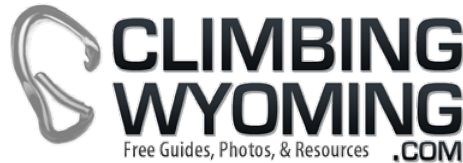


The Galaxy Boulder, Wyoming

A FREE MINI-GUIDE FROM



by

Wesley Gooch

All Uncredited Photos by Wesley Gooch

Special Thanks To

Jason Burton (beta, photos, editing) & Josh Hattan (beta, photos, editing)

For guide updates, corrections, extra photos, & other resources visit
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The Galaxy

Elevation: 7,300 - 7,580 feet

Approach Time: 15 seconds to 10 minutes

Primary Aspect: All aspects

Number of Routes/Problems: Too many to count!

The Galaxy is an up-and-coming bouldering and top roping destination – littered with hundreds of boulders ranging from 10 to 40 feet in height. At the time of this writing (2011), most of the currently established problems fall below the V5 grade. However, this should not imply that the Galaxy is devoid of difficult problems, because that would be far from the truth. The best and hardest problems have yet to be climbed. There is a tremendous amount of first ascents — of all styles and difficulties — waiting to be done. Furthermore, the majority of the boulders have yet to be explored! In the not so distant future, the Galaxy could become home to many sought after testpieces.

At present, perhaps one of the more obvious uses for this area is as a bouldering circuit. Tackling forty or more problems in a single afternoon is feasible, in view of the fact that much of the good rock is a painlessly easy walk from the vehicle. In addition to the awesome quantity of boulders, are several larger rock formations suitable for roped climbing and in particular, top roping.



Drake Koger on Block Tower (5.12b).

This Is Not An Exhaustive Chapter

At the time of this writing (2011), the Galaxy was still in its infancy. The classic problems today, will certainly be the warm-ups of tomorrow. It would be unreasonable to attempt to write a comprehensive guide for such an emerging destination. Alternatively,

