 A BOULDERING GUIDE TO   
**ARROW LAKES**

MARCH 2016 - BY: ALLEN ROLLIN

# ARROW LAKES BOULDERING

## ROBSON, BC

With virtually unlimited potential, lakeside camping, sunshine, 8-9 month seasons, short approaches, high quality rock, tons of problems of all grades, aesthetic lines and no crowds, why would you ever want to Boulder at Arrow Lakes?

Well let me put it this way, it's been 3 years since the surge of development in the area and it just keeps giving and getting better every day! This guide has been put together to try and share the wealth of climbing that has so far been developed, start documenting the existing problems, hopefully get people excited, climbing and searching for more.

The areas are spread out along the lake and are all accessed off the same road (Broadwater Rd), that starts in the small town of Robson and eventually turns into a dirt Forest Service Road. Generally the longest you will walk is about 5 minutes (with a few exceptions) and the longest you will drive is 10 minutes. The rock is clean for the most part and there is starting to become trails to the most popular areas. The unique part of climbing at Arrow Lakes is that you can climb at one area with a particular style, drive or bike another 5 minutes and you're climbing something completely different. The rock is an awesome compact version of Gneiss with lots of features and aesthetic lines. As of Spring 2016 there are 130 problems and due to the untapped nature of the area, there is room for A LOT more. The cliffs above also offer tons of good sport and traditional climbing that are definitely worth bringing your rope and harness along for.

Camping is abundant along the shores (especially during low water in spring and fall) and there is Syringa Provincial Park, which offers a little more amenities and a good base camp for climbing here. The slopes on which most of the climbing is located in super South facing making for a long season and generally dry conditions from somewhere in March until November. There are also lots of opportunities for shady climbing and an easy plunge in the lake to cool off.

A few things to watch out for are; Poison Ivy (the three leaved plant) that definitely exists in a lot of places (so far not around the bouldering) Ticks in spring (real bad in the grassy areas) and wasps nests. Other than that Broadwater Rd. is usually pretty quiet until summer when it becomes a well-travelled summer recreationalist road.

You can find all the necessary things like groceries, gas, beer in abundance in nearby Castlegar (10 minutes away) and Nelson is only 35 minutes away and it offers a unique mountain culture and a lot more climbing, biking, paddling and hiking opportunities.

Each area in this guide has been described thoroughly in it's own section; please refer to each individual topo for specific directions.

And as an addition to this guide, there is detailed PHOTO topos available on:

NELSON BOULDERING Facebook page and the website <http://justanotheroutdoorpage.blogspot.com/> that go along with the guide very well but make it a less intense affair of printing this guide, thus keeping it free ☺

Have fun out there and feel free to contact [allenclimbs@gmail.com](mailto:allenclimbs@gmail.com) with any new route development or questions. ENJOY!!

# THE CLIMBING AREAS

The areas are listed as follows, east to west or as you drive up the road:

## 1 - KEENLYSIDE BOULDERS

One of the more concentrated areas and probably one of the best areas to bring people of all levels of ability, lots of variation.

Best Problem: Blindness - V6

## 2 - PONDEROSA BOULDERS

The longest approach at Arrow Lake. Great views, good temps, amazing climbing and a lot more climbing is currently under development.

Best Problem: The Cunning Coyote - V2

## 3 - CAT BOULDERS

Lots of diversity here, but the highlight is the setting amongst a primarily Larch forest that is amazing during the fall. There are also lots of shady climbing opportunities.

Best Problem: Apple Mango Tango - V2+

## 4 - CREEKSIDE BOULDER

A single boulder set up on the hillside with a rushing creek right beside it. Not tons but basically every problem is worth doing. Best Problem: Arroyo - V4

## 5 - WASHOUT BOULDERS

The best place to climb hard, there are some awesome problems sub V9 range and a sweet lakeside boulder with some moderates.

Best Problem (and probably at Arrow Lakes) Tomahawk - V7

## 6 - BEACHSIDE BOULDERS

Probably one of the best areas at Arrow Lakes when the water is low, with a little bit of everything including some seriously aesthetic lines. Unfortunately many of the problems are under the lake from June until early September.

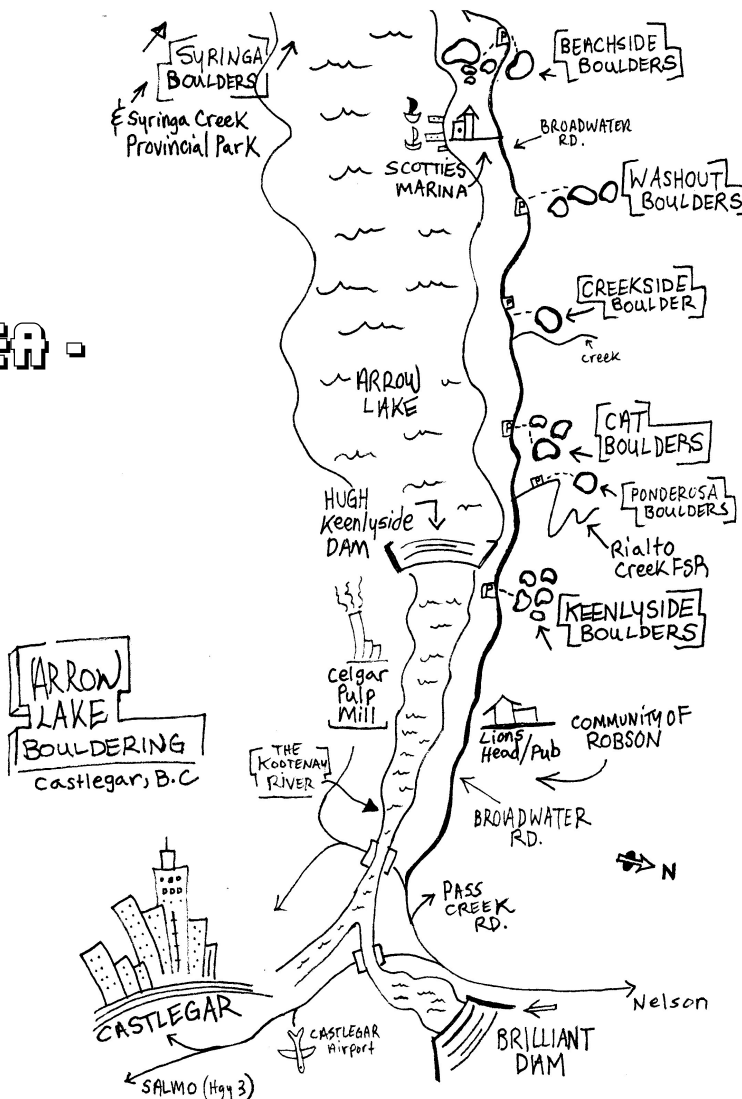
Best Problem: Low Water Layback - V1

## 7 - SYRINGA BOULDERS

So many good boulders within walking distance of the campground that makes for a great basecamp. There are lots of different aspects to climb on making it awesome during the hotter summer months. One of the first areas to be developed at Arrow Lakes.

