

Whiskey Peak

Rock Climbing Inventory Statistics:

<u>Wall:</u>	<u># of Routes</u>	<u># of Bolts</u>	<u># of Anchors</u>
Wholesome Fullback Area	8	51	10
Ixtlan Wall	14	76	22
Frogland Area	6	13	2
Whiskey Peak East	7	9	3
Rad Cliffs/Whiskey Peak Gully	17	4	4
The Schwa	6	1	3
TOTAL:	58	154	44

30/58 routes field verified – 51%

1 new route not found in literature

Route information and locations were identified based upon information gathered from *Red Rock Canyon: A Climbing Guide* (pgs. 375-390), *Rock Climbing: Red Rocks* (pgs. 344-359), *Red Rocks Climbing* (pgs. 40-50), *Red Rock Odyssey* (pgs. 36-49) and www.climbingredrocks.com. Bolt and anchor data was visually confirmed on the routes at Wholesome Fullback, Whiskey Peak East, The Schwa and certain single-pitch routes on the Ixtlan Wall. Hardware data for remaining areas was reported as documented in the literature review.

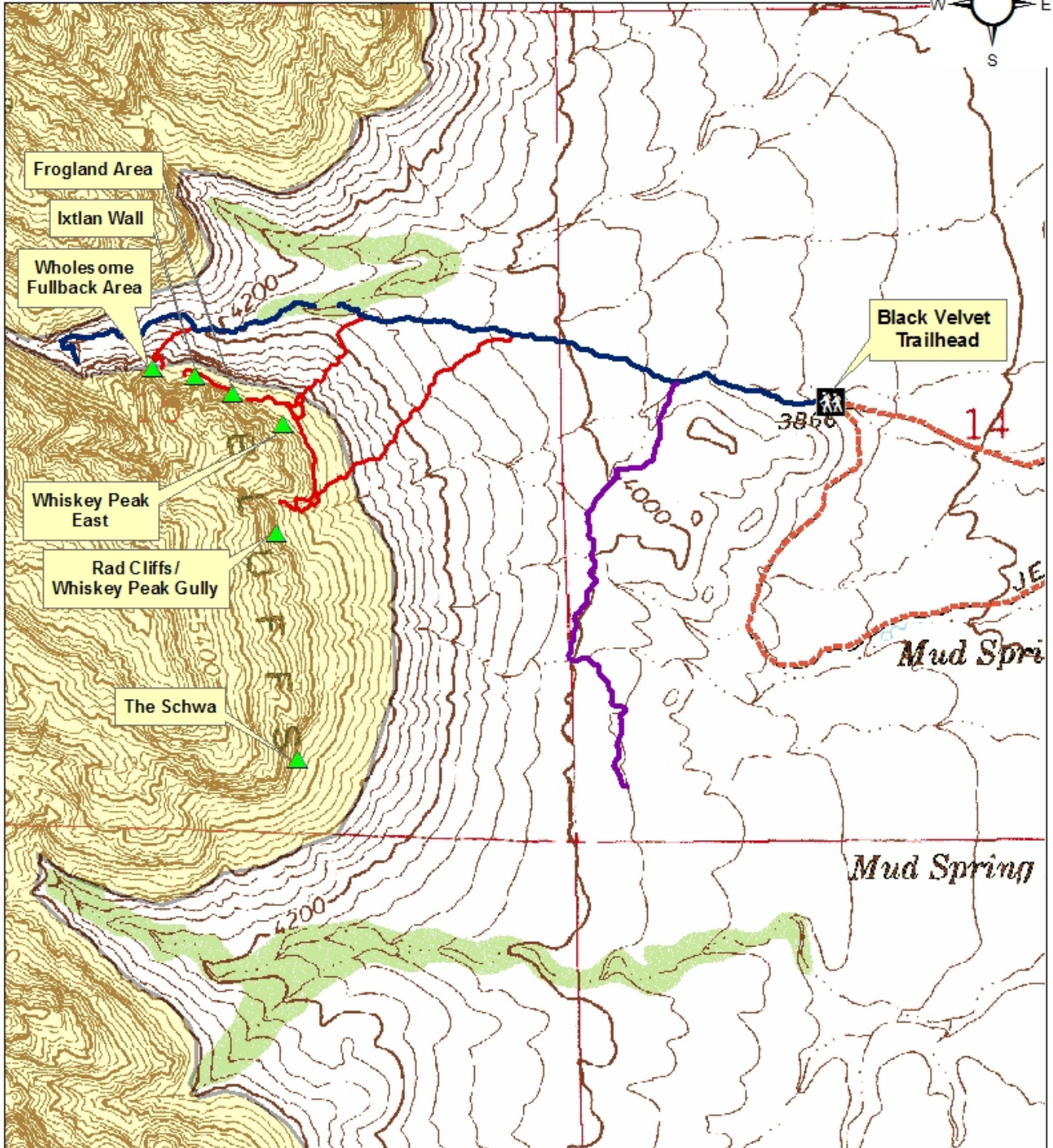
Whiskey Peak

Rainbow Wilderness Area

Legend

- ▲ Wall Midpoint
- Whiskey Peak access trails
- Black Velvet Trail
- Black Velvet Bike Trail
- - - Jeep Roads
- Wilderness Area

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles



Whiskey Peak

Access: Whiskey Peak forms the southern buttress guarding the entrance to Black Velvet Canyon. Access is the same for both areas. Drive the jeep road from State Highway 160 as previously described and use the Black Velvet Trail to hike into the canyon. Access trails to Wholesome Fullback, Frogland Area, and the Rad Cliffs/Whiskey Peak Gully will branch off to the left and lead southwest up the slope to the base of Whiskey Peak. A user created trail also skirts the base of the buttress providing access between the different climbing areas. The Schwa is located further south than the other areas and can be accessed by scrambling along the base of the escarpment from the Rad Cliffs. The Schwa can also be accessed by hiking along the Black Velvet Bike Trail after it splits from the main trail about 300 yards from the parking area. Stay on the mountain bike trail until directly below The Schwa area. Leave the trail and hike west up the slope to reach the climbs.

Whiskey Peak Access Map

Legend

- ▲ Black Velvet Trailhead
- Black Velvet Trail
- Whiskey Peak access trails
- Wall Midpoint
- Jeep road to Black Velvet trailhead
- Roads
- State Highway 160



