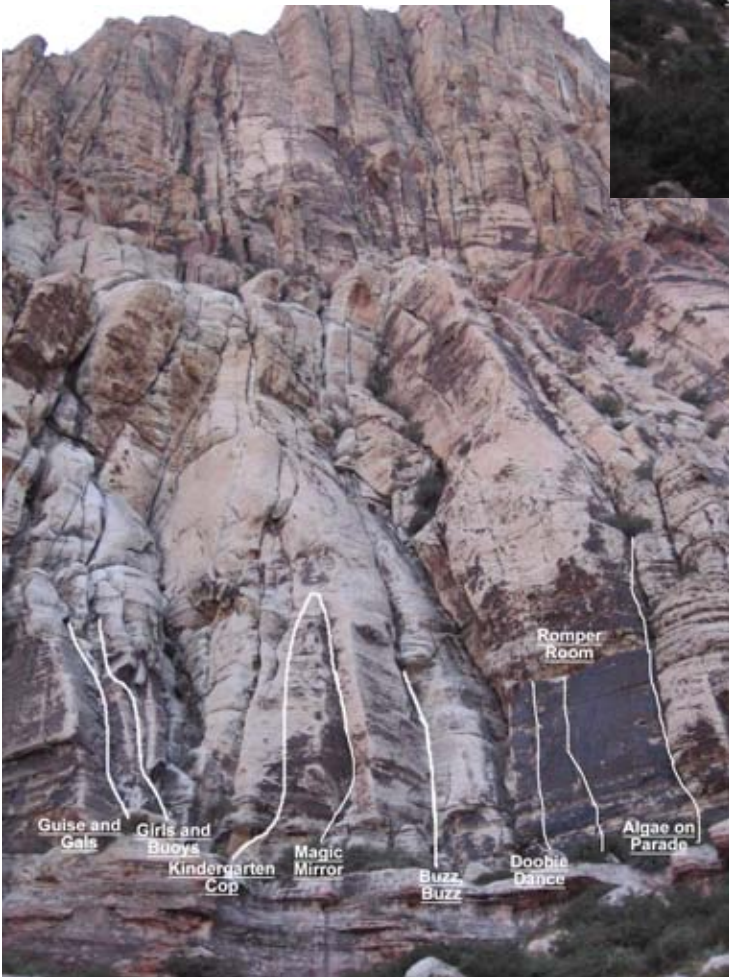
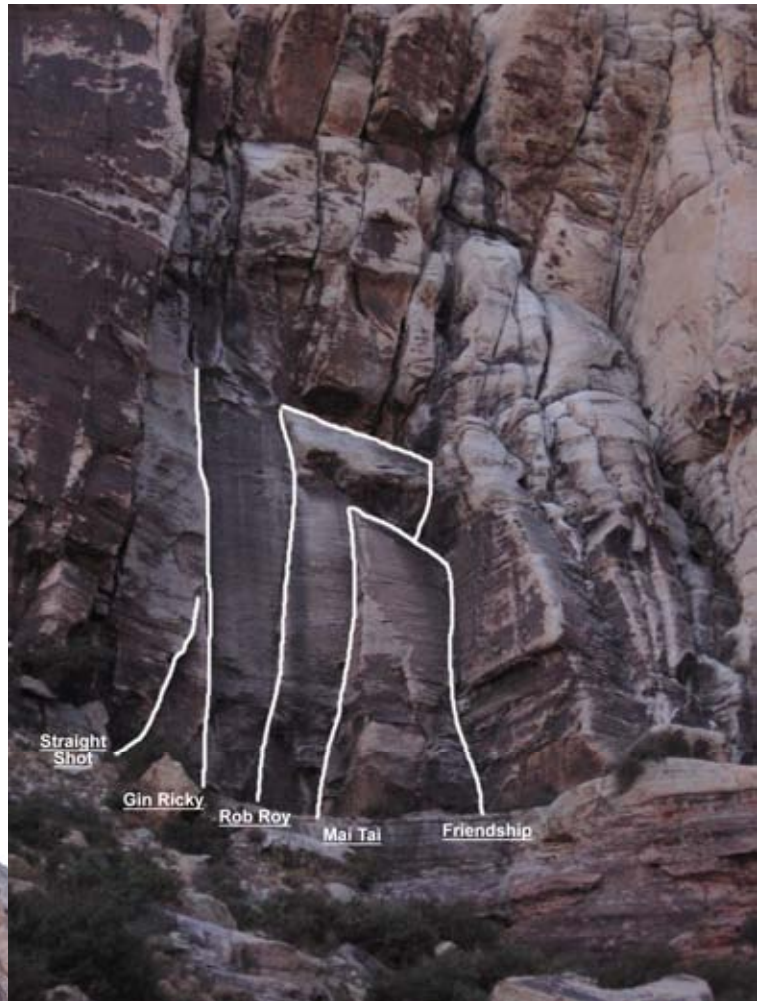
## Alcohol Wall:

