



Backcountry Ski Route Report



BC Parks

E.C. Manning Provincial Park Thursday January 17th, 2019

Synopsis for January 17th – The last couple of weeks have certainly been strange weather-wise with some good snow accumulation at times in the alpine, but also mild temperatures reducing the snow pack, especially at highway level. As a result, some of the backcountry trail accesses, especially east of the lodge, have gotten a bit thin (but still skiable). Higher up, there is plenty of snow for an enjoyable tour.

Congratulations to all who completed Manning Park Resort's annual Blackwall Bash – skate or classic ski 8 or 15 kilometres to the Cascade Lookout or the Alpine Meadows. Pretty much all uphill, and apparently the thinner air is killer especially past the Lookout. Well done all!

Stability wise, things seem to have settled down a bit over the last couple of weeks; good news for those who've been waiting for some backcountry turns. As always however, there will be pockets of instability in the snow pack – a good reason not to rest your safety with generalized reports; instead insure you're properly trained, equipped and experienced to make your own personal safety decisions in the backcountry.

Backcountry camping fee in effect (yes, even in winter):


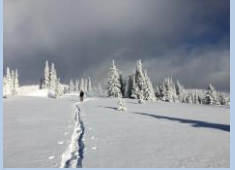




The fee for camping in the backcountry in Manning Park is \$5.00 per person, per night. Backcountry camping permits can be purchased at <https://discovercamping.ca/Backcountry/E.C.Manning?Map> up to two weeks prior to your visit. This permit is not a reservation for a specific campsite in a backcountry area. You must retain your permit while camping.



Important Considerations:

- Unpredictable weather may occur at any time of year. Use local Hope or Princeton weather as a source for planning your trip, and prepare accordingly. There is limited cell service in the Park; your phone WILL NOT WORK in most locations.
- Ensure that you have appropriate winter safety gear and knowledge, and that you are aware of your physical ability in relation to the trip you are planning. Manning Park is remote. The first person you should rely on is yourself.
- To help prevent conflict with wildlife, and for the respect of other Park users, dogs must be on a leash at all times, and picked up after.

Links for other winter recreation in the Park:

- Downhill Skiing, and Groomed Nordic Skiing - <http://winter.manningpark.com/conditions/>
- Maintained Snowshoe Routes at Manning Park Resort - <http://winter.manningpark.com/snowshoeing/>
- Downhill, Nordic and Snowshoe Maps - <http://winter.manningpark.com/trail-maps/>
- Avalanche Canada - <https://www.avalanche.ca/map/forecasts/south-coast-inland>

	Approximate Distance	Terrain	Elevation Gained (lowest to highest point), approximate	Current Trail Condition	COMMENTS/ Trail Information
<p>Fat Dog - A Manning classic that begins at Cambie Creek and follows an access road for about 6km, then winds through the trees for a few hundred meters before punching into the sub-alpine. From here, follow a wide, exposed ridge to the Heather Trail and Blackwall, and then down the road (groomed for xc) all the way back to the Resort.</p>	20 km +/- (depending on route choice) starting at Cambie Creek and ending at Manning Park Resort.	Steady climb, rolling sub-alpine, steady decent. Opportunity for turns.	680m	Good coverage from top to bottom. Heavy use (beat in trail) for the bottom few kms and maybe a bit dished from 2km-6km or so. Fresh snow in the forecast should help.	
<p>Cambie – A good alternative when you have limited time and/or it's socked in. Not much in the way of turns, but a nice ski through the trees. Starts at Cambie Creek/Fat Dog.</p>	2.5 and 5km loop options	Low-grade rolling through the trees.	Minimal	Recent windfall should be cut out now; heavy use has beaten a well-worn trail. Snow in forecast should refresh things a bit	
<p>Mount Kelly Route – An increasingly popular route commencing at Allison Pass and following an old weather station access road to the ridge above the Burn, north of Highway 3. Park outside of gates at the Allison Pass Highways Yard; please don't impede trucks heading into the yard.</p>	As much as 10km one way as far as Nordheim Peak	Steady climb and back again. Opportunity for turns.	700m to Nordheim Peak	Similar to Fat Dog, the access route should be well covered, but likely a few windfall. Access might be a bit fresher than Fat Dog/Cambie.	
<p>Monument 78 – A beautiful, long, and mostly flat ski along Castle Creek from Highway 3 to the border. Parts of the trail have been heavily damaged by flooding, but still afford a nice mid-winter tour.</p>	Approximately 14km depending on route.	Mostly flat	150m	Route is unusually thin near the bottom, but still skiable. Expect a few windfall and stay clear of river ice during warmer periods.	
<p>Similkameen River – Commencing at the Similkameen River Bridge, 1km west of the Resort, this very enjoyable flat route follows the Similkameen River to the Windy Joe Trail, and further East as far as Castle Creek.</p>	2.1km one way to Windy Joe junction; additional 4.7km one way to Castle Creek	Flat	Minimal	An easier choice and a nice ski or snowshoe. Still unusually thin in areas, especially under trees. Likely a few windfall as well.	

<p>Monument 83 – Starting at Highway 3, the Monument 83 trail follows Chuwanten and Monument Creeks to Holdover Peak, site of an old American fire lookout, and an even older Canadian one. A long and steady uphill ski eventually affords a spectacular panoramic view.</p>	<p>14km one way from Highway 3</p>	<p>Long steady climb, and back again.</p>	<p>830m</p>	<p>Lots of snow at the upper reaches but somewhat thin near the bottom. A good safe touring choice. Expect a fair amount of windfall on the upper half of the trail.</p>	
<p>Windy Joe – Similar in difficulty to Monument 83, but much shorter, Windy Joe also boasts an old fire tower at its summit. Start at the Similkameen trailhead and follow the river before intersecting the Windy Joe trail, and begin the ascent.</p>	<p>7.7km one way from the Similkameen Trailhead</p>	<p>Steady climb and back.</p>	<p>650m</p>	<p>Good coverage and a safe bet for a tour. Expect a few windfall.</p>	
<p>Poland Lake – Starting at the Ski Hill, head up (downhill) skiers right on the Horseshoe trail to the top of the hill, or pay a few bucks for a one-ride trip up the lift! From the top of the hill, follow the Poland Lake Trail to the lake, and see if you can find the shelter!</p>	<p>5km one way from the top of the ski hill – add another 1km if starting at the bottom</p>	<p>Steep climb from bottom of hill, then rolling to Lake.</p>	<p>400m from bottom of ski hill</p>	<p>Plenty of snow for touring; contact the ticket office at the ski hill for a one-ride ticket to the top. Still avalanche concern in some locations.</p>	