

Gordon Ridge

Located high up on ridges in the Santiam drainage The Vines proper would not have been developed were it not for a few downed trees and a convenient road. The band of andesite spawning the main Vines area runs for many miles in either direction, and once the extent of this rim was comprehended many other bouldering zones hidden in the remaining forest were quickly uncovered. While many of these areas have had a visit or two there can be no doubt that further exploration will reveal some excellent boulders, and who knows...maybe the best bouldering in this part of the state is still hidden among these ridges. The downside; the areas are all between 3500-4500 feet of elevation, and though the rocks may be sunny and dry the approach roads are frequently buried in snow into April or May. Break out the skis!

Much of the area consists of intermittent boulders hidden beneath wonderful mature forests. Occasional scree fields of smallish boulders cascade down from cliff bands, sometimes crossing roads and alerting climbers that something more concentrated is lurking nearby. At this time there are about ten general areas that have been explored, but the most concentrated of these (and the only spot with any real development) has been The Vines

The Vines

The Vines is a densely populated boulderfield offering a nice circuit of moderate bouldering along with the occasional line that requires a little more effort. The rock is generally solid, offering climbing which is more focused on good movement than power, but plenty of steeper pulls exist to keep the egos of the strong and dumb intact (picture me here). Intermediates will find that this sunny area offers a good number of excellent routes in the V0-V4 range, with several being true classics with flat landings. There is also a fair number of boulders located in jumbles resembling those found in the Garden, with a surprising array of pocketed roofs, arêtes and faces complete with more questionable landings. Problems to look for include Flying V (V0), Whole Lotta Love(V1), Black Dog (V6?), Bear Necessities (V3/4), and shoe bitch (V4). There are also some pretty special projects lurking around... V6-10. Problems range from dinky to slightly highball, so bring the pads.

Directions: From Sweethome drive east on Hwy 20 to Gordon Rd (Rd 2032) at milepost 46. Turn right onto Gordon Rd and wind your way 8.0 miles up the hill and then along the ridge to Rd 145 on your right at a small quarry. Drive on Rd 145 1.2 miles to the third road on your right (unmarked...if you get to a small quarry you have gone ~~200~~ yards too far). This road is now closed to motor vehicles, so park out of the way here walk 0.15 miles to a vague trail on your right as the road turns downhill to the left (boulders visible in an open area to the right). Follow this trail leading slightly uphill to the boulders 50 yards away. Areas are listed facing uphill, from right to left.

Wide variety of problems; short and tall, roofs, slabs, mantels and offwidths. Several worthy lines here, but no outright classics...yet. This area is directly uphill from the parking area, and also offers the best access to the Rim area.

- 1) short boulder

Pocket Boulder

- 2) **V0-2**** traverse right & up on south side of boulder
- 3) **V2-4**** Up & over mini roof on juggy pocket to mantel. Interesting!
- 4) **n side** Mossy. Easy.

Good boulder

- 5) **Crimps on a slab V1**** Sit..stand? Cant recall. up slab using...crimps.
- 6) **Center slab**, not as many crimps. **V3-6?****
- 7) Project: Hard arête looks like an area classic. Best line in the south side area.
- 8) Crack/corner/offwidth/squeeze. **Version 1 (E-zy Cheese) V1**?** goes right to top of #7. **Version 2 (squeezy cheese) V2? **** chimneys/grovels through notch. Both need cleaning, but are fairly fun

Capstone

- 9) Offwidth roof, to left & up into the light (light of day). Could be cool..or really lame. Also may be a rail at your back going onto the flat top?
- 10) **EB's Face V6/7? ****** Crimping and small feet on upper boulder and great rock...a bit scary, but safe with good spotting. Grade uncertain, but from memory very subtle and tricky.

