

days when Bulo Point is too damp after a brief summer shower.

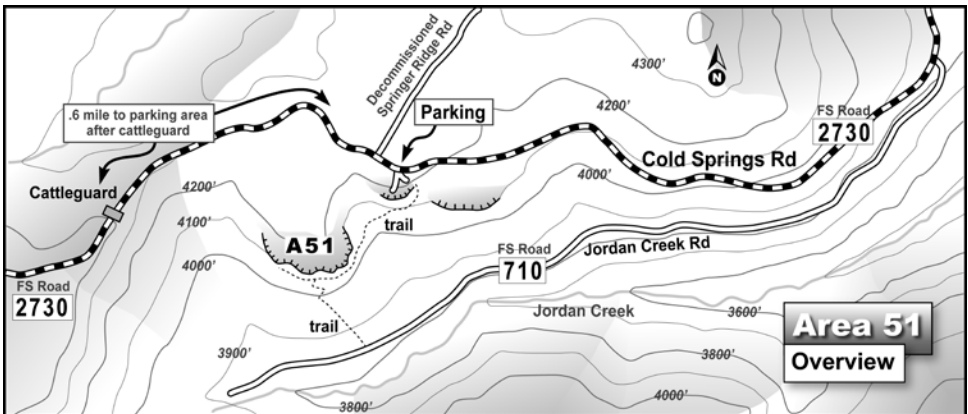
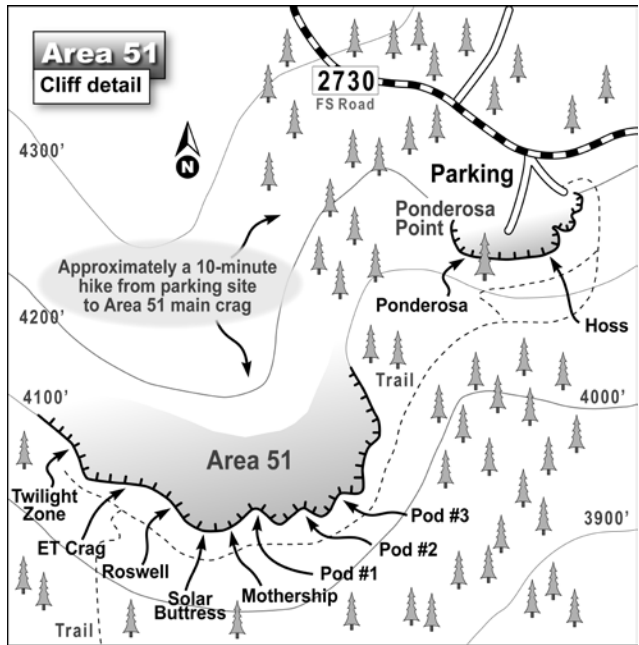
Area 51 is cast in a similar light as Bulo Point (proximity and seasonal temperatures) nestled in a forest of pine trees at the 4100' (1250m) elevation. Its southern exposure is advantageous in early Spring or late Fall. Area 51 is definitely a step beyond in terms of leading ability because the site has no easy routes under 5.9. Many of the climbs range in difficulty from 5.10c to 5.11+ and beyond, all on a very steep 80' high bluff. Many of the routes are mixed-sport routes in that you do need some specialized equipment (cams, nuts, etc.) to ascend the route without undue risk. The upper fixed belay anchors are not accessible from the top of the bluff so avoid trampling the fragile soils on the top of the bluff.



Gabriel leading Wormhole

Area 51 was initially tapped as a climbing resource in the late '90s by several regional climbers. Others soon followed. Finding the site suitable for steep relentless climbing, they and friends quickly embarked onto creating a cliff where they could refine their climbing skills while enjoying the sport with friends. Paul Couser, Kay Kucera, and Jim Anglin were the primary route developers. They refined and enhanced the trail network, created stabilized platforms at the base of many routes, and placed an importance on climber awareness toward the ecological biodiversity of the Area 51 site.

Individuals who helped carry the dynamics of climbing into the 21<sup>st</sup> century were Dave Boltz, Jai Dev, Steve Mrazek, Reed Fee, Matt Spohn, Adam McKinley, Kent Benesch, Elmo



Mecsko, and other Portland area climbers.