Best Problem: Where the Wild Things Are - V6

## MAP OF AREA -



# KEENLYSIDE BOULDERS

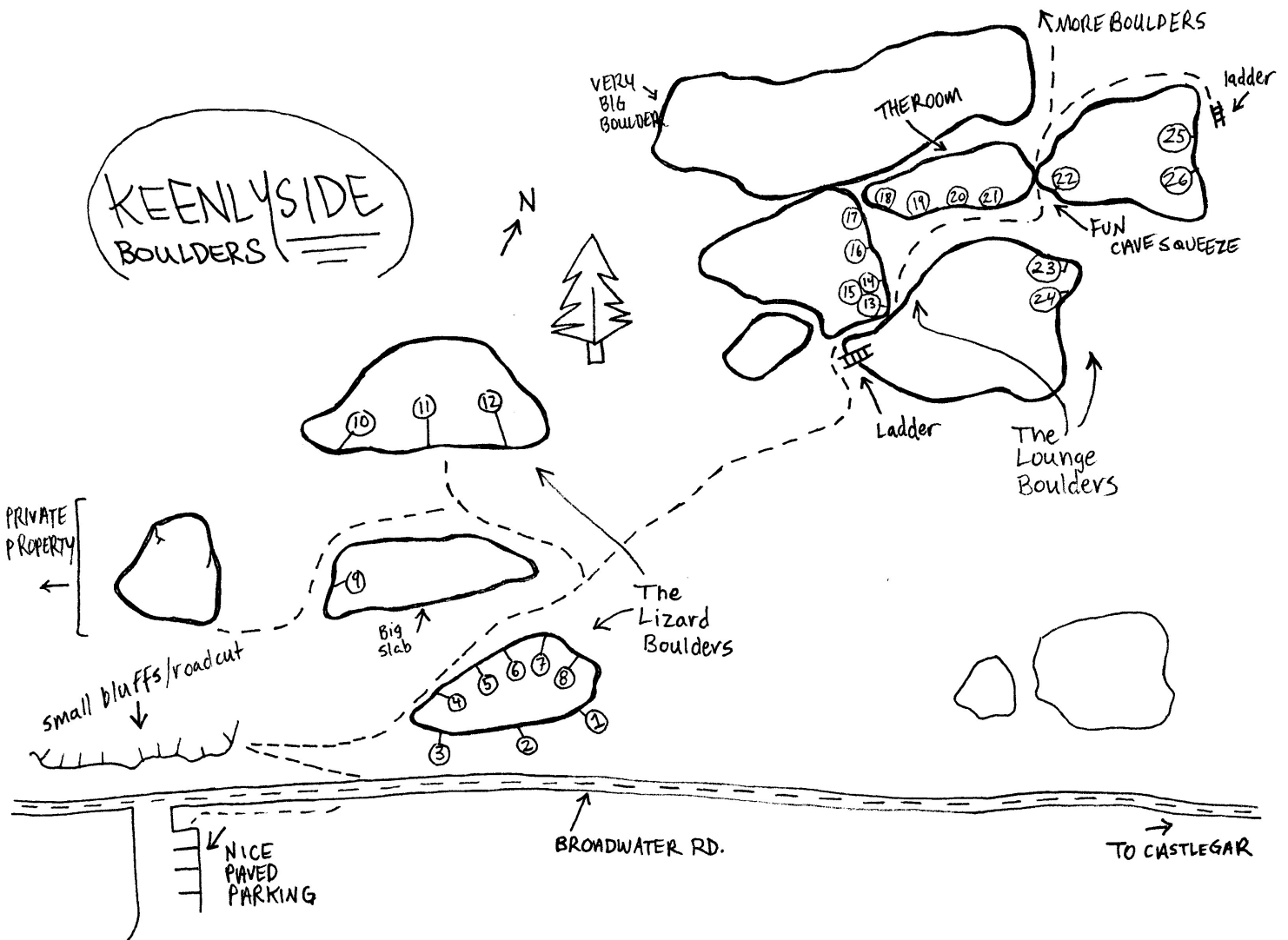
## LOWER ARROW LAKE, B.C

In an area seemingly endowed with endless potential, comes another fantastic zone of bouldering that is littered with high quality problems and tons of potential. The Keenlyside Boulders are named after the giant hydroelectric dam right across the way, that takes the waters of Arrow Lake that stretch as far as Revelstoke, turns it into energy and leaves behind the Kootenay River.

The part that makes this area a little different than the others is the density of the high quality boulders. High quality Gneiss is in its finest form here, yielding many cool pockets, traverses, overhangs and features. There are also some pretty cool caves that you get to squirm through along the way as you navigate the fun little path through the giant cluster of boulders. Keep searching, there is A LOT of potential here!

### 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 for 7.8kms to a nice paved parking lot on your left right before the dam (right after the houses taper off). Walk back down the road 50m, cross it and head up the nice dirt switchback to the 'Lizard Boulder'. All the rest of the boulders are no longer than 2 minutes up the trail from here.



# LIZARD BOULDERS

The first boulders you encounter on the trail up from the road, the Lizard Boulders are comprised of a few different styles and grades to keep everyone happy. The closest to the road is great for aspiring boulderers looking to strengthen up on some quality & friendly problems with great landings. Just uphill there are also a few beauty cracks and THE classic test piece of the area that should not be missed by any technical climbing connoisseur.

## 1 - The Gecko - V2

Start low on the far right arête and traverse up to the left on one slopy lip. Needs cleaning.

## 2 - The Lizard - V2 \*

A cool problem that is trickier than it looks. Start crouched in the middle of the face and balance your way to the top on interesting holds.

## 3 - The Iguana - V1

Traverse the lip left to right on much more positive and clean features.

## 4 - Cold Blooded - V5 \*

This one starts on the shady side of where the trail first meets the boulder. Start seated and find a poor crimp for your left and a side pull for your right, now make some dynamic moves up the layback feature and finish on good holds.

## 5 - The Snake - V2

Start seated on two awesome crimps and power straight up just to the right of the big rail feature. Pity.

## 6 - The Lizard Traverse - V3 \*\*

Start seated on the same crimps as '5' but traverse out left on the exceptional & amazing rail feature to a juggy finish! Awesome! A V1 variation skips the opening moves.

## 7 - The Arete - V0 \*

Nice mellow climbing up the low angle arête, Sit start and follow the positive in cuts!

## 8 - The Slab - V0

Various options up the scruffy slab or use it as a down climb.

## 9 - Blinded by the Light - V1 \*

A fun low angle climb on some neat features, it's hidden on the west side of the big slab boulder, lots of variations.

*These next three problems are located up hill on a massive boulder with great landings. Look for the cracks!*

## 10 - The Crackdown - V3 \*\*

This is the most awesome layback crack around! Start very low on the left side of the boulder with two great jams, power up through some tough opening moves and finish in style. Only V3 if you don't cheat by starting with your feet on the ramp ☺

## 11 - Blindness - V6 \*\*\*

The classic test piece of the area! Find the two nice positive in cuts to start, jump on and follow a flawless sequence up the highball face, don't worry there are some nice holds to finish up there. It's a hard on sight but it's got a great landing.

## 12 - Kurakkuhedo - V2 \*\*

Start as low as you can in the nice crack on the right side of the boulder that has cleaned up really well. Fun climbing up the crack transitions into a tricky exit. Try not to exit early out right for the full experience ☺

# THE LOUNGE BOULDERS

There is some great climbing here amongst the huge clutter/jumble of boulders. Lots of fun exploring, some really cool caves and a nice neat little fire pit/chill spot called 'The Room'. 2 minutes up hill from the 'Lizard Boulders'. Ladders are in place to make the access/getting around a bit easier. Feel free to use them to make your life easier but please place them where you found them once finished, thanks!!

*These next 5 climbs are located at the top of the ladder on the beautiful and tall boulder on your immediate left. Very soft and mossy landings ☺*

## 13 - Pure Uncut - V3 \*\*\*

Sit start way underneath on a fantastic starting jug with a pad at your back. Now power up the prow on perfectly sculpted holds to a wonderful finish, this is an amazing climb and a must do at Keenlyside.

## 14 - Hoodoo -V2 \*\*

Start the same as '1' but move immediately out right and onto the face. Crimp through some tricky terrain; find the wild chicken head, transition into the beautiful crack and finish on jugs! Fun warm-up.

## 15 - Broadway - V3 \*\*

Start the same as '1' but move immediately out right and onto the face, traversing the seam left to right the whole way across, finishing way up and right. Fun moves.

## 16 - The Mercury Lounge - V5 \*\*\*

The plumb line straight up the middle of the face. Start as low as your can and climb the technical face through some spectacular moves, as it steepens up it will demand your full attention. Amazing!

## 17 - The Dancing Sasquatch - V2 \*\*

Start as low as you can with two crimps on the far right side of the face. A couple of tough opening moves lead into a big throw for a positive hold, finish by joining 'Broadway' to the finish way up and to the right. Named after a wild lounge/bar in Banff, AB and the sweet moves you will be doing on this climb ☺

*These next four climbs are located on the 'Skaha' like wall with soft mossy landings and offer lots of fun & mellow crimp climbing!*

## 18 - Spring Fingers - V1 \*

The left line. Start on a nice diagonal rail and crimp straight up the face through some deceiving holds. Fun

## 19 - Essence of Skaha - V0 \*

The easiest line on the wall. Crimp up the middle of the face on the biggest crimps/rails you can find.

## 20 - Red Tails & Pink Toe Nails - V2 \*\*

Start low on the beautiful diagonal feature on the left side of the face. Climb up and right diagonally through the best features of the face to a nice finishing sequence. Feels like Skaha ☺

## 21 - Flaked Out - V2 \*

Start on the same diagonal side pull but climb straight up and to the right on some real tiny crimpers. Try to stay away from the flakes on the right, they have mostly come off but there might still be a few lingering.

## 22 - The Depths of Despair - V1

This one climbs out of the cool cave that acts as the entrance to 'The Room' and the problems further up the trail. Start crouched on two horizontal holds in the cave, exit out right and transition into the beautiful red in cuts on the upper face. Try not to cheat by stemming out off the bloc to the left.

## 23 - Baker St. Traverse - V2 \*\*

Traverse the beautiful lip right to left from the lowest positive, moss free in cut you can find. Pumpy & awesome!

