

Mix Fix

Grade: M7 WI3+, 150m

Location: Protection Valley, Banff National Park AB

Base Elevation & Aspect: 2300m, West facing

First Ascent: Jon Walsh, Jeff Mercier, November 25 2017

ATES: Complex (3)

Editor's Note: I have reformatted this from the original post by Jon on the Facebook group Canadian Rockies Ice Climbing. All photos, text and any errors are from that post -NB

"Climbs the deep gash [between] *Superlight* and *Paradis Perdu*. Enjoyable trad-mixed climbing on every pitch with lots of transitions from rock to ice. I have no idea how often it comes in and with what amounts of ice, but variations in the ice flow would surely make it harder or easier from year to year."

Approach

As for *Superlight* and *Paradis Perdu*. Drive 10.5km west of Castle Junction on Highway 1A, and park in a pullout just east of the (closed) Protection campground.

Walk over to the cook shelter in the campground, and continue past it. Cross the power line cut then head up trails through the forest, staying high on the west (left) bank of the Protection Creek drainage. As the trees thin and angle eases, sidehill right towards the head of the valley and a massive boulder.

Continue up the valley, and near the cliffs at the back head left into the western 'fork'. Locate the ice streaks of *Paradis Perdu* on the back wall of the valley, and look for a left facing gash about 150m left of that route and 250m right of the ice of *Superlight*.

P1: M6 45m

Climb the dead vertical wall, up the ice blobs and cracks. There are 5 protection bolts, and a 2 bolt anchor at the top.

P2: M7 20m

Climb into the back of the cave and chimney out to the ice dagger, protecting on gear. There is a one bolt anchor on the ledge above, but P2 and P3 can also be linked.

P3: M4 WI3+ 30m

Head up thin ice, mostly protected with rock gear, to a 2 bolt anchor on a big ledge.

P4: M4 WI3 55m

Easy but fun. You could call it good halfway up this pitch where the real climbing ends, but we kept going up an easy mixed chimney and some snow to an ice screw belay.

Descent

Rappel 3 times, first off a V-thread then bolts.

Rack

Cams from #0.3-3 (double #3 useful), nuts, pitons, a few screws. Double ropes or single/tag.

FA Note

- This route is very sheltered from the wind.