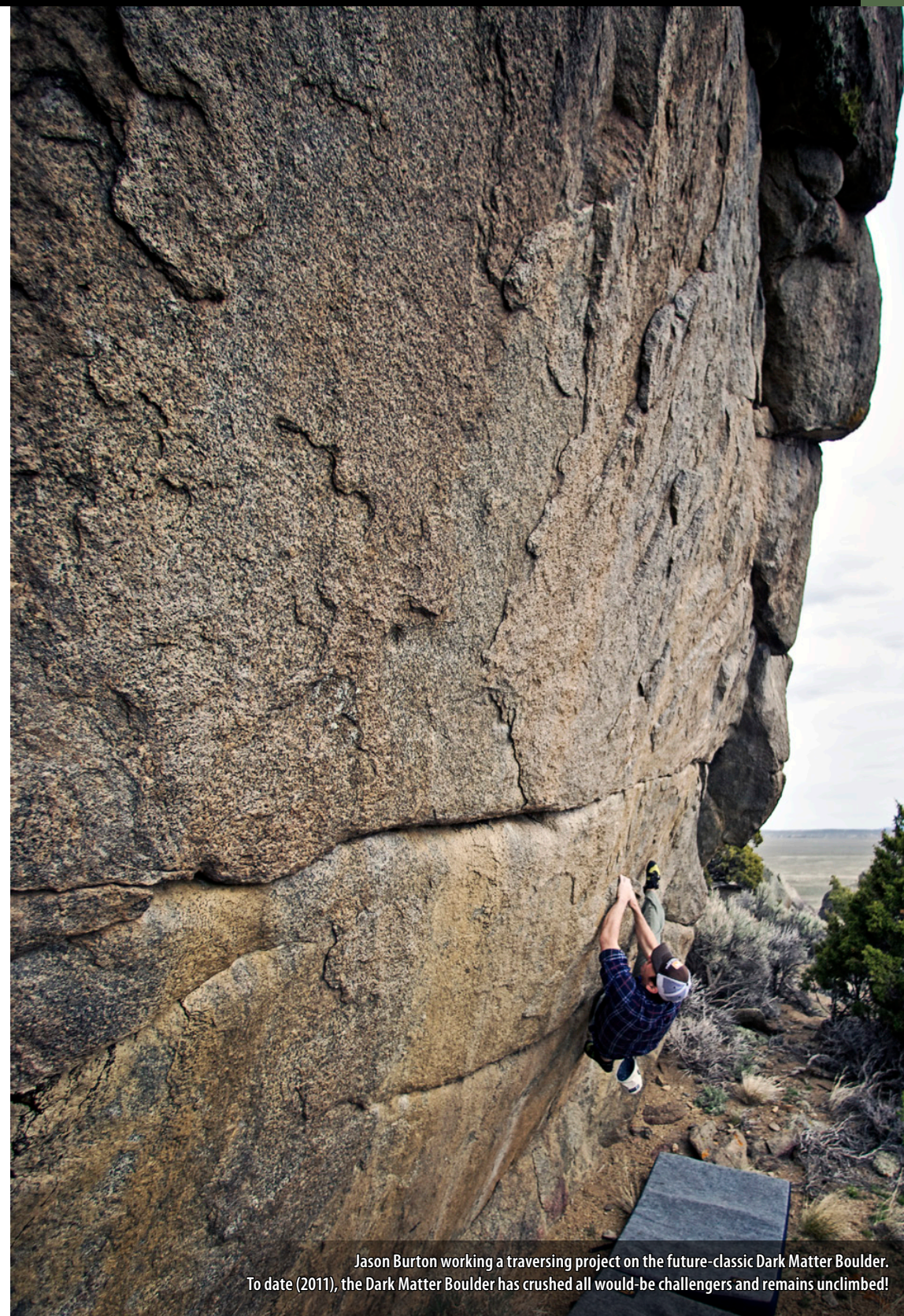
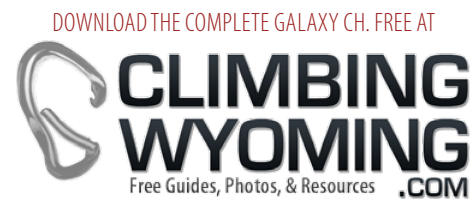
a digital, and continually updated, version of this chapter is available for free download on ClimbingWyoming.com. This chapter should only serve as a getting-started guide and an introduction to the area's massive first ascent potential. Please contribute to the Galaxy's advancement by submitting first ascent beta and photos to ClimbingWyoming.com.

Recommended Equipment

Bouldering pads are an obvious must, but don't forget a brush. For those that intend to top rope, bring an assortment of natural protection and long slings to build anchors. There are only a few routes with bolted anchors. Pack extra water and keep in mind that the nearest establishment is 22 miles away. Bring tick repellent.

Driving Directions

The Galaxy is located 34 miles south of Pinedale, WY – in the western foothills of the Wind River Mountains. Follow U.S. Highway 191 south from Pinedale for 12 miles to Boulder and turn east on Highway 353 (the only paved turn at Boulder). Follow Highway 353 for 18 miles to the end of the pavement. Continue for another 4 miles further on a dirt road until two buttes, skewn with boulders, are visible on the east side of the road. Approach the southernmost butte via a good two-track road and park at your convenience.



Jason Burton working a traversing project on the future-classic Dark Matter Boulder. To date (2011), the Dark Matter Boulder has crushed all would-be challengers and remains unclimbed!

Boulder Locations & Chapter Structure Overview

Climbing at the Galaxy is distributed between two groups of boulders on independent buttes – the Major & Minor Clusters. The Major Cluster has the largest concentration of climbing.

