

# Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Provincial Park and Protected Area

## SAFETY INFORMATION

The Purcell Wilderness Conservancy is a rugged wilderness area with limited facilities. Trails are rough and not routinely maintained and at times hard to follow, expect river crossings, muddy sections and blow down. Only experienced backcountry users with map, compass and route finding knowledge should venture into this park. Leave your trip itinerary with someone before you venture out. Emergency equipment and technical rescues are not available and all park visitors should be self-equipped for emergencies.

### Trail Access Information UPDATED AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2009

Trail Name	Access to Trail head	Trail information	Special Notes
Earl Grey Trail Toby Creek	From Invermere follow the road that takes you to Panorama ski resort, at the ski area turn off (apx. Km 15) continue straight and stay on the Toby Creek FSR. You will pass Delphine Creek FSR and further up you will cross Jumbo Creek bridge. Just past the bridge the Road forks right to go to Jumbo pass or left to go to the Earl Grey Pass. Stay left and you will immediately be at the parking area for Earl Grey Pass Trail. This is the best place to park, (it is possible to drive further in a high clearance vehicle, but this road is un-maintained and not recommended). At the trailhead follow the old road along Toby creek past the old horse coral and follow the sign pointing you to the right at the next fork, continue on this old road/trail until you reach the Park Boundary.	This trail is in generally good condition. The trail over Earl Grey Pass is clearly yearly. Expect mud, some wet trail conditions, and creek crossings. <a href="#">See Trail page</a>	*The trail up the South Toby drainage is intermittent and route finding skills are required.
<b>Trail page link:</b> <a href="http://wwwd.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/purcell/trails.html">http://wwwd.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/purcell/trails.html</a>			
Dutch Creek	Follow Findlay Creek FSR for apx. 13km and turn right onto Whitetail Lake Road. Follow this road for apx. 14km past the whitetail Lake recreation site to the bridge that crosses Dutch creek, before the bridge there is an unofficial	This trail is in very good condition and is maintained by the guide outfitter. Be	It is possible to link up to Findlay Creek Via Huckleberry Creek to Frying

	<p>trail head that can be used if you are on horses. (There is a trail register at this location). Cross the bridge over Dutch Creek and park at the official trailhead where we have information kiosk and trail register.</p>	<p>prepared to ford Dutch Creek on this trail.</p>	<p>Pan Creek. *<b>Route only</b></p>
<p>Findlay Creek</p>	<p>Follow Findlay Creek FSR for apx. 18km. turn right on Valentine Creek FSR, follow this road for apx. 2 km where you will see our kiosk and trail head. <b>This is where it gets confusing.</b> There is a gate that may be closed on the road 1km ahead which is on private land( there is no place to turn around if you are hauling a trailer and may want to check first to see if this gate is open) It may be possible to continue another apx. 6.5 km down the road to another landing where the trail leaves the road for the last time, you will see the trail leave the landing on the north west end. If the gate is closed, park at the kiosk and connect up to the trail by following the old road to the river, follow this old road that has sections of trail and new road which eventually takes you to the landing where the main trail leaves from.</p>	<p>This trail is in very good condition and is maintained by the guide outfitter. Be prepared to ford Findlay Creek on this trail.</p>	<p>It is possible to link up to Dutch Creek Via Frying Pan Creek to Huckleberry Creek. *<b>Route only</b></p>
<p>Skookumchuck Creek</p> <p><b>*ROUTE not maintained</b></p>	<p>Turn off the highway just north of Canal Flats on Findlay Creek FSR drive Apx. 5.5 km and take a left turn onto the Skookumchuck FSR. Drive to Apx. Km 41.5 and park at the Buhl Creek recreation site. From here there is an old road that follows Skookumchuck Creek on the north side of the river. You may be able to drive a little further up this road but it is not recommended. Follow the old road along the creek until you get to Greenland Creek, from here cross Greenland Creek and look for an old unmaintained trail that follows Skookumchuck Creek another Apx. 7.5 km to the park boundary.</p>	<p>This is an old rough trail that is now more of a route. It is grown in, hard to follow and has lots of windfall.</p>	<p>This is an adventurous option for accessing St. Mary's Alpine Park and Alton Creek down to Findlay Creek.</p>
<p>Dewar Hot springs</p>	<p>Drive west on the St. Mary's forest service road 47 kilometres to the junction of the West Fork St. Mary's road and the Dewar</p>	<p><a href="#">See Trails page</a></p>	<p>Sensitive areas please do not</p>

