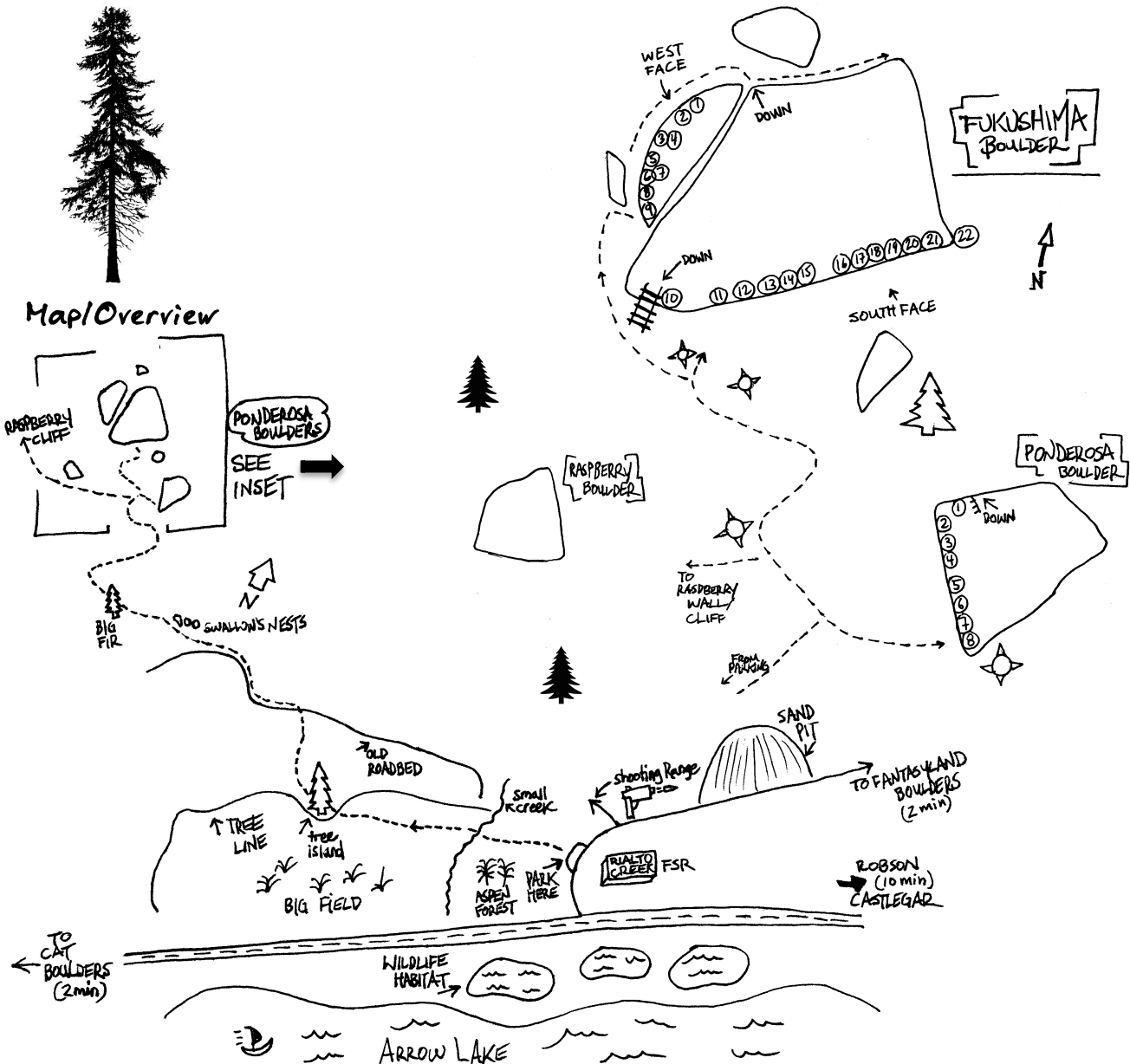


# PONDEROSA BOULDERS

Yes, it's true, another unreal bouldering area 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 and the trail brings you through a beautiful zone. The FUKUSHIMA Boulder is a masterpiece, big lines, amazing holds, and some of the most aesthetic boulder problems in the West Kootenay's, it's absolutely massive and it's hosts tons of climbing: a must visit! The PONDEROSA Boulder was the original boulder discovered and it hosts some pretty amazing face climbing on perfect rock and it makes for a great warm-up for the big guy up the hill ☺ Needless to say this place is going to leave you with a big smile ☺

