

E.C. Manning Provincial Park Thursday March 14, 2019

Synopsis for March 14th – Well it finally looks like spring is here! Warming temperatures and plenty of blue-bird skies in the days ahead mean that spring-touring season is upon us! Lots of folks are tuning their AT equipment in anticipation of the last day at the ski hill. Don't forget your sunscreen, extra water and a camera – not only for the views but in case you catch a glimpse of one of the Park's many birds and animals who are starting to show themselves more frequently as we move into spring.

Rangers have been on many of the routes around the Park recently, and have confirmed excellent spring conditions starting to develop. We are still waiting for that big freeze/thaw cycle to consolidate the snowpack, but that doesn't seem to be too far off. Do yourself a favour and get out on your skis or snowshoes and take advantage of the beautiful weather.

Back-country 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>



BC Parks

	Approximate Distance	Terrain	Elevation Gained (lowest to highest point), approximate	Current Trail Condition	COMMENTS/ Trail Information
<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	Highest snow-coverage of the year, but expect pockets of open water along Castle Creek as the temperatures begin to rise.	
<p>Similkameen River (east and west) – 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	Still lots of snow to provide coverage although with the increasingly warming temperatures it will start thinning out over the next couple of weeks. A good choice for animal sightings and tracks this time of year.	
<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	Windfall continues to be a challenge but branches have been removed where easy detouring is not an option. Great conditions and the windfall make this route adventurous. Great views at the Summit.	
<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	One of the quickest routes (aside from the Manning chairlift!) to get some great views from a summit. No windfall and the snow is holding firm in the shade. A popular trip with the locals and those in the know this time of year.	 

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<p>Poland Lake / Grassy Mountain – 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>A perennial spring-time favorite for winter camping, the route should now have a well-worn track and no windfall. Excellent views of Hozameen and the peaks of the Skyline trail along this route.</p>	