

Emergency Contact Information

- For emergencies dial 9-1-1
- In the event a rescue is needed American Alpine Club members should also promptly dial +1 (617) 459-4200 to notify Global Rescue

Other Important Numbers

- Val Verde Regional Medical Center: +1 830-775-8566
- Comstock Border Patrol +1 432-292-4600
- Heather Gibbs +1 830-734-2444 (cell/text)
- Miles Gibbs +1 830-719-2190 (cell/text)
- Continental Ranch Headquarters +1 432-292-4412
- Brian Deitch (AAC Austin) +1 512-623-0725 (cell/text)

The Ranch address is: 10507B on Ranch Road 1024, Comstock

GPS Coordinates:

- Turnoff for Cont. Ranch (29.8369, -101.2338)
- Ranch House (29.8518, -101.2938)
- Butt Campground and Parking (29.8159, -101.4411)
- Weir Dam Parking (29.8045, -101.4428)

Approaches to Continental Ranch Climbing Areas



Protect America's Climbing

Emerald Pools and Painted Canyon Sections

All crags in this section may be accessed from the campground via a cairned trail past a fire circle that leads to a large hoist crane at the top of the bluff. Follow the third class scramble to the right of the crane along boulders until you see The Butt on your immediate left. The following crags may be accessed through this approach into the canyon: The Butt, Candy Land, Gator Farm, Cheap Beer Odyssey, Fishing Hole and Painted Canyon. These crags have shade most of the day, offer the easiest approaches, and contain several good swimming options.

The Butt (~10 min): The aptly named northwest facing crag is the closest climbing to the campground and has 15 climbs ranging in difficulty from 5.9 - 5.13. Top ropes can easily be set up from above The Butt Crack (5.10) and the three Butt Nugget climbs (5.11+, 5.12- and 5.11+). The approach is a 5 minute hike down from the campground. It is immediately on your left when you enter the canyon.

Candy Land (~12 min): With northwest facing walls and 8 sport climbs ranging from 5.8 - 5.10+, this crag is immediately downstream from The Butt. Same approach but from The Butt, then walk a few hundred feet past the Butt Nugget boulder (river to your right). Arrive at Candy Land behind the first boulder field you come across.

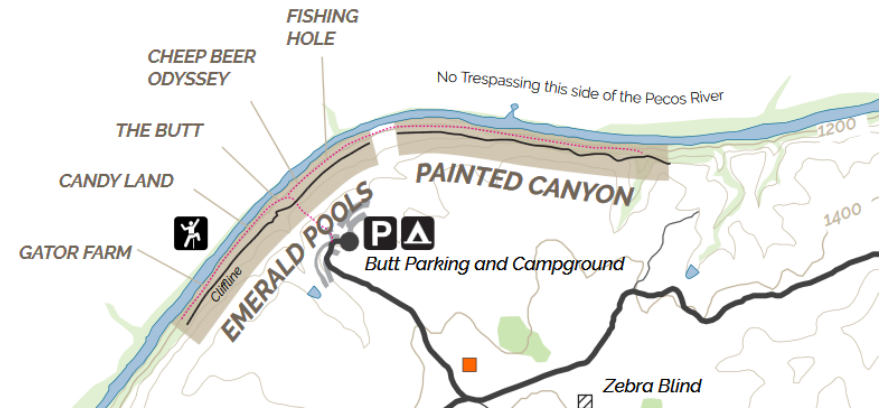
Gator Farm (~20 min): Northwest facing walls and 6 sport climbs ranging from 5.7 - 5.11, two TR climbs (5.6 and 5.8) and some boulder problems (no topo). This crag is the farthest downstream crag accessible from The Butt. Follow the approach to The Butt and hike a quarter mile downstream. on your right) past Candy Land. After passing the boulder field immediately after Candy Land there is a clean section of canyon until you arrive at a smaller boulder field that is in the middle of the Gator Farm wall. These boulders have been climbed before, but no information was provided to us on the number or difficulty of these climbs.

Cheap Beer Odyssey (~12 min): Immediately upstream from The Butt and with northwest facing walls, This wall has 4 sport climbs ranging from 5.9 - 5.11. Approach the canyon from the Emerald and walk a few hundred feet upstream from The Butt (river on your left). The crag is at this first boulder field.

Fishing Hole (~15 min): Fishing hole has NW facing walls and 5 sport climbs ranging from 5.8 - 5.11. Approach the canyon from the Emerald Pools approach and walk upstream (river on your left) from The Butt past Cheap Beer Odyssey to the first river access point.

Painted Canyon (~ 20-30 min)

Painted Canyon is the farthest crag upstream from The Butt. The crag has north facing walls with 22 sport climbs ranging from 5.9 to 5.13-. The climbs are spread out along a roughly 150 yard section of the canyon. Approach the canyon from the Emerald Pools, and walk upstream from The Butt (river to your left) past Fishing Hole about half a mile. Follow the cliff line in the topo for orientation.



Weir Dam Section (~ 60-90 min)

The Weir Dam area has south facing walls and experiences full sun most of the day. Bring extra water and extra batteries for your headlamps! There is no shelter from the sun. This area is best on cool or cloudy days or early in the morning. Evening climbing is risky due to the difficulty in navigating in the dark. Please allow plenty of time to return to the parking lot before sunset. The walls are much taller in this section of the canyon. Please bring 60m or 70m ropes and tie knots in the ends! It is imperative that someone in the group is able to set up a top belay for the last person exiting the canyon unless you plan on taking the long 3rd class scramble back to the auxiliary parking at the cabin. Weir Dam is on the other side of the peninsula from the campground and is accessed by driving from the campground about half a mile to an irregular intersection. Take a sharp right turn and continue down this road staying left at two more forks to arrive at the unimproved main parking area. Please be sure to travel in groups with two or more cars. Leave room for other vehicles to come and go freely so that in the event of an emergency no one is blocked in. Please take two cars and notify event staff that you intend to access Weir Dam and when you plan to be back. Please do not attempt to access the fourth class descent above The Planetarium from the old cabin. This approach has not been cairned or accessed in many years. This area has two primary access points:

1) 100' Ladder: The bottom of the ladder is intentionally not connected to the ground so that the structure can flex during the flash floods on the Pecos River. **USE AT YOUR OWN RISK.** Follow a cairned trail down and then left from the parking area towards the rim of the canyon until you find the top of the ladder directly across from Weir Dam. There is a rappel station here and it is highly recommended that you belay partners as they descend/ascend the ladder. You may also rappel into the canyon without the use of the ladder. If there is a fixed rope, please leave it threaded so that people may exit the canyon with a top rope belay. The last person will have to be top belayed out of the

canyon. From the bottom of the ladder follow the weed whacked trail through tall grass with the canyon walls to your left until you reach Wire Wall.

2) Mr. Access 5.7: Rappel the route Mr. Access. Hike down from the parking area to the top of the cliff and hike along the top of the cliff downstream (river to your right) past the ladder mentioned above. Follow the cairns along the canyon rim until you see a large wire cable that spans the canyon (marking the beginning of Wire Wall). Continue along the cairned trail until you reach the three large cairns immediately after a right facing dihedral with a large flake system. This is the top of Mr. Access. There is a ten foot exposed section after this dihedral that leads you to the anchors of Mr Access (5.7). Rappel the route into the canyon and consider leaving a TR on the climb so that in the event of an emergency others may exit the canyon quickly by climbing Mr. Access and reversing the cairned trail back to the parking lot. The last person will have to be top belayed out of the canyon.