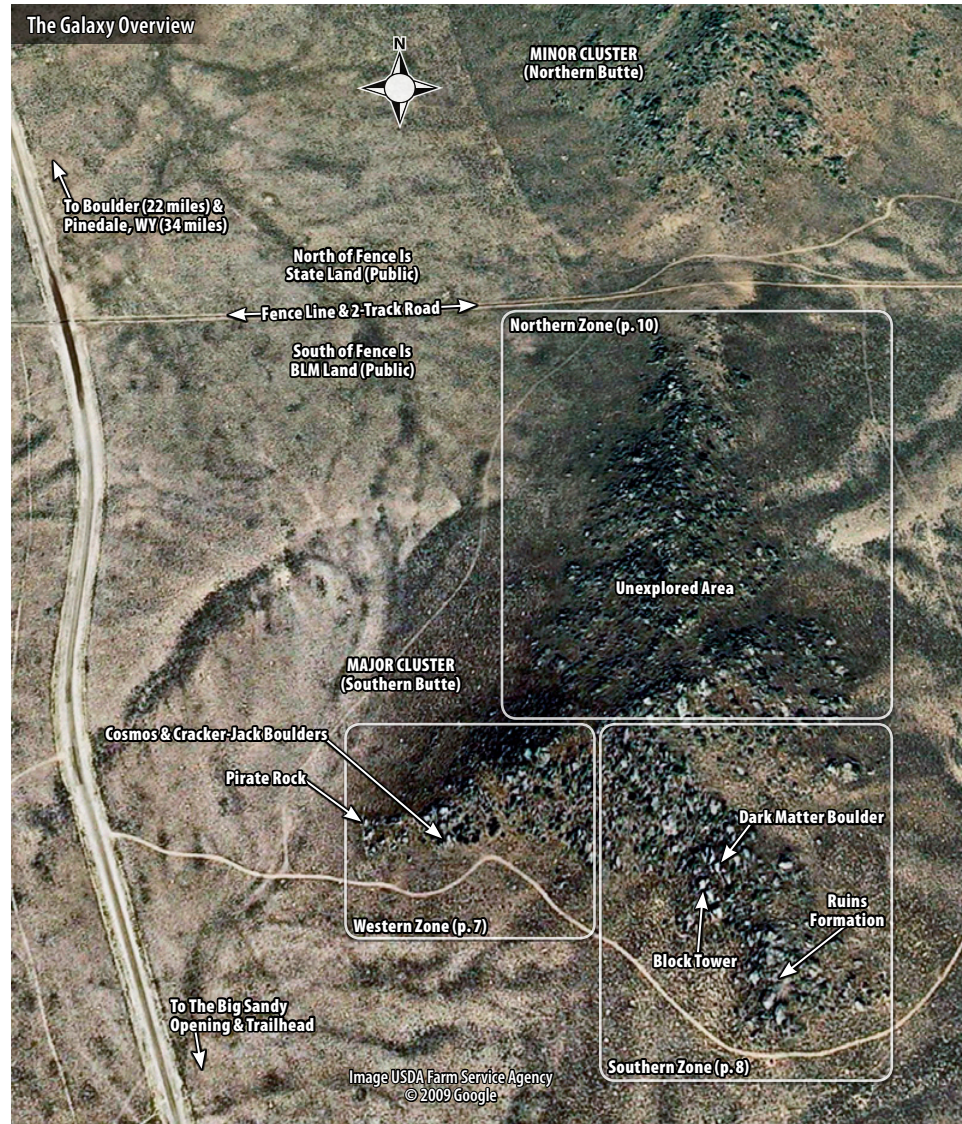
Major Cluster (Southern Butte)

The Major Cluster is scattered with hundreds of boulders, and of these, only a small fraction have been climbed (as of 2011). This chapter’s bouldering catalogue is not representative of what’s left unclimbed. Not surprisingly, the easiest problems were done first, leaving the most challenging and inspiring projects untouched. The vast majority of the remaining unclimbed boulders are large – ranging from 15-30 feet in height! Consider setting up top ropes.

The Major Cluster is catalogue into three sections: the Western, Southern, and Northern Zones – the butte’s three distinct ridgelines. Refer to the aerial image below, and each zone’s overview photo for boulder locations.

