

Quartzite Wasteland

The name, Quartzite Wasteland, is a playful jab at the the Wasteland of Rifle. While not a destination area like Rifle, locals and visiting climbers will find an enjoyable half-day of quality climbs, including a couple must-do climbs on quality quartzite. No need to fear, this is no wasteland, as the hard quartzite provides for fun climbing on compact rock in a style that is unique for the Western Slope.

The Quartzite Wasteland is a new (spring '08) developed area. Wear a helmet as all of the routes are new and bring a double rack of cams, a few stoppers, runners, and quickdraws for some quality mixed climbing on Glenwood Canyon's quartzite.

This area receives morning and mid-day sun and nice shade by early afternoon.

Directions

Park at the Hanging Lake rest area (exit # 125). Hike east on the bike path, passing the Hanging Lake Trail. A few minutes past the trail is a rockwall/revegetation project within yards of the trail. Just past that is a couple of large boulders in the grass on the left side of the trail. Hike past these boulders and scramble up rock underneath a tree. Above the scrambling, hike on a faint trail that contours the slope underneath a collection of granite crags. This trail heads into the scrub oak before traversing to a large scree slope. Hike up the scree slope on the larger, more stable rocks. Near the top of the scree slope find a faint trail that makes a couple of switchbacks before meeting the quartzite cliff. Hike left ten yards to the first of the climbs, *Loss of Innocence*. Total hiking time from the car is 15 to 20 minutes.

(s) = sport

(m) = mixed gear and bolts

(t) = trad

Note: All ratings are approximations and await further confirmation. Routes described left to right.

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To access routes 1 - 3, scramble on to ledges at the base of each with the aid of a fixed rope.

1. Project ? (t)
Far left side of the east-facing section of cliff. Anchor in. A lot of hollow rock. May be abandoned.
Gear. 60 feet.
FA:
2. Interstate Love Song, 5.11+ (m) * *
In the middle of the steep face are two bolts protecting the start of this climb. You may want to stick clip the second bolt as it is hard to clip. The crux, a long reach,

comes at the second bolt. Finish on easier terrain above, using horizontal seams for gear. Harder for short people. Scramble up a couple of ledges with the aid of a fixed rope to belay from a belay bolt for this climb.

2 bolts and gear to #1 Camalot. 60 feet.

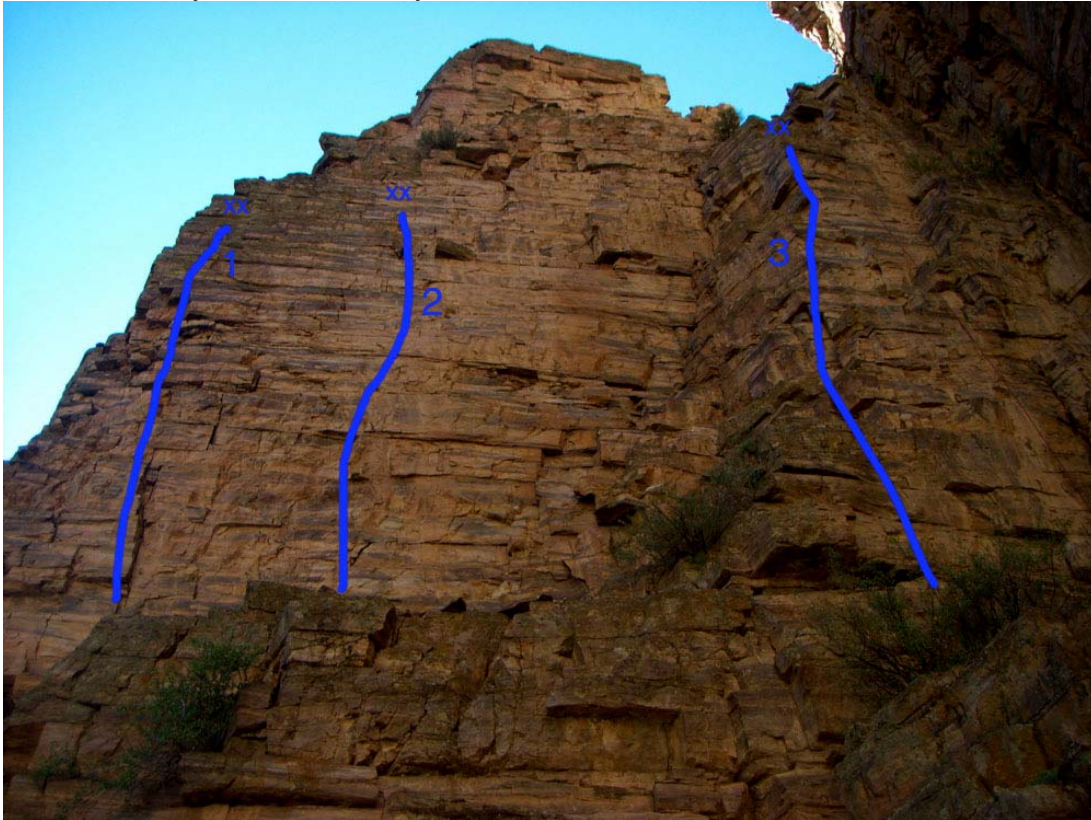
FA: Mike & Joy Schneiter, May 16, 2008.

