

An introduction to the Pass Creek Bluffs – Launch Wall

By Jeremy Childs

The Rock:

Castlegar goodness; Similar to Kinnaird, Arrow lakes and Waterline. Ranging from slab to overhangs. This area provides a unique opportunity for local multi pitch adventure climbing. The Launch wall is one of 18 identified crags in the area. Potential is endless. A 70m rope is required

History:

We are still gathering info so we can document past work done by the pioneers. Please contact us with all info that you have. There is significant evidence of prior climbing ranging from old webbing & anchors, to bolts of various vintage. It's safe to assume that any clean cracks have been climbed.

Access has always been the limiting factor until recently. Jeremy Childs and Stephen Senecal took a renewed interest in the area in the Fall of 2018, and plans were made to request access.

Trail Building to the bluffs began in earnest in Spring 2019, with Castlegar locals Andrew Osnach and Greg Mooney joining to explore the area and route the trail over a 3 day period.

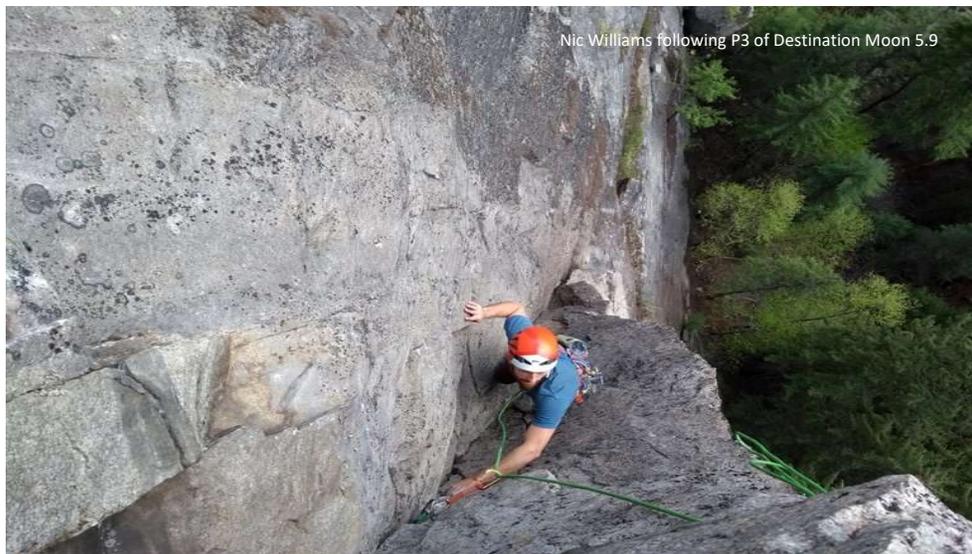
The first new modern sport routes (Arms race 11a and Facepalm 11c) were added to the area a few weeks after. The quality and quantity of the area was immediately apparent. Nic Williams, Jarrad Monger Andrew Osnach, Greg Mooney, Liam Barnes and Keith Story joined the action.

Access and red tape:

Access was granted in Spring 2019 to cross the property to access the bluffs, which are on crown land. This is a privilege that can be revoked at any time if we give reason. The biggest threats to access are Noise, Parking, Dogs, Garbage, Liability and Fire risk. The following common-sense rules apply:

- No climbing/bouldering until on crown land
- **Park only in designated parking area (Pass creek hall)**
- Don't camp up there (Forest fire prevention)
- **Don't bring your dog** (Landowner has roaming dogs that love people, but not other dogs)
- Smile and wave at locals, most are stoked to have a hiking trail in their neighborhood
- This is a developing crag (red/pink ribbons indicate closed projects)

You'll note some fixed draws, Please leave them in place.



Nic Williams following P3 of Destination Moon 5.9



Ramin Sherkat Cruising on Arms race 11a/b



Jeremy Childs trying hard on the immaculate P2 of El Toro 12a

Parking and Trail Access

Day parking is **ONLY at the pass creek Hall (1989 Pass Creek Road Castlegar)** Do not park on Pass Creek Road or any other roads.

From there, walk south along Pass Creek Road toward Castlegar for a few minutes until a trail ducks left and into the forest directly beside a 40km/h sign. Follow this trail uphill for 15 minutes until you reach the base of the crag.

As a developing crag, there are ropes hanging, and equipment stashed. Please do not remove. Future updated guides will be produced as more and more routes go up.

These are new routes: loose rock, untested hardware, ongoing development, runout sections and many other factors will require that you rely on your own skills and a heightened sense of safety at this crag. Climb at your own risk. If in any doubt, hire a guide.

Stoked? Want to Help?

One great way to help out is to assist with trail building. Bring pruning shears, and keep it clear, or use one of the tools laying around to keep the trail in great shape. We can direct you toward future trail projects if you wish to take on a project. All assistance is much appreciated, as a full network of trails will eventually need to be put in place.

Hang a rope and scrub a quality route. Future route development can be planned/reported to Jeremy/Nic/Andrew.

If you'd like to contribute cash to periodic "Thank-you" beers that we give to the property owner, please coordinate with one of us.

We are mega-stoked on this area, and very much appreciate your efforts to visit respectfully and responsibly. Future access depends on your choices.