Flattop

- 11) **Fin V0*** SD. Very short problem, but fun enough to bother with for a second or two.
- 12) Sd to crimps and a pure mantel
- 13) Sd to undercling and another pure mantel. Is that block safe? Could be a stand start at lower grade?
- 14) Standup and mantel. Possible SD start could be really good.
 - a. Between 14 and 23 is a problem with a sketchy landing over a slanting slab.
- 15) Short face
- 16) **Short V0***

Land of Thimbles boulder

- 17) **Thimble 1** Crimps and pockets to top... got done but don't recall grade, probably below V3?
- 18) **Thimble 2** (v?**) crimp Monos? Up & left..strait?
- 19) Sd hard to lip and mantel or traverse left & out? Short, but could be very good.
- 20) Some loose bits & a blunt arête. Huge loose block guarding the SD.
- 21) **Crimps & slaps.** V2-3**? Nice line, but suspect rock...it will change?
 - a. *Right of 21: some holds and a line that got done, but recall nothing else...could actually be several here.*
- 22) SD?
- 23) Offwidth roof crack. Arete? Could go either direction...could be kind of cool, or awful.
- 24) Arete/rail? Good?

Flying V Area

Pleasant slabby bouldering with flat landings make this a great place to spend an afternoon in the sun. Several of these routes are among the best of their grade in the state, and the remainder are good enough to create an amusing easy circuit.

Flying V Boulder

- 1) **Evil League of Evil V4/5**** This thing packs a fair bit of climbing into a dinky little package. Its scrunchy and a little sharp but it comes with a strange sense of satisfaction on the send. Sit start on a left sidepull 3 ft off the ground, and a similar rt sidepull 2 ft up. Move out right on pockets, sidepulls, edges and an arête to a finish up and right. Was that really only five feet tall?
 - a. **Evil League direct V5**.** Same sit and go straight up on small crumps.
- 2) **V2**** SD on undercling, with left hand on the Flying V arete and climb up the corner stemming on evil league boulder as desired. Top out onto the Evil League Boulder. Climbs better than it looks.
- 3) **Project.** Start # 2 but Arete only...no stemming! Contrived at top.
- 4) **Flying V V0 ****** Arete/groove thing with great climbing and a really cool look. Crux at the top, exit to the Evil League boulder. You'll want to do it twice. The eliminate version (**X-wing******) which ignores the arête is fantastic slab climbing...**more like V6+**.
- 5) **20 Cent V2***** Start with hands around vague horizontal crack and slab climb up. & slightly left. Good moves.
 - a. **50 Cent V4-8***** Start as for 20 cent, but from the vague crack work up and right toward the highpoint. Difficulty depends a little on how far right

one goes, but the climbing and rock are great, and the variants are less contrived feeling than they look.

- 6) **The Coin V0-***** Start right of the ledge, which is off Go strait up. Nice moves, slightly contrived.
- 7) **Triumph V0- **** Start at ledge and go strait up to low summit. One slab move.
 - a. **Project***** Start on Triumph and traverse right to 50 cent to the highpoint.
- 8) **A little bit of nothing V2*** Nothing special, but somehow irresistible. Start in crack and go up over bulge. Tricky. Other little problems in this area.
- 9) **Lessor Evil V2-3,** SD start & up. A bit awkward. Often very mossy.

Margo's Boulder

- 10) **SE Ridge ** VB-** Looow angle but a nice little line. Also happens to be the way down. Climb it without hands for a challenge and a scare.
- 11) **Thimble full of tall V0***** Slab strait up the middle, crux at top, but can escape right if don't like how things are going at mid-height.
- 12) **River Teeth V0-**** Up the left side of the slab to a crux near the top.
- 13) **Margot Line V0**** Climb up the steeper crack/seam to the finish on River Teeth
- 14) **Whole Lotta Love V1/2***** Up the right side of the face and arête and onto the ledge at the top using crimps, patina, and a really cool wave-like feature (but not the crack on Margot Line). Slightly contrived at the bottom, but **** climbing and rock.
- 15) **Black Dog (AKA Zeppelin Rules!) V5-7 ***** Strait up the middle. Big simple jump move from crimps....quality.
- 16) **Bear Necessities V3/4***** Stand start around sidepulls and edges ending on the ledge on WLL. Starting on crimps of W.L.L. and traversing left is a really good V4. Fantastic moves with various interesting solutions.
- 17) **Drew's arête (Drunken Dunkin) V2***** Sit start (?) and then up arête via smears on the arête just when you start feeling airy. Its about commitment.
- 18) **Project** up face in center to top or joining drews. Looks good, but never cleaned.
- 19) **Faux Crack VB*** Up the crackish thing. Fun to start around the corner on #20 at V0+**