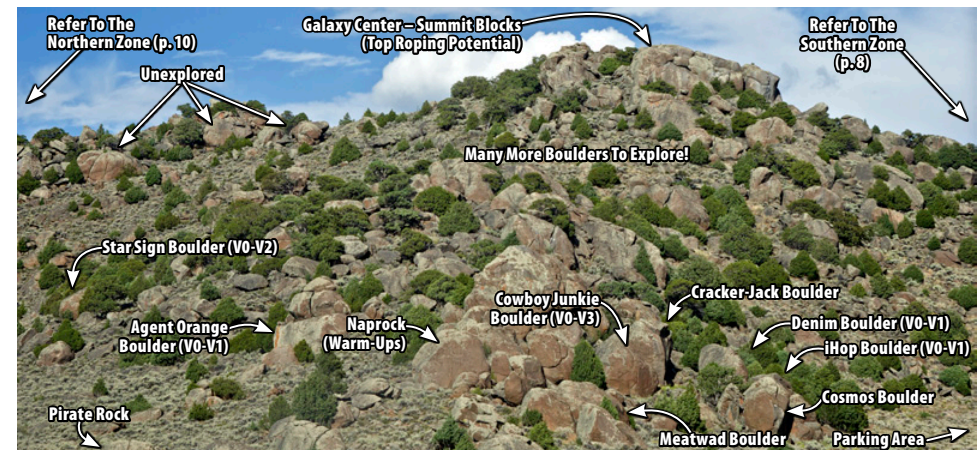
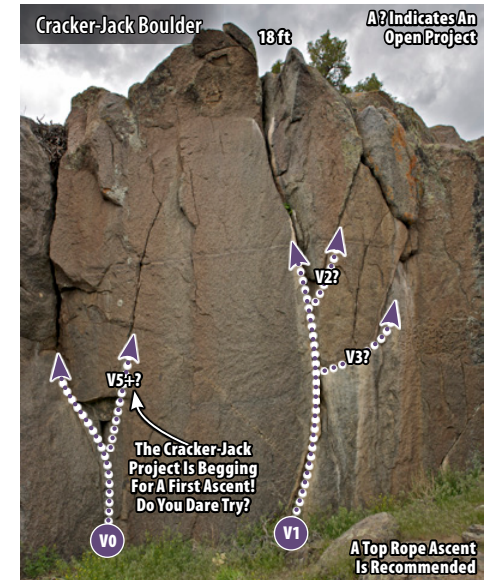
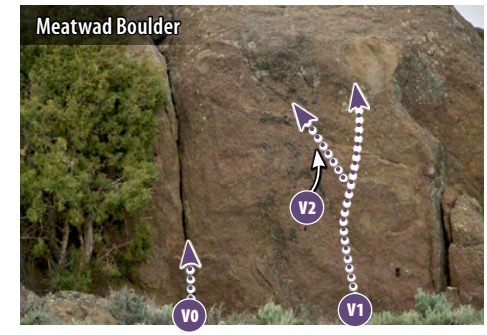
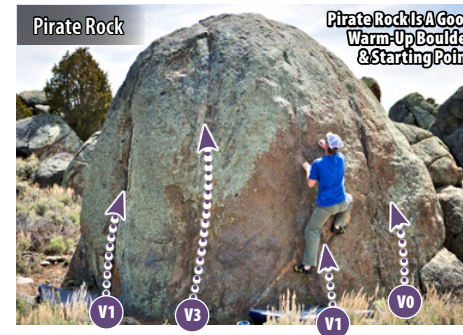
Minor Cluster (Northern Butte)

The Minor Cluster is of less interest, and will likely only see attention after the Major Cluster has been fully explored. As such, details on the Minor Cluster have been omitted.