Fig. 1 (right): Immediately west of Lotta Balls Wall is the Alcohol Wall. This shorter wall has 5 good mixed and traditional climbs that ascend the corners and dihedrals seen here. Hike into First Creek Canyon as described above, keeping to the higher trail above the wash. Take the access trail to the base of the Lotta Balls Wall and scramble right along the base of the cliff to get to a ledge beneath the Alcohol Wall. This ledge is also accessible from the Romper Room area mentioned below.

**Routes**    **Bolts**    **Anchors**

5                    8                    4

100% field verified



## Romper Room:

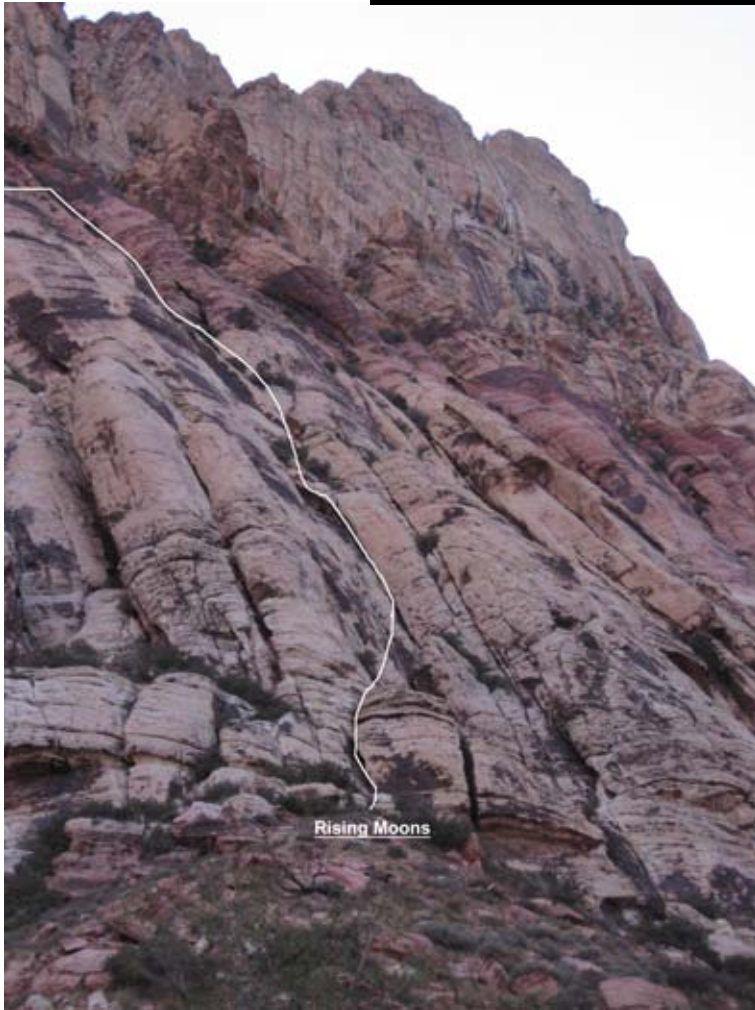
Fig. 2 (left): The Romper Room area is found directly to the right of the Alcohol Wall. Hike into First Creek Canyon, keeping to the trail above the wash, until this area is visible to your left. By now the main trail should have climbed above the wash to roughly the same elevation as the Romper Room and Alcohol Wall. Look for a faint trail that heads directly south along the base of the cliff that provides access to the climbs. The trail continues past the Romper Room until you reach the access ledge at the base of the Alcohol Wall.

**Routes**    **Bolts**    **Anchors**

8                    4                    6

100% field verified

# First Creek Canyon



## First Creek Slabs:

Fig. 1 (left): This is the last in a series of four walls located on the south side of First Creek Canyon just as it begins to narrow above the creek. Access this area the same as described for Romper Room. Just after the access trail turns left from the main trail this area is visible to your right. Leave the access trail and scramble a very short distance to reach the base of the climbs. The literature review claims that at least 6 climbs have been done in this area but detailed information was only available for one. This information was confirmed during the field survey portion of the project.