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

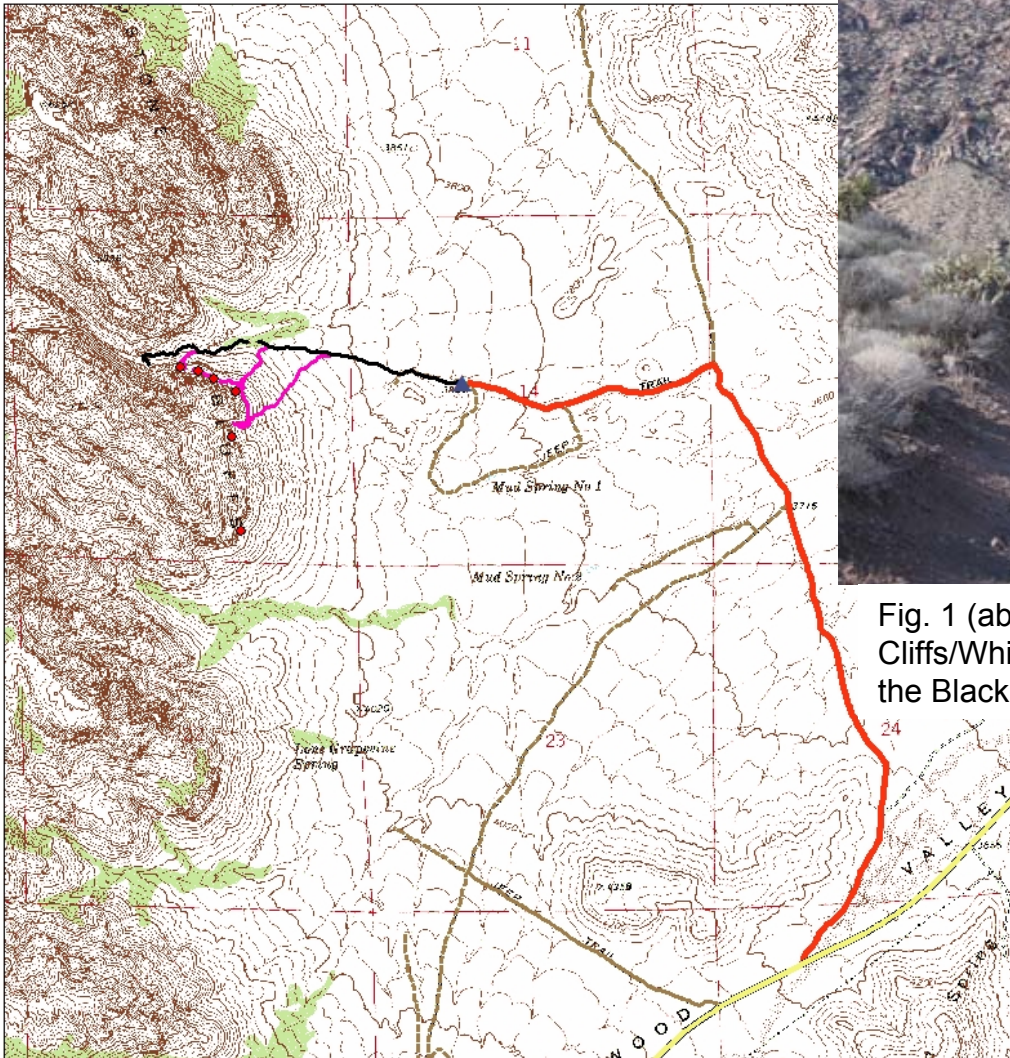
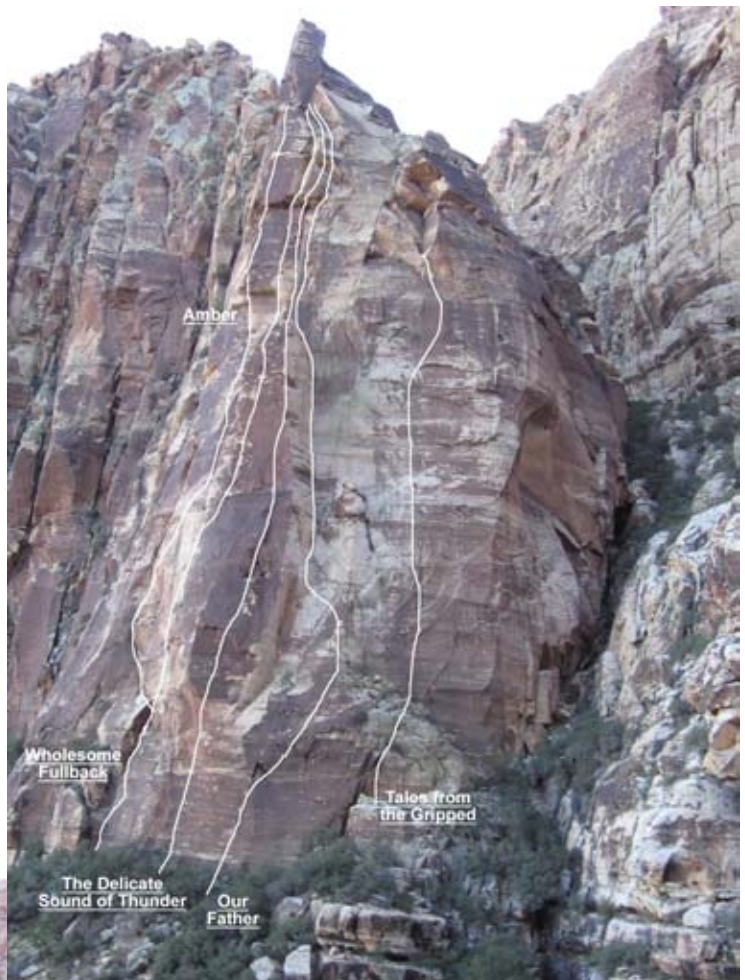


Fig. 1 (above): View of the Rad Cliffs/Whiskey Peak Gully from the Black Velvet Trail trailhead.

Whiskey Peak

Wholesome Fullback:

Fig. 1 (right): Wholesome Fullback is the west-most area on Whiskey Peak. Six climbs ascend the face seen here and two climbs are found up the gully to the right. Access this area by hiking into Black Velvet Canyon on the Black Velvet Trail. Approximately 300 yards past the point where the main trail enters the wash an access trail splits off to the left. Follow the access trail southwest up the slope to the base of Wholesome Fullback.



<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
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8	51	10
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75% field verified



Ixtlan Wall:

Fig. 2 (left): The buttress immediately east of Wholesome Fullback is the Ixtlan Wall. Access is easiest by following the approach to Wholesome Fullback and traversing to the left along the base of a cliff. A relatively distinct trail provides easy access through the scrub oak along the cliff bottom. Climbs here range from heavily bolted mixed routes that ascend the entire wall to shorter traditional and sport climbs that require rappel descents.

<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
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14	76	22
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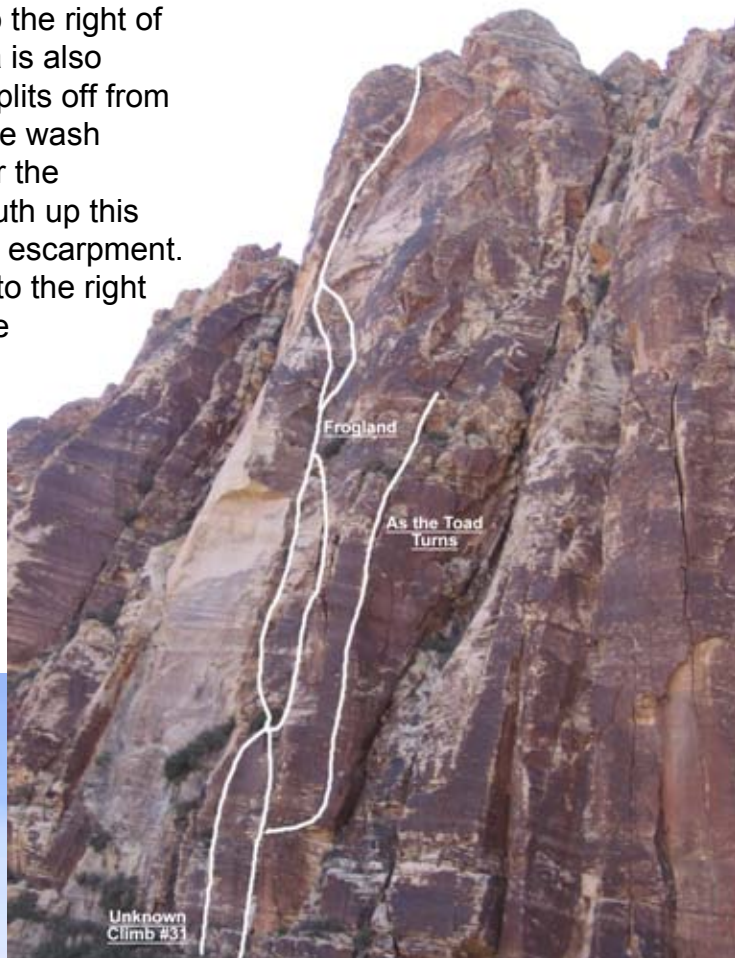
21% field verified