Read the entire section on *Biodiversity Dynamics of East Side Flora Communities, Access and User Impact* and *Ethical Continuity* at the beginning of this chapter. With your dedication this partnership of low impact rock climbing activity continues to be an ecological legacy. Several Area 51 reminder points from that article are:

1. Utilize the well-developed foot trails (no short-cutting). These user trails are well marked with stone steps and belay platforms to minimize the erosional impact.

2. The top anchors are not accessible from above so avoid walking on the fragile soils at the top of the bluff. Avoid unnecessary trampling of the local plant species. Do not remove indigenous flora from the cliff, from the rock climb, or along the cliff base.

3. Seriously consider leaving your pets at home. A loose, rowdy dog is not everyone's best friend. It can cause more damage in five minutes than twenty climbers in a month, thus it is best to leave the pup at home.

4. Pre-inspecting routes via rappel is normal business, so rappel bolting is the usual method (though not always) for route development here. Refrain from chopping fixed gear, chiseling or altering holds, retro-bolting existing lines without permission, placing bolts next to quality gear placements, avoid developing 'R' or 'X' rated routes.

5. It is recommended to wear climbing helmets while leading or belaying.

**Directions**

Area 51 has good paved road access to the trail parking site. The site, though nestled in a pine forest at an elevation of 4,000' is often dry on cool rainy overcast days of Spring or late Fall.

**Directions from Hood River:** Drive south from Hood River, Oregon on Hwy 35. Drive east on FS44 for 8¼ miles and turn south (right) onto FS 4420. Drive south on paved road FS 4420 past the Bulo Point turnoff. At a three-way junction drive south on FS 2730 past Fifteen-Mile Campground. The road descends eastward several miles and will cross a cattle guard. Continue for ½ mile and park in a large pullout on the south side of the road at Ponderosa Point. Take the descent trail as it drops downhill south below the parking site and aim west below Ponderosa Point. A ten minute walk will take you to the east end of the main A51 formation.

**Directions from The Dalles:** Area 51 can also be approached by driving south from The Dalles through Friend, Oregon and drive west on FS 2730 (see overview diagram).

**Trail Approach:** A fast ten-minute walk down below Ponderosa Point and along a path to the west will bring you to the east edge of the main A51 wall. An alternate but lesser used lower trail approach begins on FS 710 road and hikes uphill in 5-10 minutes to the base of the routes called Friend or Alien.



Mackenzie Jones leading at A51

**THE TWILIGHT ZONE**

**1. Young Jedi 5.10a**

*Pro: 3 bolts and assorted gear*

Furthest west climb located 12' right of the "colonette cave". Start in crack left of Dreamland. Head right out crack through bolted bulge to common anchor.

**2. Dreamland 5.10b ★**

*Pro: 8 QD's*

Farthest left (west) bolted route on crag. Face climbing finishes out crack through bulge.

**3. War of the Worlds 5.11a ★**

*Pro: 7 QD's*

WOTW is 15' right of Dreamland. Follows right side of slab to steeper overlaps up higher.

**4. Men in Black 5.10b**

*Pro: 6 QD's*

MIB is 25' right of Dreamland. Funky face climbing with a slab finish.

**5. Crash Landing 5.12c ★**

*Pro: 8 bolts, and gear to 1.5"*

CL is 15' right of MIB. Start left of wide crack. Increasingly difficult face climbing with overlaps that leads up to a 'crash landing' finish (.11d AO).

**6. Earth First (we'll log the other planets later) 5.11a ★**

*Pro: 8 QD's*

Pocketed face right of crack. Begin in overhanging corner, and move right to face. Finish up steeper bulge.

**7. Shape Shifter 5.11a ★**

*Pro: 6 QD's*

Obvious right facing dihedral with steep start and involves technical stemming.

**8. Alien Lunacy 5.11b**

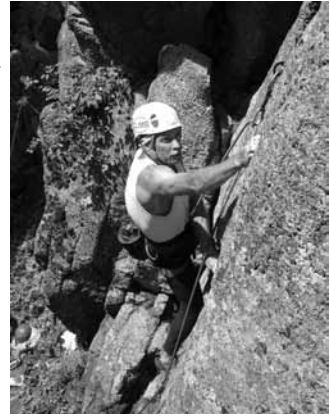
*Pro: 6 QD's*

Contrived variation of Luna. Stay left of bolts, and the crack is out of bounds. Crosses to right on upper face.