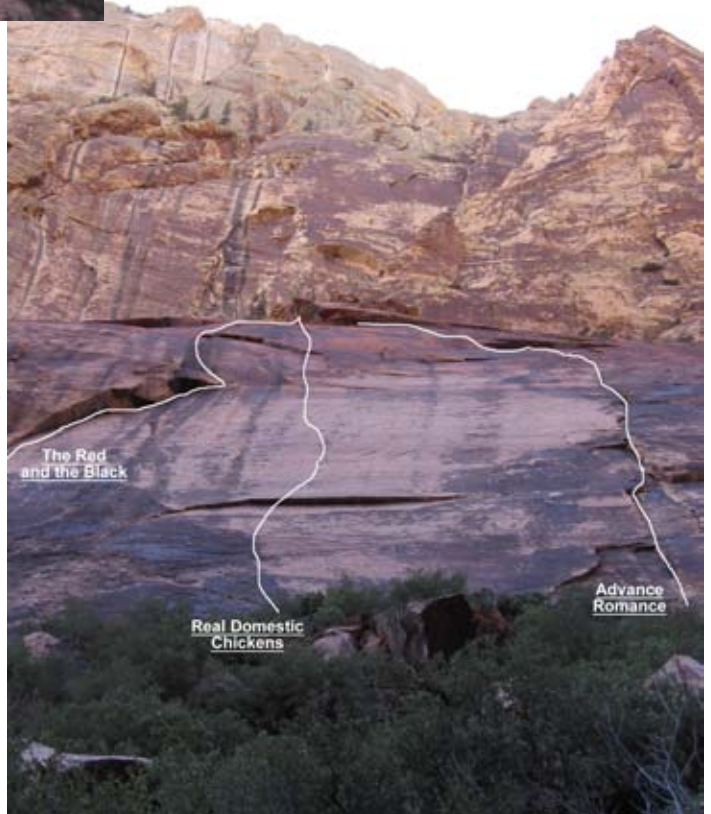
<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
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1+	0	1
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0% field verified

## Slippery Peak Apron:

Fig. 2 (right): This area is located much farther up First Creek Canyon than those previously described, just over 1/3 mile past the access trail to the Romper Room. Hike into the canyon well past the point where the trail fades into the wash. Continue scrambling over boulders up the wash until this smooth, varnished slab appears on your left. Scramble up the scrub oak covered hillside to reach the base of the climbs.



<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
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3	12	2
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100% field verified

# First Creek Canyon

## Raven Tower:

Fig. 1 (below): The Raven Tower is a huge buttress located up the canyon from Slippery Peak Apron. Hike approximately 250 yards past Slippery Peak until the canyon forks to the left. Take this fork up easy slabs heading southwest until the Raven Tower is visible directly in front of you. This buttress creates another fork in the canyon and the climb located here is accessed by taking the right fork over easy slabs and ledges to the base of the face seen below.





# Black Velvet Canyon

## Rock Climbing Inventory Statistics:

<u>Wall:</u>	<u># of Routes</u>	<u># of Bolts</u>	<u># of Anchors</u>
Desert Gold Area	7	9	3
The Monument South	2	0	2
The Monument North	7	1	0
Sandstone Mountain	1	0	0
Burlap Buttress North	4	0	4
Burlap Buttress South	7	15	8
Black Velvet Wall	19	270	64
Black Tower	11	72	35
Black Velvet Peak West	3	36	9
Western Spaces Wall	7	42	14
Corduroy Ridge	4	29	8

**TOTAL:                                      72                                      474                                      147**