Whiskey Peak

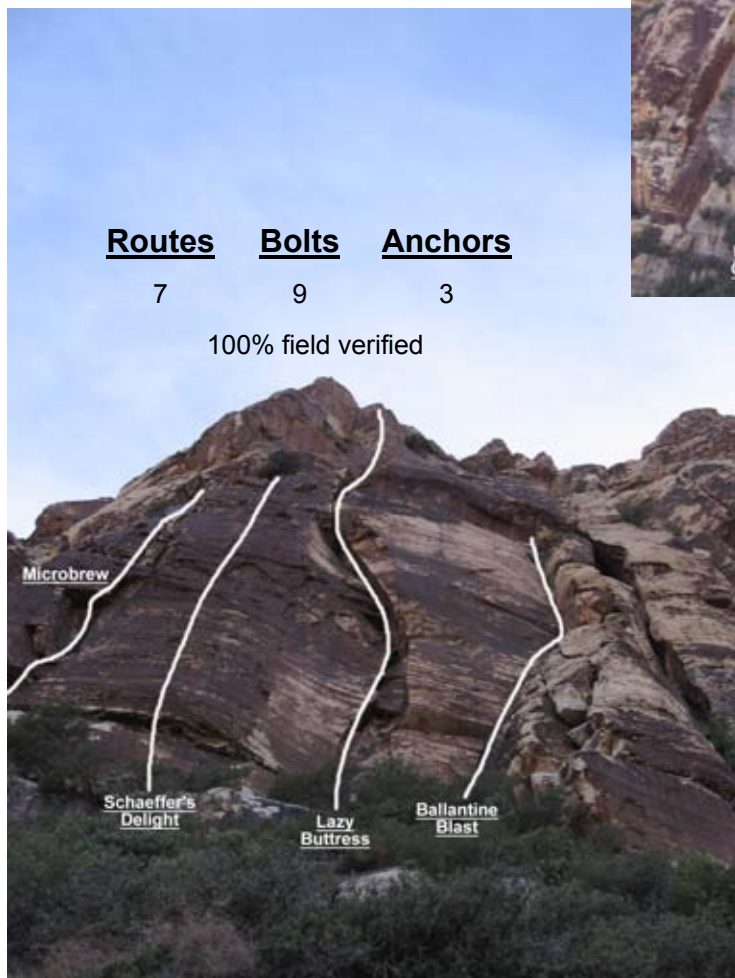
Frogland Area:

Fig. 1 (right): Continuing east from the Ixtlan Wall you will come to the Frogland Area. This buttress is accessible via the access trail along the base of the cliff described above. Climbs are located just to the right of the white slab pictured here. Frogland Area is also approachable from the east via a trail that splits off from the Black Velvet Trail just before it enters the wash (approximately 400 yards before the split for the Wholesome Fullback access trail). Hike south up this steep path until it splits near the base of the escarpment. Some trail braiding is evident here but stay to the right and follow the path up and west to reach the Frogland Area.

<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
6	13	2
0% field verified		



<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
7	9	3
100% field verified		



Whiskey Peak East:

Fig. 2 (left): This wall is located around to the east from the Frogland Area. Reach it by hiking the access trail that splits left from the Black Velvet Trail just before it enters the wash. Hike up this steep and eroded path to where it splits just below the base of the cliff. Follow braided trails to the left and up to reach the base of the wall seen here. A distinct trail continues southeast around the base of Whiskey Peak and provides access to the descent gully used to get down from the summit. This is the same gully where the Rad Cliffs are located.

Whiskey Peak

Rad Cliffs/Whiskey Peak Gully:

Fig. 1 (below): About 250 yards around to the south from Whiskey Peak East is the descent gully leading from the top of Whiskey Peak. Immediately to the left of this gully are the Rad Cliffs. Climbs are spread throughout the cracks and corners seen below, as well as the some of the faces in the gully itself (just out of the scene to the right). Access this area by hiking up the approach trail to Whiskey Peak East described above. Continue south on braided trails until you reach the gully and Rad Cliffs area. Access is also possible by hiking directly up the Whiskey Peak Descent Trail that leads directly to the descent gully from the Black Velvet Trail roughly 350 yards from where the Black Velvet Bike Trail splits off to the left. This trail climbs steep terrain and becomes heavily braided and eroded as it nears the Whiskey Peak Gully.

Routes Bolts Anchors

17 4 4

47% field verified



The Schwa:

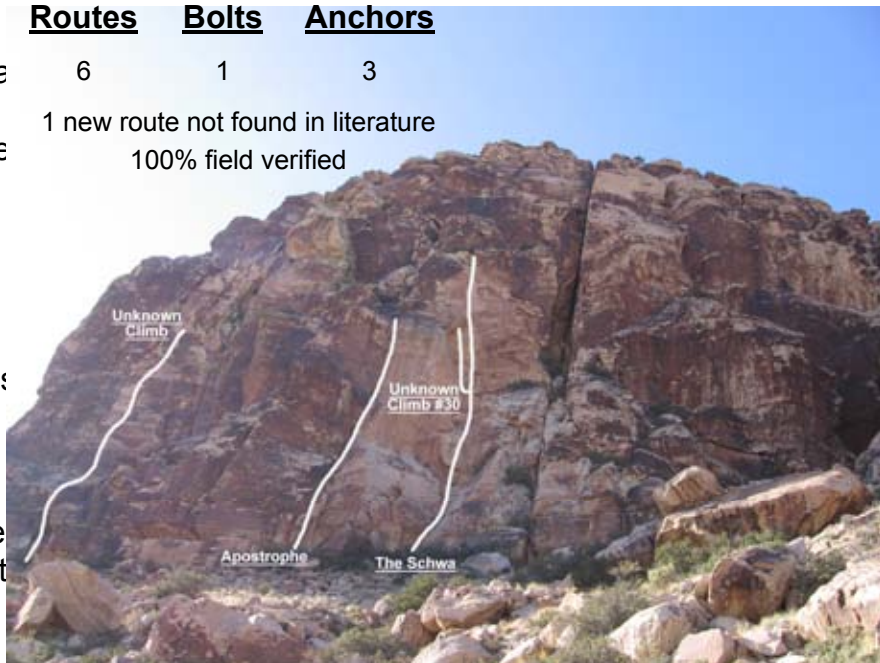
Fig. 2 (right): The Schwa is located nearly 500 yards south from the Whiskey Peak Gully on a low, east-facing wall just north of Mud Springs Canyon. Access the climbs here by scrambling along the base of Whiskey Peak from the Rad Cliffs area over moderately easy terrain. Alternatively you can approach from the Black Velvet Bike Trail as it heads south from the main Black Velvet Trail. Hike the mountain bike trail until you are directly below The Schwa. Leave the trail and hike west over desert terrain and up the slope to the base of the wall.

