



DICKSON

River v3a4IV☆☆☆

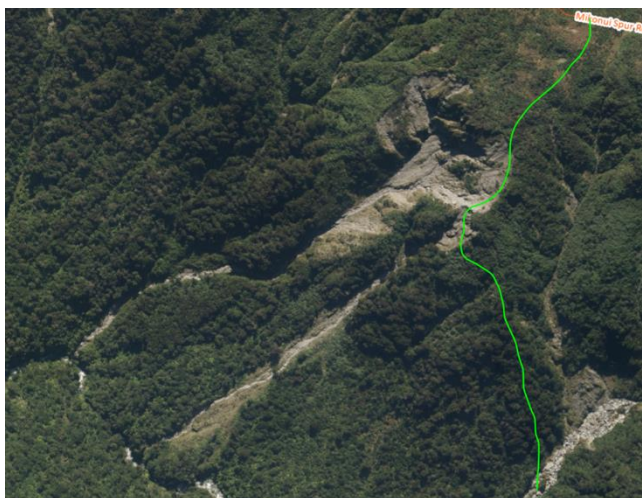
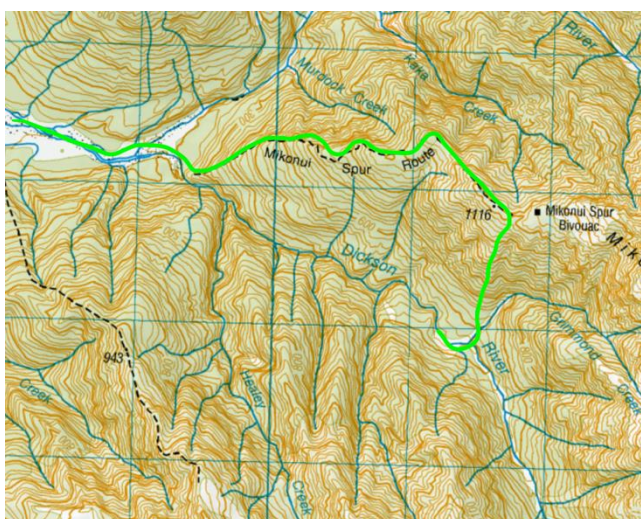
Location

Mikonui Valley, West Coast

Character

Very committing and continuous bedrock slot that never relents but always provides. Great jumps and unlikely looking problems.

Map



Approach by Car

About 20km south of Hokitika, head up Totara Valley Road. It is a narrow, winding gravel road. Reasonable clearance is needed, but generally not 4WD. Park clear of gates at the road end, ensuring farmer access is not blocked.

Approach on Foot

It is worth arming yourself with navigational tools and satellite images to help get the access right. It's a big

day, so start early and take a big enough pack so you don't need to strap things on the outside, which will get shredded/ripped off during the hard bush-bashing.

Walk up the Mikonui river to Dickson Stream. Look for the track marker to Mikonui Spur Biv. Follow this to high point 1116. The track between 1116 and Mikonui Biv descends briefly into a gulch dissecting the ridge. Just before the gulch, head right and follow a broad spur SW aiming for the left-hand side of a slip (that you can't see from the ground) Follow deer trails on the left side of the slip to a minor saddle then access a second slip, follow this down as far as is logical.

Enter the bush (horrendous), traverse left to another broad ridge with open bush aiming for the lower reaches of Grimmond creek.

Rock

Bedrock Schist.

Water

Low flows are likely to be best, but potentially fine at medium flows.

Catchment

Alpine, snow melt to mid-summer.

Anchors

3 Bolted anchors, 1 tree 2 bollards.

Gear

1 x 60m

Route Description

Once you're done with the approach, you'll be gaging for some clean canyon. Dickson delivers. Once you enter the canyon, it feels like you locked in all the way to the end. Every corner reveals another horizon line that generally has a simple solution: jump/ scramble / slide. Only occasionally does the rope need to come out. Terrain is fast and fun to move through, and there seems to be an awful lot of canyoning. Nothing is too tricky, too high, too technical or too bold. High class endurance fun.

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	5hr
Canyon descent	4h30min
Return to vehicle	1 hr
Total	11h

Flash Flood Danger

Good forecast only.

Escapes

Occasional egress options involving tree climbing and fern pulling and moss smearing. Once out of the canyon, a pretty burly uphill bush bash to Mikonui Spur track.



First descent

Justin Venables, Richard Bramley, Keith Riley et al. December 2018.

Keith Riley, Zak Shaw and Zack Stone April 2022:

After bush bashing down into the lower Dickson, we all looked upstream and thought "We've put on too soon" Seeds were sown. Finally, at Easter 2022 Stoke was high on the Mikonui Valley canyoning potential. A team flew into the Tuke, whilst we walked into the upper Dickson and unearthed a classic.



DICKSON

River v3a4IV ★★

Topo by Keith Riley
www.kiwicanyons.org

Page 2