27/72 routes field verified – 37%

4 new routes not found in literature

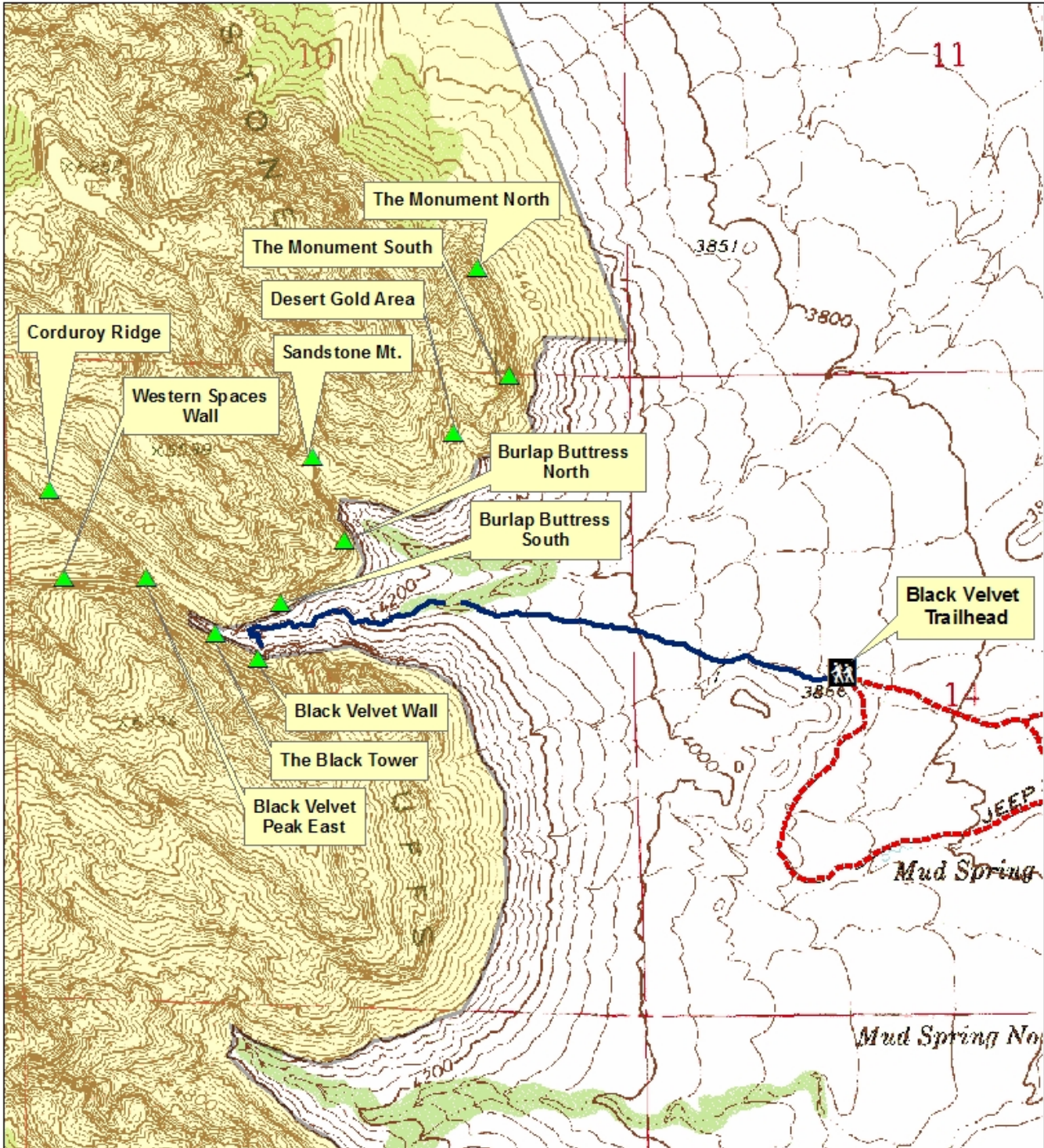
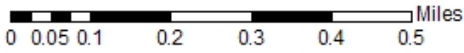
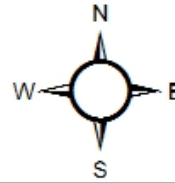
Route information and locations were identified based upon information gathered from *Red Rock Canyon: A Climbing Guide* (pgs. 367-375 and 390-413), *Rock Climbing: Red Rocks* (pgs. 338-343 and 360-385), *Red Rocks Climbing* (pgs. 52-68), *Red Rock Odyssey* (pgs. 62-77) and [www.climbingredrocks.com](http://www.climbingredrocks.com). Bolt and anchor data was visually confirmed on the routes at Desert Gold Area, The Monument, Sandstone Mountain, Burlap Buttress North, and Corduroy Ridge. Hardware data for remaining areas was reported as documented in the literature review. Black Velvet Peak West includes the climb *Great Expectations* and some of the hardware on fixed lines accessing the Western Spaces Wall. The approach to this wall has been described as very difficult and more canyoneering than hiking. More hardware is probably located farther up the canyon toward Western Spaces Wall but was inaccessible to the inventory team during the field survey.

# Black Velvet Canyon

Rainbow Wilderness Area

## Legend

- ▲ Wall Midpoint
- Black Velvet Trail
- ▭ Wilderness Area
- - - Jeep Roads



# Black Velvet Canyon

**Access:** Black Velvet Canyon marks the beginning of the areas in the southern portion of the Rainbow Wilderness. Access to this area from Las Vegas by traveling on State Highway 159 until it ends at the Blue Diamond Travel Center and junction with State Highway 160. Turn right and head west on State Highway 160 approximately 5 miles until a dirt road and parking area is visible on the right side of the road. Take the dirt road past the parking lot as it heads north towards the escarpment. Veer left at the first fork and continue just under 1.5 miles until the road turns sharply left at a gate. Drive west over rough terrain directly toward Black Velvet Canyon until you come to the end of the road and a dirt parking area at the trailhead. Four-wheel drive is not necessary but high clearance is. Access the climbs by hiking the Black Velvet Trail west into the canyon. Ignore the split when the Black Velvet Bike Trail veers off to the left and continue west on the hiking trail.