3. Twig and Berries, 5.7 (m) *

Climb the blocky face on great holds staying on the arête or just right of the arête. Scramble up a to a ledge at the base of the climb with the aid of a fixed rope.

One bolt and gear to #2 Camalot. 60 feet.

FA: Mike & Joy Schneiter, May 16, 2008.



4. Charcoal Burger Daydream, 5.10d (m) ***

Located on the tall face right of the corner and large, chockstone-filled crack. Climb good face holds with a mix of bolts and cams in horizontal seams, passing through one roof and finishing on beautiful white and red marbled quartzite. The crux is getting over and past the roof halfway up.

Eight bolts and gear to #3 Camalot. 100 feet.

FA: Mike & Joy Schneiter, May 16, 2008.

5. El Lagarto Borracho, 5.10d PG-13 (m) ***

"The Drunken Lizard." Just right of *Charcoal Burger Daydream*. Begin by climbing on face features while plugging gear into a vertical crack at the start. Pass the first, and largest roof on the left. Above, negotiate your way through a few more difficult sections and a couple smaller roof features while using a mix of

bolts and horizontal seams for protection. This climb weaves back and forth, like "a drunken lizard," challenging your route-finding skills to ascend this at its easiest grade. Save a #2 Camalot for the top and be ready for a few "heady" sections of climbing above gear and/or bolts.

Six bolts and double set of cams to #2 Camalot. 100 feet.