Routes Bolts Anchors

6 1 3

1 new route not found in literature

100% field verified



Mud Springs Canyon

Rock Climbing Inventory Statistics:

<u>Wall:</u>	<u># of Routes</u>	<u># of Bolts</u>	<u># of Anchors</u>
Waffle Wall	1	2	2
Global Peak	2	16	6
Mud Springs Canyon	2	0	0
TOTAL:	5	18	8

0/5 routes field verified – 0%

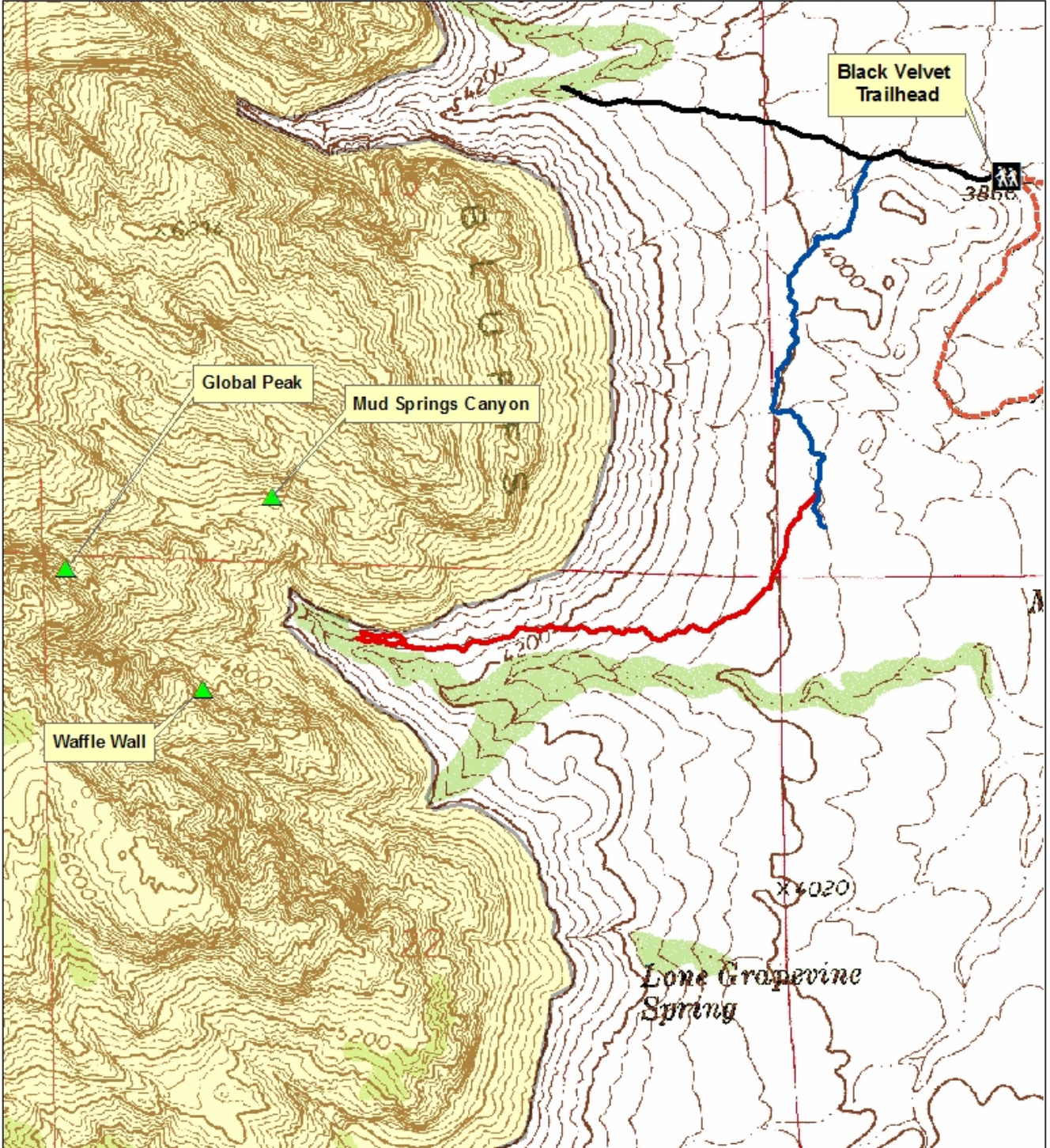
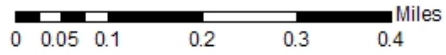
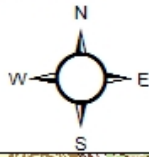
Route information and locations were identified based upon information gathered from *Red Rock Canyon: A Climbing Guide* (pgs. 421-423) and *Red Rocks Climbing* (pgs. 36-38). Mud Springs Canyon is known for its spectacular terrain and grueling approaches. Dangerous 5th class climbing is required to reach all three areas and should be undertaken with plenty of time and preparation. Climbs are generally multi-pitch and are therefore impossible to field verify in terms of bolt and hardware counts. The data above reflects that found in the literature review.

Mud Springs Canyon

Rainbow Wilderness Area

Legend

- ▲ Wall Midpoint
- Black Velvet Trail
- Mud Spings trail
- Jeep Roads
- Black Velvet Bike Trail
- Wilderness Area



Mud Springs Canyon

Access: Mud Springs Canyon receives relatively few visitors compared to the rest of Red Rocks. Approach from the Black Velvet Canyon trailhead as previously described for Black Velvet Canyon and Whiskey Peak. Hike approximately 300 yards from the parking area to reach the split where the Black Velvet Bike Trail (pictured below) leaves the main trail.



Head south on the mountain bike trail until Mud Springs Canyon comes into view to your right. Leave the bike trail on a faint path that heads southwest through the desert. Follow cairns as best you can to stay on the trail, eventually turning west to enter the canyon.

Once you enter the canyon you will see distinct north and south forks that split further to the west. The huge northeast facing wall at the mouth of the south fork is called the Waffle Wall. Dangerous scrambling up slabs and ledges provide access to this face. Global Peak is the dome-shaped peak behind the buttress that splits the canyon. The approach to this area is long and arduous. Scramble up the north side of Mud Springs Canyon to gain access to the north fork. Pass the climbs at Mud Springs Canyon as you continue scrambling west into the north fork. 5th class moves finally take you to the base of Global Peak. Do not be misled by the description of the approach. Most parties require at least 3 hours to reach the base of the climbs on Global Peak.

Mud Springs Canyon

Waffle Wall:

Fig. 1 (below): This relatively obscure wall has only one recorded climb on its towering northeast face. Approach by entering Mud Springs Canyon and scrambling west along the canyon floor. A gully leads up and southwest along the base of the wall. Dangerous scrambling takes you up the gully and over ledges to reach the base of the climb.

