

BOWMAN VALLEY

Located 13 miles from the turnout at Highway 20, this area comprises a diverse collection of granite outcrops scattered around the head of the valley below the Bowman Lake Reservoir. At first glance, the cliffs appear broken and slabby, but upon closer inspection, yield small high-quality walls crammed full of enjoyable sport routes. The rock is an excellent, compact granite that, while generally lacking in cracks, is exceedingly well-featured for face climbing. Many of the venues offer a wide selection of grades and are perfect for parties with a variety of abilities.

Usually accessible between the months of May and November, Bowman Valley offers excellent late-spring and fall sport climbing. Summer months can be uncomfortably hot; however the area's rivers and lakes can offer a refreshing break from the midday heat. This area is a good option for multiday visits. Camping, hiking, and swimming nicely complement the convenient, near-roadside cragging opportunities.

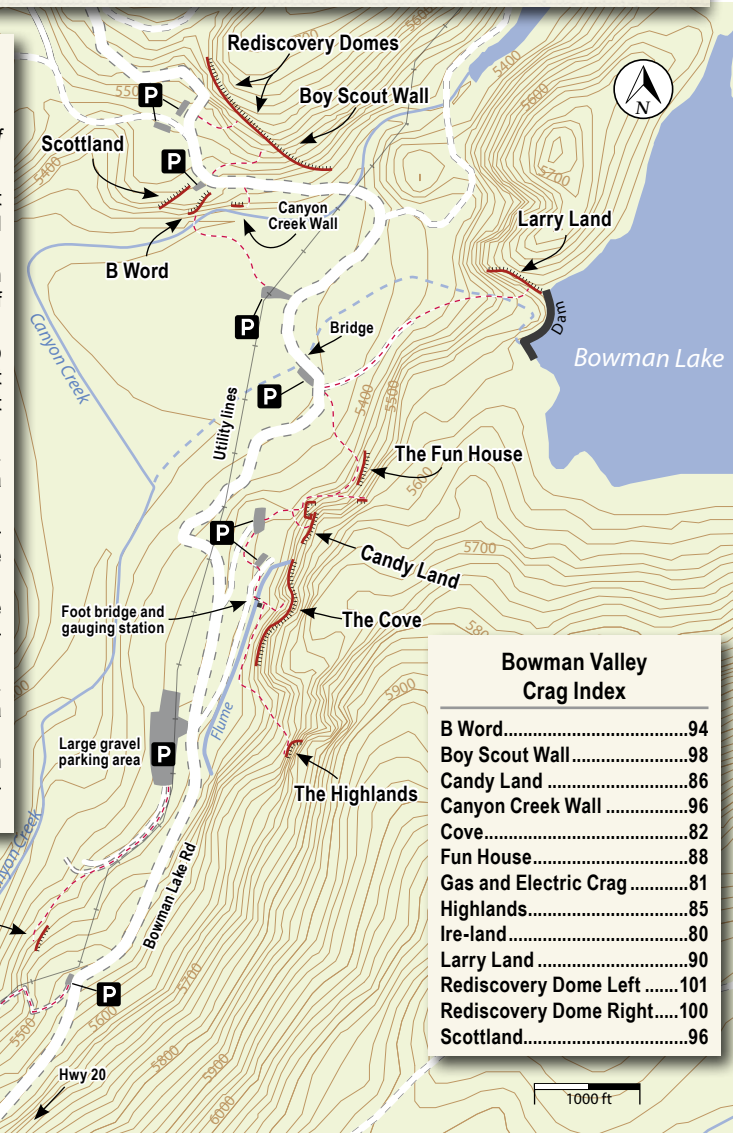
ROUTE GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Grade	-5.7	5.8	5.9	5.10	5.11	5.12	5.13+	Total
Sport	10	11	12	39	37	19	4	135
Trad	5	2	2	2	1	1	0	13

BOWMAN VALLEY ODOMETER READINGS

Distances are relative to the junction of CA-20 and Bowman Lake Road.

- 12.7 MILES – Ire-land. Park in a small pullout overlooking the valley. Utility lines head downhill from here.
- 12.9 MILES – Gas and Electric Crag. Park in a large gravel area on the left side of the road.
- 12.9 MILES – The Cove. Follow a roadway to the right, paralleling the flume. Park at the end of the road on the left. Do not block the road.
- 13.1 MILES – Candy Land and The Cove. A rough road heads rightward into a gravel wash. Park atop the small rise.
- 13.4 MILES – Larry Land. Park on the left-hand shoulder, immediately before crossing the Canyon Creek bridge.
- 13.5 MILES – B Word. Use a pullout on the left after driving over a concrete spillway through a wash.
- 13.8 MILES – Scotland and Boy Scout Wall. Park in a left-hand, gravel pullout on a rightward bend in the road.
- 13.8 MILES – Rediscovery Dome. Park on the shoulder immediately after a left-hand fork signed 18|30.



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Donny Parker on The Ripple Effect (5.11b/c). The Cove page 84. Photo by Mike Carville.