Pocket Wall

A unique collection of grips populate this wall and like a gym you can climb pretty much anywhere. Here are some of the more natural lines.

- 20) **V0***** Sit and move slightly left and up on nice pockets.
- 21) **The Crumbler V1**** Sit and up left via pockets and edges to highpoint of boulder.
- 22) **The old man and the mono V3**** Sit start slightly left of center and use only monos to go strait up.
- 23) **Mono Y Mono V2**** Sit start on far left at pistol grip pocket and traverse right to finish up old man. Great pockets and some fun moves. Easy for the grade?
- 24) **V1***** Left start, traverse right a bit then up great pockets & edges to the arête, top out onto slab.

- 25) V1**** Left start, right for a move or two then up.
- 26) V1*** Railing on** Sit start at lowest part of rail and work left to a mantel at the bulb halfway out. Looks completely idiotic, but lovable enough on the send. The extension is **On and On V6** which ends all the way around at the end (stand on small ledge, then top out) and is ultra scrunchy. Don't bother unless you want to tick the crag.

Ed's Boulder

- 27) Ed's face V?***** Face to topout on right ridge
- 28) Arete on ed's boulder project.** Hard, scary, but looks excellent. May be traverse into 27 as well?

Lowball Boulder

- 29) The cracked Egg SD V3 **** Start with both hands on arete, and work up deceptively tricky top out.
- 30) Telly Savalas SD Center-V 4-5**** SD on bad sloper in center of face with feet on a knob at ground level to the left, and work up crimps and baldness to a very tricky topout. Can seem impossible one go, and easy the next.
- 31) Short division...cant remember, but notes say did it?** Hard? Dumb . Other short ones at your back here too.

Pit Boulder

- 32) Undone lines w bad landings**
- 33) Carhart Conspiracy V0***** Start off the ledge to sculpted holds and fun mantel. Lands in the pit if you fall off the top, but pads out alright. SD start from pit is V4-ish and kind of tweaky/lame.
- 34) Project** Squat start under roof and up and right. Could also go up and left...tweaky but pretty good either way.
- 35) Project...could be pretty good from hard SD.**
- 36) Ed's route V4***** Short powerful start with cool beta and some cool features/grips. From **stand start it is V1/2*****, even if it is only two moves.

Vines Boulder

- 37) A: Project On the right arete. Could be a good route, but needs work**
Aa: Between A &B is another sit start to arete which is harder. Could be good.
- B:** V0+ ** Start on undercling/sidepulls & feet on a rail, then mantel.
- 38) Short Mantel V0+ **** Start on obvious edge high, and do a fun little mantel. (or is start on undercling? My note is confusing)
- 38a) Roller Skates V3/4**** A little silly, but good climbing; Start on large left rail and a bad Rt sidepull and end up on the Short Mantel (#38). The big undercling is off.
- 39) VO- *** Over the Knife** From a knife edge foot at base go up center on hollow edges. Can also traverse into #38.
- 40) VB **** Easy face.
- 41) VB- **** Extremely easy face.

- 42) The Diamond V1 ***** Start with left on low undercling/sidepull , Rt on chest high sidepull. Surf up rail and arete.
43) V0+ * Start on underclings, then up left to rail.

