The Best Of
Frenchman Coulee

Selected Climbs of
Frenchman Coulee

by
Marc A. Dilley
Introduction

This is a select guide to the best rock climbs of Frenchman Coulee, Washington State. It is not intended to compete with the excellent, comprehensive book *Frenchman Coulee* by Marlene Ford and Jim Yoder, the authoritative guide to the Coulee. The objective herein is to provide an easy read for climbers new to the area, perhaps from out of state or out of country. Some entire Frenchman Coulee walls have been omitted because they do not, in my opinion, offer routes of high enough quality. Also, the many fine routes of the Clearview Crag area were nixed because they are relatively remote and spread across a broad area, surrounded by a sea of choss. Examples include *Shanked*, Lucky Gibson’s new 5.10C stemming problem, and *Serenity*, a 3-star 5.10A.

Although commonly referred to as a desert, Frenchman Coulee actually supports more verdant *steppe* environments. As such, a rich and diverse mix of perennial grasses, semi-woody shrubs and flowering perennial broadleaf plants grow in the wind swept rocky soils of this dramatic place. Here the growing season is as short as in any alpine area. By June the parched ground is baked hard and most of the plants have gone to seed. Summer heat then couples with winter cold, creating periods of extended dormancy between the rains of spring. Interspersed with these perennials and shrubs is a cryptogamic soil crust composed of lichens and mosses. This crust is particularly evident on top of the mesa separating Frenchman Coulee and Echo Basin. Because the crust is so fragile, impromptu trails are discouraged. If you must travel off trail, try to hop on stone.

The bones of Frenchman Coulee are volcanic basalt that was deposited by enormous, multiple lava flows. When ice dams holding back ancient Lake Missoula (hundreds of miles to the northeast) were breached, floodwaters poured across the land and scoured out the great coulees of eastern Washington. Climbing at Frenchman is primarily on the top two basalt layers, the most recent of the ancient lava flows. Only the uppermost layer displays the distinctive *columnar jointing* that produces the imposing pillars which are the hallmark of climbing on the Sunshine Wall and the Middle East Wall. Nearly all Frenchman crack routes will be found on this upper layer, although fine bolted climbs exist on column faces as well. Below this is the *lower entablature* layer. It is characterized by a dense, interlocking network of chaotic joints. Thus, climbing holds on this layer can be almost any shape but tend to be rounded, side pulls, pinches or anything but straightforward rails, at least on the more difficult climbs. Near the top of this layer, the rock displays air pockets - “vesicles” - not unlike the finger pockets of limestone climbing areas. Because cracks, when they exist at all, are chossy, almost all climbs on the lower walls are sport climbs.

Much of the climbing in Frenchman Coulee isn’t in Frenchman Coulee; it’s actually in Echo Basin. Other than the Feathers, Middle East Wall and its satellite sport walls below, all crags featured in this guide are in Echo Basin. To get to Echo Basin, take the Near Trail from the main parking area southwest to the mesa top. From there, the trail bifurcates. Either choice will take you to Echo Basin. The right branch drops you into the Near End of Sunshine Wall where the first route you will see on your right will be *Ride ‘em Cowboy*. The left branch continues along the top of the mesa. The trail will then branch twice to the left (metal signs) for Gully #2 (drops down just west of *Tilted Pillars*) and for Gully #3 (drops down just west of Tomato Wall). (See maps.)
Seasonal climbing: The south facing walls of Echo Basin are sun baked most of the year. While this is desirable in early spring and autumn, midsummer temperatures at the Sunshine wall will feel hellishly torrid. It is during these hot summer months that many climbers move over to the dark side. The shaded walls are: Middle East Wall, Sanctuary, Postal Wall, Dungeon, Feathers north side and the following walls not featured in this guide: Zig Zag Wall, Green Wall, Onidevadekim, Junk Yard, Ball’s Wall and Fugs Wall. Additionally, you can climb on the Powerhouse Wall until mid-morning when direct sun will chase you somewhere else. The Riverview Columns face east and offer shade after about 1 p.m.

Other Concerns

Parking permits: You will need to purchase a $12 parking permit issued by the Department of Fish and Wildlife to use the Feathers or Agathla (main) parking areas (there is a third small parking area way down the main road on the right side past the Middle East Wall). As many of us know from first-hand experience, parking without a permit results in a fine of about $75. Permits can be purchased at most sporting goods stores – the type selling guns and tackle, not rope and chalk.

Camping: Primitive camping (no water or tables; 2 chemical toilets) is allowed in the area south of the Feathers to the main climber’s parking lot. Open fires are not allowed from May 15 to October 15. When fires are allowed, fuel must be obtained elsewhere and burned in existing fire pits.

More fun stuff: Swimming: The Old Vantage Road ends in a boat launch at the Columbia River. While barefoot wading is not recommended (broken glass), a swim after a hot day of climbing is refreshing. Mountain biking: Old jeep trails snake through both valleys and provide a fun, if bumpy, diversion to the vertical basalt. The main road in Echo Valley takes you past all the principal climbing walls, past the plunge pool at the head of the valley and along Fugs Wall before turning south. Just past Echo Valley, the road ends in a series of interesting sand dunes.

Wildflowers: This arid steppe country displays wave after wave of species of brilliant wildflowers beginning in late February with the Sagebrush Buttercup, Shooting Star, Prairie Star Flower, Yellow Bell and others. As the season progresses, the buckwheats and daisies begin their show. A large number of different species of buckwheats are found in this area, all stunning in bloom. Another well-represented genus is Penstemon, the beardtongues. Rock and Crested penstemons can be found on the floor of the valleys.

Although identical to the casual observers, the top of the mesa is a different biotic community than the floors of Frenchman Coulee and Echo Basin. The harsh, rocky soil of the mesa top, termed a lithosol, is extremely fast draining and holds little organic matter. Thus, the mesa denizens are xeric species adapted to extremely bitter conditions and the two habitats have few species in common. Even mesa sagebrush is not the everyday Tall Sagebrush but another highly adapted species, Rock Sagebrush, that is better suited

