



Jasper National Park Winter Recreational Use Inventory 2013

Question #1: What are your priorities, needs or desires for recreational experiences in the subalpine or alpine environment?

Access	Easy access to a variety of opportunities including ski touring - one day and multi-day, snowshoeing, ice climbing, alpine skiing
	Access to a variety of terrain with the ability to avoid or choose an appropriate level of avalanche risk, glacier access
	Road access - decent roads, maintained for safety, not far to travel once in Jasper (especially when only coming for the weekend)
	Access to backcountry lodges, huts, warming shelters for longer trips.
	Information available about terrain, avalanche risk, options, maps available, signage, better communication
	A hub area (i.e. cross-country ski centre) with amenities and a variety of options leading from there.
	Areas to go with a dog
	Well maintained trails - infrastructure, bridges, brushing, clearing deadfall, track-setting (if applicable),
	Access to historic/traditional trails, cabins, backcountry lodges, and experiences
Terrain	Good snow! Areas with more dependable snowpack.
	Varied terrain close to the Jasper townsite
	Family-friendly and beginner terrain options
	Challenging terrain options - day use, multiday, glacier travel and ski mountaineering.
	Variable avalanche risks and other options available when conditions are poor.
	Frozen creeks for travel
	Venues for teaching <i>Avalanche Skills Training</i> courses
	Early and late season options, long seasons
Facilities	Cleared parking areas, trailhead washrooms (cleaned and emptied regularly)
	Information Centre that is open
	Cabins, huts or lodges for multi-day trips
Other	Well trained and adequate numbers of Parks Canada visitor safety staff
	Opportunities for exercise, enjoyment, exploration and education
	Possibility of viewing wildlife, wildlife tracks and signs, coexisting with nature
	Opportunities for solitude and the thrill of discovering something new
	Properly funded science
	Preservation of the history and culture of alpine skiing in the Rockies
	Use of the whole national park - the ability to go wherever we want


Question #2: What areas of Jasper's subalpine and alpine do you use for winter recreation, and why?

**XC - Cross-country skiing, ST - Ski Touring (Day & Overnight routes), AS - Alpine Skiing, SM - Ski Mountaineering,
GT - Glacier Travel, SS - Snowshoe, IC - Ice Climbing**

Use	Trail or Area	Advantages	Disadvantages
NORTH OF HWY 16			
BENCH			
SS	HoChiMinh Trail		
ST	Palisades - Pyramid Mountain		
XC	Pyramid Bench	Good if trackset	Poor snow, low elevation
XC	Pyramid Fire Road	Easy access, sunshine	Built up, busy
XC/ST	Pyramid Fire Road - backside of Pyramid	Easy access, sunshine, -pretty	Not prime skiing, need hut at backside - too far for day tour, even sled pack to end of road and Palisades would make more usable, needs brushing, no infrastructure, road access would interfere with x-country offer
WEST OF JASPER			
XC	Decoigne - Pipeline, old road	Plow road, touring trail building	Not currently trackset, no parking, uncontrolled rail crossing, not great x-country
SS	Dorothy, Virl and Christina Lakes		
EAST OF JASPER			
XC	Celestine Lake Rd, Snaring, Pipeline	Good if trackset	no snow, poor access, limited winter activities

Jasper National Park Winter Recreational Use Inventory 2013



Use	Trail or Area	Advantages	Disadvantages
WEST OF HWY 93			
TONQUIN VALLEY AREA			
XC/ST	Cavell Rd - Hostel & Cavell Meadows	Easy access, overnight option, trackset	Long day trip
SM	Mt. Erebus, Fraser Glacier (Tonquin Area)		
ST	Tonquin Valley - Astoria Trail, Verdant Pass, Campus Pass, Eremite Valley, Meadow Creek, MacCarib Pass, Portal Creek	Overnight options - Cavell Hostel, Wates-Gibson Hut and 2 backcountry lodges, great snow, staging ground for longer trips, variety of terrain, different user experience levels, spectacular vistas, wildlife viewing, commercial experiences available, history, help in an emergency, multi-sport use, some mountaineering (Mt. McDonell), not too many people	Long ski, the extra impact of snowmobiles and traffic to supply the lodges adds to the development of well-used trails, which increase the likelihood of more wolf predation on the caribou
ICEFIELDS AREA			
ST	Boundary Lake		
ST	Columbia Icefield	easy access	challenging
AS	Destiny Ridge		
ST/SM/GT	Gong Traverse		
ST	Icefields	climbing and ski touring, ski mountaineering, peaks & traverse, wild remote and few people	
ST/AS	Parker Ridge/Hilda	Not in proposed closure area, good access, accessibility, variety of terrain and aspects, settings and views, reliable snow	Poor snow, need avalanche knowledge and experience
SM/GT	Snowdome		



