

# Eldorado Canyon Fixed Hardware Application Form

## Information from Applicant:

**Route Name and Proposed Grade:** The Mandoline, 5.12+

**Location:** Potato Chip, West Ridge

The route is on the Potato Chip formation on the West Ridge. The route ascends the overhanging arete/ridge feature that faces downhill. You'd access the route from the ground (one pitch).

### **Route description:**

This is a single pitch rock climb that breaks up into a few bouldery cruxes. It starts with easy, gear-protected climbing (5.8-5.9) to the first overhang (V3-V4 crimp and pocket boulder problem). 2 bolts would protect this bit, the first bolt being the highest one could clip from the starting stance, and one more to protect a ledge fall while mantling the first bulge. After the first overhang, there is about 15' of easy slab and large jug/break. The second bulge is longer and more difficult (V6-V7 boulder) and would be protected by 3 bolts. The same strategy would be used – clip the first bolt high, with a closer 2<sup>nd</sup> bolt to protect a ledge fall and a 3<sup>rd</sup> bolt to protect the mantle. This deposits you at another slab where the route meets the second pitch of the Potato Chip Regular Route, 10c.

Then, add one more bolt to the arete above the first pitch belay on the regular route. That way, one could climb "The Mandoline" as one pitch. You would place supplementary gear at the belay of the regular route, then continue up the arete. Clip one more bolt ~midway and climb to a pair of bolted anchors on top of the formation (bolted anchor is part of this application). Per comment by Steve "Crusher" Bartlett on mountain project ([link here](#)), the upper part of the arete is ~5.10a R, but extremely dangerous for the follower because there is no gear to protect a pendulum.

**Other information from applicant:** The route has been rappelled and sussed on a fixed line after climbing the Potato Chip regular route. I did most of the moves in approach shoes on a mini traxion and the climbing is excellent and hard. Hidden pockets make the first bulge relatively easy, and good feet will make the second bulge a fun compression boulder. The position is incredible! The following photos marked up below show proposed bolting schematic (6 lead bolts and a two bolt anchor.). We would plan to use glue-ins due to the outward force on low bolts when taking falls up high.



^ Brenton sussing out the route on a fixed line

Please either include a photo with your topo drawn on it or use a photo from the Levin guide and include the page number. Mark the location of each lead bolt and or anchor bolts on the topo.