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to the spartan conditions. Another contrast exists between the two species of balsamroot inhabiting the area. Blooming in April on the valley floor is the common Arrow-leafed Balsamroot, a vigorous perennial with large, grey-green leaves. Its analog on the mesa top is the weak-growing Rock Balsamroot, a small sunflower with delicate, fern-like leaves. Other mesa plants displaying interesting adaptations include Desert Buckwheat, one of many Eriogonum species growing here, with tiny, leathery leaves that prevent desiccation. Also the saxifrage, Alumroot, that can grow almost anywhere, including cracks.
**Birds:** The greater Frenchman Coulee area is home to many migratory and non-migratory bird species. In addition to the steppe and cliff habitats, the high water table near the off ramp of Exit 143 features some small ponds adjacent to Silica Road. In the spring, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Tricolored Blackbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, Marsh Wrens and Marsh Hawks inhabit the pond area. Snipes, curlews, stilts, and avocets occasionally visit as well. In the Coulee and mesa proper, Red-tailed Hawks, Swainson's Hawks, Bald & Golden eagles, Sparrow Hawks, and Prairie Falcon are sometimes seen. Barn and Great Horned owls nest in the columns. Other birds nesting in the columns include Cliff Swallows, Violet-green Swallows, and the ubiquitous pigeon (Rock Dove), the column dweller that will be cooing sweetly at you while your fingers grease out of a crack and your last piece of protection is fifteen feet below. Other species that might possibly visit the area are Sage Sparrows, Black-throated Sparrows, Rock Wrens, Say's Phoebe, and Canyon Wrens. Common desert birds like Turkey Vultures, Magpies, and Ravens are in attendance as well.

**Climbers and the Environment:** Despite its rugged appearance, Frenchman Coulee is a fragile environment needing each visitor’s help if it is to escape the curse of being loved to death. On the mesa, you’ll see “Don't Bust the Crust” signs, asking climbers to remain on the established trails—please respect them. The Frenchman Coulee Climbers’ Coalition (FCCC), as part of the Access Fund’s Adopt-A-Crag Day event, holds a clean-up day every October. The event typically meets in main parking lot. Work includes trail maintenance, graffiti paint-over, and garbage removal. Kevin Dwight is the president of FCCC and our Access Fund representative is Andy Fitz. Raptors nest in the columns of the Middle East Wall during the spring—please study the kiosk at the main climber’s parking lot for updates about which walls are closed due to nesting. The Coulee is administered by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Access Fund works with the agency to keep Frenchman open to climbing. This is no easy task. Concert goers, ATVers, dirt bikers, hunters, target shooters, and maybe a few climbers, have all contributed in the destruction of the chain link fences keeping vehicles out of the little valley, construction of illegal fire pit, creation of unnecessary trails, and the introduction of bagfuls of litter. All of this exacerbates relations with DFW. Climbers can foster good relations and ensure our continued use of the area if during every visit each of us leaves the area a little better (or a little cleaner) than we found it.

**Dogs and the sun:** People like to bring dogs to climbing areas, a custom that I (and my dogs) endorse. Honestly, Frenchman Coulee is a lousy place for canines. The rocks are sharp and fall from above without warning, the access gullies are steep and sketchy, and most importantly, it is usually too hot and dry. My big, fluffy Bernese pants in February at the Sunshine Wall. At the risk of insulting the sensibilities of responsible dog owners: Remember to bring water, lots of it, for your dog. And since there is precious little shade in Echo Valley, consider bringing an umbrella for your pup to hide under.

**WARNING!**

ROCK CLIMBING IS INHERENTLY A HAZARDOUS SPORT. ANY ROUTE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS GUIDE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE ROCK. USE THIS INFORMATION AT YOUR OWN RISK AND DO NOT RELY ON IT FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY. NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR OF ANY KIND ARE INTENDED IN THIS WORK.

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Echo Basin

Hen House, the day before Christmas, 2004
The Feathers  Free-standing eroded basalt columns suggesting the vertical plumage of pickled poultry, these eccentric geologic heirlooms feature good beginning and moderate sport routes on the north and south sides, affording either the protection from or warmth of the solar deity. Arguably the most popular area at Frenchman Coulee.

**North Side: Climb in the Shade**

1. Satan’s Little Helper  5.9 ** 5 clips.  A steep face climb with big incut holds all the way.
2. Satan’s Wagon  5.10B **** 7 clips. Steep and consistent climb considered to be the Feather’s best.
3. Blood Blister  5.10A ** 5 clips.  A worthwhile climb, a bit less consistent and solid than *Wagon*.  
4. Desert Shield  5.9 *** 6 clips.  A really fun climb that had been retrobolted, then every other bolt smashed, and recently repaired.
5. The Uprising  5.8 *** 4 clips.  This is another popular Feathers route, unusual in that some friction technique is required.
6. Shake It Don’t Break It  5.5 *** 3 clips.  Short and sweet, many have used this climb as their first lead.
7. Mandatory Suicide  5.4 *** 4 clips.  Another good first lead. Note that the anchors are up and right.
South Side: Climb in the Sun

8. So Funny I Forgot To Laugh 5.9 * 5 clips. Follow the left edge of the pillar.
9. Medicine Man 5.10A ** 4 clips. Same pillar as So Funny but climb the center-right face and arête.
11. Don Coyote 5.8 *** 5 clips. A fun and popular route.
12. Dance of the Shaman 5.10B ** 3 clips. Charlie sez, “It’s easy if you know how”.
13. Hardening of the Arteries 5.10C *** 4 clips. Definitely the toughest route at The Feathers, Arteries will test your footwork and tax your endurance.
14. Windwalker 5.10A ** 4 clips. Another face climb on the orange basalt.
15. Nightbird 5.10A ** 4 clips. Similar to Windwalker but with the distinction of being farther to the right.

The tunnel leading to Sunshine Wall
Sunshine Wall: Tilted Pillars  Drop down Gully #2 and turn left (east) and the Tilted Pillars will appear immediately above. The good routes here are few but interesting. They are lower angle than most Coulee climbs, but you won't get off easy! There are two 5.11's and Pounded Again is a frustratingly thin exercise in palming, smearing and mantling.

1. **Pounded Again** 5.11B *** 4 fixed pins plus micro gear. Subvertical friction, counter-pressure and a mantle.
2. **Professor Pogue’s Prolapse** 5.11A *** 4 clips. More stemming and palming on solid, smooth basalt. A quality climb that sees few ascents. Optional small cam near top.
3. **Preying Mantel** 5.10A *** 9 clips. Gear can be placed in left finger crack; same rating.
4. **Ten Minutes of Warmth** 5.9 * gear to 3”. Climb crack right of Preying Mantel to chimney. Can escape to anchors on Mantel.
5. **Professor Pogue’s Precarious Pinnacle** 5.10C ** 7 clips. Climb little sawed-off pinnacle lying halfway between Ten Minutes of Warmth and The Chossmaster.
6. **The Chossmaster** 5.7 ** 14 clips. About a decade and a half ago when Dr. Pogue was preparing this climb, he cleaned enough loose rock out of the upper chimney to open a gravel pit. A platform with anchors halfway up allows climb to be split into two pitches. One of the most popular climbs on one of the most popular walls.
Sunshine Wall: left section (routes #1 - #17)  Farther east than the Tilted Pillars, these columns are taller and plumb vertical. Two of longest climbs on the Sunshine Wall reside here: *The Chossmaster* and *Boschido.* Cliffs read left to right.