Routes **Bolts** **Anchors**

1 2 2

0% field verified



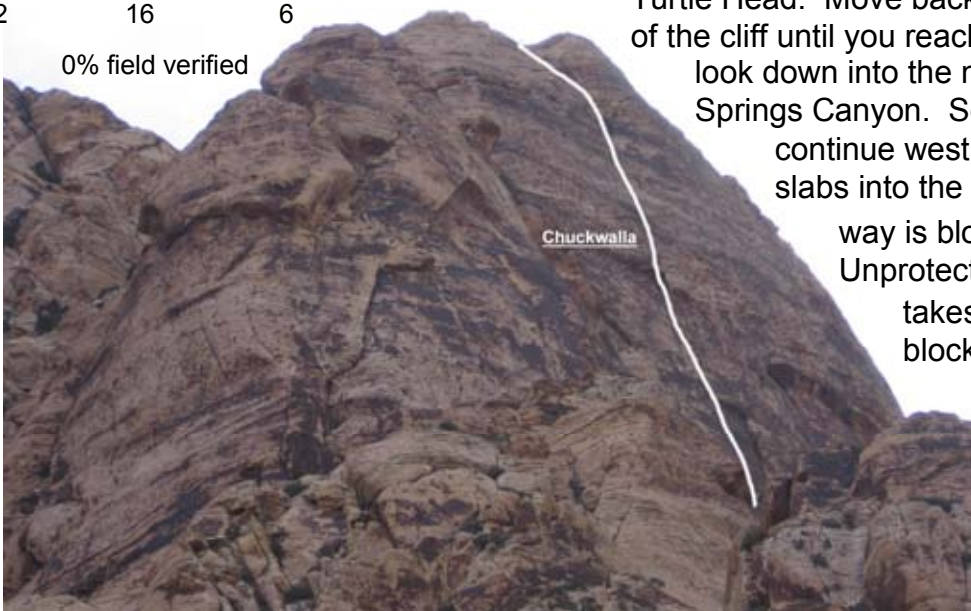
Global Peak:

Fig. 2 (below): Global Peak is home to the classic climb *Chuckwalla*. Approach by hiking into Mud Springs Canyon, following cairns along the north side of the main canyon. Hike up and around to the west of a low, red band of rock. Backtrack to the east on ledges until you are

Routes **Bolts** **Anchors**

2 16 6

0% field verified



Below a distinct formation known as the Turtle Head. Move back west along the base of the cliff until you reach a saddle and can look down into the north fork of Mud Springs Canyon. Scramble down and continue west over ledges and slabs into the north fork until your

way is blocked by rockfall. Unprotected 5th class climbing takes you past the blockage. Continue moving up the canyon, past tricky sections before reaching the base of the sheer northeast face of Global Peak.

Mud Springs Canyon

Mud Springs Canyon:

Fig. 1 (below): Two obscure climbs make up the area of Mud Springs Canyon. Reach them by following the approach to Global Peak until you descend from the saddle into the north fork of the canyon. These climbs are located above slabs on the south wall of the canyon. No detailed information for this area was listed in any of the literature. This photo is believed to be where they are located based on the vague description found in *Red Rock Canyon: A Climbing Guide* (pg. 423), but no evidence supporting or refuting this was found in the field.

Routes **Bolts** **Anchors**

2 0 0

0% field verified



Windy Peak

Rock Climbing Inventory Statistics:

<u>Wall:</u>	<u># of Routes</u>	<u># of Bolts</u>	<u># of Anchors</u>
Windy Peak North	1	0	0
Unknown Windy Peak North Wall	1	2	0
Windy Peak East	7	6	1
Windy Peak South	11	4	4
TOTAL:	20	12	5

5/20 routes field verified – 25%

1 new route not found in literature

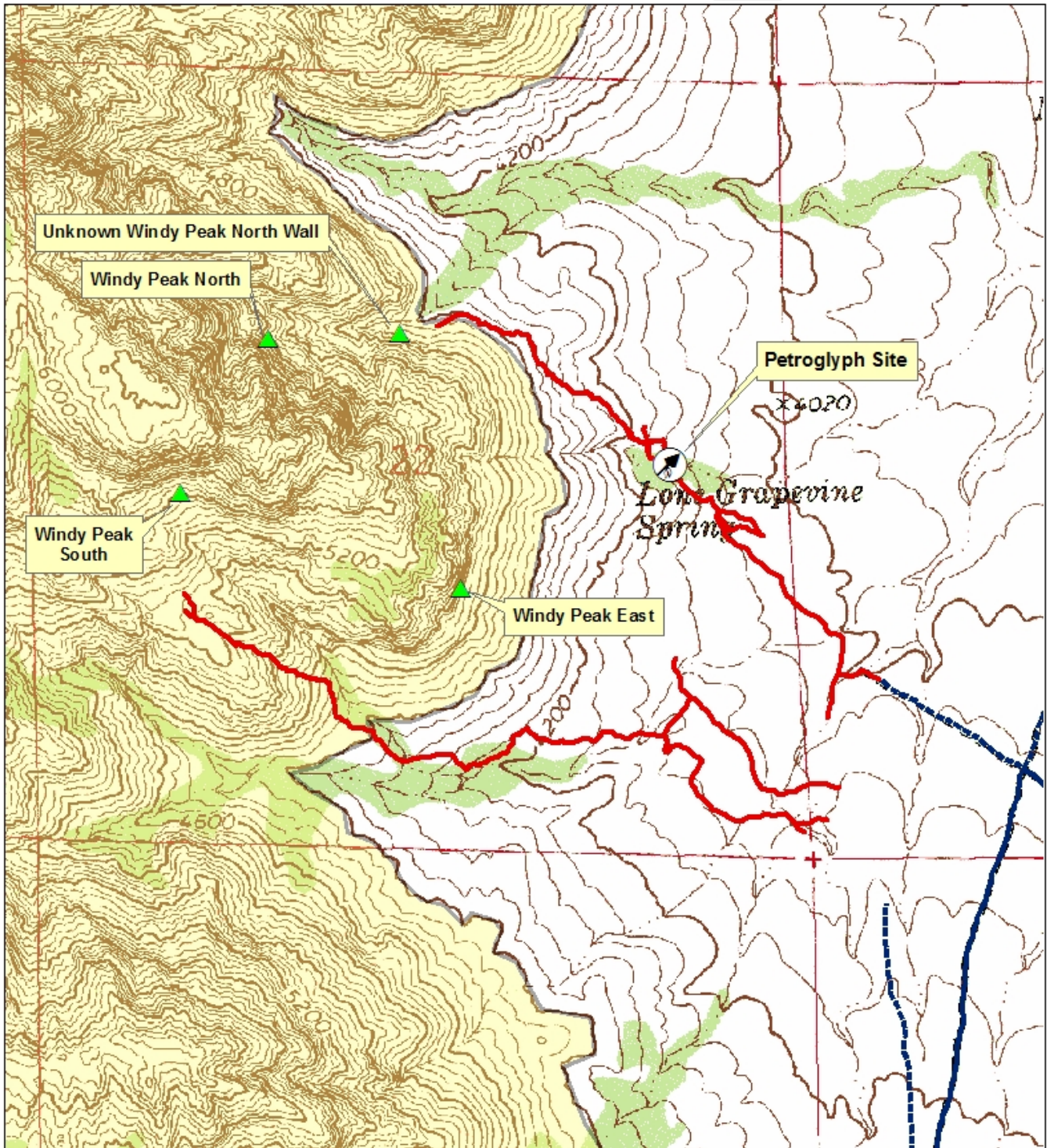
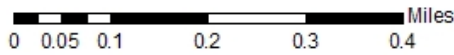
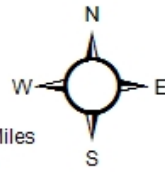
Route information and locations were identified based upon information gathered from *Red Rock Canyon: A Climbing Guide* (pgs. 415-421), *Rock Climbing: Red Rocks* (pgs. 386-390), *Red Rocks Climbing* (pgs. 29-31), *Red Rock Odyssey* (pgs. 24-35) and www.climbingredrocks.com. Of the twenty climbs inventoried on Windy Peak only four climbs on Windy Peak East and the new route discovered on the Windy Peak North Unknown Wall were field verified for bolt and anchor counts. The remaining routes were multi-pitch traditional or sparsely bolted mixed climbs that extended beyond the view of the survey team from the ground. The data listed above reflects that found in the literature review.

