

## **“Your Mother” - Bastille West Face Bolt Relocation Proposal**



### **Information from Applicant**

The following information was received from the applicant.

#### **Overview**

**Application Type-** Bolt replacement and relocation

**Location-** The Bastille's Upper West Face

**Approach-** Climb one of the Lower West Face routes or simply access the pitch via the Bastille's Descent Route.

**Difficulty:** 5.12+

**Description:** The first ascensionist placed the crux bolt just above the route's most difficult moves and it is not possible to clip until one is past them. Because of this, a long runner is often left in place so those attempting the route won't have to take the resulting fall. The applicant proposes to replace the bolt (the current bolt is old and needs replacing) and in doing so proposes to relocate it approximately 2.5 feet lower so it can be clipped from a good hold before attempting the crux moves. This relocation would make the long runner obsolete and would allow suitors to work the route with more ease. The first ascensionist has given approval to this proposal. (Please note that all the original bolts have been recently replaced with the exception of the crux bolt- which will be replaced either at its original location or the proposed location).

### **Information from FHRC**

#### **Overview**

"Your Mother" is one of Eldorado Canyon's most sought after, difficult sport routes. The current (and original) bolt placements require climbing the crux move before clipping the last bolt to reach the anchors. Falling from this point results in a clean long fall. To avoid this from happening some climbers leave a long and unsightly sling. This sling is visible from the nearby scenic trail that is used by thousands of the Parks visitors.

**Fixed Gear-** The applicant proposes to remove the existing crux bolt and relocate it about 2.5 ft lower using a 1/2" stainless steel bolt.

**Rock Quality and Independence of Line-** The route has excellent quality of rock and is an independent line.

### **Information from FHRC**

#### **Factors in Favor**

"Your Mother" is well known and well respected in part due to the committing character of its crux, however it appears from observing numerous recent attempts/ redpoints that this psychological element is not desired. Using a long draw from the last bolt has become the norm as it is a very easy way to make the climb more "climable". This proposed new bolt would certainly eliminate the need to hang the full length sling and would eliminate the eyesore it creates.

**Independent Line-** The existing route is an independent line.

**Direct Line-** The existing route climbs directly up the overhanging wall to the left of the last pitch of Neon Lights.

**Good Rock-** The route has acceptable rock.

**Interesting combination of moves-** The route has an interesting and powerful sequence of moves with a distinct crux at the lip.

**Safety-** The relocation of the bolt will not make the route safer as the current fall is clean. It will keep the area clean of the “cheat sling” considered an eyesore by Park officials and some Park users. Relocating the bolt would make the route easier to work and climb.

**Location-** The route is located on the upper west face of the Bastille.

**Aesthetic Position-** The climb is one of the best sport routes in the Canyon largely because of its dramatic position.

### **Factors Against**

Relocating the bolt would modify the experience by reducing the psychological challenge that red-pointing the route currently involves.

Sport climbers, particularly those that project routes often leave fixed quick-draws in place while working on a route, for hours, days or weeks. Nor the Park, nor many of its users, including some climbers appreciate the visual impact that such a practice results in. Even if Your Mother’s last bolt was relocated it is quite likely that climbers will leave quick-draws hanging in place, as is the case on other similar routes like Captain Crunch and the Monument.

It could be argued that in an area like Eldorado Canyon, especially in a location that is so close to a scenic trail, leaving draws in place might be considered inappropriate. A change in practice could be seen as a possible solution than a bolt relocation.

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

**Rock Quality-** Not an issue/ excellent rock

**Protection Reachable from Neighboring Routes-** Does not apply.

**Natural Protection Possibilities-** Does not apply.

### **Neutral Factors**

**Dangerous Routes-** Not an issue

**Ability to top-rope-** It is possible, but not easy to set up a top-rope on Your Mother