6. The Chossmaster 5.7 ** 14 clips. About a decade and a half ago when Dr. Pogue was preparing this climb, he cleaned enough loose rock out of the upper chimney to open a gravel pit. A platform with anchors halfway up allows climb to be split into two pitches. One of the most popular climbs on one of the most popular walls. Downgraded from 5.10C in the old guidebook, this is a challenging climb for the aspiring 5.10 leader. The first clip is a ways off the deck but the climbing is relatively easy and the stance is solid.

7. Boschido 5.10B *** 13 clips.

8. Crackmaster Lambada 5.10B *** gear to 1.5”. A fun crack that involves stemming and a tricky problem at top.

9. Mr. Clean 5.11A *** gear to 2”. Locker fingers and good stems. Reportedly can by protected with stoppers only.

10. Forget Arête 5.11B *** 9 clips + 1-2 medium cams. The left-hand climb that shares the 9 bolts on the column with *Never Forget Your Friends*. A “slap and hope” arête.

11. Never Forget Your Friends 5.10D *** 9 clips + 1-2 medium cams. The right-hand climb that shares the 9 bolts on the column with *Forget Arête*. With every clipping stance on this climb, except the first two, you will be crimping off your right fingertips and scumming with your left foot.
12. Steel Pulse 5.10B *** 7 clips. Aptly named after the runout to the 6th clip. The first bolted face at Sunshine.
13. Seven Virgins and a Mule 5.7 *** gear to 2.5”. This chimney used to have a humvee-sized chockstone about halfway up. Then one day it was just gone.

14. Elvis’ Pharmacist 5.10C ** standard rack. A decent crack that is often TR’d.
15. Narlux 5.10C **** 7 clips. Arguably the best sport climb at the Sunshine Wall. Great moves – flagging, side pulls, hooks; you can style on this one.
16. Tangled up in Blue 5.9 **** gear to 3.5”. A Coulee institution, Tangled is one of many climbs where adjacent cracks and faces provide stemming and protection possibilities. Climb the left crack and backstep when you need to.
17. Peaceful Warrior 5.6 *** 6 clips. There are two ways to climb and clip into the 6 bolts: stay in the chimney and it’s a secure 5.6; climb the face and it’s low 5.10.

Sunshine Wall: center section (routes #14 - #27) continued
18. George and Martha 5.10A **** gear to 3.5”. A classic with an offwidth finish that’s easier if you have long arms. Traverse right to the anchor of Red M ‘n M’s.
19. Red M ‘n M’s 5.12A **** gear to 2”, but mostly micro nuts. Usually toproped, this climb was originally a trad route, then bolted, then chopped.
20. Vantage Point 5.8 ** 11 clips. Another fun sport route on a column face. The column stands proud from the main wall and the view from the anchor inspired the name. Vantage is a small settlement west of the Columbia River on I-90. Whenever someone finishes this climb, the town constable rings a bell in the church tower.
21. Clip ‘em or Skip ‘em  5.8 ***  10 clips. Big incut holds and a bolt every 3 inches. Just kidding, but it is a well-protected climb seeing lots of traffic.

22. Crossing the Threshold  5.8 ***  gear to 3.5. Another Frenchman Coulee stemming twin-crack climb. You can’t call yourself a Coulee climber until you’ve done a couple of these babies.

23. Air Guitar  5.10A ***  gear to 4”. This crack looks beautiful from below and feels even better when you’re in. Begins with fingers and gradually widens to offhands at the top. There is a plaque at the anchor commemorating a fatality that occurred in 2002.

24. Pony Keg  5.9 **  gear to 4”. Less chossy than it used to be, Pony has been climbed enough that it is quite solid. The lower half can be done as a crack/face climb combo, but in the upper half the shard-lined crack becomes a relatively smooth fist crack.

25. Whipsaw  5.9 ** 10 clips. Another sport climb that has seen action in the Bolt Wars. In the last sortie, hangers were smashed over and then straightened. The holding power of these bolts are thus suspect.

26. Stroken’ the Chicken 5.6 **  gear to 4”. Hand jam and stem off the pillars with your feet. Tough for a 5.6.

28. Justified Ancients of Mu Mu 5.8 ** 9 clips. This 2-pitch climb can be combined into one. Bring a sling. From the first anchor you can step left into a dihedral and climb:
   Corner Pockets 5.10B *** gear to 4” (unnumbered) to the top.
29. Sinsemilla 5.10C **** gear to 2.5”. Some say the climb got easier a few years ago when a big chunk of rock fell out of the middle section. It’s still a beautiful stemming and finger crack. There are two ways to exit at the top.
30. Hakuna Matada 5.10B *** 10 clips. Warm rock and a cool breeze will make you feel like you’re out on the veldt with the rest of the pride.
31. Stems and Seeds 5.11B **** gear to 2.5”. Quite possibly the most expansive stemming experience you will ever have. If the columns were any wider you would undergo mitosis. Right crack can be led separately.
32. Bob’s your Uncle 5.11A **** gear to 3.5”. This climb doesn’t get down to business until the top, when you will find out just how good your finger jams are.
33. Steel Grill 5.9 *** gear to 4”. Interesting offwidth crack with the crux about ¾ of the way up.
34. Mix It Up 5.11B *** 5 clips + gear to 2”. This crack/stem/face is on Coyote Wall, but it’s the next climb to the right of Steel Grill, so it’s included here. Climb the first half using the crack/arête and clip five bolts. Above that stay in crack until near the very top, then veer left.
Sunshine Wall: near end (routes #25 - #34)

Near End  The eastern termination of the Sunshine Wall, the first route you will see on your right as you are squirted out of the Near Trail tunnel is Ride ‘em Cowboy, a fun and super-popular climb.

Climbs read left to right.

35. A Midsummer Night’s Dream 5.11A  8 clips.  An enjoyable sport climb in an unforgettable position with a chossy start. The opening fist crack is easy but the first clip is way, way up there, so a 3” cam is recommended before the mantle (the what?) onto the broken pillar. Best to then scramble up and left, approaching the first clip with your right hand.

36. The Manxome Foe  5.10A **  8 clips  From anchors on Under Duress, climb to the west.
37. Under Duress & Duress 5.9 **  14 clips. Two climbs: a 5.8 to pinnacle top (6 clips), and a 5.9 above (7 clips). Very popular.

