

Old Goat Bouldering Guide

By Scott Eveleigh, Marc Eveleigh and Cassie Magyar

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Introduction

Old Goat Bouldering offers a large variety of climbs; from steep, powerful climbing to delicate tall slabs. With a great view out of the valley, a rushing waterfall nearby, and the occasional squeaking of numerous pikas, chipmunks, and marmots; it has all the makings for a great climbing day. It is important to note that the area is new, and typical of Rockies limestone, holds may still break and crumble. So please take extra care when climbing any of the problems. As well the scree slope can be unstable in places. Try to use the faint trails between boulders as much as possible to minimize our impact.

With all of this being said please do not feed or disturb the wildlife. Underneath some of the boulders you may see piles of greenery in late summer. These are pika food caches used to survive the winter months. It is vital to their survival that people do not disturb these caches. Bears, moose and other large game may be in the area so take necessary precautions.



Rocky Mountain Pika



Hoary Marmot

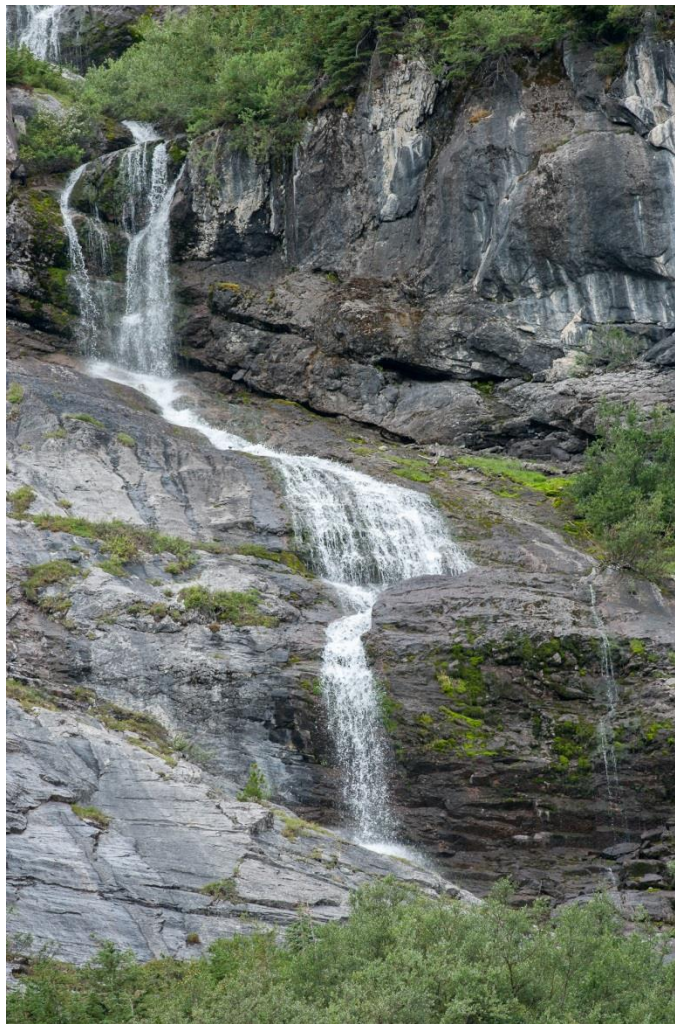
Disclaimer

Bouldering is a sport with inherent risks. Participating in bouldering may result in injury or death. This guide is intended for climbers with a degree of ability and experience. The terrain described with is dangerous and requires a high level of fitness and technical expertise to negotiate. The descriptions, ratings, and supposed difficulty within are subjective and may vary depending on your own personal experience and the conditions of the climb. This guide does not give the user the right to access any of the terrain described within. It is your responsibility to adhere to all closures.

Getting There

From Canmore, take the Three Sisters Parkway up past the Nordic Centre to Whitemans Pond. Continue along the gravel road (Smith Dorrien Trail) to the beginning of the Spray Lakes Reservoir. Turn right following signs to West Spray Lakes Campground, continuing to follow the road as it bends left farther into the campground. After 1.5km there will be a large grassy pullout on your right with a sign “Trailhead Parking”, park here.