Jasper National Park Winter Recreational Use Inventory 2013

Use	Trail or Area	Advantages	Disadvantages
MARMOT AREA			
IC	"Edge of the World" - Whistler Creek/Marmot Rd		
IC	"Frigid Digit" - backside of Moab		
ST	Geraldine Rd/Lakes		
ST	Marmot Basin backcountry		
ST	Marmot Pass		
IC	Schwartz' Falls	Hwy 16 West	
ST	Whistlers Creek, Marmot Pass	easy access, variety of terrain, settings, views, combo use with Marmot and surrounding peaks, AST 1 & 2 terrain area for guides	more skiers could have easy access to the valley by skiing out-of- bounds from the Marmot ski-lifts. Apart from putting the caribou at more risk, it also puts the skiers themselves at more risk, not to mention the Park's rescue wardens, as the downhill skiers are less prepared for back-country emergencies.
OTHER			
ST	Athabasca Pass	Historic	Long
XC/ST	Big Bend - Athabasca Crossing - Fortress Lake - Chaba River		Needs tracksetting or/and maintenance, distance from town
AS	Burn	good terrain, access, varied terrain	variable conditions, long drive, rough approach, limited ski options, overgrown
AS	Churchill Range		
ST	Fryatt Hut (Valley) area		Restore cableway across river
ST/XC	Geraldine Rd/Lakes		
ST	McGuire		Day use?
ST/XC	Moab Lake Rd		
ST	Mt Fitzwilliam		
XC/ST	Wabasso		
ST	Woolley Shoulder		

Jasper National Park Winter Recreational Use Inventory 2013



Use	Trail or Area	Advantages	Disadvantages
	EAST OF HWY 93		
MALIGNE LAKE AREA			
ST	6 Pass Traverse / 8 Pass Traverse	Remote, unique, Classic multi-day route, classic Jasper traverse route, history, Jo Weiss Historic (8 Pass) Traverse	
XC	Evelyn Loop		
XC	Lovett Loop	Less busy	
ST	Maligne Area - Bald Hills	All users, easy access, great snow, no caribou, safe, easy, all abilities, education purposes, historic value, good/reliable snow, vistas, AST 1 & 2 training area, ski tour and yo-yo skiing potential.	All users, it is a long drive
ST	Maligne Lake -Maligne Pass - Poboktan		
ST	Maligne Lake Narrows	Mountaineering objective	
ST	Maligne Lake to Coronet Creek/Coronet Glacier		
ST	Maligne-Little Shovel-Evelyn Creek		
ST/IC	Mt Brazeau, back of Maligne Lake		
ST/IC	Mt Charlton, Mt Unwin	Mountaineering	
ST	Opal Hills	Alpine access/quick	
ST	Shangri-la, Jeffrey Creek (Little Shovel Pass)	Touring access, all users lodge, historic hut	
ST	Snowbowl	easy access, great snow, no caribou, hut experience, great variety of skiing & terrain, easy accessibility, scenery	
ST	Trapper Creek		
ST	Wad Valley		

Jasper National Park Winter Recreational Use Inventory 2013



Use	Trail or Area	Advantages	Disadvantages
MALIGNE ROAD			
IC	BS Canyon		
IC	Maligne Canyon		
SS	Medicine Lake	snowshoeing with school groups	
IC	Plecitis Canyon		
ST	Roche Bonhomme		
SS/ST	Signal Mtn Rd	snowshoeing	Has not been cleared
ST	Skyline	winter campground infrastructure, historic, scenic trail, classic multi-day trip	avalanche
XC/SS	Summit Lakes/Jacque Lake	All users, x-country, good scenery, easy access	not maintained
ST	Surprise Valley	easy access	avalanche
ST	Watchtower	Good snow, ski mountaineering opportunity, solitude of location, primitive advantage, opportunity for ski circuits, an actual traverse, traverse can be done to Parkway	challenging
HWY 93			
IC	Beauty Creek		
SS	Buffalo Prairie		
ST	Hardisty Creek	variety of terrain	
IC	Kerkeslin Falls	Dead end slot canyon, no animal through traffic	
ST	Nigel Pass		
ST	Poboktan Pass/Brazeau		
IC	Shades of Beauty		
IC	Tangle Falls		
IC	Tangle Mountain	"Melt out", "Curtain Call"	
ST/SS	Wilcox Pass		
AS	Sunwapta Peak 1, 2, 3 - Upslope from Beauty Creek Hostel		