Major Cluster: Western Zone

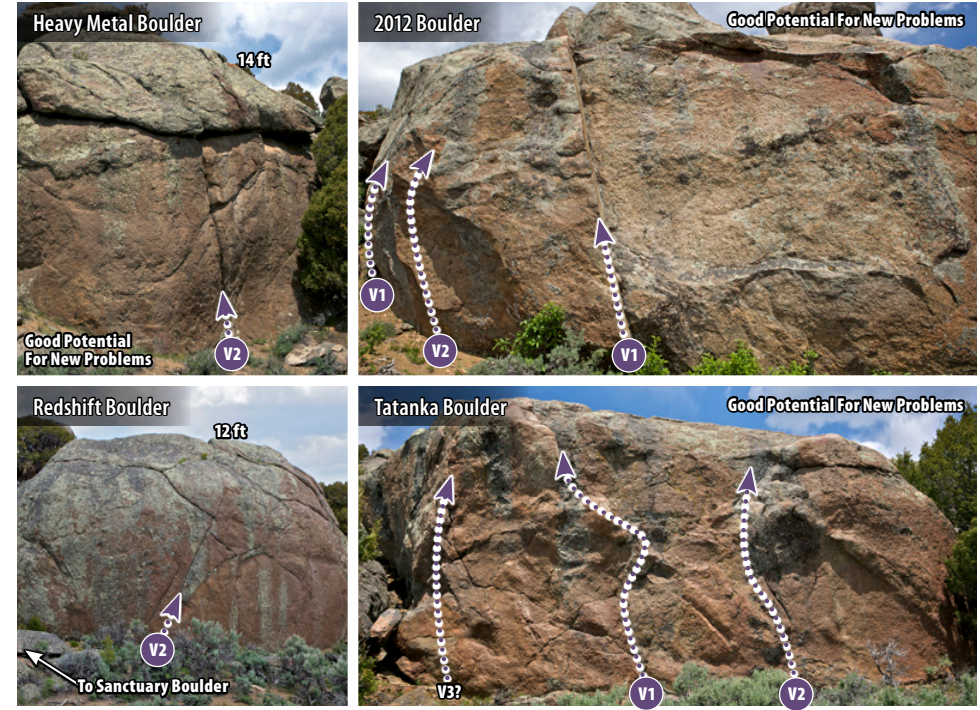
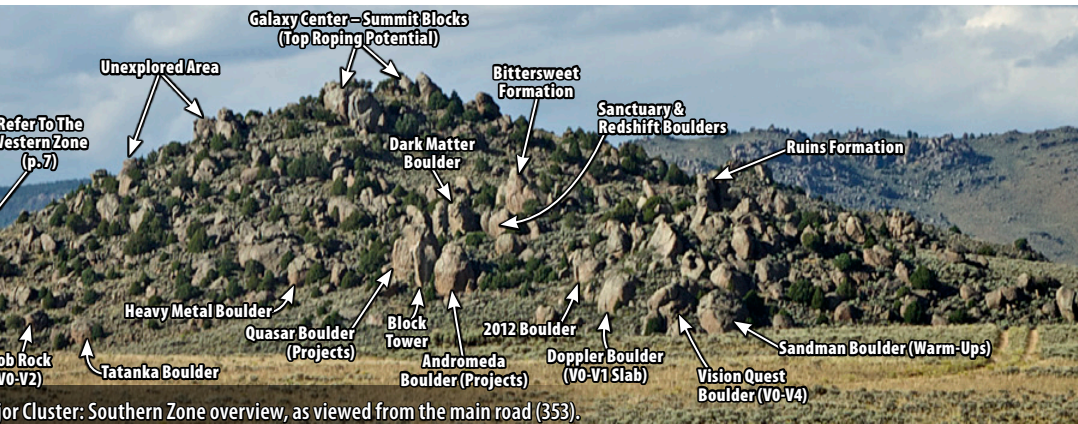
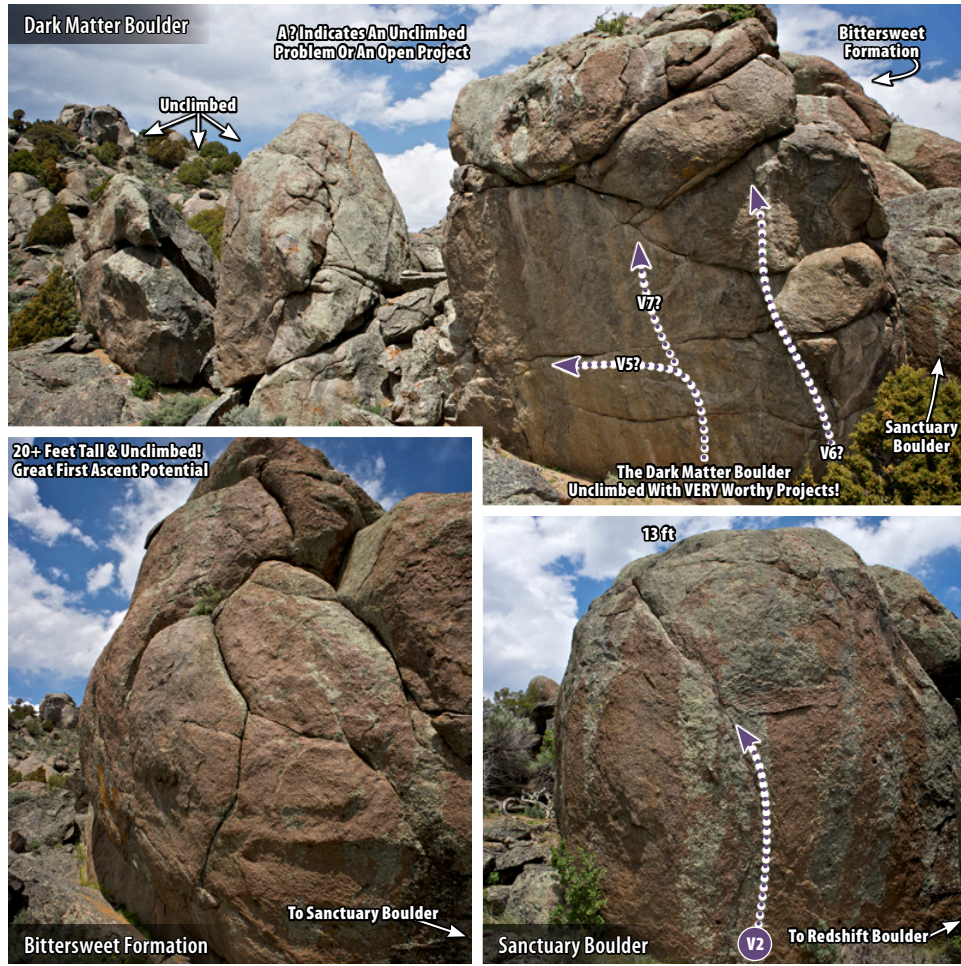
The Western Zone encompasses the boulders nearest to the main road. Here there is a high density of easy to moderate problems within a close proximity – a great area for warming up or endurance training via workout circuits. There are also several hard projects available.