## 24 - Red Sands - V5 \*\*

Start low in the cave on the big pinch feature. Sort out what to do with your hands and feet, make a powerful move up and out of the cave and you will be greeted with some nice in cuts up high! Great! Named after the infamous nude beach in Nelson...

*To access these next two problems, squeeze through the cave into 'The Room' go right and down to a ladder and these problems just hidden below. Beautiful cracks high off the ground but with massive holds to finish.*

## 25 - Blood Diamond - V6 \*\*

Climb up into the finger crack on the right side of the wall. Some powerful lay backing and jamming lead into the big positive pinches and awesome holds up high! Cool climbing, but not for the faint at heart

## 26 - Poison Waters - V5 \*\*

Climb up into the big deep crack on the left hand side of the wall. Some committing lay backing through an amazing feature off the get go leads into a steep jug haul!

# PONDEROSA BOULDERS

Yes, it's true, another great addition to the Bouldering at Arrow Lakes! These fine boulders lie high above the shores of Arrow Lake amongst an awesome Ponderosa Pine forest with a great approach and amazing scenery. The hike in is the longest of any of the zones around but the problems are certainly worth the walk. So far the bulk of the development is on the huge Ponderosa Boulder itself, which offers high quality moderates that are often committing but on generally good holds and amazing quality Gneiss typical of the area. Go check it out, lots of great potential around as well!

## Approach:

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 about 10.0kms to the Rialto Creek FSR on your right. Drive up the FSR about 75m and park on the left off the road immediately before the road turns to the right. From the pullout, look to the west and you will see an opening that leads into a big grassy field, follow this through the tall grass on indistinct game trails (very easy to follow). Once in the big open field head diagonally across to the right to where you will start to see pink flagging and cairns leading you up into the forest at a big Ponderosa Pine. Follow a pretty good sheep/game trail (marked) steeply uphill for another 2-3 minutes until you end up on an old overgrown roadbed. Turn left on the roadbed and follow the road/trail for about 5 more minutes until another small branch/game trail starts going up the bank on your right past some cool swallows nests in the dirt bank (marked and flagged). About 2 more minutes of indistinct trails lead you up through more tall grass until you will inevitably run into a bunch of giant boulders on the bench. The first big guy on your right is the Ponderosa Boulder, a total of about 20 minutes from the car. NOTE: There is a proper Shooting Range entrance (yes with guns) just to the right of the parking, although it is setup in a way where they are shooting nowhere near you (as in far away), I would advise any person visiting here to follow the directions described and steer as clear away from the range as possible (i.e.: don't go bushwhacking in that general area) ☺

## Ponderosa Boulder

### 1 - Pistol Grip Crack - V0 \*\*

Just around the left of the main west face (beside the down climb) is this newly discovered (and awesome) finger crack. A little rattily for most peoples fingers, hence the pistol grip reference. Tricky down low then cruise-y to the top!!

### 2 - Blackjack Crack - V1 \*

Right where the big black slab of rock meets the main face of the boulder is this deep almost off-width crack. Climb it from a low start to an amazing jam up high. It's cleaner and better that it looks. You could climb the black prow to the left of the crack as a variation. Blackjack Pine is another common name for the Ponderosa Pine.

### 3 - Tall Timber - V3 \*\*

Just to the right of the crack, start on a nice side pull with both hands and crimp up the technical face to an awesome crack slot (crux) and finish up high and to the right. Flawless moves! Named after a fantastic beer from Mt. Begbie in Revelstoke.

### 4 - The Great Plains - V3 \*

Start as per 'Tall Timber' but climb out to the right and into the upper face of 'Up Amongst the Pines', a fine variation. Named after the random grasslands encountered on the approach.

### 5 - Up Amongst The Pines - V4 \*\*

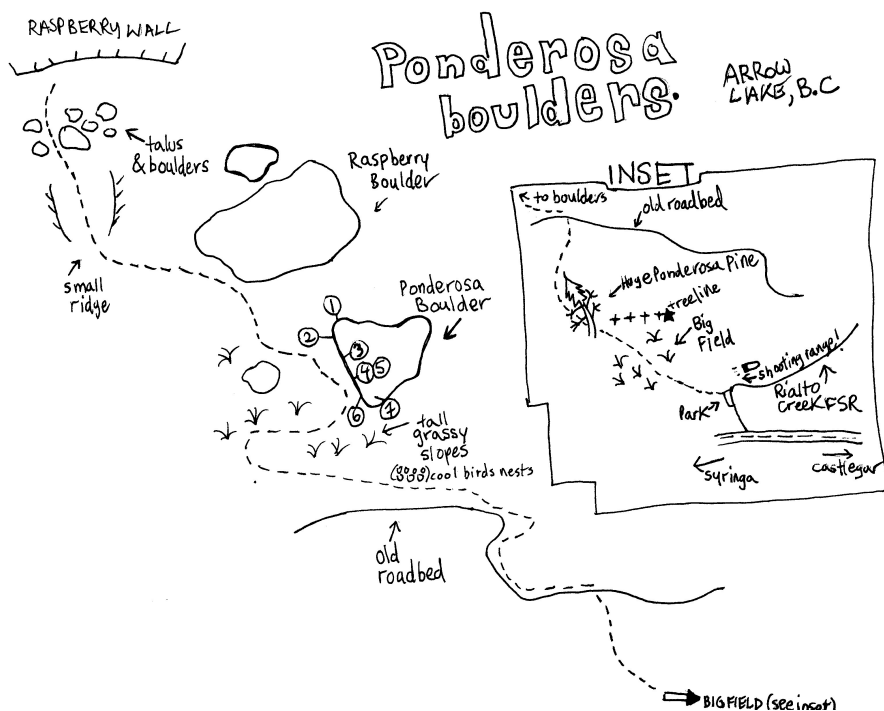
Start directly in the middle of the tall face with a delicate and thin sequence that leads into some great side pulling and a committing series of crimps way up high.

### 6 - The Cunning Coyote - V4 \*\*\*

Start low on the beautiful diagonal rail and climb straight up the flawless face just right of center. Great holds, stellar movement and probably one of the best highball moderates in the West Kootenay's. Its super high but everything is there. CLASSIC!!

### 7 - The Articulator - V2 \*\*

Start this fine addition on the very far right toe of the face. Start seated with a great left hand side pull and a right hand sloper, make some really fun squeeze moves up the arête and eventually transition into the top of 'Cunning Coyote' The arête finish goes direct as well and about the same grade (but not nearly as good).



