

Two-bolt anchor
on east-facing
(left-facing) wall



90 feet to
top of pitch 1
of Werks Supp



March of Dimes Rappel Anchor Proposal

Information from Applicant

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

Overview

Application Type- New rappel station with fixed hardware.

Location- This proposed station is located at the top of the last pitch of March of Dimes

Description-

I am proposing a two-bolt rappel anchor for the top of the last pitch of March of Dimes. I feel this is needed because of several reasons:

1. Safety on the road. At present, the only descent involves a long traverse to the east, directly above the road, over and through very loose scree. Even with utmost care, some of this scree is dislodged, at some point a large rock could make it all the way to the busiest part of the entrance to the park.
2. Safe descent for climbers. This is a much smaller concern, as I suspect anyone who could climb the third pitch of the March of Dimes could negotiate the descent with relative safety for themselves.
3. Safety for the second. The anchor would be positioned so as to provide somewhat of a toprope for the follower(s). Again, this is a minor concern relative to #1.

The proposed anchor would be on the east-facing wall just above and to the left of where the crack ends. There is a small triangular piece of rock that points left on that ledge and I would put the bolts on the east-facing wall above that. This way the second has a TR and the rap goes straight down the north face. I would propose vertical placement using two Fixe 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 Eldo. The distance between the two bolts would be close enough that no inappropriate loads would be put on the system. The proposed spot on the slab would also enable a good pull, which would not catch on any horns or trees. This would result in a rappel of no more than 90' to the belay anchor at the top of the first pitch of Werks Up. From this station the climber can either rappel 120ft with two ropes to the ground or do a 65ft rappel to the station at the top of the 1st pitch of March of Dimes—then one last 50ft rappel to the ground.

Information from FHRC

Overview

The last pitch of March of Dimes ends on a hanging terrace system at a large tree. Currently climbers have two options for descent: A fairly involved down-climb with some loose 5th class sections, or scrambling up and over the Bastille to the standard descent trail along the West face. Both options cover loose sections and the possibility of involuntary rock fall to the road is a possibility.

1) Does the proposed anchor replace a tree anchor?

A fairly large tree is often used to belay from.

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

No, at present the tree has no slings around it.

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

No, the anchor is at the end of the last pitch. The proposed anchor is located about 4 feet up and right of the base of the tree at the end of the pitch.

4) How long is the proposed rappel?

The rappel is about 90 feet to a broken ledge system and anchors at the top of the 1st pitch of Werks Up. The rope should pull cleanly, avoiding danger of rock fall onto the road or climbers below.

5) Other Factors

This proposed rappel could add congestion to an already very busy area. The station at the top of Werks Up P1 is often in use during the peak season and if climbers are re-routed down through this area, it might cause problems.