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Grandmothers Challenge Rappel Route Proposal

information from Applicant

The following information was received from the applicant.

Overview

Application Type- New rappel station with fixed hardware.

Location- This proposed station on the Redgarden Wall's West Face is left of Darkness Till Dawn above a stance approximately 90ft from the ground.

Description-

Currently the descent options to get off of **Grandmothers Challenge** are the following: a loose downclimb to the anchor above The Green Spur, two single-rope rappels directly over the route, or a single-rope rappel off the back side to a chockstone anchor and another rappel to the ground. Of these descent options I feel as if the rappel off the back side is the most efficient, safe and keeps the congestion in this popular area to a minimum.

The current problem with this option is that the climber must scramble approximately 15ft up after making the initial rappel to a slung chockstone, or scramble down 10 feet down to some small trees in order to rappel once more to the ground. I am proposing a two-bolt anchor at the point where the ropes touch the slab. Not only is there a nice stance at this location, but it will eliminate the scramble up to the slung chockstone or down to the small tree.

I propose two Fixed stainless Steel ring anchors (stainless steel bolt hangers with fixed stainless steel rings), and 3/8" X 3.75" stainless steel bolts. The hangers are powder coated with a finish which would be camouflaged in Eldorado. The distance between the two bolts would be close enough that no inappropriate loads would be put on the system.

Information from FHRC

Overview

The Great Zot/Grandmothers Challenge area is one of Eldorado's Canyon's most popular and congested areas. Grandmothers Challenge is without question one of the Canyons most popular 5.10 crack routes. The descent options are currently not ideal and either involves down climbing over loose terrain, or rappels directly down the route further adding to the congestion.

1) Does the proposed anchor replace a tree anchor?

No, but it would eliminate a slung chockstone.

2) Does the proposed anchor replace an unsightly wad of webbing?

Yes, the chockstone is often slung with webbing.

3) Is the proposed anchor in the middle of a pitch?

No, but the Green Slab P1 ends in the vicinity.

4) How long is the proposed rappel?

The rappel from the upper ledge is approximately 90ft and the final rappel to the ground is approximately 90 ft.