38. Welcome to Vantage  5.10C ***  gear to 2.5”.  The Coulee’s namesake climb will let you know you’re not in Kansas anymore. A fine hand crack w/airy stems. Great intro to the climbs of the Sunshine Wall.

39. Bob Dylan  5.10B **  Mostly 2” gear.  A hand & finger crack with little chance for stems, i.e., no resting.

Herm’s Tower  Sometime during the winter of 2002, the tall, slender pillar known as Herm’s Tower disappeared. Supported on a broad pedestal just west of Blue Autumn, with a base narrower than it midsection, some claim it was levered over by a car jack wedged between it and the main wall. Whatever the cause of its departure, we lost the awesome route Positive Vibrations and a local landmark.

40. Blue Autumn  5.10B ****  3-7”( several 6”) + slings for tie-offs.  For those who like this sort of thing, Blue Autumn is considered the best offwidth at Frenchman Coulee.

41. Spinning Mars  5.11B ***  gear to 2.5”.  Thin stemming problem with finger locks.
42. Party in Your Pants  5.8 ***  gear to 3”.  Trad stemming climb follows twin cracks – one for each foot/hand. Great holds and pro most of the way. Extremely popular.

43. Shrinking Ball Disease  5.11A.  gear RP’s to 2.5”.  A trad lead with one bolt down low where the crack pinches off and where you’ll do some tricky stemming. A bit chossy at the top; the name says it all. Anchors used as common area rap station.

44. Easy off  5.10C ***  13 clips.  Anchor set back on the mesa top. Great route, fun moves.
45. Snooze ya Lose  5.11A ***  10 clips.  Anchor formerly set on pillar top until hangers were stolen, along with many others in this area, about two years ago. Anchor now on face just above the technical crux. Crimpy.

46. Ride ‘em Cowboy  5.9 ****  9 clips.  The first sport climb you will see on your right as you descend the Near Trail. If this route is free when you arrive, jump on it.

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Fat Man Wall  A minute’s descent from the switchbacks beneath Ride ‘em Cowboy will drop you to Teaser, the first (leftmost) climb on the Fat Man Wall. Fat Man is one of the lower entablature walls and is 100% sport climbing, most of it excellent. Directly right (southeast) of Fat Man Wall lies Skinny Man Wall.

1. Teaser  5.5 ** 3 clips.  
2. Tease me Please me  5.7 ** 4 clips.  
3. Pornstar  5.10C ** 5 clips.  
4. Extra Value Meal  5.12A ** 5 clips.  

One of two warm-up climbs in this area. Big, positive holds. A bit longer; a bit steeper. The crux of this climb may not be where you think it is. Use the first two bolts of this climb, and then do the 4th bolt of Cheeseburger, then go on to Cheeseburger with Fries and … oh nevermind. Just follow yellow dashed line #4 and go for the right anchor. Stick clip handy here. Stiff right off the deck. Stick clip recommended.

5. Cheeseburger  5.11C ** 7 clips.  
var. Cheeseburger with Fries  5.11C  

Stiff right off the deck. Stick clip recommended. Do Cheeseburger but go for the right anchor like Extra Value. After a few weird stems in a funky gully and two clips on the solid face, heel hook or face climb left onto the arête and solidity. Unusual climb.
7. Fat and Sassy 5.11B *** 6 clips. Very technical climb with no easy moves or rests: friction stems, pinches, funny underclings, hidden holds. Most climbers concur: This climb is harder than 5.11B.

Charlie leading Fat and Sassy

8. Bad Boy 5.11B *** 5 clips. Similar climb to Fat and Sassy, but perhaps a bit more difficult near the top where the gas pockets start.

9. Fat Man Returns 5.10D *** 6 clips. Begin on the blocky, dark rock and climb up and left for a few clips. A surprisingly tricky rightward traverse and a quasi-mantle will take you into the gas pocket zone. The climbing eases up just a bit to the anchors.

Wade struts his stuff on Pornstar

Wade belays Kathy on Monsters Under My Monster’s Bed
Skinny Man Wall

To the right (east) of Fat Man Returns, the wall abruptly juts out then turns a 90-degree corner. This overhanging corner is the route Little Stinker, the first climb on the Skinny Man Wall.

10. Little Stinker 5.11C *** 6 clips. Past vertical. The first two clips are easy but it gets serious after that and good hooking skills are handy. Don't hang around getting pumped on this one: Plan your moves from below and jump on it!

11. Thunder Run 5.10B *** 4 clips. Casual compared with most of the fare served here. Positive holds.

12. Monsters Under My Bed 5.10B *** 5 clips. Rightward traversing climb with subtle holds. Three ways to go at the top, all of them 5.10B.


14. Oblivion 5.11A *** 5 clips. Non-positive holds and a knee bar/hip scum will get you to a herkin' rail for the second clip. From there it's more ghastly moves conceived by someone with a gruesome sense of humor.

15. The Crippler 5.11B/C *** 6 clips. Powerful start with a suggested right heel hook, but you can swing your keister up and left to avoid it. Sustained above with vertical climbing on pinches.

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M & M Wall  The first difficult sport routes at Frenchman Coulee were developed here by two climbers from west of the Cascades, Mike Massey and Matt Kerns. The quasi-columns of the M & M Wall are some of the best in the area. The stone here tends to be hard, in both meanings of the word. Of the 15 current routes, 5 of them rate 4 stars, 3 rate 3 stars and the rest get 1 or 2 stars.

2.  Stemmin’ Ms  5.12A **** 6 clips.       Easy to find this one: the left-facing dihedral with chalk all over it. Technical friction stemming.  
3.  High Five  5.8 **** 4 clips.                 Climb left side of short pillar to wall with hand-sized vesicles (gas pockets).  
4.  Fifteen Minutes of Fame  5.11D /5.11A **** 5 clips. Opening moves very close to The Pod but then veers left at 2nd clip. Continue left traverse (somewhat blind) and then up onto headwall. The original 5.11D version goes straight up from the ground keeping to the left of the first three bolts.  
5.  The Pod  5.11A *** 4 clips.  Begins just right of Fifteen Minutes of Fame. Thin face climbing brings you to the insecure pod. Move up and left if you can. Did I mention it was thin?  
6.  Wide Load  5.11B ** 3 clips + #5 stopper.  Fun climbing in the crack.  
M & M Wall: right side