# Mandoline

Proposed Grade: 5.12+

Named after the restaurant apparatus for slicing thin potato chips

~30m

Regular route gear belay

Bolt 5 - protects exit moves to slab

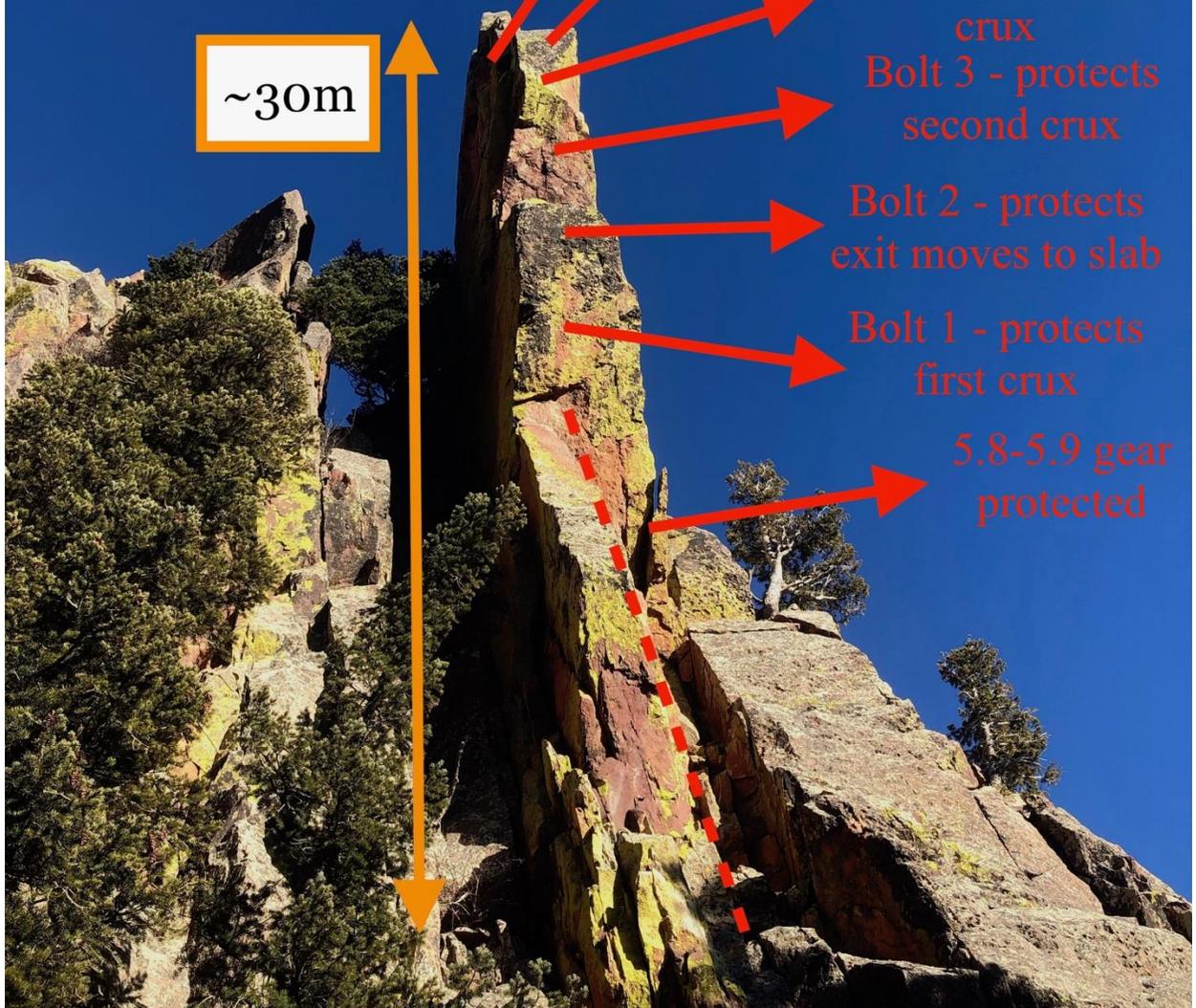
Bolt 4 - clip from jug before third crux

Bolt 3 - protects second crux

Bolt 2 - protects exit moves to slab

Bolt 1 - protects first crux

5.8-5.9 gear protected





Anchor

Potential bolt 6

Crux 3

Crux 2

Crux 1

\*More photos can be provided on request (email), most of them are difficult to interpret because they were taken off a fixed line.

### **Factors For**

1. Is the proposed new route independent?

Yes it is an independent line. It would share the second pitch with the regular route, or if a 6<sup>th</sup> lead bolt and independent anchor is approved, would have its own second pitch.

2. Is the proposed new route direct?

Yes, it goes straight through the two bulges on the arete of the Potato chip.

3. Is the proposed new route on good rock?

Yes, rock quality is excellent (other than the possibility of the whole potato chip falling over...). Hidden pockets and feature climbing avoids any loose flakes or holds.

4. Does the overall quality of the climbing inspire?

Yes, the aspect is incredible and it is continuous, interesting, and difficult climbing.

5. Does the proposed new route alter neighboring routes?

It would alter the variation of the Potato Chip Regular Route. Labeled 11a Variation page 298 in the guide book.

6. Is the proposed new route safe?

Yes, no sufficient gear was found so it is suggested to be bolted.

### **Factors Against**

1. Does the new route overlook natural protection in favor of bolts?

Natural protection is considered when available and will be used.

2. Will the proposed new route lead to crowding at the base?

No, this is the only route on that face.

### **Neutral Factors**

1. Can the proposed new route be top roped?

Yes, if you scramble the formation or climb the Potato Chip Regular Route.