**9. Luna 5.10c ★★**

*Pro: 6 QD's*

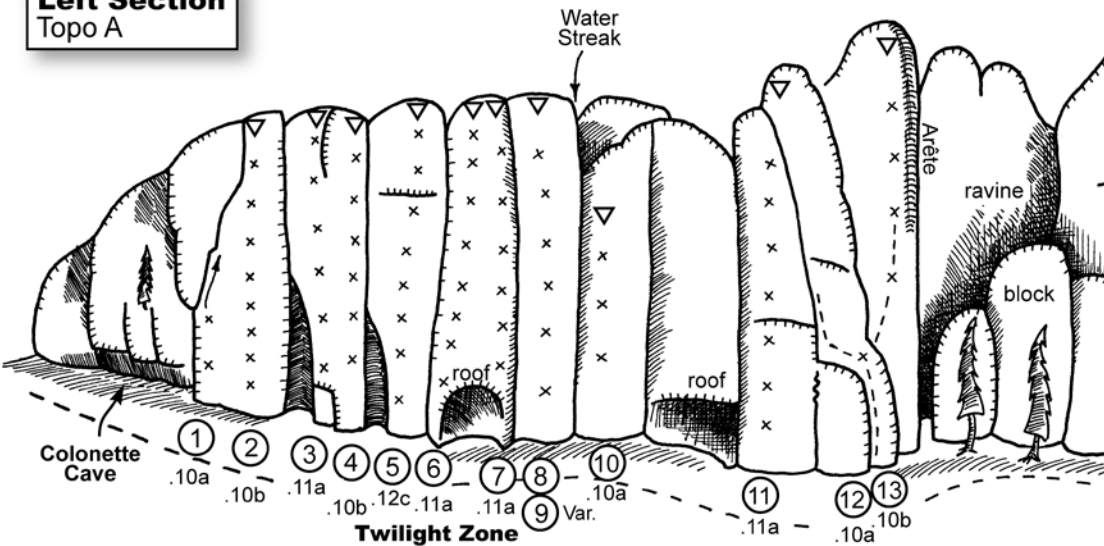
Face climb 10' right of Shapeshifter. Balancy crux at bolts #3-#4.



Jim Anglin leading at Area51

Photo courtesy of Paul Couser

**Area 51**  
**Left Section**  
Topo A



**10. Take Me To Your Leader 5.10a**

*Pro: 3 bolts, and gear to 2"*

Description: Broken arête and crack system right of wet streak. Mixed ice in winter.

**11. Cattle Mutilation 5.11a ★★**

*Pro: 7 QD's*

About 60' east of TMOYL. Crimp up sunny face with ledge midway.

**12. The Eagle Has Landed 5.10a**

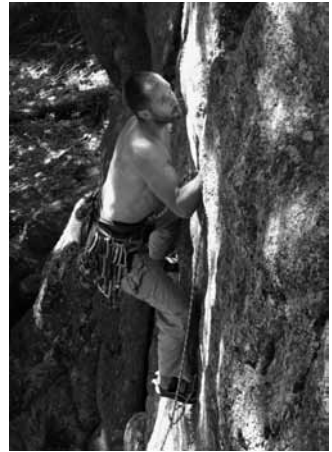
*Pro to 3" [?]*

About 10' right of CM is a sharp edged left leaning crack. Ends at CM anchor.

**13. Erased Memory 5.10b**

*Pro: 5 bolts, and gear to 1.5"*

About 12' right of CM. Start on 'eagle' crack, move up and right to finish on a narrow pinnacle.



Tomma leading *Alien Observer*

**ET CRAG**

**14. ET (Extra Trad) 5.9**

*Pro to [?]*

Start from top of boulder 5' left of Phone Home. Follow the crack system.

**15. Phone Home 5.12b ★★**

*Pro: 9 QD's*

Striking red arête. Steepening crimps to obscure finish.

**16. Little Gray Men 5.11b ★**

*Pro: 5 QD's*

Short face between Phone Home and Mars.

**17. Mars 5.10d ★★★**

*Pro: 7 QD's*

Beautiful red face on the right wall of open book that is broken by large horizontals. This route