8. Ridin’ Sidesaddle 5.9 *** 4 clips. 5.10 climbers get bucked off by the tricky crux of this climb. Once you lasso the secret, it’s a tame ride.
10. Cold Cut Combo 5.10C/.11A **** 4 clips. Highly recommended climb with an acrobatic opening move. And it just gets better! From the friction block: climb right - 5.10C or climb left – 5.11A.
11. Power Hitter 5.10B ** 4 clips. This climb was rated 5.10B before the large block at the base tumbled. It used to be a small pedestal you climbed up and over. Be extremely careful around this precarious block.
12. Walkin’ On The Moon 5.11B *** 4 clips + small cam. Another very thin climb where nothing seems to work yet everything is needed to get you to the top.
13. Rotator Cuff 5.11A ** 1 clip + gear to 1.5”. I don’t want to know how it got that name.
14. Nothingness 5.11C ** 4 clips. The word “thin” cannot adequately describe the poverty of holds on this route. Luckily, it’s well protected. Give it a go!
Powerhouse Wall  Even with the recent development of overhanging walls beneath the Middle East Wall and below the Old Vantage Highway, the Powerhouse Wall still commands respect. If you are a solid 5.10D sport leader at other Coulee walls, you may still get spanked by the extremely physical 5.10D’s of the Powerhouse Wall: Violator, Victim of Fate, & Take Hold of the Flame. There are two ways to reach the Powerhouse: 1) Continue east from the end of M & M Wall on the old scratch trail to Moonshine Wall and head up to the Powerhouse or 2) Take the fork below Ride ‘em Cowboy at the Near End. The trail will cross the small valley, drop down through some rocks, and go past the base of the Moonshine Wall. Continue up to the Powerhouse Wall.

1. **King of the Ruins**  5.12A ****  8 clips. Second route on the left. *(Queen of the Gym is not pictured).* Roof can be surmounted with a heel hook or climbed straight on. Crux said to be higher. Two variations between this and next route are not shown.


3. **Victim of Fate**  5.10D ***  7 clips. The rock is a bit suspect at the bottom of this route. Also, one of two clipping holds for the second bolt is a dangerously loose 10 lb left-handed side-pull block. Better to clip off the “V” hold slightly above and right.
6. Horsepowered  5.11D **** 6 clips. Stick clip?
7. Critical Condition  5.11A ** 6 clips. Move left after 3rd clip on to unstable-looking rock. Small, incut holds above; still challenging.

8. Take Hold of the Flame  5.10D *** 6 clips. Begin as for Critical but immediately veer up and right. Tough for its grade.

9. Violator  5.10D *** 6 clips. This climb is so rude it should have its face slapped. Serious clipping for a 5.10D.

10. Poop Chute  5.11A ** 6 clips. Begin right with a few stems off the chossy gully, making the first clip blind and climbing over the arete. Better climb than the name implies. A 5.11B variation begins directly below the first bolt.

Powerpuff (not shown)  5.9 *** 5 clips. On the wall to the right of Poop Chute, this is the only warm-up route in the area.

There are other high-quality routes in the 5.11 range south of Powerpuff.

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Jigsaw Wall: left  Hard pulling is found on the entablature layer beneath the Tilted Pillars. Take the Near Trail lower fork by the routes *The Chossmaster* and *Boschido*. After a short descent and a swing to the right, you’ll be at one of the toughest sport walls in the area. Usually you’ll have the area to yourselves.

2. M. F. 509’ers **  5.10B  6 clips. Mirrors the blue-state/red-state bipolarity of Washington. Easiest climb on this wall--and lots more fun than politics.
3. Boo  5.11D  *  6 clips. Pretty easy climbing until the top.
4. Satan  5.10D **  6 clips. A Bombay-chimney start leads to easier face moves above.
5. Arpeggian Pulse  5.11D ****  7 clips. A crux start on a past-vertical, bulging face.
6. Appassionata Sonata  5.12B ***  6 clips. Sharing its name with Beethoven’s great F-minor piano sonata, this climb stresses virtuoso finger dexterity.
7. Salty Dogs  5.11C ***  6 clips. Climbs up a cool outside corner to a short crux.
8. Through the Roof  5.11A ***  6 clips. Hoist yourself over the little cave onto slippery holds above.
9. Jiggers  5.11C **  5 clips. Climb over the initial roof to another crux. Traverse left at top to *Through the Roof* anchors.
10. Jigsaw Direct  5.10B ****  6 clips. Excellent direct variation to the original right-hand 5.11B start.
Jigsaw Wall: right  (continued)

11. Pre-posthumous Elation and Joy  5.10D *  3 clips. A ways to the right of Jigsaw Direct. Shares anchor with *Insinuating Bliss.*

12. Insinuating Bliss  5.11A ***  4 clips. Have your belayer pay attention as you move to the anchor--a fall here is a real shin banger.


15. Give Me a Second My Elvis is Pinched  5.11C ***  6 clips. Dang those tight harnesses. A great route; tough and interesting moves right off the deck.

16. Effortless  5.11C ****  6 clips. More explicit epithets than “effortless” come to mind when recalling the sweat required to get up this sucker. Still, one of the best routes on the wall.

17. Hermes  5.11A *  4 clips. The first climb you see on your right as you drop down from the Sunshine Wall.

The Vantage Bridge on Interstate 90
Tomato Wall: (Sunshine Wall – Far End)

From the Tilted Pillars, hike west on the Near Trail for about 15 minutes. By the imposing stone of Chockstone Gully and the pillar of Canadian Hand Job, find a cluster of moderate bolted and traditional climbs.

1. Burning Spears 5.10C *** gear to 2”. Bit of face down low to fingers and hands with a nifty backstep rest. More pure jamming than many of the cracks around here.

2. Whale of the Wanapum 5.9 ** gear to 4”. Wide crack with good holds where you need them.

3. Firestarter 5.10B *** 6 clips + 1” piece for bottom crack. Spectacular looking climb that was depicted in Climbing Magazine a few years ago. Make a few 5.7 moves in a crack (optional 1” gear) up to the first clip beneath the roof. Excellent climb.


5. Ten Bucks and a Sandwich 5.9 ** PG-rated 4 clips + gear to 1”. Wander up nondescript face to vertical hand crack.

6. Canadian Hand Job 5.10A *** 8 clips. Climb the prominent red pillar separating Tomato Wall from Chockstone Gully. The climb winds around some—a few slings or long quick draws will reduce rope drag.

7. Bum Rush the Show 5.10C *** PG-rated gear to 2.5”. You might want a spotter as you pick your way through the loose shards at the base to get to this very worthwhile finger jamming and technical stemming exercise. Caution: Cams have been known to blow out of the crack under load. Push them in a bit deeper than usual.