There are two spots to begin hiking. The first can be accessed through the “Trailhead” parking lot by taking the obvious trail leading from it. The second is accessed by walking farther down the gravel road until you see a “no parking” sign on a gate. Follow the trail behind the gate. This is the faster route and will skip a steep hill. The trail winds through the forest following a creek for most of the hike. After approximately 2.5km you enter a rocky clearing with a waterfall on your right and the boulders easily visible to the left. Take the last small section of trail through the band of trees to access the boulders. A trail continues up and right of the boulder field; it leads up to the old goat glacier. Hikers frequent the area to view Old Goat Glacier up in the higher valley.



Logistics

The total hike time is around 30min. With 200m elevation gain over the 2.5km it makes for an easy hike. Three good sized pads and a decent spotter will let you climb almost all of the problems. More pads will be a necessity on some problems, while very few require less than three. Almost all of the boulders face north, and hardly ever come into sun. Most of the slab climbs get morning sun, and the entire valley becomes shaded around 4-6 PM. Once past the upper Grassi Lakes parking lot, cell reception is lost. So keep this in mind when planning your day.

****Please note the campground is closed from mid-September to mid-May****

****The hike will be 1.5km or about 20min longer during these times.****

Using This Guide

Using this guide is quite simple. The bolded text next to a number indicates the corresponding problem in the picture. The color of circle represents the grade of the problem; green (V0-V2), blue (V3-V6), black (V7-V9), red (V10-plus) in order of ascending difficulty, with projects (unclimbed problems) being purple. Keep in mind that some projects may be un-cleaned or partially cleaned, read the description before getting on. Next is the name, grade and stars or quality of the problem. Followed by a block of text describing the problem, with the first ascent (FA) and date in the bottom right.



A. The Scab
D. Highball
G. Concrete

B. Roof
E. Iceberg
H. Warm Up Boulders

C. Ten Ton
F. Pride Rock
I. Small Boulders

A. The Scab

① No Name V4 ★★

Start almost laying down on a flat rail with a right heel. Climb straight up on slopey crimps.

(Scott Eveleigh, 2014)

② The Loader V4 ★★★

Start as for *The Construct* but climb straight up palming with your right hand.

(Marc Eveleigh, 2014)

③ The Construct V6 ★★

Start sitting on a low prickly sloper on the far right of the ledge. Move up right through bad holds to the upper slab. Climb the slab up and right to the top.

(Scott Eveleigh, 2014)

④ Lone Professional V3 ★★★

Pull on at the top on the large obvious block, climb straight up though crimps and mantle onto the slab. Finish up and right.

(Marc Eveleigh, 2014)

⑤ Project

Start with your right hand on a right facing edge and left on a low gaston, move up through terrible crimps to easier climbing above.

⑥ Project

Start as for *The Scab* moving left early to finish on #5.

⑦ The Scab V7 ★★★★★

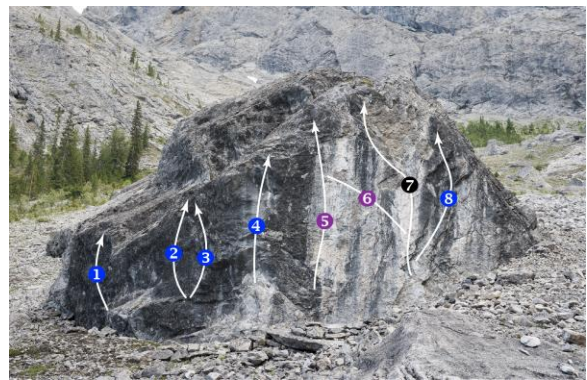
Start on the large juggy sidepull with big feet. Head straight up and trend left to a large shelf and the top. Delicate and shouldery.