Ledges

If you dig the climbing at the Garden then the problems found in this area should appeal. Good sized boulders are jumbled together, forming caves, nooks, ledges and slots. Stashed here and there are some of the better problems in the Gordon ridge area, but you better bring some pads and a trusted spotter if you want to give them a whirl. There are routes in a variety of grades, but nothing much of quality below V4. Problems to look for include Shoe Bitch (V4), proj, proj, proj...

Shoe Bitch V4*** SD on a rail and traverse up and left into a large edge, then up to where the cap boulder meets the climb, and up arete/face. Marred by the cap boulder, this is still great climbing.

Born again V2-3 ** Start for Shoe Bitch, then pull onto right slab and exit out chimney/squeave to top. A funny one.

Cougar Den V4* SD is awkward and surprisingly hard. The rock shelf underneath in the cave is on.

Edward's arete V6-7?** SD and climb right arete. The stand is around V4?, but the sit is better. Either way, I recall this as awkward,

Left Line (Name? I think it was I could live in hope? About V8****, wonderful climbing on good rock to a scary mantle finish. Landing is a little scary, with a pit behind. Very good.

Pitfall: Face with a boulder in your back and a bad landing. Move the boulder for a *** line with awesome crimps and a good mantle finish. ****

Roof route ** out of pit in Pitfall...about V3, can't recall name.

There are many others, including a couple of really interesting routes that are likely legit hard..

Rim

Lording over the whole area is a line of bulging rimrock running from south to north and ranging in height between too short to bother with bolting/leading, but too tall to boulder. The cliff is comprised primarily of nearly featureless faces separated every so often by an offwidth crack. Closer inspection reveals that there are some pretty cool lines to be sampled via toprope, and a handful that would be worth bouldering or leading. At this time (April 2011) there are no routes in this area, but there is definitely some fun to be had. At the very least it provides a nice view of the area and an explanation for why some of the boulders have all of those strange little pockets on one side. The southern end provides the best access to the top.

Crack Crumble V?(1-2?) ** South end of the Rim are a couple of shorter lines. This is the obvious finger crack leading to a ledge, which needs some extra cleaning. The landing is not great, but the line is fairly enjoyable. Can also start to the left and traverse

in for a slightly longer and steeper version. Can't remember much, other than EB onsighted it without much drama.

Stairway to Heaven V2? **, a climb and step off start to the next route...I think V2ish? Notes suck.

Project (TR)**?** There is an amazing arete with features in the middle of the rim, roughly above flying V. Very tall, very bad landing, but awesome looking.

The Mess (lower tier)

The rock at northern end of the parent rimrock is more bubbly and fractured than areas to the south. As a result the large, smooth boulders which rolled off the cliff band and settled in the main area give way to a full-on scree slope as one moves north. At the base of this scree is a collection of jumbled boulders, some of which are large enough to provide some fun problems with frequently compromised landings. Many of the lines here emerge from caves or undercuts and then top out on boulders that would otherwise be unimpressive; it is fortunate that the rock here is laden with a variety of pockets and other grips offering a bit more purchase than those on offer in the upper zones. Bring all the pads, a trusted spotter and a bit more power and there will be some fun to be had...just watch your step so you don't disappear into a crevice as you scurry around looking for the next hidden line. Recommendations in this area include....???? The best access is via a trail leading from Margo's boulder down to the " " boulder. From here you can scramble north. The problems are described in this order as well.

Notes from 2022: Several lines V0 – V6 done around 2011, but I can't find my notes so names are lost? Some good ones in capstone near center, and more to do.

Middle Rim Areas

After visiting The Vines you may be intrigued to know that there is oodles more of these rocky bands in the area. Just south-east from The Vines the bedding of andesite occasionally appears along a 1-2 miles of ridgeline, dropping a boulder here, a boulder there for this length. When the cliffs do decide to drop more than one boulder at a time they sort of overdo it forming large scree-scapes which contain occasional boulders of a desirable size. I'll get to the point...this area has some good stuff spread over larger areas of hillside, and to make it even more mysterious this "stuff" is often hidden in the trees. Not much has been explored here yet (April 2011),but we know that there are some decent little areas, and there are likely some very good boulders yet to be found. When you do find them they may need some brushwork The reward...the rock is a bit more featured, and in some cases very, very good. I will detail what is known, running North to south.