Kyle harpoons Whale of the Wanapum
8. Hamhocks 5.9* gear to 2.5”. One of two routes in Chockstone Gully, two cracks right of *Bum Rush the Show*. The crack is short but is said to be good.

9. Red Hot Chili Peppers 5.9 ** 5 clips. Shuffle left? Shuffle right? Many climbers puzzle over this one, but everybody has fun.

10. Go Cat Go 5.10B *** 5 clips + gear to 3”. The lower, bolted section is solid and totally amazing, while the crack above is a bit manky. However, the crack is considerably easier climbing. *No anchors.*

11. Shot from the Sky 5.11B *** 4 clips + gear to 1.5”. *No anchors.*
Riverview Columns  (Sunshine Wall – Far End)

Walk west on the Near Trail from the Tomato Wall for a few minutes and the east-facing Riverview Columns appear. Only five routes are listed, but all are great. Like the Tomato Wall, some shade and break from the springtime wind is granted here.

1. Dusk and Her Embrace  5.10A **  5 clips. You will understand the name as you grope for the chains.
2. Aeolachrymation  5.8 ***  3 clips + optional small cam. Face climb and stem past the last clip. Slot a piece in the left crack, or push on to the anchors. The crux is saying the route’s name without tripping over your tongue.
3. Crepuscular Passions of the Blissfully Spanked  5.10A ***  4 clips + opt. 1” cam. Thought-provoking crux followed by fun moves to the anchors.
4. Mortal Prying in the V Shaped Realm  5.10B **** 6 clips. Two ways to do the cryptic crux. A variety of fun moves rounds out this great climb.
5. The Inverted Trance of a Rapturous Nocternity  5.10D ****  7 clips. Climb up, making two clips. Then traverse under roof and back to the right. Liebacks, stems, and cracks above. Anchor is on mesa. Belay up top, then rappel.
Riverview Park: left end

From the Tomato Wall/Riverview Columns, continue west on the Near Trail. In less than ten minutes, the trail descends half-left to the lower walls (turning hard left leads to Corn Wall). Continue west a few hundred feet and the short bolted routes of Riverview Park appear on your right. Riverview Park has the greatest concentration of moderate sport routes of any crag at the Coulee. We have listed 27 of the best. They range from a 3-star 5.4 to numerous 5.10’s and 5.11A’s up to a 4-star 5.11B. To the west of Riverview Park, are yet more crags with some great climbs not featured in this guide. A one minute stroll will bring you to Portrait of a Jigsaw Burger 5.11A **** 7 clips. There are at least 15 more routes out there rating two stars or better.

making the clip on Portrait of a Jigsaw Burger

1. Corroding Through Nocturnal Silk 5.8 *** 4 clips. Many leaders puzzle over this one. We won’t give it away.
2. When Angels Dress in Closets Deep 5.4 *** 4 clips. Surrounded by much harder climbs, this is a good first lead.
4. A Walk in the Park 5.7 **** 4 clips. Four stars, whoa, that’s one star per clip! This climb can be dangerous for beginners to top rope. Recommend keeping the first 2 bolts clipped, otherwise climbers falling off the boulder start will pendulum into the talus.
6. Euphoric Nothingness 5.11B **** 5 clips. The hardest climb at Riverview Park. At the 4th clip, the geezer variation goes straight up, then over to the 5th clip, instead of left and up. See photo.
7. Troublicious 5.10A ** 3 clips + gear to 1” + 3” cam. Bolted face at the bottom and crack to finish.
8. Awareness Drooling 5.10C **** 6 clips. One of the best climbs here, Awareness features a puzzling crux down low and a variety of techniques required above.
9. Psychogenic Fugue Thus Far 5.11A **** 6 clips. Interesting moves and a well-protected roof with more stiff moves above.

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10. Imbibing Depths Reflective 5.10B *** 5 clips. Easy start on off-white rock leads to the red stone above.

11. Resting Effort Emptiness 5.11A *** 5 clips. Getting both feet off the ground is the crux here; steep and balancy climbing above.

12. Mortal Memory Magnet 5.10D **** 6 clips + opt. .5" near top. Another crux beginning with fun but much easier climbing above. Variation is:

   var. Killer Lob 5.11A PG-rated ***. Begin slightly right of Mortal Memory Magnet and, above the third clip, work left.

13. A Genius Bruing 5.10A **** 5 clips. Boulder start (easier with long arms) leads to a few liebacks/jams then jugs. Just plain fun up higher.

14. Kicking the Bucket of Bliss 5.10A ** 5 clips. Good face climb with the 4th clip made from a chain link.

15. Newton Chips 5.10C *** 5 clips. The only climb on a small face with an eastern aspect. Tougher moves on the face lead to a left traverse and a finish on the arête.

16. The Creation of Tranquility 5.11A *** 5 clips. Interesting climb where you will need a subtle grasp of the situation at the crux.
16. **The Creation of Tranquility 5.11A*** 5 clips. Interesting climb where you will need a subtle grasp of the situation at the crux.

17. **Camazonia 5.10A*** 4 clips + 1” cam. Quality face moves at the bottom and an easy crack above.

18. **Spring Loaded 5.10D*** 5 clips. Cramped, crux and well-protected moves on the black stone; then a rightward traverse to easier terrain.

19. **Black Belt Internet Spray Masters 5.10A*** 5 clips. Fun route with a relatively long stretch on the red-orange arête.

20. **Oh Coulee, Oh Coulee 5.8*** 3 clips. One of the really nice moderates here. Popular.


22. **Crescendo of the Sarcophagus Breeding 5.10D**** 5 clips.** Dramatic opening moves, a breather, and then some really cool moves above.

23. **The Red Drill Rules 5.10A** 5 clips. One of four climbs in a row with a harder first move.

24. **One Move Blunder 5.9** 4 clips. Well put, but still fun.

25. **Bob is Real 5.10A** 4 clips. One 5.10A move.

26. **Masticate Expectorate 5.8** 4 clips. A bit easier than above.

27. **Weep Holes on Sill 5.11A*** 4 clips. A fun, well-protected 5.11A lead.

Dave discovers the crux, *The Creation of Tranquility*
The Corn Wall/Millennium Wall/Hen House area lies on the same level as Riverview Park and begins a few minutes walk east of the Park. Corn Wall comes first, and like Riverview Park, features short climbs that are of good or excellent quality. As you move east, the climbs get more difficult (check the guide, however, there are exceptions). The Corn Wall is named after The Cob, a small, free-standing pillar that separates the right and left halves of the wall.