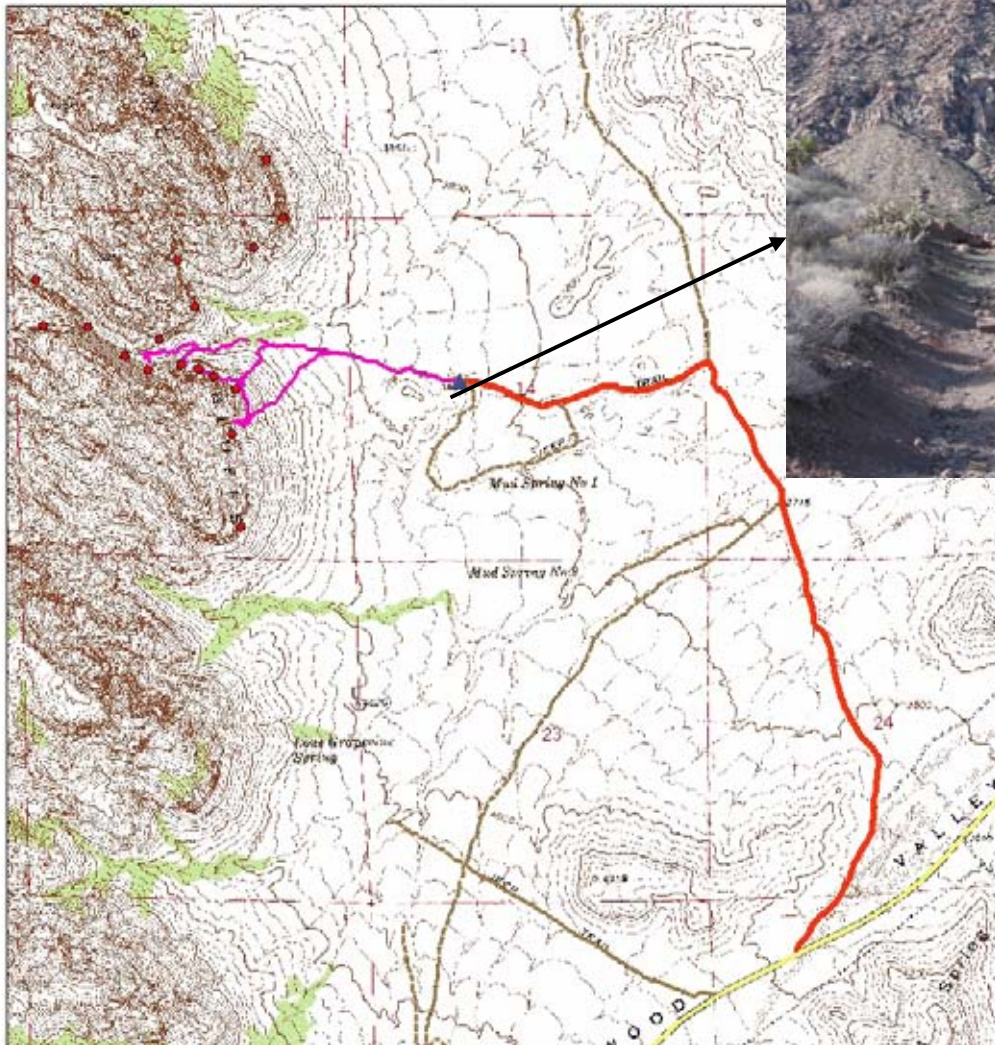
## Black Velvet/Whiskey Peak Access Map

### Legend

- ▲ Black Velvet Trailhead
- Jeep road to Black Velvet Canyon trailhead
- - - Roads
- Trail
- Wall Midpoint
- State Highway 160



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles



# Black Velvet Canyon

**Access (cont.):** The Monument, Desert Gold Area, and Sandstone Mountain are all located to the north on the southeast facing escarpment (Fig. 1 below) that forms the entrance to Black Velvet Canyon. Hike in on the main trail approximately 10 – 15 minutes until you come to a group of 5 large yuccas on the left side of the trail. Leave the trail and follow scattered cairns north over desert terrain as you approach the base of the escarpment. Desert Gold Area and The Monument will be to the northeast as you scramble up to the base of the wall. Sandstone Mountain can be accessed by scrambling up a large gully to the west of Desert Gold Area just visible on the left side of the photo. Burlap Buttress North is further west, across the Sandstone Mountain approach gully from Desert Gold Area.