Jasper National Park Winter Recreational Use Inventory 2013



Use	Trail or Area	Advantages	Disadvantages
HWY 16			
IC	Rocky River Basin		

General comments: Current Use		
Access	Distance/Season	Easy access to subalpine/alpine/high altitude areas, options for early and late season access, day use potential, loop trail options,
	Infrastructure	have existing infrastructure - roads, parking, trailhead outhouses,
Terrain	Snow	Decent snow pack, good snow, good snow pack info in these areas - avi bulletin, options for skiing even in marginal snow years or poor snow stability, opportunities to learn about avalanche safety, have to go higher to get good snow - low snow in the valley,
		Less aggressive terrain feasible/available for families, beginners & novice, variable avalanche terrain, opportunities for low avalanche risk or to manage avalanche risk, good for safety courses, lots of AST2 terrain, access to glaciers and more challenging terrain, terrain for turns
Facilities		Availability of a Cabin system, hard-roofed structures, destination lodges
Other		Chance of seeing caribou, animal & tracks, connecting with nature, especially children, great physical exercise, lifestyle - why we are here, scenery, lovely views, solitude, quiet, sense of wilderness experience/adventure, historic trails, low impact use where there is less wildlife (compared to concentrated use in the valleys)



Question #3: Are there other areas that could offer a similar experience, or have the potential to be good options for winter use?

Many of these are currently used but to a much lesser extent than those mentioned in question #2.

XC - Cross-country skiing, ST - Ski Touring (Day & Overnight routes), AS - Alpine Skiing, SM - Ski Mountaineering, GT - Glacier Travel, SS - Snowshoe, IC - Ice Climbing

Use	Trail or Area	Advantages	Disadvantages
North of Highway 16			
XC	Celestine/Pipeline	track set?	
XC/ST	Cut and Golden Lakes	Could make a good tour - from Decoigne	Access, no parking, uncontrolled railway crossing
XC/ST	Decoigne - old highway/pipeline	Plow road, touring trail building, trackset and skate lane	Not currently trackset, no parking, uncontrolled rail crossing, not great x-country
ST	Elysium Pass - Monarch Meadows - Victoria Cross Range	Cross range ski potential, Curly Philips memorial hut - brilliant! Best snow conditions in the park, history, variety of terrain, solitude	Hard to access, not for beginners, long way to alpine, need hut, too far for day use, in Nov-Jan - no daylight, no infrastructure, trails not maintained - reclassified as Wildlands, not great XC, no parking, very far
ST	Miette Lake	Great snow and skiing, ski touring potential	too far for single day, could be usable if there was a hut (halfway - Rink Cabin) or could use old Miette Lake warden cabin, no parking and uncontrolled rail crossing, no toilets, too far in early season - short days. Is this critical caribou winter habitat?
XC	Old road parallel to Hwy 16		
ST	Pyramid Mtn backside	Pretty	Not prime skiing, need hut at backside - too far for day tour, even sled pack to end of road and Palisades would make more usable, needs brushing, no infrastructure, road access would interfere with x-country offer