1. Clipping the Cornea  5.7 **  3 clips.  Short and fun.
2. Cornivorous  5.9 **  4 clips.  Longer and funner.
3. Husk it Quick My Cob is Calling  5.10C ***  5 clips. Excellent climb with great moves.
4. A Lustrous Pall Enmeshed  5.11A ***  5 clips. This climb will have you traversing and spanning, reaching and stemming. A diverse climb.
5. Cream Sauce  5.9 **  4 clips. Scramble up to The Cob and chimney until you must leave that security for the lonely face.

Charlie approaching the crux of

A Lustrous Pall Enmeshed

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Corn Wall: right

The character of the wall changes on this side.

6. A Disease Called Life 5.9 ** 5 clips. Good climbing on good rock.
8. Decortication in a Clinical Stupor 5.10B *** 6 clips. Tricky backstep move at the bottom leads to big pinches.

Millennium Wall: left

Walk east past the right end of the Corn Wall and you come to the first route on the Millennium Wall in less than a minute.

1. Noggin Garnish 5.9 ** 5 clips. Look for the pinkish hangers. Shares anchors with Taking it Easy.
2. Taking it Easy 5.9 ** 5 clips. Near the top, you can veer left or stay in the easier right-facing corner.
3. Y2K Crash 5.9 *** 4 clips. How you do the roof determines the grade.
4. Heel Higher Crescent 5.10A **** 5 clips. Entertaining rambling up to the crux section below the ledge.
5. Lucky Dogs 5.8 ** gear to 2”. Actually a very solid crack and loads of fun.

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6. Play and Win  5.9 **  5 clips. Veer left near the top to keep it 5.9, otherwise it gets harder.
8. Nazi Boyfriend  5.10B ***  6 clips. Unfortunate name for a great climb. It's all in the first few moves.
9. Frank Black  5.11B ***  7 clips.  Going way right in the gully won't help; the crux is higher anyhow. There are three ways to move through the first four clips, all at grade. A climb worth returning to.
10. Hidden Opulent  5.10A **  6 clips. Treat yourself to this one after doing Frank Black. A bit chossy on top but plenty of bolts.
11. Sub-Atomic Lunge Blast  5.10B ***  5 clips. The power-glide crux is up high, but the teeter start is an attention getter.
12. No Time To Deviate  5.10C ****  6 clips. Like its two companion climbs, a great route on superb stone.
13. Ten-A-Cee Waltz  5.10C ****  6 clips. Perhaps slightly harder than No Time… but that depends on the type of holds you prefer.
Guardians of the Sani-can

Plains Daisy  
*Townsendia parryi*
Hen House: left

Just right of the last route on the Millennium Wall, Ten-A-Cee Waltz, both the color and the character of the rock changes. The streaked, orange-white color gives way to darker shades of rust and tan while the wall becomes undercut. The first listed route on the Hen House is on this rust wall. It is the only climb easier than 5.10C. Climbing at the Hen House has more in common with the Jigsaw Wall, a few hundred feet east on the same level, than with the Corn & Millennium walls next door.

1. Little Red Rooster 5.6 ** 5 clips. One of the few sub-vertical climbs here. A good, easy lead. Be aware that the Near Trail is right above.

2. Scarecrow 5.11D ** 4 clips. Very thin-looking start that has chalk all over it. The chalk seems to end there. Hmmm.

3. Harvest 5.10C *** 6 clips. Fun, juggy start next to a roof and great moves above.

4. Fresh Eggs 5.10D *** 5 clips + opt. small cam. A fun lieback start, then subtle moves above.

West end of the mesa, looking to the mountains

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Hen House: right  (continued)

4. Fresh Eggs  5.10D ***  5 clips + opt. small cam. A lieback start followed by subtle moves above.
5. Chicken Scratch  5.10D ***  6 clips. Totally cool, protected start with many ways to solve the opening crux. A fun climb to do with a group.

6. Stampede  5.11C **  7 clips. Because the start of this route looks like it's ready to let loose, we recommend climbing one of the following two routes first, with which it shares anchors. Then, top rope this climb with caution.

7. Cowgirls Get the Thrills  5.10C ***  7 clips. Disarmingly thin climb considering how easy it looks from below. Even thrills cowboys.

8. Giddy Up  5.10D ***  7 clips. This route appears dirty, but it's not. It's as solid as anything else here, and just as good. Shares anchors with Cowgirls and Stampede.

Kathy follows Little Stinker on the Skinny Man Wall
The Middle East and Sunshine walls are the two great column-bearing palisades supporting the central mesa traversed by the Near Trail. The south-facing Sunshine Wall is pleasantly warmed by the sun in winter, spring and fall, and an inferno in summer. The north-facing Middle East Wall sees sun only in early morning and late afternoon around the summer solstice, and is spackled with brilliant orange-yellow lichens. The Middle East Wall, and the recently developed sport walls one level below, are ideal places to climb on hot summer days.

Note: To protect nesting falcons, Middle East Wall is closed to climbing from May 1 to August 1.

Climbing at the Middle East Wall is similar to the Sunshine Wall but there are fewer bolted lines and, in general, the climbs are several grades harder. Also, there are fewer anchors and some hangers don’t have chains—it’s a good idea to climb with a few slings and descending rings to donate to the cause. Because this area sees (enjoys?) far fewer climbers than its sunny counterpart, even the best routes may be grungy near the top. And while there are climbs at Frenchman Coulee protected from the biting spring wind (Riverview Columns, Riverview Park, Millennium Wall, etc.) you will get no relief here.
1. **Blinded by the Light**  5.11A ***  **8 clips.** You do not want to fall to the talus with the off-the-deck power crux of this cool arête climb. Often there is a make-shift clip stick (made from a real stick) at the base. Once you clip that first oversized hanger, you've got it made in the shade.

2. **After Shock**  5.11C ****  **8 clips.** The first of a pair of superlative sport routes spanning wavy columns. If you can't lead 5.11C, highjack someone who can and follow these awesome climbs. *After Shock* softens you up with technical stems, off-angle crimps and finger stacks. Then, with the anchors only 20 feet away, comes the real fire. But you wouldn't want us to spill the beta, would you?

3. **Butcher of Bagdad**  5.11D ****  **8 clips.** The other half of a superb pair, don't miss this continuously challenging climb. Next to the crux finish of *After Shock*, it's hard to say which of these two climbs is actually harder.
Middle East Wall: center

4. Slim and Curvy 5.10B *** gear to 3". A fun, secure stemming problem with a crux finger crack right off the deck.

5. Creeping Death 5.11B *** 6 clips. Begin on the left arête, then use both right and left edges, plus face holds, to keep it going.