The rest of the climbs are accessed by staying on the Black Velvet Trail until you enter the wash at the base of the canyon. Continue in the wash as it narrows and begin scrambling as it becomes choked off by boulders. Black Velvet Wall is the immense black wall to your left. Burlap Buttress South is marked by a huge arch on the wall to your right. Access either area by scrambling up out of the wash to the base of the climbs. The Black Tower



is found deeper in Black Velvet Canyon just past Black Velvet Wall. About 200 yards past the Black Tower area you will see a fixed line ascending a water-streaked slab on your left. This is the access to Western Spaces Wall and Black Velvet Peak West. Western Spaces Wall is found much further up the slot canyon that extends west from the top of the slab. This exceedingly difficult approach is more canyoneering than hiking. Finally, Corduroy Ridge is home to the classic slab climb *Sick for Toys*. From the access to Western Spaces Wall, continue up Black Velvet Canyon until a smooth slab marked by fixed anchors and slings appears on your left. Scramble over boulders and through dense scrub oak to reach the base of the climbs.



Fig. 2 (right): Black Velvet Canyon as seen from the approach trail.

# Black Velvet Canyon

## Desert Gold Area:

Fig. 1 (right): Desert Gold is the classic roof crack seen in the picture to the right. Access this area by hiking in on the Black Velvet Trail west into Black Velvet Canyon. After approximately 10 minutes look for 5 large yuccas on the left side of the trail. This marks the point where you should leave the trail and look for cairns leading north toward the base of the cliff. Continue over desert terrain and then up a moderate slope to the base of the climbs. Two routes are on the face above and to the left of Desert Gold, seen here in the upper, left-hand part of the photo.



<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
7	9	3
1 new route not found in literature		
100% field verified		

## The Monument South:

Fig. 2 (below/right): Just northeast of the Desert Gold Area is The Monument, a smaller sub-peak off the east side of the sandstone bluffs that form the escarpment north of Black Velvet Canyon. The east face of this feature has two climbs described as The Monument South. Access them by scrambling right along the base of the cliff from Desert Gold until you see the distinctive, triangular shaped roof seen here. The first route climbs the smooth, reddish face to the left of the roof. The second ascends the clean, wavy face to the right of the brown slab.



<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
2	0	2
100% field verified		

# Black Velvet Canyon

## The Monument North:

Fig. 1 (below/right): The Monument North is found about 300 yards north of The Monument South. Some tricky scrambling takes you around the base of the escarpment until you see the smooth, pink face pictured below. Climbs can be found in the whitish corner/crack system to the left of the main face and wrap around and into the gully on the right.

**Routes**    **Bolts**    **Anchors**

7                    1                    0

100% field verified



## Sandstone Mountain:

Fig. 2 (left): This butte is located up a northwest gully to the west of Desert Gold Area. Approach as you would for Desert Gold and veer left to hike directly west when you see this gully. Scramble up the gully over easy terrain to the base of the butte. The route here is described as very committing and ascends 2000 feet to the top of Sandstone Mountain.

**Routes**    **Bolts**    **Anchors**

1                    0                    0

100% field verified

# Black Velvet Canyon



## Burlap Buttress North:

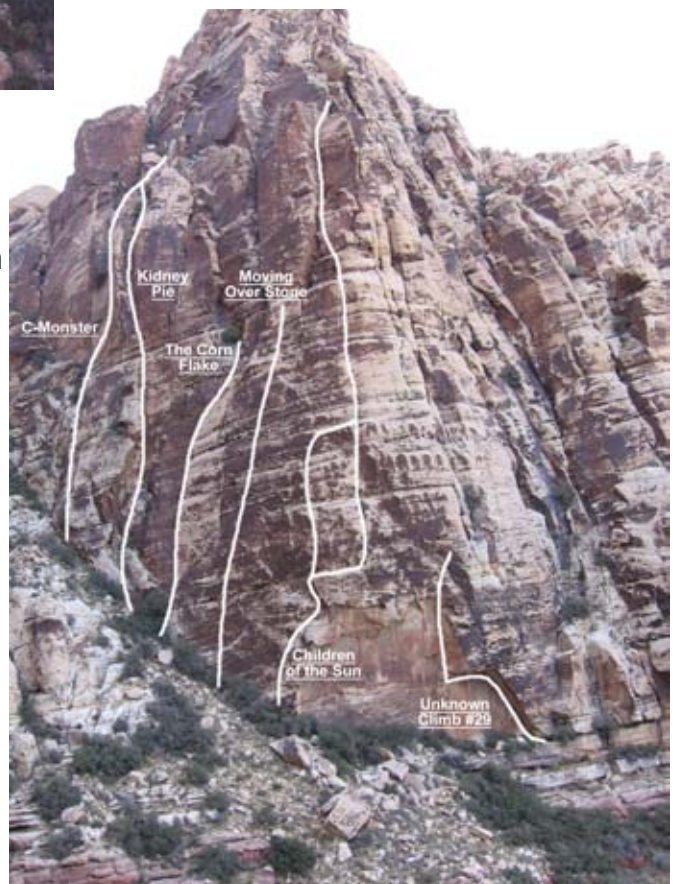
Fig. 1 (left): Burlap Buttress is the large buttress that separates Black Velvet Canyon from the smaller canyon/gully leading to Sandstone Mountain. The Burlap Buttress North area is located on the northeastern face of the feature and overlooks the gully as it heads toward Sandstone Mountain. Hike over desert terrain from the Black Velvet Trail once you reach 5 large yuccas on the left side of the trail. Cairns will lead north toward The Monument. Instead head northwest toward the gully that accesses Sandstone Mountain. Stay left of the gully and scramble over talus to stay on the high ground that forms a rib leading to the base of the cliff.

