

E.C. Manning Provincial Park Thursday April 11th, 2019

Synopsis for April 11th – spring is here, and the snow is melting off quickly. However most of the touring routes still have enough snow from the trailheads to ease the approach, and there's ample snow in the sub-alpine for very enjoyable touring. As normal this time of year, look to Fat Dog, Mt. Kelly and those routes leading up from the valley for the best conditions.

Warmer temperatures have led to the usual spring freeze-thaw cycle which has firmed things up over the last couple of weeks, but as always conditions are subject to change. Things can get sticky by the afternoon of a warm day, so opt for an early morning departure to speed your trip up, especially when out on a longer tour.

Ranger staff will be removing winter signage over the next couple of weeks, and will start to get the lower trails ready for summer action as the snow recedes. It looks to be a relatively early start to the hiking season this year, so keep an eye on subsequent trail reports to find out which trails are snow-free first. Both nordic and downhill operations have now finished at Manning Park Resort, but why not take advantage of some open-season hotel rates and get some touring in? And enjoy the last bit of the snow.

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>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	Great time of year for this route, especially on a nice sunny day. Definitely thin along the Similkameen, but should still be good coverage and windfall free higher up.	
<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>	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	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.	