## 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 to a game trail over a small creek (usually dry after July) and into the big field. Once in the big open field head across and into the forest at a big Ponderosa Pine/Douglas Fir tree island. 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 uphill hiking 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, and just a little further up hill is the Fukushima Boulder; a total of about 15 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

An incredible featured; tall face full of holds that's just slightly overhanging makes this boulder a great place to warm-up for the big guy up the hill or a worthy trip in it's own right if you climb sub-V3 ☺

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

Just around the left of the main west face (beside the down climb) is this 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 than 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 - V2 \*\*

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



# Fukushima Boulder

This big boulder has enough climbing on it to keep you busy for days! The West Face routes tend to be more technical, long and sport really fun/techy mantles with great landings and it gets afternoon sun. The South Face problems are tall, long and powerful, and are all graced with incredible jug haul finishes that leave you very satisfied when you reach the top (not to mention the views down the valley), it gets only early morning sun.

## WEST FACE

### 1 - Shere Kahn - V6 \*\*\*

Start on the same jug as 'Tiger Claw' but move out left under the bulge and make a tricky reach to a small side pull. Power up from here on awesome slopers to a big move out left with bad feet, a fun lip encounter brings you to jugs up and over and a easy mantle. Bring ample power!! ☺

### 2 - Tiger Claw - V5 \*\*

Sit start down low on the left hand side of the boulder on a big juggy ledge. Transition up and to the right on small crimps and eventually a nice jug; from here a committing sequence leads to the lip and a reachy move to your (big) top out holds. Requires strong fingers and the 'Tiger Claw' technique. Fun.

### 3 - Shogun (left) - V6 \*\*

Sit start on the very bottom of the prow on a nice in cut hold for both hands. Left hand goes up to a blocky jug and the right aims for a hidden (good) slot. Compress up the arête eventually moving out left to the big jug feature. Now aim far **left** to a hidden side pull/under cling and make a huge crossover move to a crimp at the lip, a few stretches out left and you'll end up with the great jug to finish as per 'Tiger Claw'. Wow!

### 4 - Shogun (right) - V5 \*\*\*

Sit start on the very bottom of the prow on a nice in cut hold for both hands. Left hand goes up to a blocky jug and the right aims for a hidden (good) slot. Compress up the arête eventually moving out left to the big jug feature. Now aim up and **right** to a cool sloper dish, slowly move up to a hidden crimp right before the lip and slap up to a cool sloper at the lip. A committing mantle ensues to a final lunge for the big hold way back. Cryptic route! Full Value ☺

### 5 - Pai Mei - V (Open Project)

Climb the very steep and long arête direct; the top has some good holds, WOW! Kung Fu Style needed to perfect this art ☺

### 6 - White Lotus (stand) - V6 \*\*

Start with two small crimps at chest height at the end of the big diagonal rail and make a powerful move up to the big jug. Step up and use the 'Dyno' technique to get up to the big sloper ledge out right. If you can hold onto this, move back out left into the dihedral, find the good holds and finish with a techy mantle.

### 7 - White Lotus - V8 \*\*\*\*

Sit start at the very beginning of the diagonal rail on the far right. Traverse the elegant rail up and left with increasing difficulty to the big jug, and finish as per 'White Lotus Stand' Absolutely classic!!

### 8 - Mr. Miagi - V6 \*\*

Start as per 'White Lotus', climb into the opening sloping crimps of 'Cobra Kai' but continue moving left into the black bulge and it's sloping ledges, mantle up and over when it makes sense further left. Requires moves like Mr.Miagi himself ☺ Techy!