Major Cluster: Western Zone overview, as viewed from the main road (353).

Major Cluster: Southern Zone

The Southern Zone is defined by the obvious Block Tower formation and the surrounding collection of massive boulders. As of 2011, the majority of the boulders here were unclimbed. Those striving for a first ascent have a huge selection of gems to choose from. If you aren't the boldest of climbers, bring gear to setup top ropes; otherwise, bring as many pads as possible!



Block Tower

The 40 foot Block Tower is an eye-catching formation with a sweet summit. Fun climbing that won't disappoint.

1 Old Yeller ★ 5.9

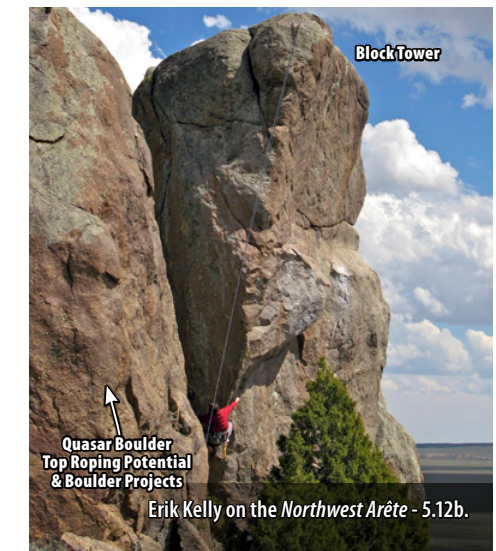
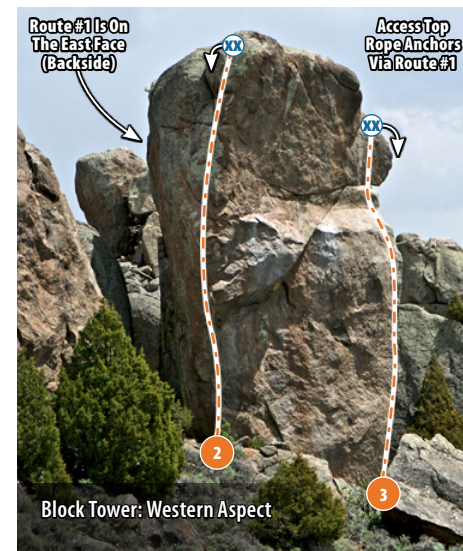
Not Shown. Starts on the east face. This is the only option to gain the Tower's summit and top rope anchors. Bring at least one small cam to complement two bolts.