Directions: There are two access roads in the area, each offering better angles of attack for their own little collections and spots. From HWY 20 at milepost 46 takeGordon Rd (Rd 2032) 8.0 miles up the hill and then along the ridge to Rd 145 on your right at a small quarry. See the map, complete with road mileages to get to the zones.

The Arboretum (Soapgrass Mtn, west)

Mature forests clothe another grand assortment of boulders a bit further along Gordon Road, with some of these boulders being among the classiest in the area. Moss can ruin the moment of discovery a bit, but the fact remains that many of these boulders are made of the right stuff, with interesting (and deep) basalt-like pockets and features, and enough size to let you stretch out for more than a couple of moves on your way to victory (or defeat). Most of these rocks lie scattered among this gorgeous forest, but a few scree fields grace the hillsides below the larger cliffs, with some of these having some fantastic things on offer as well. Another mixed blessing with this area is it's elevation, which is about 4500 ft, and well into the snow-zone. On hot summer days it is a great place to be, but watch out for bugs immediately after the thaw.

Directions: From HWY 20 at milepost 46 take Gordon Rd (Rd 2032) XXXX miles up the hill and then along the ridge to... If in doubt drive on Gordon Rd until you cross a scree field. Boulders are spread over the hillside above you, with some in both directions, and some in the scree itself. Explore!

Gordon Lakes Trailhead (west)

The western trailhead of the Gordon Lakes trail is about 5 miles up Gordon Ridge Road (NF-2032) from HWY 34, and provides ample parking and a few easily accessed boulders of adequate size and quality. In addition to these easy plums are oodles more boulders that can be accessed from this trail at various points uphill, and along the ridge above. Not much has been developed here as of 2011 (a few easy things, and one v5ish thing next to trail), but there is a fair bit of potential for folks willing to explore and clean a lot of moss (and build some landings).

Trailhead Boulders

A small group of Boulders lies 0.3 miles uphill from the parking area at the Gordon Lakes trailhead. The rock is good, the boulders small, but adequately tall, and the access is mostly within feet of the trail itself. A few problems have been done, but more wait.

[Topos here]

Reservoir Boulders

On the rim above both the Trailhead boulders, and the Falls Cr scree area there are various cliffs and boulders centered around a dam for a small hydropower effort. One can access these zones by walking .6 miles up the Gordon Meadows trail from the TH, or one can access the area via the NF 349 road. There are also likely many more zones along this ridge as one travels east from the small dam. Brief inspection of this area has revealed some good lines, but with the usual moss, and some very bad landings. At least one very amazing **** line in a groove. Ask eric or Ed.



Falls Creek Scree

This area is located within sight of the Gordon Ridge Road, only a short distance uphill of the Gordon Meadows trailhead (5.5 miles from HWY 34). There is a large scree area just east of where Falls Creek crosses the road, with a couple of good looking boulders, and a lot of bad landings and short problems. There are also a few boulders in the trees adjacent to this zone...some of these might be worth some effort, but the usual moss is present.

The tortoise shell V4-6? (notes says V3+

~~Strictly Ballroom~~
~~The Movie was not made:~~ **V7?** Perfect boulder uphill and south in a small saddle.
Needs cleaning, but very good. **AMAZING V5-7**

