



Backcountry Ski Route Report



BC Parks

E.C. Manning Provincial Park Thursday January 3rd, 2019

Synopsis for January 3rd – Happy New Year! As predicted since the last report 2 week ago, the snow has certainly arrived with a vengeance. Most of the rocks and snags that were poking through well toward the end of December have now been covered over, and the touring and snowshoeing is great. There have been reports of windfall across a number of routes – compliments of recent wind events - but most are easily passed under or over. We'll be working to cut them off the trails as we move further into January, but a big thanks to members of the Friends of Manning Park for doing some of this work already.

There is, however, a lingering hazard brought forth by recent snow, wind and fluctuating temperatures – the avalanche risk has certainly increased in the Manning area. Recent profiles, reports and avalanches seem to indicate an especially high risk near treeline and caution should be exercised in all slidable terrain. As always, be trained, be equipped, and be safe. As mentioned in previous reports, the Park does have a number of winter routes in non-avalanche terrain, and there's certainly no shame in passing on some runs until things improve.

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


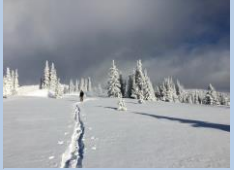




The fee for camping in the backcountry in Manning Park is \$5.00 per person, per night. Backcountry camping permits can be purchased at <https://discovercamping.ca/Backcountry/E.C.Manning?Map> up to two weeks prior to your visit. This permit is not a reservation for a specific campsite in a backcountry 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	Everything's covered and the route is getting a lot of ski and snowshoe use. The ridge looks great (thanks Friends of Manning for the pic!).	
<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	Everything's covered here as well, although there have been reports of windfall from recent wind events.	
<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. Similar avalanche concerns as Fat Dog.	
<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	Very skiable now, although caution should be taken during periods of warm weather (ice).	
<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	Looks great, and probably a good choice for an easy tour. Likely some windfall to contend with.	

<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, and 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>	