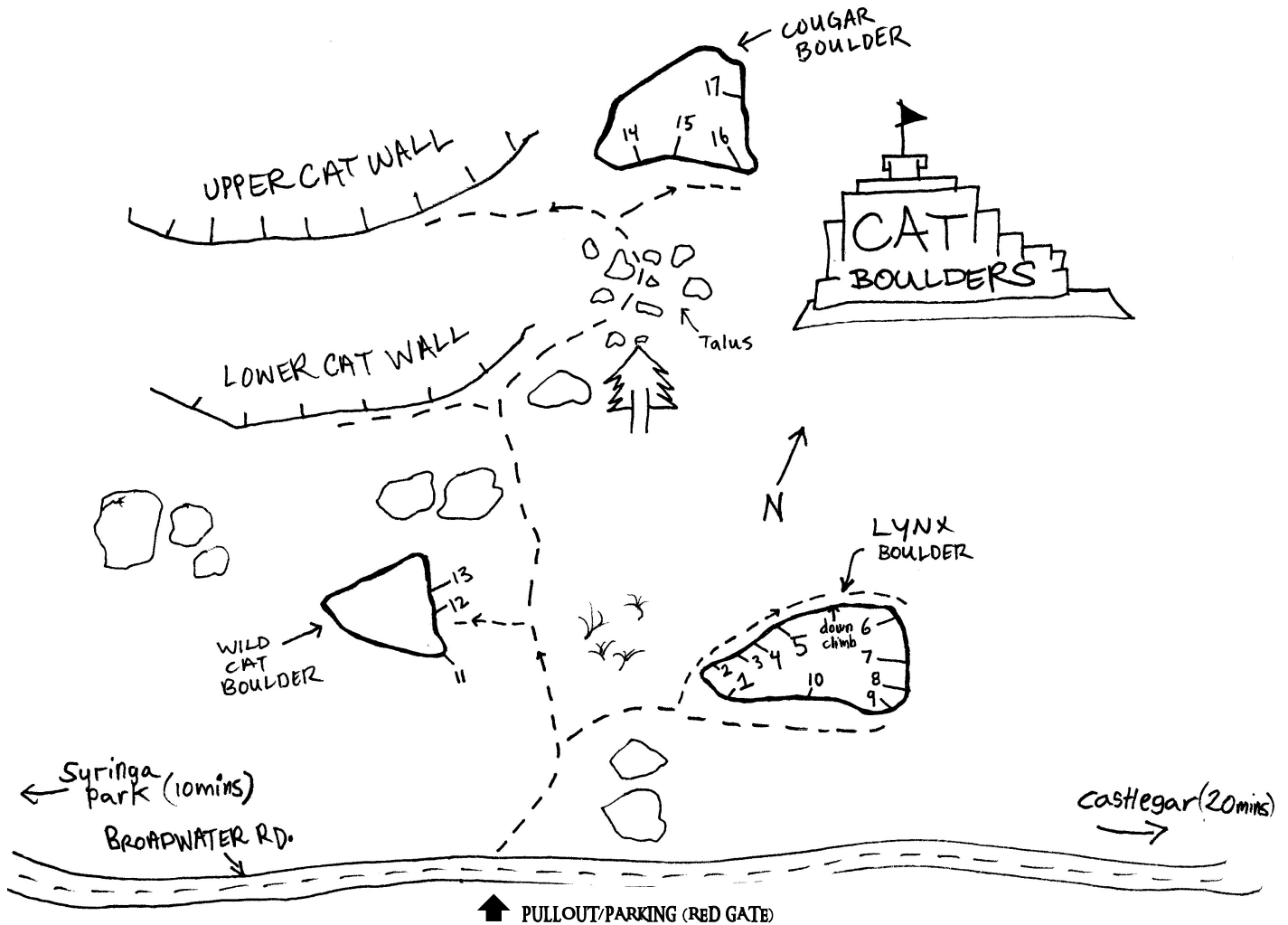
# CAT BOULDERS

LOWER ARROW LAKE, B.C

This area features a great assortment of quality bouldering scattered throughout the beautiful larch forests below the towering cliffs of the Cat Wall. There are a wide variety of grades and most of the problems tend to be on steep, quality Gneiss involving big moves with good landings. There is certainly potential for more routes here and variations due to the nature of the rock; great holds everywhere! There are also many smaller boulders that have been climbed, but not recorded. A wide variety of wildlife is quite common in these parts including: black bear, wild turkeys, cougars, deer, & big horn sheep, and the forest is especially nice in fall when the larch's needles change into a spectacular golden color; a truly magnificent little place....

## 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 11kms to a nice pullout on your left that has a little red gate (old road down to the lake). Cross the road and follow the cairned/flagged trail into the forest. The Wildcat & Lynx boulder are only a few minutes away and the Cougar boulder is found a bit further uphill in close proximity to the Upper Cat Wall (follow the main trail)



# LYNX BOULDER

This massive boulder offers a little something for everyone. This is a great place to come spend a day with many projects and moderates to ensure a good pump and a big smile. Once you enter the forest, you will pass a few smaller boulders on your right. At a big cairn, hang a right a follow the trail for about 1 minute to this unmistakable boulder.

## 1 - Sunshine Dihedral - V1 \*\*

Start low and climb the beautiful corner through crimps and side pulls to an easy and elegant finish.

## 2 - Tomcat - V1 \*

Start low and climb the steep corner/arête through some fun steep rock features. Variation potential here!

## 3 - Apple Mango Tango - V2 \*\*\*

Start low as you can on two side pulls in the center of the wall. Power up to the awesome jug/rail, make a few big moves and slap up to the slopy ledge to where a hidden jug eases your troubles. High quality for the grade! Many variations are possible.

## 4 - Wild Turkeys - V4 \*\*

Sit start on the nice side pull you used for '3' with two hands. Now move out left with increasing difficulty on shallow crimps, make a big move back out right and finish straight up. Quality!

## 5 - Armed & Dangerous - V1 \*

Start seated on a cool crimper feature on the left part of the wall, now power up through the jugs. Named after the wasp nest that was stirred up while cleaning this area ☺

## 6 - Deceptacon - V7 \*\*

Start low on the positive rail on the far right of this steep and awesome wall. A powerful sequence leads out right to a wild throw and a sloper on the arête. The deceptive climbing continues to where a nice crimp offers relief on the upper face and finally the top out. Awesome!

## 7 - Lynx - VProject

Crouch start on some serious crimpers in the middle of the wall. Head straight up through side pulls and little finger jams trying not to strain your fingers on those small holds. Once you've made it high off the ground some jugs finally start to show up. A great looking test piece!

## 8 - The Villain - VProject

Start low under the overhang just left of '7' on two awesome side pulls. Now power up left towards the arête and finish as per 'Dusk'.

## 9 - From Dusk Till Dawn - V6 \*\*

Start as low as you can on the far left of the face under the overhang/arête. Very powerful moves and some tricky feet lead into some flowy and beautiful climbing all the way up the arête. Don't worry the holds are huge up there ☺ Pumpy and long!!

## 10 - Kubeba Roof - V3+ \*

Short but sweet. Start as low as you can under the roof and power up and over, harder than it looks. Kubeba is Swahili for 'Bear' ☺

# WILD CAT BOULDER

As you are walking in on the trail up to the cliffs this sweet boulder is hard to miss. It hosts one of the coolest problems at the area and features some magnificent climbing on a very wild looking prow. Be sure to check it out!

## 11 - Wildcat Arete - V1 \*

Start low and climb the lip on the left side of the boulder. Sweet climbing.

## 12 - Unknown - V4 \*\*\*

Sit start down low on the right side of the face. Slap up; move out left to a crux at mid height and execute a huge throw to a finish way up high. Classic!

## 13 - Wildcat -V4 \*\*

Start as per '12' but climb straight up on the arête feature with some wild tension moves.

# COUGAR BOULDER

To get to this awesome boulder, follow the climber's trail up past the first cliff (Lower Cat Wall) on its right side. Continue up through a short bit of talus and as you are about to hang a left (Upper Cat Wall) look out right and you'll see the boulder just off in the trees, 10 minutes from the road. There is a vertical face on the left (south) that offers a really nice, technical warm up, and of course the reason you walked up here 'Top Gun' ☺

## 14 - Shitty Kitty - V1+ \*\*\*

Don't let the name fool ya, this problem offers quality face climbing on great rock. Climb the face direct through a little corner feature and some sensational side pulls to a high finish on good holds!

## 15 - Kitty Korner - V1

Climb the corner feature to the right of 'Shitty', still a little dirty.

## 16 - Top Gun - V5 \*\*\*

Sit start way down low on the left part of the overhang/arête. Traverse along the lip until it is possible to transition onto the right hand face and a nice jug. Some powerful moves lead from here through a small corner/layback feature and a sneaky, high finish. It's not over until you touch that final lip. Long & fun!

## 17 - Kitty Hawk - V4 \*

Start low on the face just to the right of 'TOP GUN' on the flake. Now climb the hollow sounding flake up past a few tricky moves to a good rail, mantle and finish up high.



# CREEKSIDE BOULDER

## LOWER ARROW LAKE, B.C

Another fine discovery in what seems to be an area with unlimited potential. The Creekside Boulder is perched high above Arrow Lake & spitting distance from a beautiful raging creek. The views are great, the climbing is aesthetic and there are enough quality moderate problems here to keep everyone happy. The rock here is made up of a compact type of Gneiss that is littered with awesome in-cuts and features that are pretty typical of the area. Another great addition to the bouldering out here ☺

### **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 towards the Dam for a total of 14.6kms to a pullout immediately after a creek on your right. If you hit Scotty's Marina you've gone to far. Look uphill from here; walk through the grass up the cool rock slab to the boulder in 2 minutes.

### **1 - Listen To The Creek - V1+ \*\***

Crouch start on the far left prow on two great holds. Move up and into the corner/layback feature, finishing up and right.

### **2 - Los Aguas Bravas - V5 \*\***

Sit start on two amazing jugs. Rock over; set yourself up on the small crimps on the upper face and deadpoint to the finish. Awesome!

### **3 - Roca Soleado - V3 \*\***

Use the same sit-start as 'Los Aguas' but rock over and move out to the right and climb up through positive holds & big moves finishing high and to the right.

### **4 - Arroyo - V4 \*\*\***

Start crouching on the far right end of the boulder. Climb up and left through the cool feature on positive holds to a cruxy section leading up and over the bulge. A couple bigger, powerful moves lead you into a really nice finish. Best problem here!

