

Cecil Ville Slab – High Country Cragging by Dave Cooper



Getting to the Trailhead: From the summit of Fremont Pass on Highway 91, drive south for 4.8 miles. Turn left at the sign for Colorado Belle Ranch Cabins and park at the pull-out area immediately on the left. The sign can be difficult to see as you drive south. Be careful not to block access to the ranch.

Approach: About 2 minutes

Difficulty: Cecil Ville Slab offers nine documented sport climbs in the 5.8 to 5.10 range.

Gear: The longest routes have 7 bolts and two bolt anchors, so plan accordingly.

USGS Quad: Climax, CO.

Continuing our exploration of high country rock climbing crags, this week we head to a small area near Fremont Pass. The southern exposure makes this a warm, sunny destination for much of the summer, and can provide enjoyable climbing even in the spring and autumn. The two minute approach and well-bolted routes also make this an attractive option.

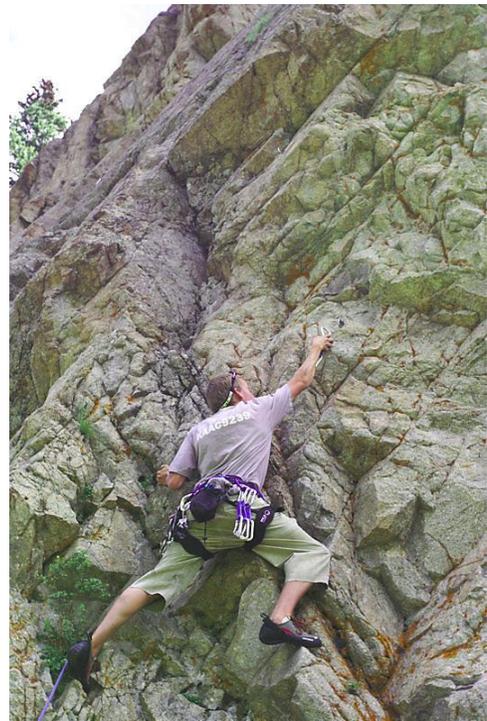
Cecil Ville Slab - The scenic location is a bonus.-small.jpg

Starting the fun 5.10a route in the center of the slab.-small.jpg

The rock provides steep slab climbing, sometimes with an overhanging start to add spice. All of the routes we climbed were well equipped with bolts and two-bolt lowering anchors. The guidebook we used is “Arkansas Valley Climbing, including Camp Hale” by Tom Perkins, available at local climbing shops. In general Ginni and I agreed that the climbs felt a little easier than the grades assigned in the guide.

Approach

The crag is clearly visible from the parking area. Walk northeast, through a gate and along the left side of the creek



until you're directly in front of the rock face. Cross the small creek by balancing across a steel beam.

Climb Description

All documented climbs are sport climbs in the range, 5.8 - 5.10d. We stayed mainly in the center of the face and found enjoyable climbing in the 5.8 - 5.10a range, the climbs generally becoming more difficult as you move from left to right. Often a steep start leads to delicate face climbing using plentiful horizontal features.

The next time you're in the area, throw your rock climbing gear in the car and check out this fun crag.



Cecil Ville Slab with the steel beam used to cross the creek-small.jpg