### 9 - Cobra Kai - V4 \*\*\*\*

Start as per 'White Lotus' but move directly up through the perfect sloping crimps. From the jug, make an awesome move out left to a small crimp and a wild throw to the lip, mantle up onto the slab/offwidth (amazing) with care. Pretty darn cool ☺ a must-do!

## 4 - The Great Plains - V2 \*\*

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 on a small side pull, this leads into a delicate and thin sequence, some great side pulling and a committing series of crimps way up high.

## 6 - The Cunning Coyote - V1 \*\*\*\*

Start very 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).

## 8 - The Forest Ranger - V2 \*\*

Traverse the whole boulder diagonally, starting on 'The Articulator' and finishing on 'Tall Timber', lots of moves to say the least and it flows very well, pumpy ☺

## SOUTH FACE

### 10 - The Rising Sun - V4 \*\*\*

Start very low on the very far left of the face and traverse the rail in it's entirety to the right where the feet start to disappear and you are forced into a series of desperate moves with pumped out arms. Another classic finish ensues to the very top of the boulder! Amazing! **V3** if you drop off before the crux ☺ (still fun)

### 11 - Deadly Viper Assassination Squad - V5 \*\*\*

Start super low under the overhanging bulge on a nice side pull and a small crimper. Make a really fun and powerful move to the left hand sloper, then make one bigger move into the 'Rising Sun' sloper/rail and finish as per that route. Awesome!

### 12 - The Dragon - V (Open Project)

Start as per 'Hattori Hanzo' but climb straight up through the diagonal feature and finish as per 'The Rising Sun'. Burly.

### 13 - Hattori Hanzo - V8 \*\*\*

Start on the obvious jug down low and traverse out right to the amazing sloping ledge. Bust a series of hard moves through the 3 crimps in the middle of the face; make some desperate grabs on slopers and finish up another classic jug fest high on the boulder. Another spectacular line!

### 14 - Giant Panda (low) - V7 \*\*\*\*

Start on 'Hattori Hanzo' and continue on past the sloping ledge and into 'Giant Panda (stand)'. No move is harder than V7 but the pump will work your arms over like steel bars!! Absolutely legendary climb ☺

### 15 - Giant Panda (stand) - V6 \*\*\*

Start with your right hand on a crimp/pinch and left hand on a small crimp just to the right of the sloping ledge. Traverse the rail out right to a black under cling/side pull, make a strenuous move over the bulge and execute a big mantle move to a small crimp, traverse right on jugs and finish on 'Bushido'. Skips the crux of 'Giant Panda (low)'. Still really, really good ☺

### 16 - Katana - V5 \*\*

Start on 'Bushido' but after the first big jug, traverse out left to the black under cling, move into 'Giant Panda' (crux) and make the same huge mantle move to its finish. Pretty sweet!

### 17 - Bushido (left) - V3 \*\*

Same start but at the second big flake jug where you bust right, head out hard left instead and climb through the flakes to a huge mantle move, traverse right on the jugs into and finish as per 'Bushido'.

### 18 - Bushido - V2 \*\*\*\*

Sit start on the two lowest holds you can find and climb up some tricky slots to a big flake jug. Awesome big moves ensue up the face to where huge holds greet you higher up for another classy finish. A super sick pure line with almost 20 moves, the go to warm-up for the boulder and a must-do!

### 19 - Bonsai - V5 \*\*\*

Sit start on the ledge just to the right of 'Bushido', power up to a couple of gastons, make a dynamic throw to the sloper, now traverse left into the dish with the BONSAI tree. Now link up and finish as per 'Bushido'. Sweet!

### 20 - Bonsai (right) V7 \*\*

Start the same as per 'Bonsai' but once at the sloper move out right with difficulty onto the face and crimp your way through on beautiful rock to another jug haul finish.

### 21 - Nuclear Dyno - V6 \*

Start on an under cling/side pull far out right and a crimper for your left. Hold on and make a huge move to the nice in cut in the middle of the face. Pity it didn't continue on further. Drop off.

### 22 - Samurai - V6 \*\*\*

Start with the cool Samurai blade feature at chest height on the far right arête. A cool sequence leads up through crimping holds on the arête to a big lunge for a sloper and a high elegant finish on good holds. Awesome!