### **4b - Alt Start - V5 \***

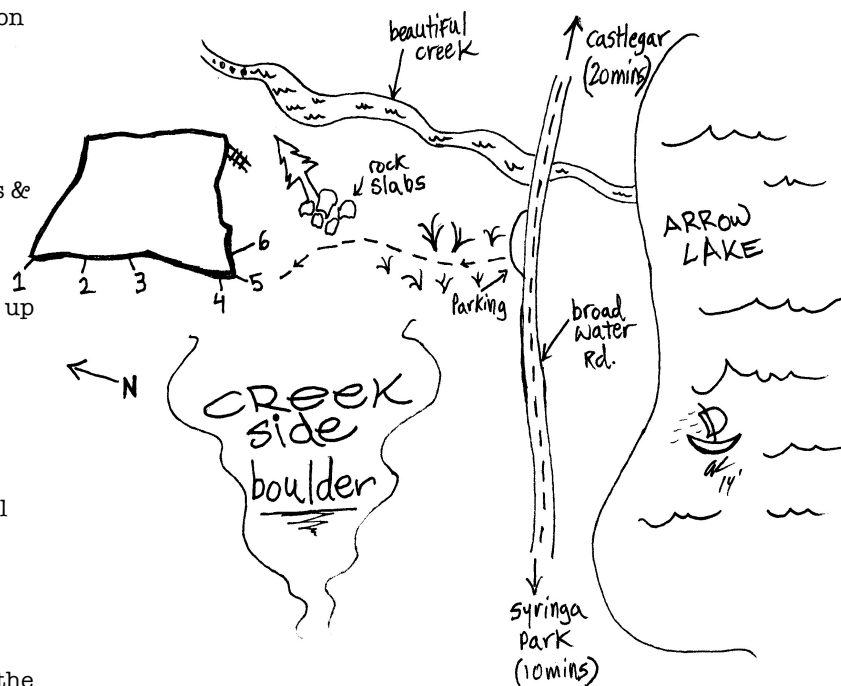
The alternate start to 'Arroyo' starts lower under the cool feature on some small holds and lead up into the same climbing. Ups the grade but not necessarily the quality.

### **5 - Sunnyvale Arête - V4 \*\***

Start crouching on the far right on the same holds as 'Arroyo' but climb up from the cool feature straight onto the arête and follow this all the way up through some wild, chunky moves ☺

### **6 - Vista Al Lago - V2 \***

Climb up through the juggy black basalt just to the right of the arête into a funky upper corner. Should get better with some traffic. Cool rock!



# 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:

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### 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 crimping rail, make a hard move left and finish off with super awesome in-cuts.

#### 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-cuts.

#### 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 - V4

Start low just to the left of the prow of 'Tomahawk'. Make a few stout moves onto slopy terrain on the upper face just right of the down climb. 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 - V10?

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 - V9 \*\*

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 \*\*\*

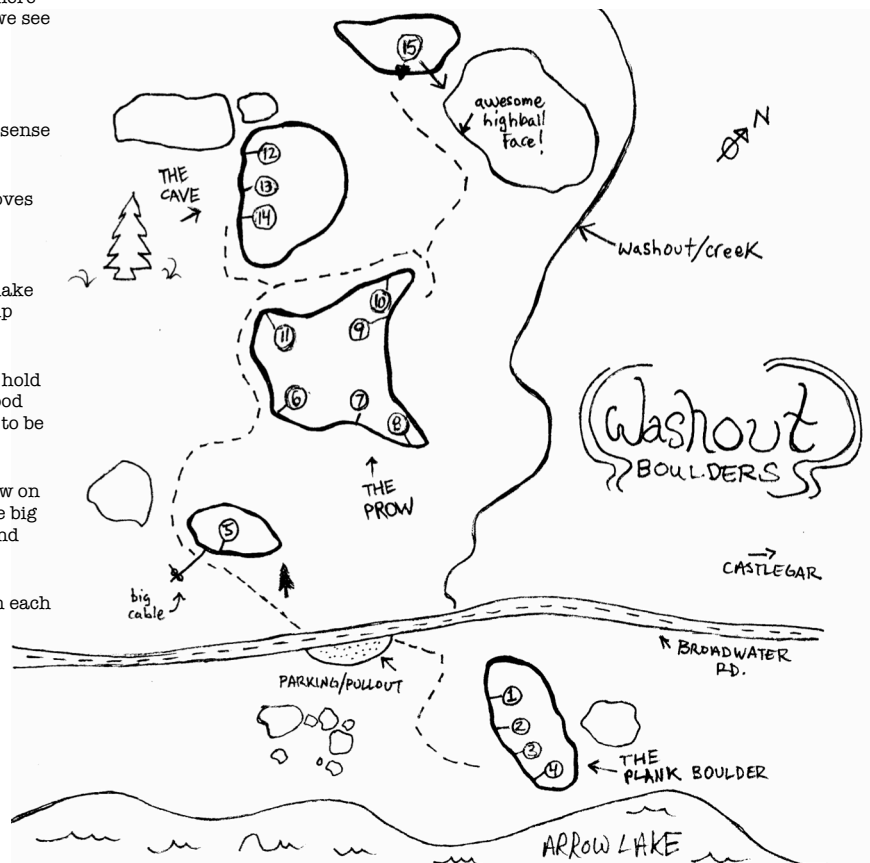
Sit start under the bulge in the middle of the overhang and climb the under cling feature out left and then straight up onto the face through some wild moves, finishing straight up the slab on easier terrain. Mega-Powerful!!

#### 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 - UPHILL PROBLEMS/PROJECTS - V???

These are projects and problems on the bigger faces 50m's uphill from the rest of the boulders. This will get updated as things get properly cleaned.



# THE BEACHSIDE BOULDERS

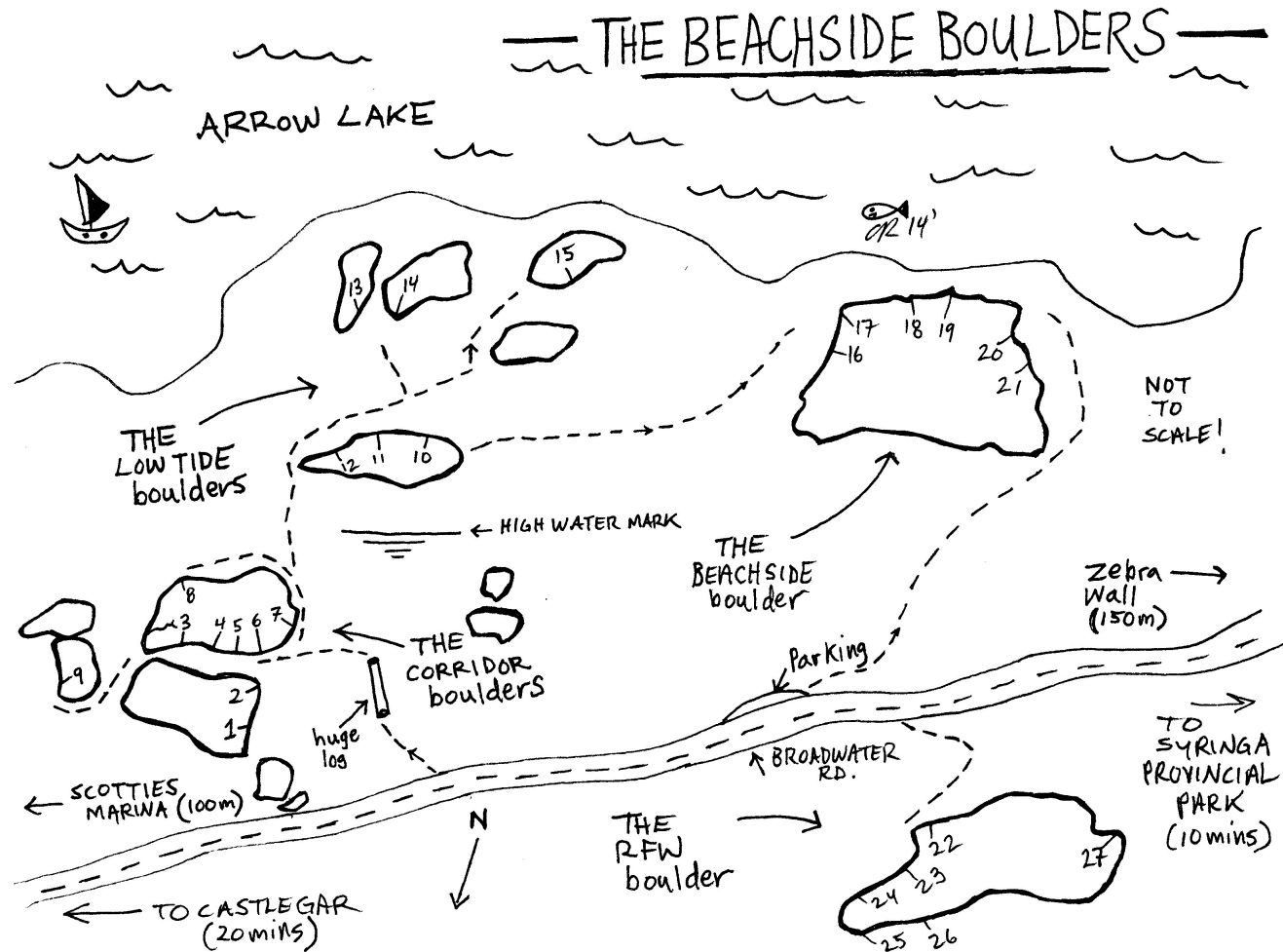
## LOWER ARROW LAKE, B.C

A wonderful collection of boulders located right on the lake with tons of variety, the Beachside Boulders are another great addition to Bouldering At Lower Arrow Lake. Steep, technical, high, long & aesthetic are just some the styles of climbing here, and if you cant find something to enjoy then maybe you should be taking up another sport ☺ The rock found here is again compact Gneiss but there are a few unique boulders adjacent to the water (that get flooded in June/July) that offer up a different style of climbing than the other problems in the region.