(Marc Eveleigh, 2014)

⑧ All Backwards V4 ★

Start as for *The Scab* but trend right through good underclings. Don't let the crux at the lip catch you off guard.

(Marc Eveleigh, 2014)



B. The Roof

1 Project

A half-cleaned FA for the taking, follow the crack up to the left of *The Worms Direct*.

2 The Worms Direct V0 ★★★★★

Start as *The Worms* but climb directly up the slab through good ledges.

(Scott Eveleigh, 2014)

3 The Worms V1 ★★★★★

Climb the tall slab using the small worm like features. Stick to the blanker section up and right, trend left after the small ledge to finish, avoiding the arête.

(Scott Eveleigh, 2014)

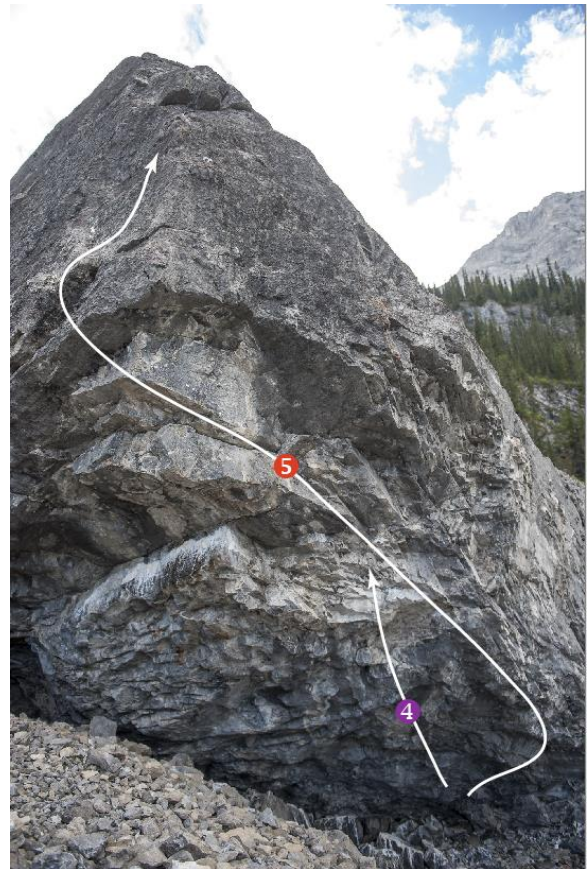
4 Project

Start as for *Frostbite* but climb straight out the roof. Not entirely convinced this is possible.

5 Frostbite V11 ★★★★★

Start as low back in the roof as possible with your right hand on an incut crimp and your left on a sidepull. Cross out right to a pinch and head immediately to the arête. Follow it up and left making powerful slaps before cutting left to gain the lip. Easy climbing up the final arête leads to the top.

(Marc Eveleigh, 2014)



C. Ten Ton Boulder

1 Project

A FA for the taking, climb the cleaned back face of the Ten Ton boulder.

2 Nope, Chuck Testa V4 ★

Start sitting on the lowest jug over the lip, pull one hard move to higher jugs and head all the way to the top.

(Marc Eveleigh, 2014)

3 Too Much Power V7 ★★★

Start as for number 2, head right to the arête using poor crimps and finish up number 4.

(Marc Eveleigh, 2014)

4 Long Way to the Top V1 ★★

Start just under the arête on a good shelf, make one move to the arête and follow it all the way up. For extra fun, start with two hand jams.

(Marc Eveleigh, 2014)

5 Mini Monsters V5 ★★★

Start on low holds right of the corner, climb directly out the small roof to a hard mantel.

(Marc Eveleigh, 2014)

6 Ten Ton Titans V7 ★★★★★

Start on #5, climbing the arete all the way to the lip and mantel as for *Locomotive*.

(Marc Eveleigh, 2014)

7 Steam Engine V6 ★★

Start very low on a left facing sidepull. Head left using a nice crimp in the blank face and meet up with #6 to finish. Finishing as for *Locomotive* by climbing straight up is *Express V4*.

