

Eldorado Canyon Fixed Hardware Application Form

Name: Ken Trout

Route Name and Proposed Grade: This proposal is for three new bolts on two existing routes on the south face of the Whale's Tail, The Divine Ms M (5.10) and Free Speech (5.12-).

Location: First, and most important, the lower proposed bolt would protect a direct start for both routes, a short variation that is not in any guide book but that I have been doing for 25 years. Books describe both routes as starting with Spoof but I find that my start has the benefit of the hardest move coming lower down, even without a bolt. Both starts merge at a fixed ring angle, the second fixed piton on Spoof. Spoof's first fixed piton is too low to protect the last slippery move to the ring angle. My proposed starter bolt will provide reasonable access to the otherwise safely bolted cruxes of both Divine Ms M and Free Speech.

The second bolt would be above the anchor of Free Speech.

Third, the upper bolt is for the 5.10r/x finish to Free Speech, Uninterrupted Free Speech. Seems such a waste to not climb the pocketed wall above the too-low Free Speech anchor, finishing at the Divine Ms M anchor instead. I led it once with pre-placed gear; hard to tie down opposing wires (first ascent). Then I led it again, placing the opposed gear on lead with one hand, not at all bomber.

Route description: A photo painted with many details follows. Also, see routes 14a and 17, pages 118-119, Steve Levin, 2013.

Other information from applicant: I have spoken with first ascensionist Mike Brooks about my proposals and he favors a safer start.

The 1/2" glue-in bolts anchoring Divine Ms M were installed by Ric Leitner, with FHRC approval, about 1994. Free Speech originally had a single bolt anchor. I added the second anchor with FHRC approval, also about 1994. All the lead bolts were recently upgraded (by volunteers unknown to me, Thanks!).

Using a crash pad blocks the trail. The ring pin is too high for stick clipping. I put a chalk dot on the rock last fall and it is still there, 10 inches below my 5'11" maximum reach so anyone could reach it from the clipping foothold.

The huecos on Divine Ms M are some of the biggest and cleanest in Eldorado Canyon, superb climbing!

All the protection bolts were recently replaced with new 1/2" stainless, yet we observe few ascents still.

The following has been provided by ACE:

1. **Does the proposed new bolts alter neighboring routes?**

It creates a direct start but does not change the nature of neighboring routes.

2. **Will the proposed new bolts make the climb safe?**

Yes, the climb will be safer. Currently it is R/X.

3. **Does the new bolts overlook natural protection in favor of bolts?**

Gear can be placed at each proposed bolt location but only the gear at the last proposed bolt location seems safe. The route currently feels more like an R/X climb when leading.

4. **Will the proposed new bolts lead to crowding at the base?**

If people climb it, arguably yes. There is little room for people to walk past a belayer and their rope.

The Devine Ms M, 5.10d
two proposed new bolts, 2020

Free Speech, 5.12a



Whale's Tail
Eldorado Canyon