On that note The Atlantis, The Low-Tide & The Beachside Boulders are subject to high water and have a shorter season. Fortunately there are many more problems in the area that have recently opened up to keep you busy for those two months the lake is full that are all high quality. Have fun and keep exploring, there is potential for more here, especially down on the lake.

### 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 and up the lake for a total of 16.2kms to a pullout about 100m's past Scotty's Marina on your left. Just uphill on your right is the RFW boulder, and the rest are just down on the lake. Walk back down the road 50m to get to the 'Corridor Boulders' or for the remainder of the problems scramble directly from the parking through the talus/boulders, following the odd cairn to your intended destination. Be sure to search for hidden treasures along the way that have been strewn up and down the shoreline from years of changing lake levels ☺



## THE CORRIDOR BOULDERS

These boulders feature high, technical problems on clean rock in a nice comfortable atmosphere. They tend to stay out of the lake unless it's a real high water year. To get their walk back down the road from the parking towards Scotty's Marina. After about 50ms you will see a little cleared trail through the rocks down towards the lake to a huge petrified log. Follow this and then cairns towards the boulders.

### 1 - Marooned - V2 \*

Start low on the left of the face on good side-pulls. Move up through more side-pulls and a stretch move to a jug and easier terrain. Barn door-tastic ☺

### 2 - Davey Jones' Locker - V0 \*

Start on great holds on the arête move up through some nice moves and clean rock to an easy high finish.

### 3 - Watch Your Back - V3 \*

A somewhat thoughtful problem with a ton of cool moves and holds. Stem back across the opposite wall if you are scared of the boulder at your back. Climb the left part of the face in the corridor up the ramp and through the roof finishing up and right. Deserves more stars but the landing makes it hard to concentrate on all the fun climbing ☺

### 4 - Sea Hawk - V4 \*

Move up the middle of the face and into the little finger crack. A few committing moves later and you have hit the juggy finish. Balancy.

### 5 - Cuts Like A Rock - V4 \*\*\*

Start the same as 'Sea Hawk' but move out right through more climbing and then back through a bunch of awesome side pulls and finally left to finish the same as 'Sea Hawk'. Lots of great moves on this one! Named after a sharp boulder nearby ☺

### 6 - Castaway - V1 \*\*

Start in the little corner just right of the last two problems. Climb up initially on whatever you can find to and awesome juggy rail and one big move to the top. Great!

### 7 - The Wave Traverse - V3 \*\*

Start way out right and ride the wave up and left all the way up to where it seems good to top out. Again, nice rock!

### 8 - Driftwood - V2 \*

On the back of this boulder is a really nice arête/face climb. Walk around to the south to find this problem with a manicured landing of driftwood. Start on a great jug and head up through a balancy crux half way and an easier finish. Another fine technical addition.

### 9 - Treasure Island - V4 \*

Wander down to this lone face hiding down to the east, (towards Scotty's) it offers some more crimpy, technical face climbing in a nice atmosphere.

## THE LOW TIDE BOULDERS

A great area spread out between a few different boulders. Again, some great climbing and probably one of the better steep lines around, as well as a crimpy test piece. Unfortunately the name of these boulders says it all. During June/July these guys are only worthy of scuba bouldering. To get there either walk down the beach to the west from the 'Beachside' boulder or weave your way through the little boulders from the road or 'Corridor' boulders.

*These next 3 problems are on a nice south-facing boulder with a sandy landing, many variations possible:*

### 10 - Arrowhead - V2 \*\*

Climb the left part of the face right to left through a cool fin like feature and finish direct for full value.

### 11 - Sinking Ship - V1 \*

Jump start up the middle of the face and follow some desperate crimps straight up. Delicate.

### 12 - Moby Dick - V3 \*

On the right side of this face is a steeper prow with reddish rock. Climb this from a sit start and up the arête/prow.

*A little closer to the lake lay these jumbled boulders leaning against each other:*

### 13 - Nautical Disaster - V9 \*\*

Squeeze yourself in between the two boulders and find the nice rail to start down in on the right. Fight through crimps and a powerful sequence to a hero finish. Be sure to bring good spotters and a few pads. Hard!

### 14 - Muscle Beach - V4 \*\*

Sit start on the prow of the boulder just right of 'Nautical Disaster' Power up through the beautiful red rock then transition onto the right face through wild feet, pinches and one final throw. Fun!

*Directly to the west are a couple of nice boulders with good landings and clean faces:*

### 15 - Adrift - V3 \*

This is the closer of the two to the lake. Sit start and climb up through a sequential set of crimps out and right

### 16 - Holey Mackerel - V3 \*

Start on a decent hold on the far right and make a series of tricky compression moves straight up the face to a easier finish, balancy.

*Find this next problem just above the sand road in behind the last problems on a boulder leant up and wedged in between two others. Hard to miss....*

### 17 - Sands of Time - V5 \*\*\*

Start as low as you can get on a nice under cling and power up through some wicked heel hooks and slopers up the prow to an easier finish/mantle. Worth seeking out!! Amazing climb!

## THE BEACHSIDE BOULDER

This is the giant boulder that cannot be missed while driving down Broadwater Rd. Some high quality problems that should be on everyone's list here as well as some test piece highballs. All in all a great place to spend a day! Unfortunately this guy as big as it is, does get almost completely covered by water in June. From the parking head straight down on a faint trail and follow the odd cairns down through the talus to this mighty piece of rock.

### 16 - Doukhobor Dyno - V6 \*

Start under the amazing overhang on the east side of the boulder. Move straight up and try with everything you got to reach the amazing positive hold up high and to the right. Awesome!

### 17 - Riptide - V4/5 \*\*\*

This was the original problem done at the Beachside. Start seated on the horn at the bottom of the overhang. Now follow the rail out left to an exciting finish straight up and over, or, finish out further right in the crack for a bit easier alternative. Really good!

### 18 - Lost Arrow - V3 \*\*

Climb the middle of the next face to the left of 'Riptide'. Jump start, and then climb nice textured holds through the dyke like feature to a high and committing finish.

### 19 - Jedi Master - V2 \*\*

Start just to the right of the arête on the left side of the face. Climb up through steep ground past a really fun sequence that looks a lot harder than it is. Jugs allow passage way up high to finish.

### 20 - Under The Sea - V1 \*

Just left of the last problems on the even taller face. Climb the scoop on the far right side of this face with a few thoughtful moves to say the least.

### 21 - To Tame A Lion - V2 \*\*

Up the tallest part of this face you can find. A bunch of fun moves to start off, a nice positive ledge to rest, and then a committing series of side pulls to finish. Amazing highball!

**Note:** There are tons of variations that can be done here and although it seems ridiculously high the north face has been attempted. And I should mention as well, there is a very easy down climb off this huge boulder. Another fun circuit is to try and traverse the whole boulder. Have fun ☺

## THE ATLANTIS BOULDERS

A recent discovery during a spell of low water in February 2015, the Atlantis Boulders offer many good problems some located right on nice sandy beaches. There are two lines that have become instant classics. The only down side here is that they are only really climbable from January to beginning of April.

**Note:** In the main jumble of boulders are many more nice problems that have been done; due to their short season only the two really classic lines are being recorded. If the water is down be sure you will find a few more worth doing.

### Point Break - V5 \*\*\*

Located a little further down towards the marina is this beautiful prow like boulder all on its own. Start seated right in the middle of the prow on two poor holds and power up aggressively towards the crest on the far right. Really fun sequences!

### Low Water Layback - V1 \*\*\*\*

An awesome splitter layback crack that climbs up from the beach to an exciting and high finish, need I say more, if the water is low, go get after it!

## THE RFW BOULDER

Yet another unreal, massive boulder with high quality climbing, need I say more?! The boulder just looks like one huge massive face but around the sides it yields some great climbing. The 15-move traverse 'Heavenly Path' should not be missed! Located almost directly across from the parking, the approach is a total of about 1 minute, no explanation needed. Take the trail up from the ditch to the boulder to where the trail continues to the great RFW Wall trad climbs.