(Marc Eveleigh (both), 2014)

8 Diesel Engine V8 ★★

Start as for *Locomotive* and link it into #7. Soft for the grade.

(Marc Eveleigh, 2014)

9 Caboose V3 ★★★

Climb as for *Locomotive*, but drop off at the massive jug before the lip.

(Scott Eveleigh, 2014)

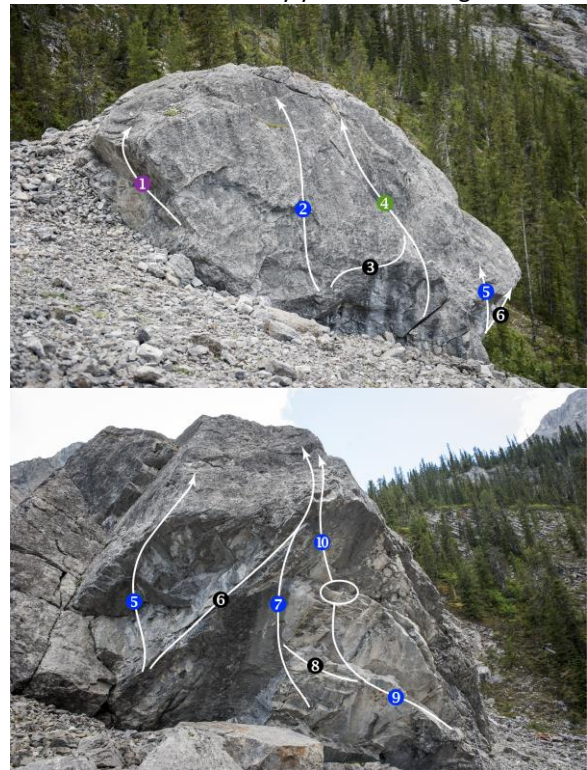
10 Locomotive V5 ★★★★★

Start far right on a small flat ledge. Climb the low rail left across the face then bust straight up to the prow of the boulder and mantel.

(Scott Eveleigh, 2014)

Project(s)?

Head right around the boulder when looking at #8. The face overlooking the hikers trail on the Ten Ton boulder just needs some love and some cleaning. This face will undoubtedly yield something hard.



D. Highball Boulder

① False Promises V10 ★★★

Start on a crimp rail at chest height. Climb up and left to better holds and the tall finish.

(Josh Muller, 2014)



E. Iceberg

① Titanic Strikes Again V0 ★★★

Start on a low flat ledge, climb straight up.

(Cassie Magyar, 2014)

② Floatation Device V2 ★★★★★

Start low on wide sidepulls. Climb up and transition onto the crimpy face,

(Marc Eveleigh, 2014)

③ Project

Start on #2 but trend right to finish.

④ Drifting V3 ★★

Start with a left pinchy sloper and a square cut right hand crimp. Climb straight up with sidepulls to the top. Surprisingly awkward.

(Marc Eveleigh, 2014)