Windy Peak

Rainbow Wilderness Area

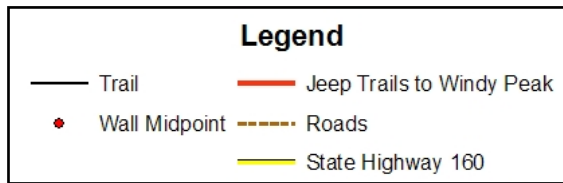
Legend

- ▲ Wall Midpoint
- Trail
- Jeep Roads - BLM data
- Wilderness Area



Windy Peak

Access: Windy Peak forms the southern side of Mud Springs Canyon. The climbs are located on the north, east and south faces of the mountain and are accessed from a network of jeep trails from State Highway 160. Look for a dirt road on the north side of the highway just before a paved pullout. Drive north on the dirt road, veering left toward the escarpment when the track splits. To reach the climbs on the southern and eastern faces of Windy Peak park at a pullout on the left side of the jeep track in front of a wilderness boundary sign (lower picture below). Hike northwest on a mountain bike/horse pack trail until it turns right and begins to head north. Look for a faint trail through the desert that follows cairns west toward Windy Peak. Stay on this trail, heading west into Windy Canyon, to reach the South Face or leave the trail and scramble north over desert terrain to reach the East Face. The north side of Windy Peak is accessed by driving about 300 yards further down the dirt road until it turns 90 degrees to the right. Park here and hike down and across the wash in front of you. Follow the Late Night Trail northwest to Lone Grapevine Spring. Take an access trail northwest past the spring and pictographs until you reach the base of the mountain. Traverse north along the base of Windy Peak's northeast side until you reach the climbs.

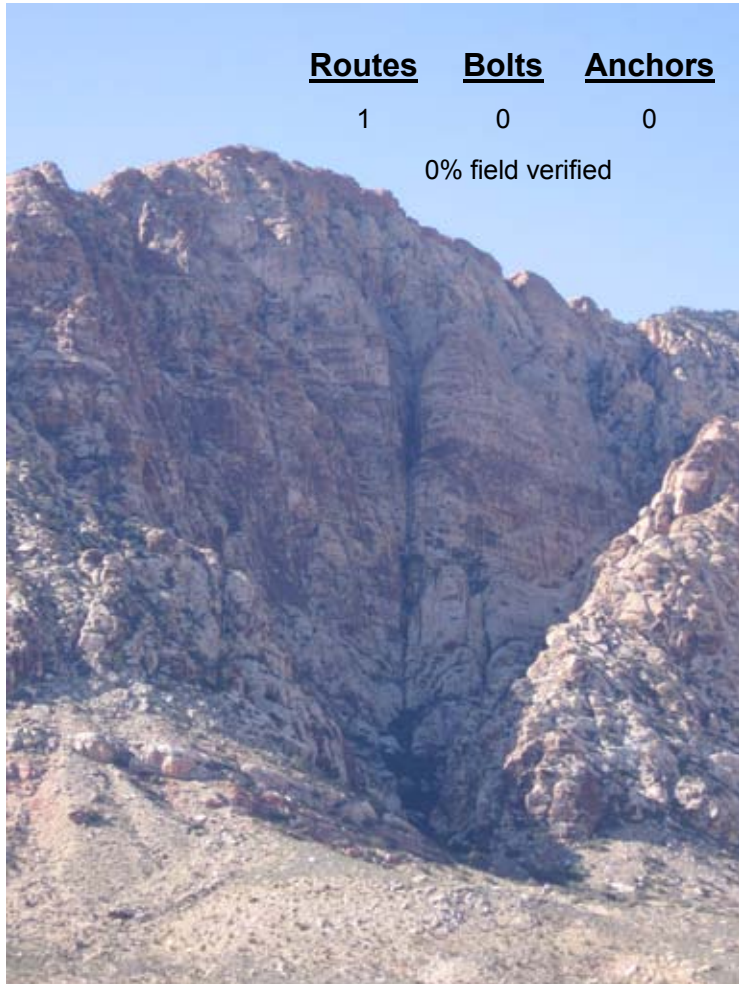


Windy Peak

Windy Peak North:

Fig. 1 (right): The one recorded climb on Windy Peak's north side ascends the huge chimney in the middle of the northeast facing wall. The details regarding this climb are sketchy at best. Park your vehicle in the area left of the road when it turns hard right. From there hike a very short distance west down into a wash. Pick up the Late Night Trail on the other side of the wash and hike northwest until you come to a guzzler below Lone Grapevine Spring. Take an access trail up past the guzzler until you come to the fenced-in spring area. Take a faint trail northwest through the desert, past the spring, heading toward Windy Peak. The trail eventually disappears as you head west toward a large gully that leaves you scrambling over ledges and slabs to the base of the climb.

Fig. 2 (below): Petroglyphs seen at Lone Grapevine Spring.

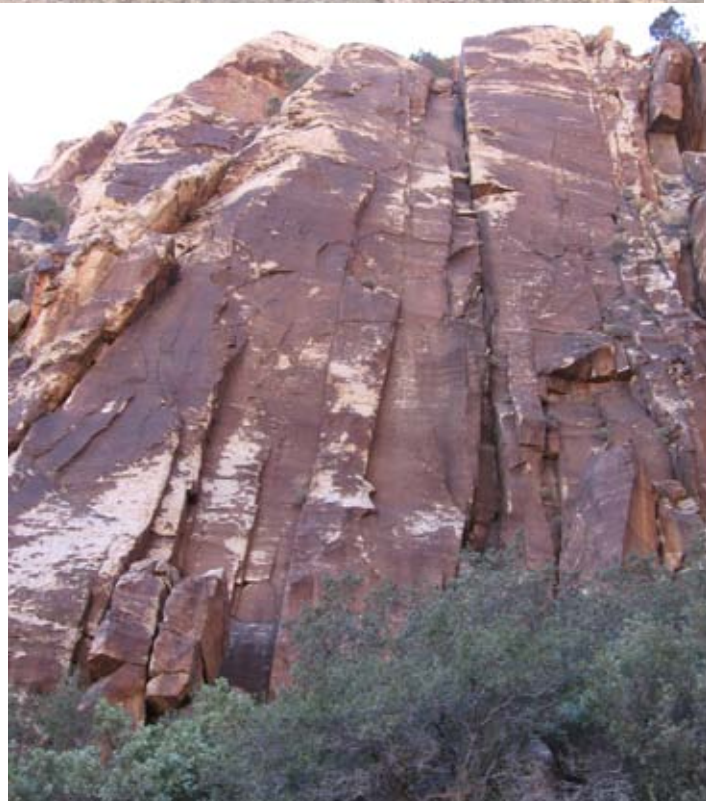


<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
1	0	0
0% field verified		

Unknown Windy Peak North Wall:

Fig. 3 (right): This buttress is to your left as you approach the base of Windy Peak North. Two bolts were found on the wall indicating the existence of at least one route. Scramble to the base of the cliff just before you begin heading up over slabs to reach Windy Peak North.