### 22 - Shipwrecked - V3 \*\*

The tall face right where the trail levels out. Climb up and right through tons of jugs up and right until you get scared and jump off or finish on surprisingly good holds up high with the Ponderosa branches at you back. Bring lots of pads for this one! Great features.

### 23 - The Heavenly Path - V5 \*\*\*\*

Sit start right where the trail levels out on two obvious jugs down low. Now move out and traverse right through tons of positive holds and tricky feet. The moves are big, it gets continuously harder and the crux comes at the end on the arête on the far right topping out! Easier the earlier you escape. Uber Classic ☺ An easier alternative is to climb half the traverse and exit into the low angle corner (still fun - V3)

### 24 - Chump - V5 \*

Hug the arête at the finish of the traverse instead of starting all the way from the left. Now slap your way up on all kinds of side-pulls to a nice finish.

### 25 - Project - V??

The big diagonal rail and arête should prove to be quite the challenge for anyone willing to step up. The problem has been done by climbing the blocky arête and then left, but the face has not been done direct and looks way better.

### 26 - Recreation, Fish & Wildlife Slab -V0 \*

The left side of the north facing slab, Fun!

### 27 - Pirate Arête - V2 \*\*

A cool arête climb on the west side of the boulder. It looks really high but the climbing is quite nice and hardest down low, the top out is mellow. Lots of good variations!

# SYRINGA BOULDERS

## LOWER ARROW LAKES, B.C

These pristine boulders located around the shores & beaches of Lower Arrow Lake are not to be missed. Beautiful aesthetic climbing with lots of variety on amazing rock, what more could you ask for?

The climbing is comprised of 5 different boulders all located within walking distance from the Provincial Park campground. The rock here is made up of a very compact type of Gneiss that's very solid and super sticky. There is ton of variety that exists between the different boulders, lots of steep, powerful, technical, committing and natural climbing.

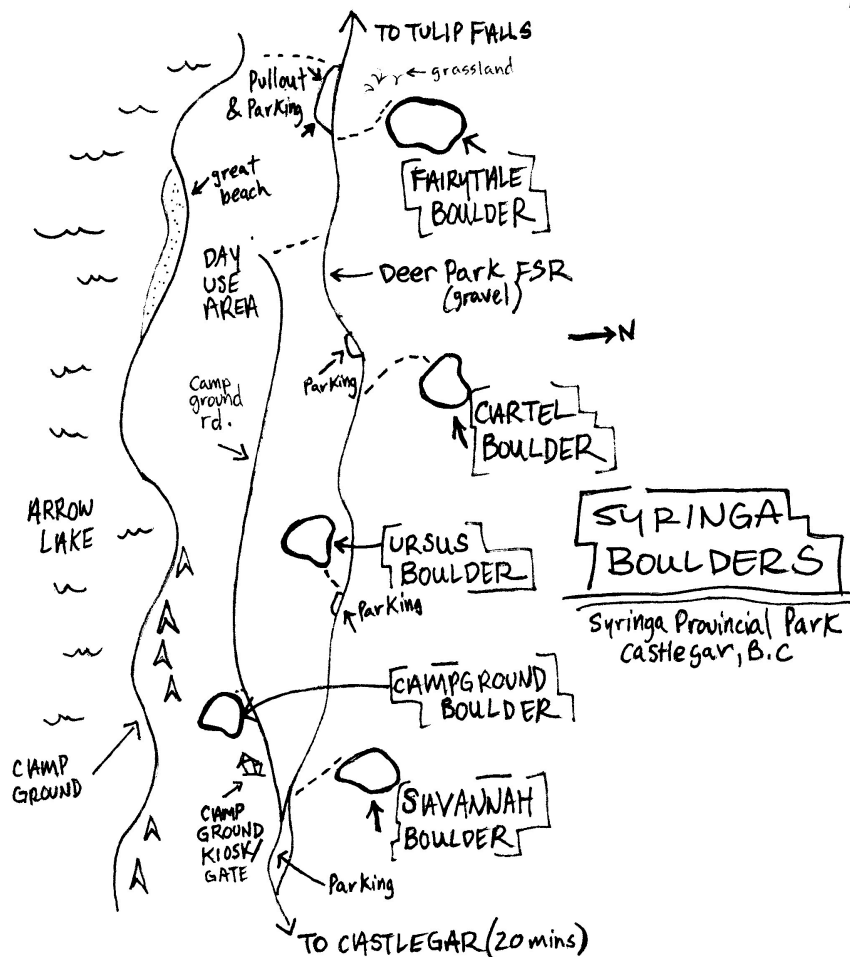
Mostly just the classic and direct lines have been cleaned and climbed to date but many more opportunities exist for variations and new problems! Having said this, please do your best to be as minimal as possible to keep this area as natural as we can and watch out for poison ivy when searching for new potential (the boulders that have been established are free of this wicked 3 leaved plant).

### 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' 17km. 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, 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 and a lot of beautiful cliff faces until you pass a few marinas (15-20 minutes) and you enter 'SYRINGA CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK' (big sign). You then drive a few more kilometers to the campground gate and a fork in the road. Left brings you into the park/campground and right turns into Deer Park FSR (gravel but good for 2wd). Park here for the Campground & Savannah Boulder in a nice little pullout or continue down the gravel rd. for the Ursus, Cartel & Fairytale boulder both a couple of minutes further. Everything can also be accessed from the campground parking.

### The essentials:

- High amount of stoke
- Nylon/Steel brushes
- Pad(s) & Spotter(s)
- Good tape/skin kit
- Swim shorts



# SAVANNAH BOULDER

## Approach:

Park at the fork in the road, look uphill to your right and follow your nose. 30 seconds from the car. Technical highballs and a fabulous traverse.

### 1 - PEARLY GATES TRAVERSE - V5 \*\*\*

Start on the far left, jump up and follow the crack/rail all the way. Drop off or finish up top. Quality!

### 2 - THE GATE KEEPER - V3 \*\*

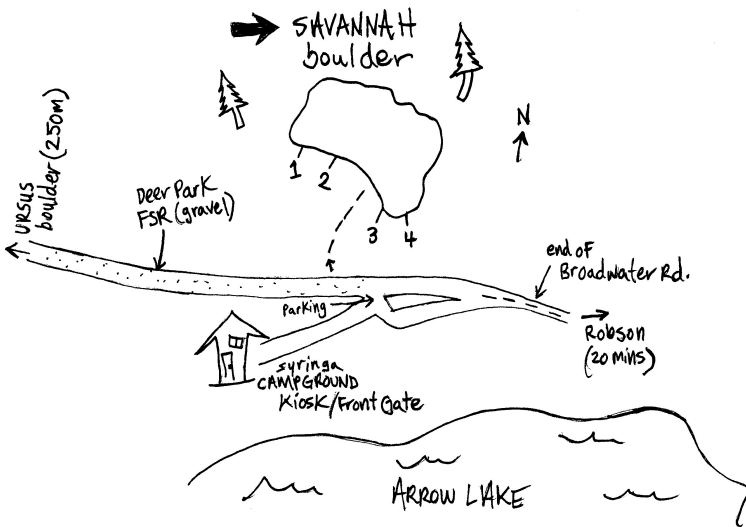
A technical, highball masterpiece. Climb the left face with tough first moves, a rest then a super committing finish. The top out is good but watch out if you blow the final moves. A V5 variation starts to the left skipping the opening moves.

### 3 - HIGH PLAINS DRIFTER - V5 \*\*

Start in the little scoop on the right part of the face; move up past some fun slopers to a high & committing finish. Nice.

### 4 - THE BRAVE WARRIOR - V6 \*\*\*

Sit start on the far right prow. Big, fun moves lead you through the prow to some big ledges and a tricky top out. A right hand finish exists and adds some more fun (and an easier topout).



# CAMPGROUND BOULDER

## Approach:

Park at the fork in the road, go past the campground gate/kiosk and the boulder is just on your left in the forest. Climbs have been described right to left from where the trail meets the boulder. Nice climbing with some good novice problems. This looks like it has been climbed on for some time. FA's & any names of problems are unknown.

### 1 - Unknown - V4 \*

Sit start, climb the arête trending left a slopy ledge and an easier finish.

### 2 - Unnamed - V5 \*

Climb the steep face through some big & burly reaches and sidepulls.

### 3 - Unknown - V3 \*\*

Sit start, climb the left arête through some cool moves. Fun!

### 4 - The Slab - V0-V3

The slab on the south side of the boulder. Many variations possible.

### 5 - Unknown - V2

Another arête.