2 Northwest Arête ★★★ 5.12b

An overhanging, unforgiving, and sustained series of powerful crimps keep you engaged through the first half. This is excellent training for the aspiring 5.12 climber.

3 Southwest Arête - Open Project ★★ 5.13?

As of 2011, this gorgeous line stands undisputed and is a worthy project. Hard climbing that delicately works both sides of the arête.

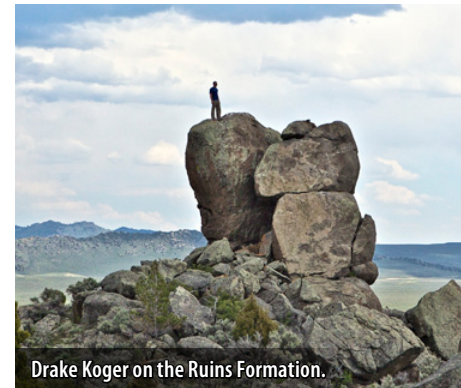
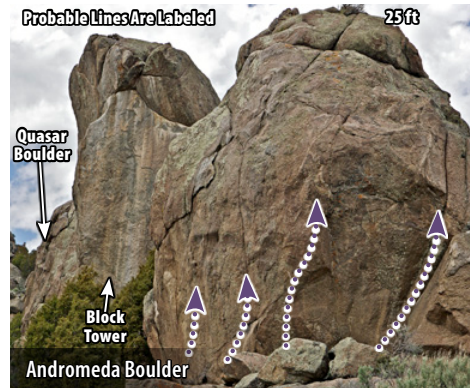
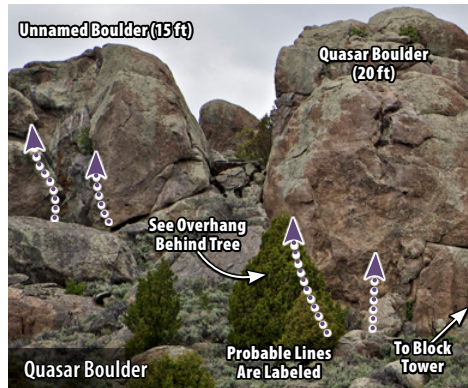


Major Cluster: Northern Zone

For the most part, the Northern Zone sees little attention, but only because climbers are easily preoccupied elsewhere. Those willing to explore are likely to be rewarded – try hiking north along the ridgeline, starting at the butte’s summit (Galaxy Center).

Low Hanging Fruit – A Preview of a Few Unclimbed Boulders

The below photos show just some of the Galaxy’s first ascent potential – these are in the vicinity of the Dark Matter Boulder and Block Tower. The possibilities are overwhelming. Keep in mind that the following boulders range from 15-30 feet in height. Top roping may be a wiser choice to a ground up approach. If you choose to boulder, bring as many pads as possible!



Jason Burton eyeballing a potential new line in the Southern Zone. If you want to get your money’s worth, make sure to do some exploring!

PLEASE SHARE YOUR FIRST ASCENT BETA WITH THE CLIMBING COMMUNITY

First Ascents submitted to ClimbingWyoming.com will be added to the extended digital version of the Galaxy chapter. This continually updated and complete guide to the Galaxy is available for free download at ClimbingWyoming.com. Please take photos of boulders & problems to ease in identifying the climbs and for use as route topos.