

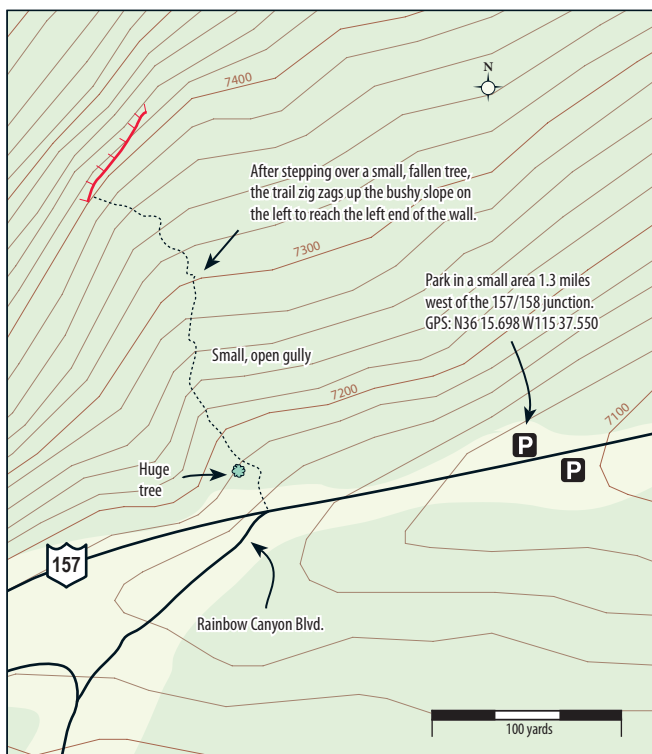
Blue Sky Bluff N36 15.781 W115 37.717

Blue Sky Bluff is the central portion of a straggly cliff band, barely visible on the north side of Route 157, 1.4 miles west of the 157/158 junction. The routes are quite short, barely poking out above the treetops, but the rock quality is good.

Conditions: The cliff faces southeast and gets sun until 2pm in the summer, midday in the winter. The elevation is 7400'. This is a very sheltered wall, making it a decent option if you get turned back by the cold and/or wind on one of the higher cliffs.

Access: From the 157/158 junction, drive 1.3 miles west on route 157. There is a parking spot on the north side of Route 157 150 yards before the turnoff to the Rainbow Subdivision.

Approach: From the parking spot, walk west on route 157 for 150 yards. Straight across the road from the turnoff into the Rainbow subdivision is a huge tree directly in front of a small, open gully leading up the hillside. Walk past the tree and head up the gully for 150 yards. 20 yards after stepping over a fallen tree, the trail leaves the gully and zig-zags up the slope on the left to the base of the wall. 10 minutes, 350 yards, 300' elevation gain.



Jack Kearney on Bad Seed (5.12a). Page 163.



The routes are described from left to right. The approach trail reaches the cliff at its left end, below a slabby wall of grey rock.

1 Low Pull 40' 5.10a

Mike Bond. 2012.

Climb the grey slab, past some rickety blocks, to a high first bolt. Continue up a steeper tan pillar to an anchor above a small bulge (4 b's).

2 Free Flying is Neither 50' 5.8 *

Mike Bond. 2012.

A nicely varied route at the grade. Start 20' right of Low Pull and 10' right of a tree at the base of the wall. Climb the grey slab and continue past a juggy left-facing flake to an anchor beside a small tree (5 b's).

3 The Flying Oehlers 55' 5.11c

Mike Bond. 2012.

Start just right of the previous route. Climb up and right to the first bolt, below a tiny tree. Continue up a tan face to a rest at the left end of a small bulge. Move right and pull the bulge (crux) then finish up a grey slab (8 b's).

4 Wall Strike 50' 5.10c *

Mike Bond. 2012.

A good route with a short, tricky crux. From the third bolt of The Flying Oehlers, step right to a right-leaning flake/groove. At the top of the groove, make a hard move up to a small bulge, then step right and go up to the anchor (9 b's).

At the top of the slope to the right of the previous routes is an overhanging alcove filled with small tufas. Below its right side is a right-leaning ramp with pods.

5 Woke Boys 50' 5.10d

Shepherd Urban, Ray Cadbury, Bryan Friesen. September 2020.

Start just right of the common start of the previous two routes.

Climb grey rock and a water runnel to a bolt on the ledge. Climb past a steep flake into shallow grooves then finish with a traverse right to an anchor above the apex of the alcove.

6 (Open Project) 55' 5.12d

Although most of the climbing is straightforward, a hard boulder problem has stood in the way of a redpoint. Climb the right-leaning podded ramp underneath the right side of the alcove. Just before the top of the ramp, pull over the bulge and continue up black scoops to the anchor (6 b's).

7 Blue Skies 50' 5.12a *

Mike Moore. 2012.

A good route with a couple of hard sections separated by a good rest. Start 15' right of the base of the ramp of the previous route, below a smooth tan/grey face. Climb the thin, tricky face to reach big juggy pockets at the top-right end of the ramp. Continue up the steep, difficult scoop above, finishing with a few easier moves to the anchor (6 b's).

25' up and right of the previous route is a small but deep cave hidden in the bushes. Just to the right of the cave is a flake/groove, the line of Going In.

8 Bad Seed 40' 5.12a *

Mike Bond. 2012.

This route climbs the left-slanting line of pockets above the cave. Start just left of the flake of Going In. Climb the thin wall up and left to reach the first pocket, then continue up and left past a sequency crux to the anchors (5 b's).

9 Going In 50' 5.9

Mike Moore. 2012.

The flake/groove line at the right end of the cliff is fun but quite blocky in places (7 b's).