<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
1	2	0
1 new route not found in literature		
100% field verified		



Windy Peak

Windy Peak East:

Fig. 1 (below): Drive the same dirt road from State Highway 160 described in the approach for Windy Peak North. Park at a pullout on the left 300 yards before you come to a hard right turn. Look for a wilderness boundary sign marking the start of the trail. Head northwest on a mountain bike/horse trail until it begins to curve around to the north. Leave the trail and hike over desert terrain directly toward Windy Peak's east face. Scramble up the talus slope to reach the climbs pictured below.

Routes **Bolts** **Anchors**

7 6 1

57% field verified



Windy Peak South:

Fig. 1 (right): To reach the massive south face of Windy Peak hike northwest on the bike/horse trail from the parking area described above. When the trail begins to curve north look for a faint path to the left through the desert. Follow cairns west as you approach Windy Peak. Veer north as the trail moves up through a canyon and begins to climb steeply. Strenuous hiking up a scree field takes you to a flat area called the Football Field. Leave the trail and head straight north toward a white slab apron at the base of the mountain. Scramble up the slabs to reach the climbs on Windy Peak's South face.

Routes **Bolts** **Anchors**

12 22 5

0% field verified



Southern Outcrops

Rock Climbing Inventory Statistics:

<u>Wall:</u>	<u># of Routes</u>	<u># of Bolts</u>	<u># of Anchors</u>
Illusion Crag Left	7	0	0
Illusion Crag Right	19	7	6
Chocolate Rocks	10	0	1
TOTAL:	36	7	7

17/36 routes field verified – 47%

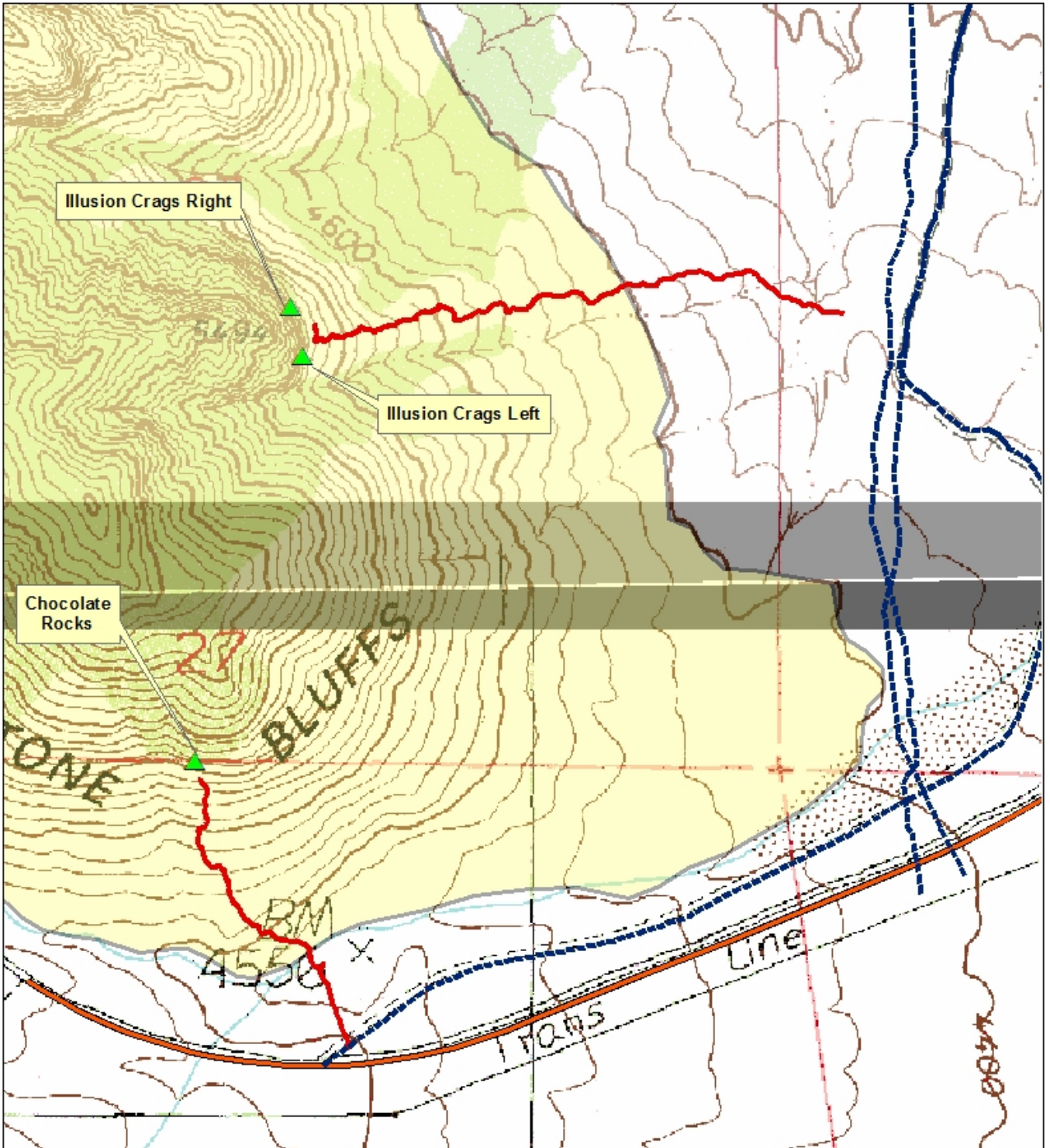
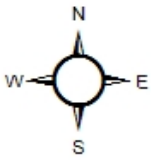
Route information and locations were identified based upon information gathered from *Red Rock Canyon: A Climbing Guide* (pgs. 426-428), *Rock Climbing: Red Rocks* (pgs. 393-397), and www.climbingredrocks.com. Bolt and anchor counts for the routes at the Illusion Crag Left and Chocolate Rocks were field verified and reported as such above. Hardware on the Illusion Crag Right was not visible from the ground. Therefore the data recorded here is that collected from the literature review.