Gordon Meadows

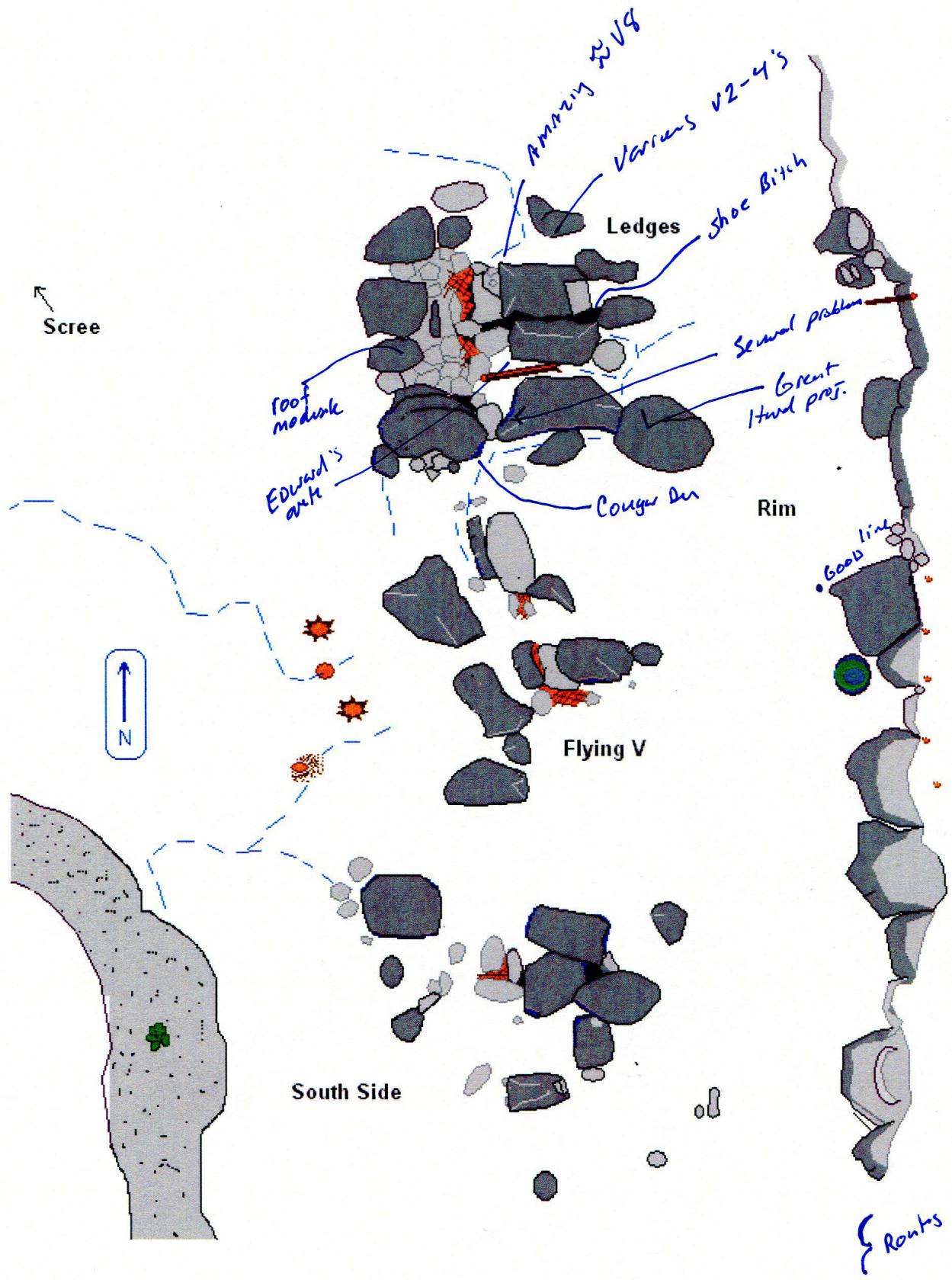
There is a band of good rock adjacent to the the NF-345 road near Gordon Meadows itself. More bands of rock likely exist nearby, but no development has occurred as of 2012. The area is heavily forested, and the boulders are generally quite tall.

