

## New Route Proposal-West Ridge–Wild Turkey -Finishing an Unfinished Project



### Information from Applicant

Information from the Applicant- The Fixed Hardware Review Committee has received the following information from the applicant.

Application Type- New route with new fixed hardware.

Location- This route is located in the amphitheater above Morning Thunder at the base of the West Ridge

Approach- Same as for Wingshot, Blues Power, and Office Girls.

Difficulty and Length- 5.11+/ 12- and approximately 80 feet in length.

Description- The proposed route climbs the aesthetic overhanging arête on the far right (South) side of the steep face containing Blues Power and Wingshot. This route is described in Rossiter's guidebook (p235, #14 as Thunder Construction, a "presumably abandoned, unfinished project with a long run out to the first bolt." Much investigation has only revealed that the existing bolts were placed sometime in the 80's, and that the route was never climbed. The applicant established this route via headpoint in January of 2003 (described on [www.climbingboulder.com](http://www.climbingboulder.com)) in the bold Eldorado style on sparse and/or marginal gear, however the applicant feels that this style when applied to the bottom portion of this previously "safely" bolted route is an anomaly, and is inconsistent with the character of the route."

Wild Turkey begins to the right (south) of the Blues Power/Wingshot alcove. From the beginning of these routes follow the break right, below the blocky magenta band of rock for 30' to a small exposed belay perch at the end of the ramp. Wild Turkey climbs up from the ledge through the blocky overhangs to the line of bolts along the arête beginning 40' above the ledge. The route currently has a double bolt anchor, approximately 80' above this belay ledge, and five bolts (the lowest lacking a hanger). However, the lower half has no fixed protection and the natural gear available is of poor quality.

Fixed Gear- The applicant proposes to add two new bolts to the bottom of the line (lower 40 feet) and replace one of the previously installed bolts due to its poor quality.

Rock Quality and Independence of Line- The proposed new route has mixed quality of rock and is an independent line. The first portion of the route climbs through some poor rock, however the rock improves greatly higher up.

### **Information from FHRC**

#### Factors in Favor

Independent Line- The proposed route is an independent line. It appears to be harder to climb off-route from the line than to climb up it, for the whole pitch. To the left, the nearest climb is Wingshot. To the right is the proposed route Wishbone.

Direct Line- The proposed route climbs fairly directly up. The lower section follows a line of holds (some suspect) up the middle of a very clean wall, and the upper section takes two roofs directly exiting on a steep slab headwall.

Good Rock- The proposed new route has mixed quality of rock. The lower portion climbs through a magenta band using some holds of dubious quality—however it appears that the route will still be climbable if any of the suspect holds break. All other rock on the proposed route is good.

Interesting combination of moves- The proposed route has an interesting variety of face climbing moves from powerful steep pulls to delicate slab climbing. Pulling through the roofs is strenuous and thought provoking. The proposed route involves much climbing in the 5.10 to 5.11+/ 12- range.

Safety- The proposed route will be safe yet retain the bold Eldorado standard. There will be a two-bolt lower off at approximately eighty feet, where the line meets easy slabs.

Location- The proposed route is located at the base of the West Ridge in the Office Girls/Blues Power/Wingshot alcove above the popular Morning Thunder.

Aesthetic Position- The climb is located on a very exposed and airy position and climbs a beautiful feature.

### Factors Against

Altered Routes- The proposed route has not been chipped or chiseled in any way.

Rock Quality- The rock quality is varied. Lower portion does use some suspect holds however route would still be climbable if key holds broke.

Protection Reachable from Neighboring Routes- Definitely an independent line with no possibilities of clipping or wandering over to neighboring route.

Natural Protection Possibilities- Although the applicant has led this route via headpoint utilizing marginal natural protection to reach the line of 5 existing bolts, the applicant feels that adding 2 bolts would be more in line with the nature of the climb. Applicant feels few will climb the route in its present state, but will be a nice addition to climbs of that grade to Eldorado Canyon if bolts were added.

### Neutral Factors

Dangerous Routes- The proposed route is safe for an Eldorado climber competent at the grade.

Ability to top-rope- The route can be top-roped, but setting this up is not simple. After rappelling from the ledge system above the face to the existing anchor, one then must clip existing bolts and occasional pieces of natural gear to keep climber close to the rock in the event of letting go.