	Creek road. Bear right and follow the Dewar Creek road to the end at 27 km ( <b>The last 4 km is a very rough road and high clearance vehicles are recommended</b> ). There is a trail registry and information kiosk located at the beginning of the trail.		camp at the Hot springs.
<p>Trails page Link  <a href="http://wwwd.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/purcell/trails.html#spring">http://wwwd.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/purcell/trails.html#spring</a></p>			
West Fork St.Mary's  <b>*ROUTE not maintained</b>	Drive west on the St. Mary's forest service road 47 kilometres to the junction of the West Fork St. Mary's road and the Dewar Creek road. Bear left and follow the St. Mary's River for Apx. 26 km down a rough road. From here it is another 3km on a road that has grown in with alder, the park boundary just past the old road and landing.	This is an old rough trail that has grown in significantly and is hard to follow.	
Fry Creek	Fry creek is accessible Via Johnson's Landing by a secondary road north of Kaslo. Follow the highway north past Lardeau and turn right (east) at the head of Kootenay Lake onto a gravel road. Turn right again onto the Argenta Road and follow it south to Johnson's Landing (18km). The Fry Creek trailhead is about ½km past the Johnson's Landing Community Hall. <b>The Fry Creek Trailhead and first 500m of trail are located on private property. Please respect our hosts.</b>	Good day hike to the Bridge over Fry Creek and the canyon. Longer hikes can link this trail to Kootenay Joe road and exploring up the Carney and Fry drainages.	<b>Warning- This trail is very exposed to the creek and there are steep drop offs all along the canyon. All persons should have proper footwear and children should be accompanied and closely supervised by adults at all times.</b>
<p>Trails page link: <a href="http://wwwd.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/purcell/trails.html">http://wwwd.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/purcell/trails.html</a></p>			
Kootenay Joe Road	Kootenay Joe road is accessible Via Johnson's Landing by a secondary road north of Kaslo. Follow the highway north past Lardeau and turn right (east) at the head of Kootenay Lake onto a gravel road. Turn right again onto the Argenta Road and follow it south to Johnson's Landing (18km). The Fry Creek trailhead is about ½km past the Johnson's Landing Community Hall. Go past this trailhead and take a right on Kootenay Joe Road, follow this past Johnson landing retreat centre until you	From the bottom of the road you hike up an old road that is a multi use road so use caution. Once at the pass you start to descend into Stanley Creek until you reach the cable car at Carney	It may be possible to drive up the road to the pass, but is not recommended due to steep switchbacks, rough road and fallen trees. <b>*note motor vehicles are not allowed in</b>

	see the old mining/forestry road on the left. There is limited parking so park with care.	Creek. You can cross the cable car and access the upper Carney and Fry Creeks. Or you can return to Johnson's Landing Via the Fry creek trail. <b>*note- beyond the cable car are routes only.</b>	<b>the Purcell wilderness Conservancy</b>
Earl Grey Trail Hamill Creek	The Hamill Creek section of the Earl Grey Pass Trail starts near the old mining community of Argenta on the east side of Kootenay Lake. Argenta is accessible by secondary road from Highway 31 north of Lardeau. Follow the main road through the community of Argenta for 5 kilometres beyond the Argenta Post Office to the Trail head.	The trail over Earl Grey Pass is clearly yearly. Expect mud, some wet trail conditions, and creek crossings. This is an historic trail that drops you into the Hamill Creek drainage where there are old mining artefacts, many cable car crossings and an old growth forest. <a href="#">See Trail page</a>	<b>Trail is in good condition. Cleared of downed trees and brush from Earl Grey Pass to western trailhead and all fire damaged facilities have been repaired.</b>
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