⑤ Phantom Dima V5 ★★

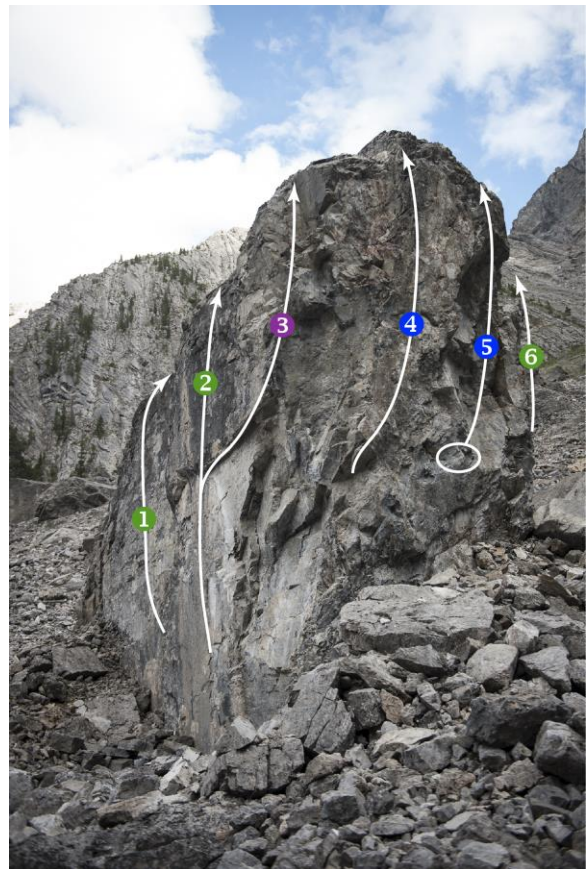
Start on a massive jug and climb straight up the scoop with poor holds.

(Dima Karaman, 2014)

⑥ Mantel Mantel V0 ★★★

Start on a low flat ledge, climb straight up.

(Scott Eveleigh, 2014)



F. Pride Rock

① C Slab V1 ★★

The separated slab just up from #2, start on the slopy crimp rail in the middle of the face.

(Cassie Magyar, 2014)

② No Name V2 ★

Pull on using a bad crimp and thrutch towards the top.

(Hayden O'Connor, 2014)

③ No Name V0 ★★★

Nice crimps all the way to the top, start standing with an obvious incut.

(Hayden O'Connor, 2014)

④ Pride Rock V7 ★★★★★

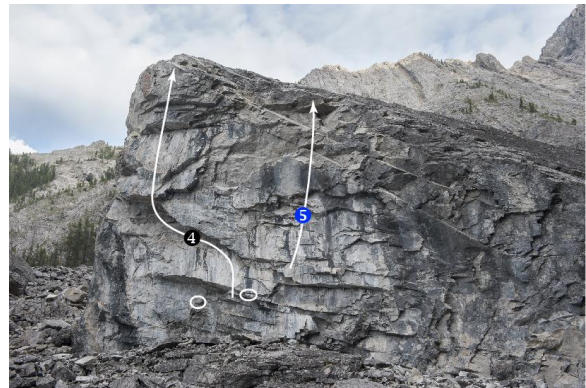
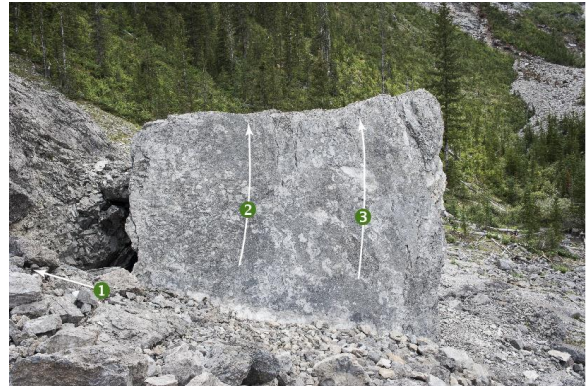
Start low on a left hand sidepull underneath the roof and right on slopy crimp on the lip. Climb up and left through cool underclings and sidepulls to reach the peak of the boulder.

(Scott Eveleigh, 2014)

⑤ The King V4 ★★★★★

Start on a good hidden undercling for your left and a small crimp just above for your right. Pull up into a undercling and use slopers and hidden crimps to top out.

(Hayden O'Connor, 2014)



G. Concrete

① Concrete Crack V4 ★★★★★

Climb the obvious crack starting with holds at head height. Really good but needs some more cleaning.

(Marc Eveleigh, 2014)



H1. Step Boulder

① Baby Steps V1 ★★★

Start on the lowest shelf climb straight up, good and fun.

(Scott Eveleigh, 2014)

② Long Stride V2 ★★★

Start sitting matched on the crack on the right side of the arête. Climb the arête.