6. Coup d’Erat 5.11A * gear route. Climb hand and fist crack until it ends; then traverse right to the top.

7. Human Sacrifice 5.10C **** 5 clips + opt. cam at bottom. Another climb that was depicted in the Climbing Magazine article on Frenchman Coulee. An area classic with big, generous holds most of the way. Begin in the hand crack at the base.


9. Appo’s Last Revenge 5.11A ** standard rack. Yet another good crack.

10. Jihad 5.11A **** gear to 3”. Crack begins as fingers and gradually widens to fists. One of the best cracks.

11. Molotov Cocktail 5.11B *** P-G rated gear to 2.5”. Thin crack climbing then a run-out traverse to the anchor of Jihad.

12. M. F. Snowboarders 5.10A * standard rack. Hand crack ending on mesa top that must have been named by a telemark skier.

13. Desert Dessert 5.11A **** 8 clips. Climbs the detached pillar that is resting against the main wall. An awesome arete climb that will have you traversing a bit.

14. Savage Heart 5.10B *** 6 clips + opt. medium nut. Good clean climbing calling on balancing skills. The optional placement is just below the anchors.

15. Sex Party 5.10A *** gear 2.5”. Jam and stem to Lingerie’s anchor.

16. Lingerie 5.11D **** gear mostly small to 1”. Often toproped, as it shares an anchor with the much easier Sex Party. Awesome climb; probably a great lead.
14. Savage Heart  5.10B ***  6 clips + opt. medium nut. Good clean climbing calling on your balance skills. The optional placement is just below the anchor.
15. Sex Party  5.10A ***  gear 2.5”. Jam and stem to Lingerie’s anchor.
16. Lingerie  5.11D ****  gear mostly small to 1”. Often toproped, as it shares an anchor with the much easier Sex Party. Awesome climb; probably a great lead.
17. 272  5.8 **  gear (offwidth). Left-facing offwidth that ends, along with the next two climbs, at an anchor.
18. The Elders 5.10A **  standard rack. A thin crack that widens to fists. Note: The crack widens as pro is pushed in deeper. Shares anchors with 272 and Theresa’s Lingerie.
19. Theresa’s Lingerie  5.9 **. Yet another good Middle East Wall crack. Same anchor as 272 and Elders.
20. Left Handed Monkey Wrench  5.10C *. Climb to top of pedestal and continue up the crux corner. No anchor.
21. Project  5.??  . This climb is said to be very thin fingers and palming. Use anchors of Crazy Fingers.
22. Crazy Fingers  5.10A **  gear to 3”. A recent creation that needs traffic to clean off the lichen. Has potential to be a great climb.
23. Electric Shock  5.10D ***  gear to 3” w/ 1 fixed pin in thin crack. Fun crack climb finishing on Focal Point’s anchor.
24. Focal Point  5.11B  7 clips. An aesthetic sport climb with a no-hands rest half-way up. The easier moves down low can lull you into complacency as you reach the point of focus.
25. Gotta Be Smokin’  5.10A **  gear to 2.5”. The hand crack on the right side of Focal Point. Same anchor.
Postal Wall, Dungeon and Sanctuary

From the central routes of the Middle East Wall (near the route Jihad), take the switchbacks down and left (west) to the base of the Postal Wall, the first and easiest of the three sport walls below Middle East Wall. Or, use a trail from the Old Vantage Highway that switchbacks up to the Sanctuary and then traverses east. Warning: You'll probably be ticketed if you park off the road here. Park in the main climber's parking lot and walk the road to this lower trail if your goal is to clip bolts on these lower walls and not climb above at Middle East Wall. Regardless of the approach, those comfortable climbing at the 5.10C/D level should have fun, even if some of the climbs become projects. There aren't many routes here yet (we have listed 13), but a walk along the base reveals vast potential. All we need are a couple of retired climbers with Bosches.
Postal Wall - Dungeon

The first wall reached from the Middle East Wall Trail (and the last wall from the Old Vantage Highway) is the Postal Wall. The Postal Wall currently features only one climb plus project anchors, while The Dungeon offers five high quality sport climbs.

1. Walls Come Tumbling Down
   5.10C *** 5 clips. An unusual Frenchman Coulee climb that feels tougher than its rating. Appearing easy from the lush grass carpeting its base, once you step up you will be immediately confronted with the first, but not the last, crux of this cool climb. This route has the nasty habit of deflating the hubris of 5.11A climbers.

2. Bad Millennium  5.11B *** 6 clips. A high quality, pumpy climb that doesn’t let up until the anchor. Highly recommended.

3. Stemmin’s for Pussies  5.10D/5.11D *** 5 clips. Starts in the little west-facing corner. If you stem off the gully, the rating drops to 5.10D.

4. Feed the Bunnies  5.10A ** 5 clips. The only climb around here that passes as a warm-up. Fun but somewhat insecure.

5. Farewell to Arm  5.11C *** 5 clips. Climb up to and over a small roof. Lots of bolts and burly moves on the crux.

6. Gopher Baroque  5.11A *** 4 clips. Careful if you attempt to bypass the hard opening moves by climbing up the rotten gully on the right. Another climb that may have you wandering back and forth more than you thought. Clipping stances on this climb are fairly desperate.
The Sanctuary

A short walk west from The Dungeon will bring you to a small cave without any apparent bolts. Continue walking – the next cave is The Sanctuary. Unless you consider an overhanging 5.11B a warm-up, everything here is hard. Most of the climbs are 5.12’s and there is a 5.13B, which is to our knowledge, the hardest climb at Frenchman Coulee. The potential for more routes of this nature is considerable. The only first-hand beta we can offer for The Sanctuary is on the first route, Refuge Denied. We have paraphrased the descriptions from Ford & Yoder for the other routes.

1. Refuge Denied  5.11B ***  5 clips. Burly, off-balance first two clips. If you have juice left, it’s easier above.
2. Bag of Doom  5.12C ***  8 clips. Traverse steeply through a bombe’ roof.
3. The Chain  5.11C ***  5 clips. Climb out the roof to a right-traversing crack, ending only halfway up the wall.
5. Jugulator  5.12C ****  8 clips. Begin on other side of steep, rotten-looking gully. (Looks great from the trail!!)

The following two climbs are located in The Sanctuary right side, a short walk farther west:

6. Udder  5.11D * 8 clips. This is the left climb. Use a long sling on the 6th bolt.
7. Windham Hell  5.13B ****. The toughest climb at the Coulee.

Selected Climbs of Frenchman Coulee by Marc A. Dilley

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climber Wade Harness at the Pangborn Memorial above East Wenatchee, August, 1975