

The BHCC Route Repair Committee is proposing the following changes to Evergreen 5.9 on Pine Tree Rock at Rushmore:

Add 3 bolts to the route in the following locations:

- A bolt in between the first and second bolt to eliminate ground fall potential.
- A bolt at the crux as the climber is 10 feet out from the last bolt and the rock slabs out beneath the climber. A fall at this point would result in a 20 ft fall onto the slab below.
- A bolt between the bolt after the crux and the next bolt. It is nearly 30 ft. between these bolts and a fall from here would result in a long fall onto the slab below.

With the proposed changes the route would have 11 bolts in 140 ft of climbing.

Evergreen is a very high quality route that has excellent rock, length, and quality of climbing. The theme behind the climbing at Rushmore has generally been to establish routes that are fun, safe, and of high quality that people want to climb again and again. (Phinney) The intent of the proposed additions is to open up the route to those climbers whom are climbing at that particular grade.

Perspective of Mike Engle (First Ascentionist)

Let me add another point about Evergreen.

The route was done at a similar time when Vern and I were purposely trying to create fun, safe engineered routes on rappel like Wrinkle in Time, Deja Vu Prophecy, Static Cling, Edge of Darkness, etc. However, Evergreen was more of an experiment. A year or two prior to Evergreen, I had successfully put route in on the lead with a power drill in the Flatirons outside Boulder (Cloudwalker on Dinosaur Mountain). I wanted to try the same technique at Rushmore even though, at the time, I was more committed to route engineering than routes on the lead. The result was pretty good but I was climbing well at the time and running it out a bit was way easier than placing more bolts. So the in the end Evergreen wasn't as well protected as an engineered route. I agree that there are plenty of routes (Needles especially) to practice improving your "head". With due respect to all opinions, I'm supporting the retro bolting of Evergreen. Given the period the route went in and that Vern and I made several safe, fun routes for 5.10 and 5.11 climbers, it would be consistent to improve the safety of this 5.9. Also, generally I think it is very selfish when a solid 5.11 or 5.12 climber puts up a runout 5.9 just because it's 'easier'.

Cheers and best regards,
Mike

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please visit the bhclimbers website and send us an email. The Board will consider all input before we make our final decision on Evergreen.

Thanks-

BHCC Board of Directors