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Comments: In 2024, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort is proposing to expand their Via Ferrata routes, fixed cables and ladders on rock, onto parts of Rendezvous Mountain where climbing routes already exist. The placement of the Via Ferrata could threaten climbing in the Corbet's Couloir and Tower Five areas. The Teton Climber's Coalition only recently became aware of the proposed location of the Via Ferrata which has prompted us to request the permit be delayed. Our objections are as follows:

1. The Via Ferrata could privatize a currently public area.
2. It would destroy natural climbs to create artificial ones.

Building a Via Ferrata requires removing rock and installing cables and ladders. There is a potential that Via Ferrata users could threaten the safety of climbers or vice versa. According to Wesley Gooch's guide book, Rock Climbing Jackson Hole and Pinedale Wyoming, there are currently about 30 established climbs in the Corbet's Couloir area. The Tower Five area has another 7. Many of these are excellent climbs that have been used by the general public since the 80s. The photo of Dad's Crag and Julia on Tower Five show the spectacular nature of some of the climbs.

Currently, the cost of using the Via Ferrata at JHMR is 620 for two climbers, 200 for an individual to join a group. The TCC feels it is wrong to close an area free to the public and make it only be available to those able to pay that kind of fee. At the same time, we feel the two can coexist. The Via Ferrata can be placed where it won't interfere with existing climbs. Also, the Via Ferrata can remain open to the general public at a nominal cost if JHMR agrees to sell tickets to use the Via Ferrata without engaging a guide. Ouray, Telluride and Red River Gorge all have Vias free to the public. Certainly, using a Via Ferrata involves risk but no more than all the other activities at JHMR.

While no locations have been chosen, there are a couple of locations proposed by the JHMR shown in Corbet's VF Proposal. The leftmost blue line follows route 1, Unnamed Crack in Gooch's guide. It is a moderate, fun route with beautiful views. Getting off the top of it would be hazardous to climbers and Via Ferrata users below. The red line follows a route called the Skid. This climb is rarely visited and Nate Brown who developed it does not mind if it is replaced with a Via Ferrata. The right most blue line follows a route called Shatter Face. We have no objection to this becoming a Via Ferrata but users could endanger those below when topping out on this as well.

There are other options that would both create a wonderful Via Ferrata system and preserve the long-loved climbs of Corbets. VF Tower Five Options show a number of possible routes on the Tower Five wall north of the climbs. None of these would conflict with existing climbs.

These are only proposals. Until we know a definite location we won't know how many other of the 37 climbs will be impacted. Will the entire area be closed during construction? Will it be permanently closed to the general public? These are important questions to be answered before a permit is issued.

While JHMR leases Rendezvous Peak for skiing and biking, it is my understanding that the lease does not cover climbing in this area. We feel it is important to have a better understanding of the impacts on climbing before the permit is issued. When permission is granted it should be worded in such a way to ensure the continued use of existing climbs.

Most climbers would love to climb a Via Ferrata if it was possible at a reasonable cost. It's important to note, the

climbs in the Corbet's area were established legally. Any new Via Ferratas should be located to minimize the impact on existing climbs and be available to everyone.

Thank you,

Charlie Thomas

Board member Teton Climber's Coalition