(Ben Haley, 2014)

③ Vitruvian Man V4 ★★★

Start as for *Long Stride*, but climb the right side of the arête with a crimp on the face. A big move to the lip awaits.

(John Haigh, 2014)

④ Easy Steps V0 ★★

Start sitting with jugs in behind the lowest shelf, make a move to the highest shelf and one more to the lip.

(Craig Eveleigh, 2014)

⑤ Going the Distance V2 ★★

This odd problem starts on good holds over the lip as far right as possible with massive feet. Traverse the lip into *Easy Steps*, down climb that problem, traverse left into *Baby Steps* and finish up that. A great warm up.

(Marc Eveleigh, 2014)



H2. Goat Boulder

① White Goat V5 ★★

Start very low with your right on an obvious flat crimp and your left on a good crimp just a foot off the ground. Make one move and jump to the lip.

(Marc Eveleigh, 2014)

② This is Sheep V6 ★★

Start with your left on the obvious flat crimp and your right on an undercling on a rail. Make a hard move to the sloping ledge and finish above.

(Scott Eveleigh, 2014)

③ Billy Goat V1 ★★★

Start sitting on a nice jug, make a move to the sloping ledge, throw a heel and finish straight up. Short and sweet.

(Craig Eveleigh, 2014)

④ Goatse V4 ★★★

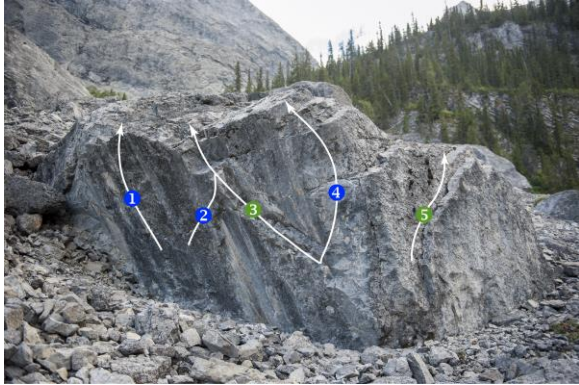
Start as for *Billy Goat* but head straight up through sloping crimps.

(Knut Rokne, 2014)

⑤ Nanny Goat V0 ★★★

Start as low as possible on the juggy flake with poor feet. Good jugs all the way up.

(Craig Eveleigh, 2014)



H3. Cactus Boulder

① Just Stand Up V0 ★★

Start wherever, and just stand up.

(Craig Eveleigh, 2014)

② Prickly Pear V0 ★★

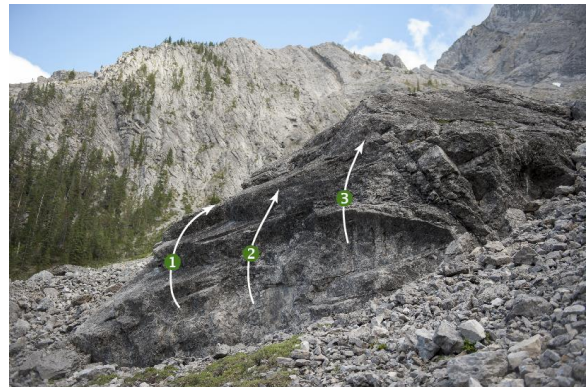
Climb straight up starting on an undercling in the shallow scoop in the boulder.

(Craig Eveleigh, 2014)

③ Succulent V0 ★★

Start on a cool sloper, climb up onto the slab.

(Craig Eveleigh, 2014)



I1. Too Simple

① Too Simple V0 ★★

Climb straight up the middle.

(Marc Eveleigh, 2014)



I2. Peek-a-Peeka

① Peek-a-Peeka V0 ★★

Traverse right to left on the good shelf. Avoid topping out till the very end.

(Cassie Magyar, 2014)



13. Scott Hates Fun

① Scott Hates Fun V0 ★★★

Start low on the jug, climb the middle to the top.

(Cassie Magyar, 2014)

