



Backcountry Ski Route Report



BC Parks

E.C. Manning Provincial Park Thursday December 6th, 2018

Synopsis for December 6th – Welcome to winter, and the first edition of the Manning Park winter trail report. While the peaks have been receiving snow for some time now, the valley bottoms have remained relatively warm and snow free – that seems like it’s about to change with cooler temperatures and reasonable precipitation forecast over the next couple of weeks. Many of the winter routes in the Park don’t require much snow to facilitate access to higher elevations, and there should be a reasonable amount of snow in the sub-alpine to enable a few turns.

What can you expect from this report going forward? Updated every two weeks, we aim to provide a general idea of how the routes are setting up, and what to expect in the coming days. We’ll add comments from Park Rangers and other contributors who have had firsthand, recent, experience on a given route that may aid you in planning your trip or provide a heads up. What this report will not do is provide specific weather or avalanche information, or be a substitute for your due diligence regarding winter travel in the mountains. It also won’t provide information on cross country ski and snowshoe trails provided by Manning Park Resort, which can be accessed through their website. Let’s have a great season!

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/>

	Approximate Distance	Terrain	Elevation Gained (lowest to highest point), approximate	Current Trail Condition	COMMENTS/ Trail Information
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.	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	Fairly thin snowpack, but should be enough to tour and get a few turns in up top. Rangers brushed much of the access route this summer.	
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.	2.5 and 5km loop options	Low-grade rolling through the trees.	Minimal	Thin snowpack and likely a few windfall. Some brushy sections.	
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.	As much as 10km one way as far as Nordheim Peak	Steady climb and back again. Opportunity for turns.	700m to Nordheim Peak	Likely a bit thin at the bottom access, but should be plenty of snow up top. Rangers have cut windfall.	
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.	Approximately 14km depending on route.	Mostly flat	150m	Probably still pretty thin with some exposed water hazards. Recommend waiting for a bit more snow and colder temperatures.	
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.	2.1km one way to Windy Joe junction; additional 4.7km one way to Castle Creek	Flat	Minimal	Trail has been cut out, so it should be fine for a tour even with minimal snow.	

<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>	14km one way from Highway 3	Long steady climb, and back again.	830m	Thin snowpack at the bottom, but increasing quickly over the ascent	
<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>	7.7km one way from the Similkameen Trailhead	Steady climb and back.	650m	As above, thin snow at the trailhead	
<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>	5km one way from the top of the ski hill – add another 1km if starting at the bottom	Steep climb from bottom of hill, then rolling to Lake.	400m from bottom of ski hill	Plenty of snow for touring now! Ski hill opens soon – check Manning Park Resort website.	