Southern Outcrops

Rainbow Wilderness Area

Legend

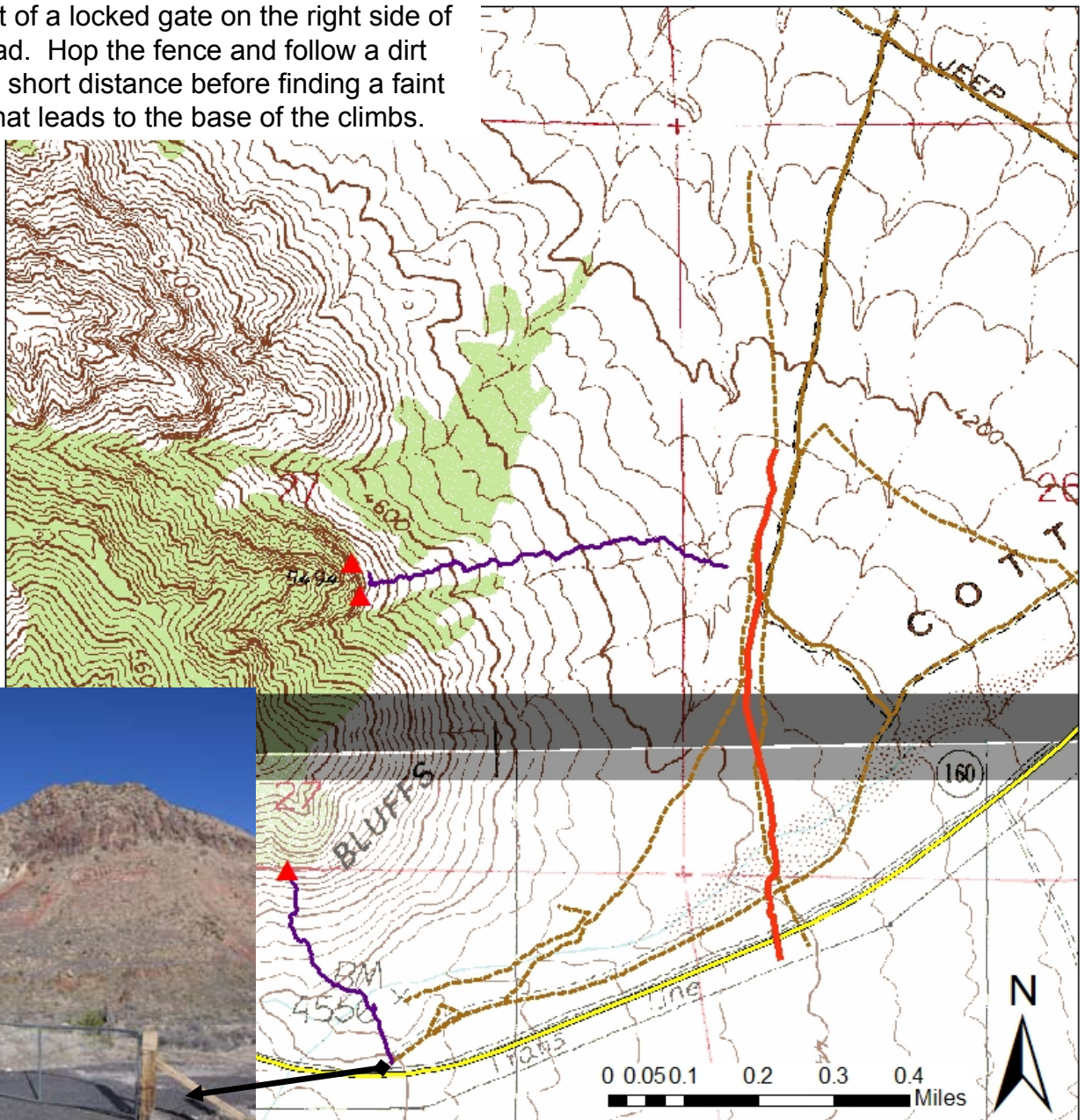
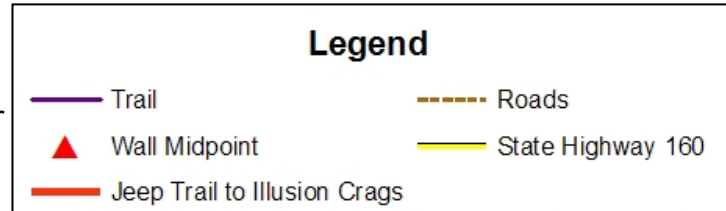
- ▲ Wall Midpoint
- Jeep Roads - BLM data
- Trail
- State Highway 160
- Wilderness Area



Southern Outcrops

Access: Two separate areas are collectively referred to as the Southern Outcrops: Illusion Crags and Chocolate Rocks. Illusion Crags are on an east-facing buttress just south of Windy Peak. Access this area by driving the same jeep road described in the approach for Windy Peak. Approximately 0.5 miles from State Highway 160 the dirt road splits to the left providing a parking area directly east of the Illusion Crags. A trail heads west across the desert directly to the base of the crags.

Chocolate Rocks are located on the very southern end of the Rainbow Wilderness. Drive State Highway 160 approximately 7 miles from the Blue Diamond Travel Center until just past where the road becomes two lanes westbound. Look for a parking area in front of a locked gate on the right side of the road. Hop the fence and follow a dirt road a short distance before finding a faint path that leads to the base of the climbs.



Southern Outcrops

Illusion Crag Left:

Fig. 1 (below-right): The Illusion Crag are separated into left and right sides by a wide gully just to the right of the edge of this photo. To reach the crags drive State Highway 160 roughly 6 miles from the Blue Diamond Travel Center to a dirt road on the right (this is the same road that accesses Windy Peak). Drive approximately 0.5 miles down the dirt road as it parallels the base of the escarpment to your left. Park at a small pullout on the left side of the road, directly beneath the Illusion Crag. Leave your vehicle and head west across a wash just below the parking area. Pick up a distinct trail that continues west and up to the base of the crags. Head left from the end of the trail to find these climbs.

Routes **Bolts** **Anchors**

7 0 0

100% field verified



Routes **Bolts** **Anchors**

19 7 6

0% field verified

Illusion Crag Right:

Fig. 2 (left): The right side of the Illusion Crag has many more climbs than the left, including a few with bolts on them. Follow the same approach described above to reach the crags. Move right along the base of the cliffs to access all of the climbs. The routes in this area are named differently according to various literary sources.

Southern Outcrops

Chocolate Rocks:

Fig. 1 (below): Chocolate Rocks is located on a south facing buttress at the very southern tip of the Rainbow Wilderness. To reach the climbs here drive west on State Highway 160 approximately 7 miles from the Blue Diamond Travel Center. Look for a parking area on the right side of the road in front of a locked gate. It will be just past where the highway becomes two lanes westbound. Park in front of the fence and head north by jumping over and following an old dirt road for about 150 yards to a wash. Look for a faint trail heading north from the wash that climbs steeply to the base of the crag. The trail ends at a short scramble over 4th class rock to reach the climbs above you.

<u>Routes</u>	<u>Bolts</u>	<u>Anchors</u>
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10	0	1
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100% field verified



References:

- McQuade, D., Leavitt, R. and M. Ryan. *Islands in the Sky*. ROCKFAX (2001).
- Brock, R. *Las Vegas Limestone*. Fly'n Carpet Publishing (2001).
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- Barnes, G. *Red Rocks Climbing*. Supertopo (2004).
- DeAngelo, L. and B. Thiry. *Red Rock Odyssey: Classic Traditional Climbs*. Verex Press (2004).
- www.climbingredrocks.com viewed October 2005 through February 2006.

Route information was also obtained from interviews with members of the local climbing community. We would especially like to acknowledge the assistance of the Las Vegas Climber's Liaison Council and all those who contributed their knowledge and experience to this project.



Survey Team Members: Chet Van Dellen and Tim Pitz
Please contact the following with questions or concerns:

Great Basin Institute
Mail Stop 099
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557-0031
775.784.1192

-or-

Chet Van Dellen
cvdellen@gmail.com

Tim Pitz
birdintim@yahoo.com