

FHRC Review—Spring 2011
Application for New Route with Fixed Hardware
Lower Ramp, Redgarden Wall
Eldorado Canyon State Park

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

This application is for a new one-pitch route below the Lower Ramp on Redgarden Wall, about 30 feet left of Wave Rave and about 40 feet to the right of Vertical Smile. The route begins at the Sub-Ramp about 100 feet below the Lower Ramp. It is completely independent of any other published routes. The Wave Rave Area sees less traffic than other surrounding areas. Its location is a bit obscure and off the main walking/approach trails. The Top is accessible via 4th class scrambling up the lower ramp. A top rope can be set up for this route using a 10” tree and can be backed up with natural protection.

The following factors were assessed by the FHRC per our Guidelines.

A. Factors in Favor

1. Independent Line: The proposed new route climbs an independent line at least 10 feet from any existing routes.
2. Direct Line: The proposed route follows a direct line up the rock.
3. Good Rock Quality: The rock quality is mostly good, except for some choss at the start before the first bolt. The amount and severity of loose rock is not in excess of most existing routes in this area.
4. Interesting Combination of Moves: The proposed route has interesting moves.
5. Safety: The route, as proposed, would be reasonably safe for an Eldorado climber competent at the grade (5.10). Where there is spacing before, between, and after bolts, there are generally opportunities for trad gear.
6. Location: The proposed route climbs an interesting location which would give climbers another way to access the Lower Ramp.
7. Aesthetic Position: The proposed route offers reasonably aesthetic position.

B. Neutral Factors

1. Dangerous Routes: The proposed route would not have any dangerous run-outs as proposed. The route could be rather heady on lead, with potential for a 15-foot fall, but the wall is steep (just less than vertical) and there don't appear to be any significant ledges or obstructions.

2. Distance from Existing Routes: The proposed route is more than 10 feet from any other established route.
3. Difficulty: The proposed route is estimated at 5.10, well within the ability of numerous Eldo climbers.
4. Ability to Toprope: It is currently possible to toprope this pitch from a tree and/or trad anchor on the Lower Ramp.

C. Factors Against: The FHRC is not aware of any significant factors against the route. The following are the factors we considered.

1. Altered Routes: The rock on the proposed route has not been altered in any way. This is **NOT** a factor against the route.
2. Distance: The proposed route is more than 10 feet from any established route. This is **NOT** a factor against the route.
3. Poor Rock Quality: The proposed route generally has good rock quality. Some loose rock will be encountered but not more so than other routes in the area. This is **NOT** a factor against the route.
4. Protection Reachable from Neighboring Routes: The proposed bolts would not be reachable from any existing routes. This is **NOT** a factor against the route.
5. Natural Protection Possibilities: There are no natural protection possibilities in the areas where the bolts are proposed. This is **NOT** a factor against the route.

II. Information from the Applicant:

The following information was received from the applicant by the FHRC.

The Dispensary, 5.10 a

Location: Lower Ramp Wall Area, Redgarden Wall

The proposed route is about 30 feet left of Wave Rave and about 40 feet to the right of Vertical Smile. It is completely independent of any other published routes. See page 208 of Steve Levin's Eldorado Guide for details and approach descriptions.

Length: About 30 meters.

Anchor: There is a solid tree directly above the route. A separate application might be submitted for a bolted anchor at a later date.

Hardware: There are four proposed bolts. Refer to picture of route for proposed locations. All bolts will be Stainless Steel, 3/8" x 3.5", painted to match the color of the rock. There are opportunities for natural protection at the beginning and end of the route. There is also an optional small nut placement before the third bolt in a crack on the climber's right. A light standard Eldo rack will suffice.

Description: The route begins about 30 feet left of Wave Rave at a pillar which connects the ramp to the wall above. The pillar is at the far left end of the Wave Rave roof, behind an old Juniper tree growing out of the ramp. Climb the pillar (5.8) placing gear along the way. There is some loose rock here but it's not too bad. Look for a short right facing corner and a critical 1-1.5" cam placement. Climb up onto the steep slab on solid rock and positive edges. Now climb straight up passing the four proposed bolt locations. There are one or two 5.10 a or b moves and the rock is very good. After the last bolt the climbing eases and there are gear opportunities before you arrive at the tree.

The route can be top roped off of an obvious tree that can be approached via the Lower Ramp / Roof Route area. Climb up the Lower Ramp to the start of Le Toit and then head directly climber's left to the tree. There are currently slings around the tree. The route can be top roped with a 60 meter rope (be careful) or easily with a 70 meter. The route is slightly climber's right of the tree.

Descent: Rappel 30 meters off the aforementioned tree or down climb the ramp back to the roof routes.

Approach: There are a few options:

- a) From Temporary Like Achilles, head South toward some slabs and down climb (4th class) to the base of the Wave Rave area.
- b) While hiking up toward the roof routes, break off the trail at the large flat boulder and head West to the Wave Rave area.
- c) From the Redgarden trail about 100 ft past the roof route trail fork, you can hike directly up a gully. This is a little loose and scrappy.