<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
4	0	4
100% field verified		

## Burlap Buttress South:

Fig. 2 (right): On the other side of Burlap Buttress is the south face and large arch pictured here. Burlap Buttress South has seven climbs that ascend on either side of the arch. Access this area by hiking into Black Velvet Canyon via the main trail from the parking area. The trail eventually leads into the wash at the base of the canyon and moves around pools and over boulders. Once the large arch is directly north of you, leave the wash and scramble up the hillside. Move up and right around the low pink band of rock and make for the arch's left side. Climbs can be reached by scrambling either right or left along the base of the cliff.

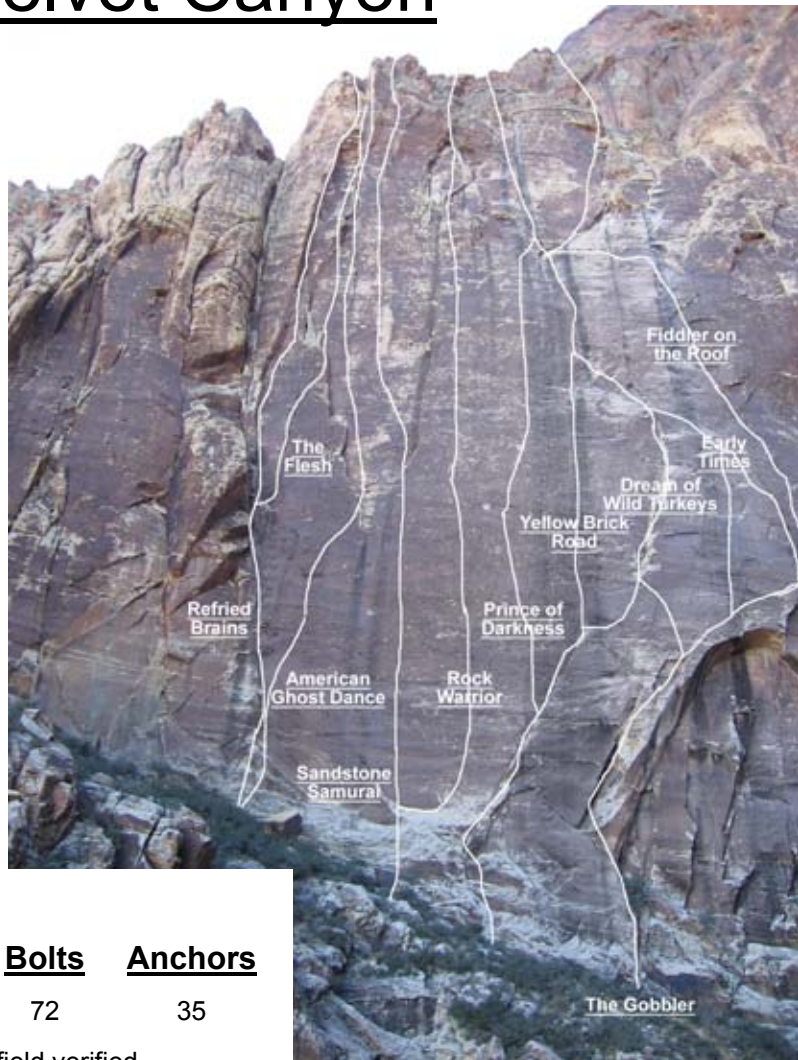
<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
7	15	8
0% field verified		