### 6 - The Scoop - V3 \*

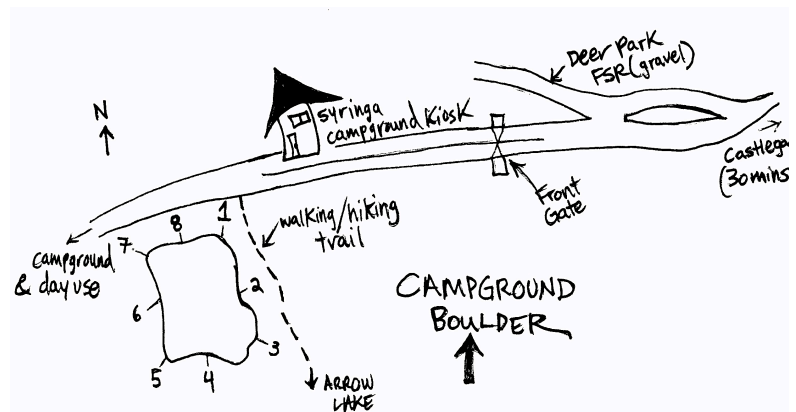
Sit start on the left arête and move into the scoop. It's harder if you stay direct.

### 7 - Unknown - V2 \*

Sit start and climb another arête with grippy open hand-holds.

### 8 - The Downclimb - V0

An excellent kids problem or a very nice downclimb.



# URSUS BOULDER

## Approach:

From the fork in the road, take the gravel rd. down about 250m pullover and park. You should be able to see the top of the boulder from the road on your left (south). Another amazing boulder with lots of variety, pumpy, technical and lots of shade.

### 1 - Kuga - V5+ \*\*

A somewhat devious start (harder if your short) leads into a beautiful feature and an easier finish.

### 2 - Los Osos Negros - V4 \*\*\*

Sit start on jugs, climb through the unique black basalt, a tricky sequence, a rest and then a surprise finish. Great landing and lots of great moves! Named after the famed Nelsonites and their token local coffee shop.

### 3 - Bear Claw - V2+ \*\*

Start with one hand on the pinch and one on the big rail out left. Move into the awesome rail, now campus, throw and go for it! Short, steep and pumpy..The opening move have yet to be done from the prow direct.

### 4 - The Serpent & The Rainbow - V8 \*\*

Climb the imposing scoop/dihedral feature. Technical, committing and very sequential. Could be finished way up high too ☺ Sweet!

# FAIRYTALE BOULDER

## Approach:

Continue down the dirt road a little further (750m) to where you can now see the lake on your left. There is a nice pullout here on the lakeside and a beautiful beach. Cross the road, find the cairns and head into the open (old burn) forest, on a little trail. The boulder is sitting there beautifully perched waiting for you. The real gem of the bouldering around here, lots of variety and one the most unreal cave/overhang features around. 'Where the Wild Things Are' has become an instant classic ☺

### 1 - WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE - V6

\*\*\*

From the nose on the far right follow the rails to your left, staying low to where a crux greets you transitioning into the big rail feature. Layback the great feature to a juggy finish. Awesome! Two easier variations are to; stand start (V3), or sit start (V4) and go straight up skipping the whole traverse in from the right, both are fun in their own right.

### 2 - WIDOW'S PEAK - V4+ \*\*

Start low on the nose, follow the rails to the left a little but then go straight up (crux) and gain the other prow/fin like feature (not as positive) and follow it out left to the same finish as '1'. Quality!

### 3 - THE ART OF FLIGHT - V4 \*\*

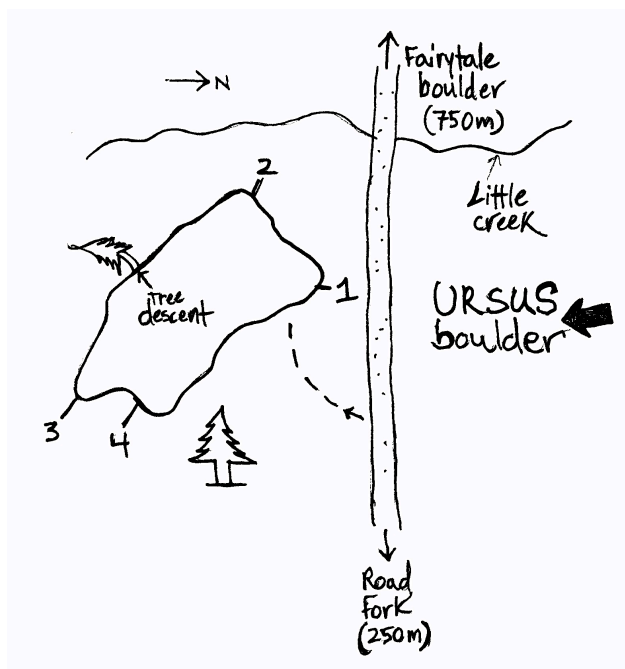
Again, start on the nose on the arête, but move straight up to a big hold and climb the arête directly. A very airy set of moves set you up for a high finish. A few pads and a good spotter are highly recommended.

### 4 - ROCKET APPLIANCES - V5 \*\*

Sit start on the cool dyke feature and make a difficult move up to a shallow hold. A few more desperate moves lead to a big hold and an easy finish way up high.

### 5 - WORSE CASE ONTARIO - V2 \*

Sit start on the nice huge rail and move up through a couple of positive layaways and a nice high finish. Good warm up..





## 6 - SHIT HAWK - V2 \*\*

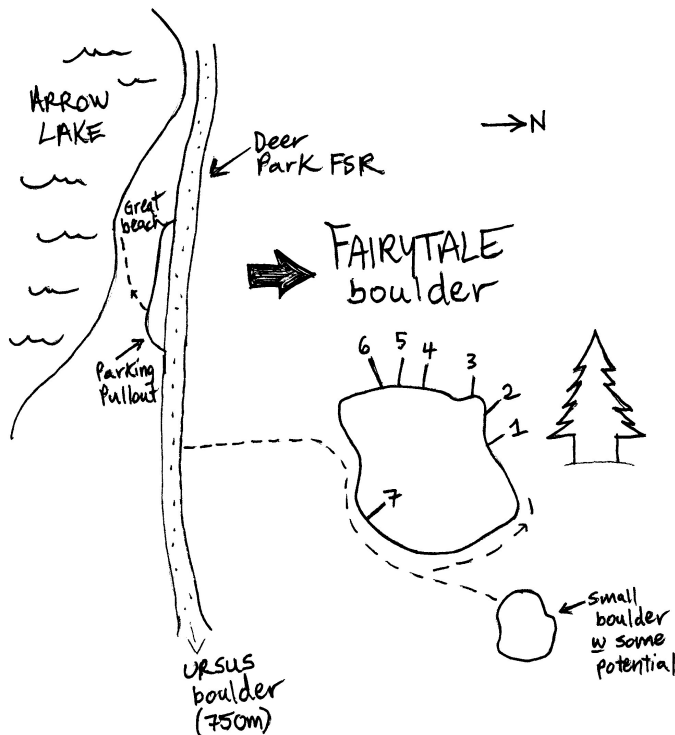
Sit start on the same rail but move out right to a nice face climb. The holds are not as good as they look and it's trickier than it seems. Different than the rest and really fun ☺

## 7 - IRISH BARTENDER PROJECT- V? \*\*

This problem is located on the south side of the boulder. Start with a hidden left hand and the big rail. A tricky opening sequence leads you up through some wild throws and layaways that have yet to be stuck. In memory of the only real Irish Bartender to ever work at the "Irish" bar in Nelson ☺

## 8 - TOUGH GUYS DON'T DANCE - V6 \*\*\*

A recent addition & send on the E face of the boulder. Start down low in a little alcove and make some really fun moves to slopers out right. Compress on to the finish. An awesome line!



# CARTEL BOULDER

### Approach:

Just a little bit further down the road from the Ursus boulder (300m) is this lone bloc sitting beautifully in the pine forest just uphill off the right hand side of the road. Park down the road on the left at a nice pullout, walk back down the road and follow the nice trail for about 2 minutes to the boulder. The problems here are very high quality, and are a must for any climber in this firing range! Technical, with good landings and committing finishes (becoming a theme here ☺) on super high quality Gneiss!

### THE SMUGGLER - V2\*

Start low down on the left hand side under the overhang. Power up, make a tricky mantle and follow the slab to the top. Not as easy as it looks.

### KINGPIN - V6 \*\*

Start seated on the left hand side under the overhang on some fantastic holds. Transition up and right, follow the lip/arête through some powerful throws and one wild topout. Not a gimme ☺

### EL CHAPO - V5 \*\*\*

Start seated down on the right hand side of the boulder on a positive ledge. Technical side pulls and committing moves lead you straight up the face to a dynamic finish. A real thinker and the best problem on this boulder! Named after the infamous Mexican Cartel's elusive leader.

### EL PADRONE - V2 \*

Climb the right hand arête through the basalt features to some sneaky moves up high, good warm-up. Named after the famous Columbian drug lord.

