

WASHOUT BOULDERS

LOWER ARROW LAKE, B.C.

The best place at Arrow Lake to come test your mettle; the Washout Boulders offer an abundance of problems that will leave your arms pumped for days to come. There seems to be a little something here for everyone's particular style, not to mention all the awe inspiring lines you will come across: if you climb V4 and above you got to come check it out, I can't guarantee you won't leave with a big smile on your face ☺

DIRECTIONS:

Coming from Nelson, as you pass the Brilliant Dam (on your left) you take the first exit on your right towards Robson following the big blue provincial parks signs for 'Syringa Creek Provincial Park'. If you cross a bridge over the Kootenay River and hit the Castlegar Airport you have gone too far. From here follow this road down a few kilometers until you see more signs pointing to Robson and 'Syringa Provincial Park'. Take a right here and set your odometer to "0", this is Broadwater Rd. You will then pass a huge cliff on your right called 'Lion's Head' & it's namesake pub (highly recommended) to which tells you you're going the right way. Now follow this road past the Dam for a total of 12.7kms to a nice pullout on your left that is directly across from the washed out creek. Hike across the road and follow the trail up the bank, once you enter the forest you will run into the Cable Boulder, the rest of the climbing is just up the nice trail less than a minute or two away. To get to the Plank Boulder, scramble down to the shore and follow the water back towards town 50m's to the boulder.

THE PLANK BOULDER

This sweet boulder is right on the lake and only succumbs to high water at peak season (a month or so). It features naturally clean rock in a nice setting that's a perfect warm-up or a great finish to the day with a cold beer and swim.

1 - SHIVER ME TIMBERS - V3 *

Sit start on a crimpy rail, make a hard move left and finish off with super awesome in-outs.

2 - RUSTY BARNACLES - V1 **

Find the amazing rail feature in the middle of the boulder, smear your feet and make a big move up into another big diagonal hold. Super fun!

3 - MAN OVERBOARD - V0+

Just to the right of 'Rusty' is another featured part of the face. Climb straight up through a couple of nice in-outs.

4 - FREMANTLE DOCTOR - V3 **

Sit start on a big jug and move up the bulge on some really cool side pulls, a tricky sequence leads into sloping terrain up high. Nice!

5 - CABLE BOULDER - V2

Climb the face to the left of the big cable driven into the boulder (hard to miss). Squeeze your way up the side pulls and make a committing finish.

THE PROW BOULDER

The first huge boulder you come to just uphill from the Cable Boulder. There are some awesome problems here, the Washout of 2013 revealed what we see today ☺

6 - ROAD TO ZION - V4 **

Start on the far right on a slopy dish. Traverse out left through some positive features, power up to the lip and follow it out left until it makes sense to mantle up and over. Good warm-up or project ☺

7 - THE SINGING SEQUOIA - V0

Start low just to the left of the prow of 'Tomahawk'. Make little crimpy moves onto easy terrain on the upper face just left of Tomahawk. A few variations are possible here.

8 - TOMAHAWK - V7 ****

Sit start with holds on either side of the prow. Power up to the big jug; make some wild, tension filled moves into the upper prow/fin and finish way up high. Absolutely classic, one of the best problems at Arrow Lake!

9 - THE APACHE PROJECT - V9?

Start low on two small crimps in a seam, power up to a small right hand hold and make a big throw to the side pull. A big crossover to the jug and a good but committing move finishes it off. Moves have been done but have yet to be linked! Amazing problem, pretty good landing too ☺

10 - LESS WATER, MORE POWER - V5 **

Start this one on the very far right under a beautiful cedar tree. Start low on the two lowest holds you can find on the right hand face. Power up to the big sloper on the lip out right, traverse out left through some tricky holds and power up into the prow finishing as per 'Apache'. Great problem!

11 - MOJAVE - V8 ***

Sit start this awesome compression problem with two great side pulls on each side of the bulge. Fight and slap your way up, find the poor crimp on the upper face and execute one hell of a mantle. SICK!

THE CAVE

Just uphill from the 'Prow' is this really cool cave and overhanging boulder that is sure to give you fingers a workout. Powerful climbing on a 40 degree overhanging wall of amazing rock, go check it out if these problems are in your firing range.

12 - THE ADULTERER - V8 **

Start low on the left side of the cave with a crimp for your left and nice hold for your right deep under the overhang. Power up the face on sloping crimps and serious lock offs, hit the jug and make a trickier than it looks finish up high in the quartz band. Cool problem that requires some strong fingers.

13 - MID-LIFE CRISIS (LEFT) - V8 **

Sit start under the bulge in the middle of the overhang and climb the under cling feature out left and then straight up onto the face through some wild moves, finishing straight up the slab on easier terrain. Mega-Powerful!!

14 - MID-LIFE CRISIS (RIGHT) - V6 **

Sit start under the bulge in the middle of the overhang but climb out right, making a cruxy transition to the lip. Now climb the lip out left through some really fun moves and finish up the slab on nice crimps. Powerful!

15 - THE VANISHING - V6 ****

Take the trail up the left side of the wash just past 'The Prow' boulder 2 minutes to reach this epic highball. Start in the middle of the face down as low as you can get on two poor side-pulls, power up through a bunch of hard to read sequences to where you eventually get super high off the ground and you are forced to make a big pull off a sloping ledge to a juggy finish. Cryptic and so good, a must do for any highball connoisseur!

16 - LOGGER'S JAM - V3 *

A recent addition that was unearthed after the giant rotten fir was removed off the side of the boulder. Sit start on the prow/arête on some marginal crimpers, now power up and onto the tricky slab. A variation traverses into 'Mid-Life Crisis (Right)' and finishes on that route that adds an extra grade, a good warm-up.