# Black Velvet Canyon

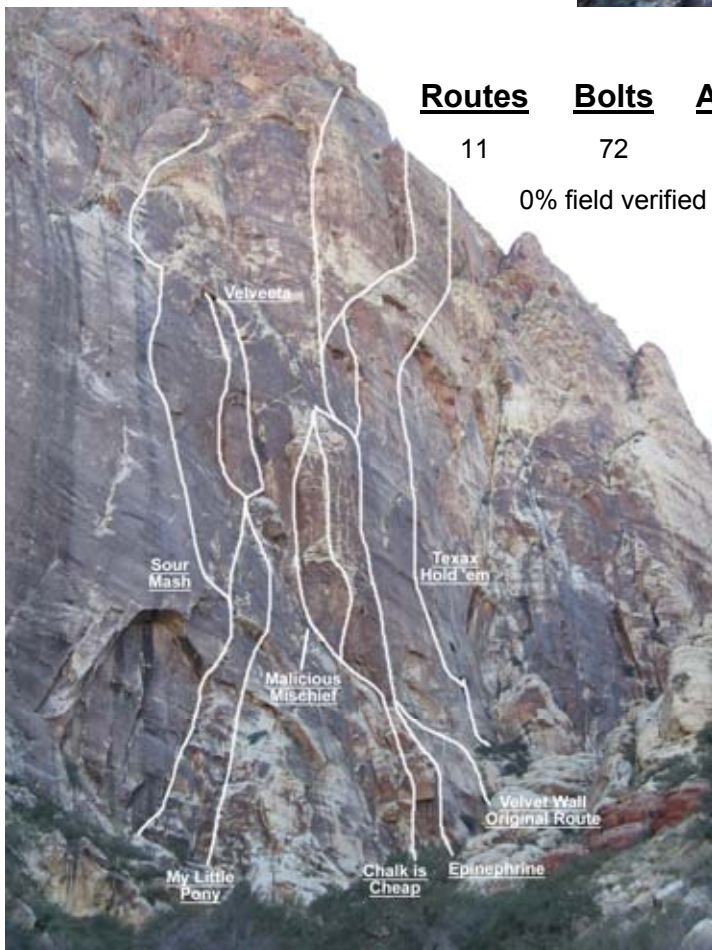
## Black Velvet Wall:

Fig. 1 (right): This epic façade forms the northeast face of Black Velvet Peak. It has the greatest concentration of classic, multi-pitch routes in all of Red Rocks. To reach the wall hike into the canyon via the Black Velvet Trail. The wall will soon dominate your view to the south once the trail enters the wash. A faint trail will head up to the left over slabs and ledges to approach the wall. The trail soon ends and easy 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class moves are required to reach the base of the climbs. Use the ramp along the base of the cliff to access the routes.



<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
19	270	64
0% field verified		

<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
11	72	35
0% field verified		



## The Black Tower:

Fig. 2 (left): This area is really the northwest continuation of the Black Velvet Wall. Since there are so many classic climbs here, the two areas are listed separately. To reach this area hike the Black Velvet Trail until the canyon narrows and the trail moves down into the wash. Continue through the wash past the Black Velvet Wall until the canyon narrows considerably. The Black Tower will be on your left just past the arch feature seen in the lower-left corner of the photo. Although not very well depicted in this scene, the tower is the distinct pillar capped by whitish rock in the middle of the wall. Climbs begin from the floor of the canyon and ascend the 800-foot wall to the top of Black Velvet Peak.



# Black Velvet Canyon

## Black Velvet Peak West:

Fig. 1 (right): About 200 yards farther up the canyon is an area referred to as Black Velvet Peak West. This area is easily identified by the smooth slab system leading to a slot canyon on the left side of the main canyon. The fixed line pictured here allows one to access the only known climb – *Great Expectations*. After climbing hand-over-hand to the top of the slab move left along the ledge at the base of the canyon wall to reach the climb. The fixed line itself has 5 bolts and an anchor, allowing one to climb it as a sport route. This slot canyon eventually leads to the Western Spaces Wall.



The approach to Western Spaces Wall involves serious canyoneering technique up fixed lines and narrow slots. Several rappel/fixed-line anchors that assist in accessing the climbs were reported in the literature review. The survey team was unable to reach the wall due to deep water in most of the slots. The two fixed lines that the team did encounter were inventoried as part of the Black Velvet Peak West area.

<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
3	36	9

66% field verified

## Corduroy Ridge:

Fig. 2 (right): All of the approaches described for this area in the literature are somewhat misleading. To find Corduroy Ridge approach as for Black Velvet Peak West described above. Once you reach the base of the access slab/fixed line climb pictured above continue deeper into Black Velvet Canyon. The canyon continues northwest for over 300 yards before this large slab is visible on the left. Scramble up boulders and through scrub oak to reach the base of the slab. The classic *Sick for Toys* ascends the left edge of the wall. Three unrecorded climbs are found to the right ascending the face and left-facing corner seen here.



<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
4	29	8

3 new routes not found in literature  
100% field verified