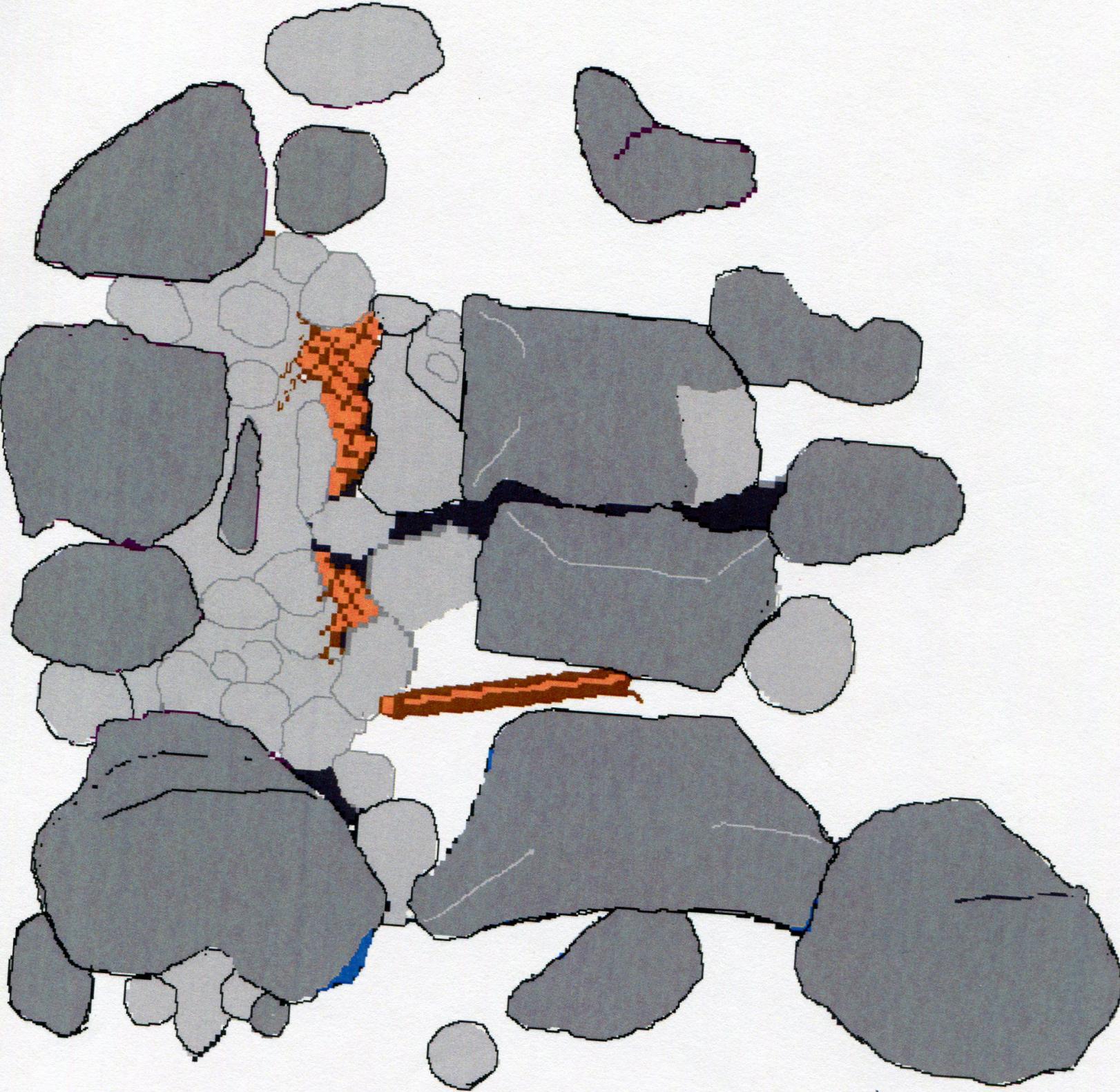
Twin Buttes Scree

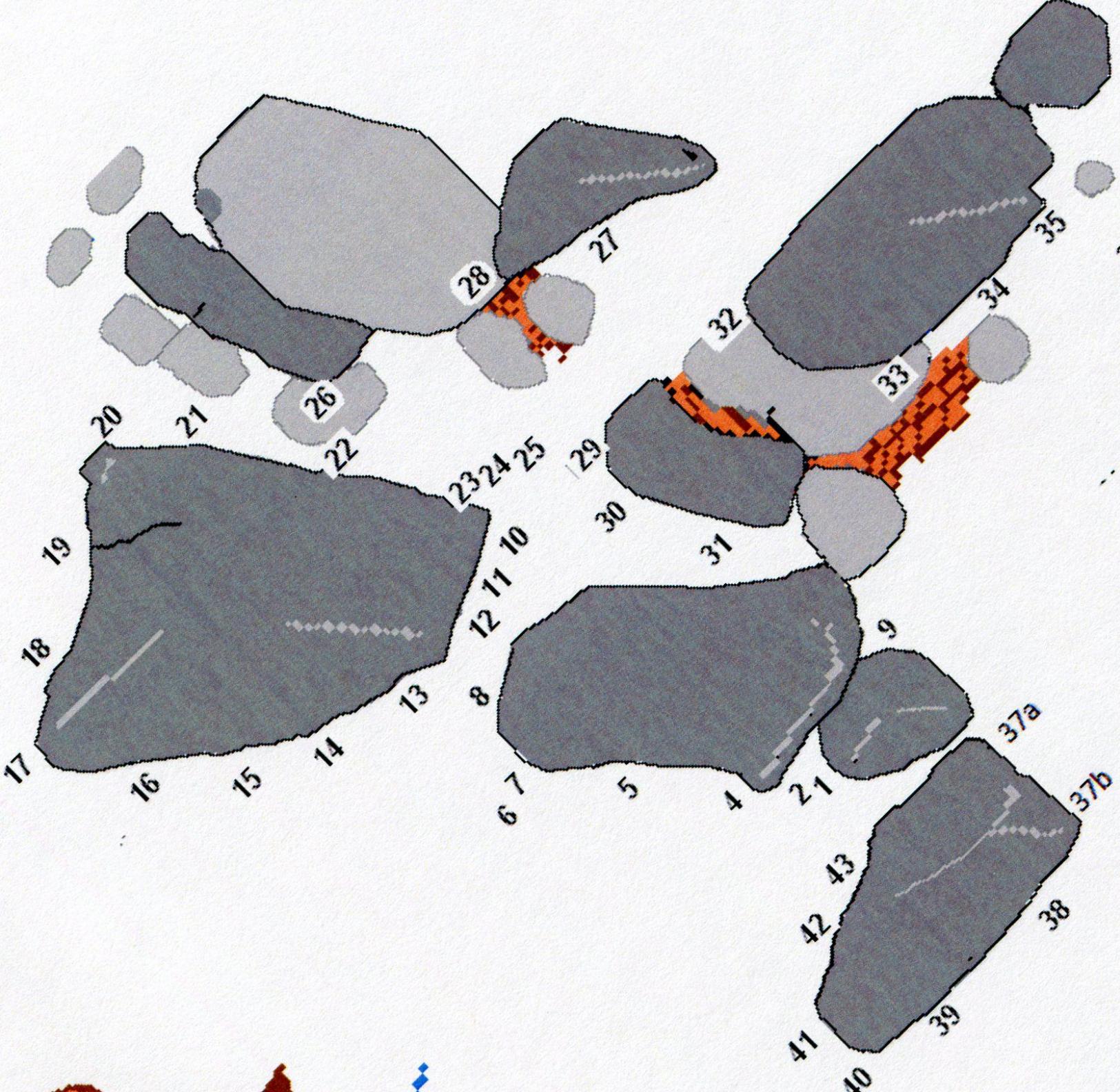
There is a large scree area on the SE face of twin buttes which may have some larger boulders, though they might be a very steep area. Worth a check. Access via NF-2032 just east of Bear pass and the Twin Buttes TH.

~~Route names~~

Strictly ballroom







The South Side

