

FHRC Review—Spring 2010
Application for New Route with Fixed Hardware
Upper Green Spur Area
Eldorado Canyon State Park

I. Information from the Fixed Hardware Review Committee (FHRC) of the Action Committee for Eldorado (ACE):

This application is for two new proposed pitches that climb the arêtes to the left of the upper pitches of the Green Spur. The proposed route begins above the roof pitch of the Green Spur. The following factors were assessed by members of the FHRC per our Guidelines.

A. Factors in Favor

1. Independent Line: The proposed new route climbs a more or less independent line on the arêtes left of the upper 2 pitches of the Green Spur, but does share a belay anchor, and some terrain with the Green Spur. The proposed route begins above the Green Spur roof, and moves left to the arête. This arête fades right and back into the Green Spur where it shares a gear anchor below the easy treed corner. The proposed route then traverses back left to the next arête, where it follows an independent line to the top of the formation.
2. Direct Line: The proposed route follows the natural line up the series of 2 arêtes to the left of the Green Spur.
3. Good Rock Quality: The proposed route has good rock quality. A few loose rocks may be encountered, but no more so than any of the existing routes on this formation, and they can be easily avoided.
4. Interesting Combination of Moves: The proposed route has interesting moves on and near the arêtes.
5. Safety: The route, as proposed, would be reasonably safe for an Eldorado climber competent at the grade (5.10-ish). There would be a reasonable runout above the second proposed bolt on easy (unprotectable) terrain. Other than the three proposed bolt locations, the rest of the route is protectable with traditional gear. The gear is quite small in some areas, which is common in Eldo.
6. Location: The proposed route climbs an interesting location which may lure climbers away from the less interesting upper pitches of the Green Spur. This may entice many parties to finish on the proposed route rather than finishing on Rewritten/Rebuffat's Arete, which would reduce traffic bottlenecks on the upper pitches of Rewritten/Rebuffat's Arete.
7. Aesthetic Position: The proposed route climbs 2 airy arêtes with aesthetic position.

B. Neutral Factors

1. Distance from Existing Routes: The proposed route is often generally close to the upper pitches of the Green Spur—sometimes within 10 feet, and at some points sharing the same line (and shares a belay with this route), but the proposed

route climbs distinct features (arêtes) to the left of Green Spur, which are separated by fairly blank faces.

2. Ability to Toprope: It is currently possible to toprope each of the 2 pitches of the proposed route (separately) from gear anchors with the use of directionals: (1) at the top of the formation, and (2) from one of the intermediate belays on the Green Spur.

C. Factors Against: The FHRC is not aware of any factors against this proposal.

II. Information from the Applicant:

The following information was received from the applicant by the FHRC. The application was originally sent to Eldorado Canyon State Park in March of 2009, and only came to the FHRC's attention in late 2009.

3-20-09

This is an application for a new route with some fixed protection (bolts).

The location of the proposed route is on the arête to the left of the upper Green Spur. The route would start at the belay at the top of the traditional 3rd pitch of the Green Spur. (One pitch above the Red Ledge) There is an old piton (ring?) at this stance. The Green Spur route goes right into the dihedral and up from here on moderate ground. Although it shares a belay with the Green Spur the route is well to the left for most of its length and feels totally independent.

The proposed route goes straight up from the belay in a (mostly) thin crack (with small but good gear) until it peters out and then moves left to the arête. Above a small overlap there are two bolts proposed to protect otherwise unprotectable climbing. Belay from gear on the right on a ledge above. Step back left to the next section of arête (protectable) and up to an unprotectable face (site of 3rd proposed bolt) moving left onto the sharp arête. Follow this to the pointed summit.

The climbing is interesting and varied, while the position is excellent. The approximate difficulty is 5.10d. The length of the climb is 2 pitches totaling about 200ft.

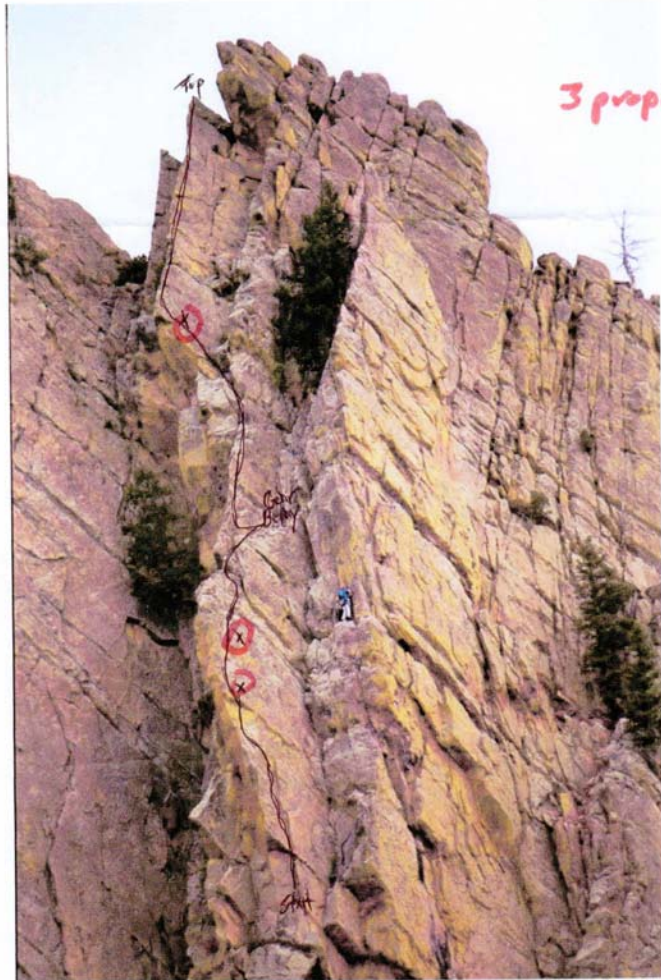
The bolt locations on the enclosed photo are as close as I could figure from the photo. A total of 3 protection bolts are proposed, the rest of the climb can be protected with gear and the anchors are gear as well. I welcome any further questions.

Mark Hammond -mhammond@totalclimbing.com

Received from Steve M. after
additional inquiry from applicant...
via mail late Oct. '09.



Rewritten



Two climbers at the top of the 4th pitch on May 26, 2002. Photo taken from the top of Long John Wall.