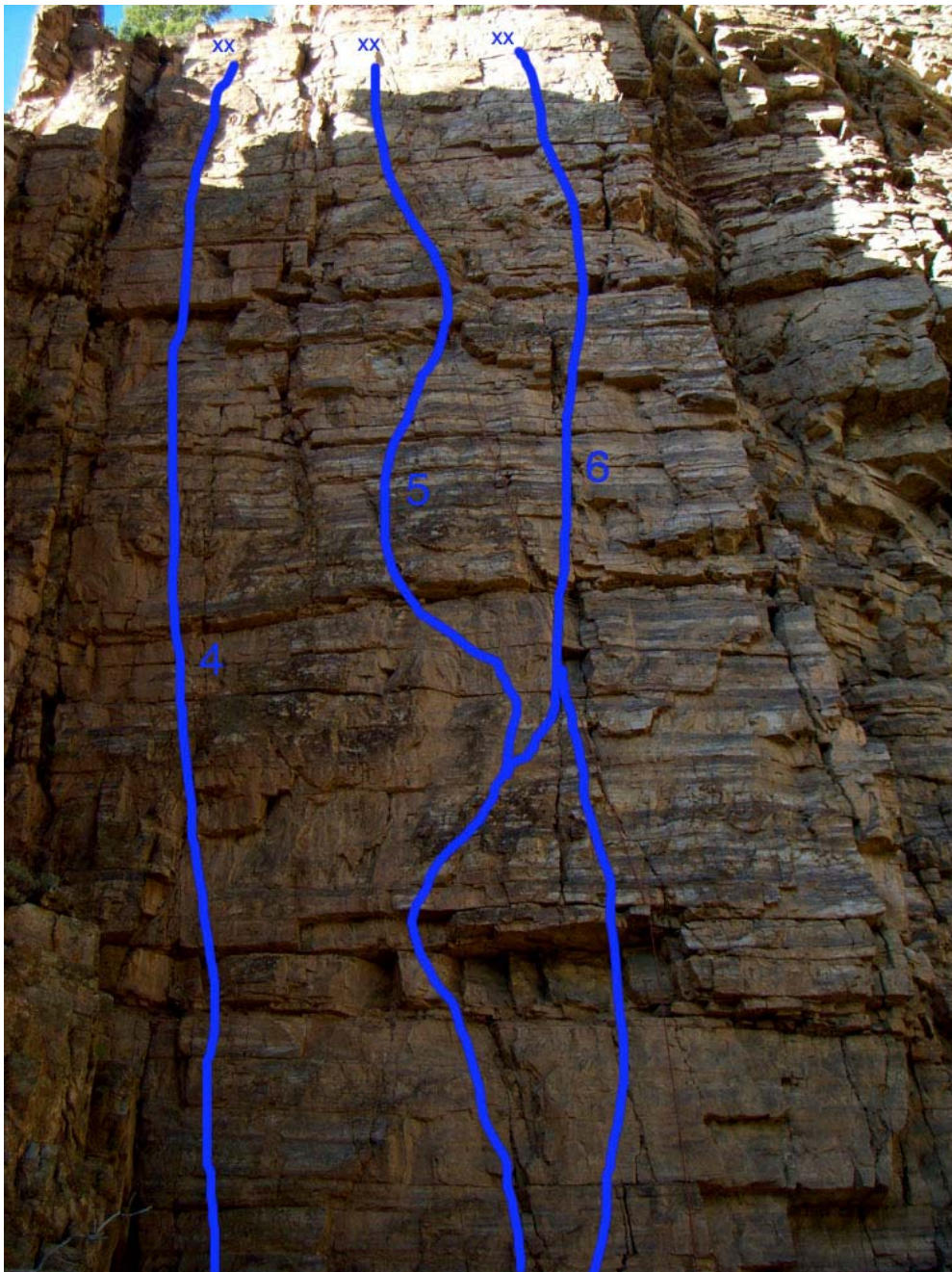
FA: Mike & Joy Schneiter, May 16, 2008.

6. Project ??? (t)

Face climb that follows a couple of vertical cracks, sharing the same start as *E/ Lagarto Borracho* before climbing a separate line on the right side of the tall, steep face. Anchor in. Needs additional cleaning.

Gear. 100 feet.

FA:



7. Flip Ya Lid, 5.8 (s) *
Climbs the face left of the corner between this climb and *Something From Nothing*. Begin in the corner by stemming and climb the face above.
3 bolts. 40 feet.
FA: BJ Sbarra & Mike Schneiter, August 7, 2008.
8. Something From Nothing, 5.9+/10a (m) *
Climbs steep face with a difficult crux at the second bolt. There is some debate whether this is 9+ or 10a. It's probably safe to say this is a 10a onsight. Climb the steep face just right of the right-facing dihedral. Shares anchor with *Loss of Innocence*. Anchor is one bolt and fixed nut with chain.
4 bolts & a small cam (#.4 Camalot). 45 feet.
FA: Mike Schneiter, BJ Sbarra & Steve Smith, August 7, 2008.
9. Loss of Innocence, 5.10d (s) ***
First route you come to when approaching the cliff. Clean face/arete left of corner and section of overhanging rock where the trail comes up. Good, clean, hard rock with fun, thoughtful moves staying close to the arête in the middle of the climb. This climb was established on a rainy day yet the climb stays totally dry, even in a downpour. Anchor is one bolt and fixed nut with chain, shared with *Something From Nothing*.
5 bolts. Shares anchor with *Something From Nothing*. 45 feet.
FA: Steve Smith & Mike Schneiter, May 22, 2008