Jasper National Park Winter Recreational Use Inventory 2013



Use	Trail or Area	Advantages	Disadvantages
ST	Rink Lake area - Yellowhead Mtn Trail Access		Needs a shelter
XC/ST	Snaring		no snow, poor access, limited winter activities
XC	The Bench	Tracksetting possible	Not enough snow, elevation
ST	Victoria Cross Range (Derr Creek, Miette Lake)		If new access were available
ST	West of TVC - 1250m	1500m elevation to start skiing, 1750 & up best skiing	long way to alpine, lots of deadfall, not enough snow or frozen creeks until late in season, south aspect on North side of hwy not good for skiing,
West of Highway 93			
XC	Astoria River - powerline 93A junction		
AS	Cavell - flank above Wabasso		
ST	Flats above Sunwapta Falls		
ST	Fryatt Valley	Trackset?	Add hut, too far for a day trip, bridge over Athabasca to access Fryatt, put the self-propelled pulley system across the river to Fryatt Valley, complex terrain, multiday
ST	Geraldine Lakes	Trackset?	Need later season snowpack coverage and good snow stability
AS	Hilda Shoulder, Parker Ridge	Varied terrain, good for AST training	avalanche risk
XC	Marmot Basin Outer Limits	to 93A, quality X-country trail network developed and maintained	
ST	Meadows Creek		

Jasper National Park Winter Recreational Use Inventory 2013



Use	Trail or Area	Advantages	Disadvantages
XC/ST	Moab Lake	two options - plow Moab lake rd to allow access further up the valley to skiers and snowshoers, but will lose xc ski tracks, or ski track 9 Km further than Moab Lake.	
ST/SM/GT	Mount Erebus area by Wates-Gibson		
ST	Mt. Fitzwilliam Trail		
SM/GT	W of hwy between Mt Kitchener and Stuttfield Peak		Too far, no hard roofed shelters/cabins
XC	Old Marmot Rd		
ST/SM/GT	Saskatchewan Glacier/Castleguard Meadows		
AS	Slopes across from Mushroom Peak viewpoint (by Beauty Creek Hostel)		
ST	Sunwapta to Big Bend, Athabasca Crossing, Fortress Lake		Needs tracksetting or/and maintenance, distance from town
ST	Whirlpool past Moab		
ST	Whistler Creek/Marmot Pass		
XC/ST/SS/AS	Whistlers Mountain - ski touring?	possibility - open tramway for access, create a Nordic Centre Hubb (clubhouse), charge user fee - maintenance, snowshoe use	no road?, no trails, maintenance
East of Highway 93			
IC	Beauty Creek	3 ice climbs	

Jasper National Park Winter Recreational Use Inventory 2013



Use	Trail or Area	Advantages	Disadvantages
XC/ST/SS/AS	Fiddle River Valley - Miette HS area, Pochontas	Keep road open - hot springs potential revenue draw from non-backcountry users, day use potential, improve access, What are the possibilities of backcountry access from the Miette Rd, if it was open in the winter, is there something to do there? Potential for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, touring (?)	narrow, no sun, low snow, long drive, little snow, difficult winter driving, needs tracksetting, road closed
XC	Golf course	Holes 1,2, 18, 13 , 17	
ST/SM/GT	Gong Glacier route - Churchill Range		unknown
ST	Mike Wynn Circuit	Nigel area	Long, steep
SS	Honeymoon Lake		Snowshoe opportunity
XC/SS	Hostel to BS Canyon		
XC/ST/SS	Jacque Lake/Beaver Lake/Summit Lakes		
?	Rocky Pass	Winter hiking	
XC/ST	Signal Mountain	Trackset with skate?	
ST	Surprise Valley		No parking, no reasonable access
XC	Valley of the 5 Lakes		
General Comments: Potential Use			
Access	Distance	Between mtn topography any lower range terrain is unnavigable or requires multi day travel, need to look at distance people can/will ski in a day, provide day use options, limited early season access, no easy access to alpine or challenging terrain.	
	Infrastructure	need road access to at least 1500m as a starting point for skiing otherwise takes too long to get to that elevation and snow/creek crossings unreliable, new areas need better access whether using existing Marmot lifts, roads or snow machines. Trail network with reliable, functional tracksetting. Appropriate, informative signage and reliable dissemination of information.	

Jasper National Park Winter Recreational Use Inventory 2013



Terrain		No snow on Eastern ranges, other areas not as reliable snow, some areas not used due to snow loading/avalanche conditions,
		There are very few alternative areas for day trips except for flat valley floors
Facilities		Could we have huts/shelters maintained volunteers/ACC? Hard to find other options multi-day touring with lack of facilities. Need parking areas, trailhead outhouses. Need a Nordic Centre - a Cross-country skiing hub.
Other		B/C areas that are feasible are already used and largely comprise of proposed area closures.
		This all requires education, awareness and money.