




# Trail Report for KOKANEE GLACIER PROVINCIAL PARK and other Kootenay Lake Area parks (including west side of Purcell Wilderness Conservancy)

Updated: Dec 17, 2025



Please call 250-354-6333 if you have new trail conditions to report.

PARK	AREA	ROADS	TRAILS	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
<b>Kokanee Glacier</b>  <b>Dogs are PROHIBITED in Kokanee Glacier Park.</b> 	Kokanee Creek drainage	Kokanee Glacier Road is Snow covered to Gibson LK.  High clearance 4x4 vehicle recommended.	Winter conditions expect snow at all elevations. Note seasonal area wolverine closures.  Glacier safety gear (rope, crampons, axe, etc.) is required for glacier travel.  <b>Assess Avalanche risk before crossing snow slopes.</b> Avalanche knowledge and gear (transceiver, shovel, probe, ski buddy) is required to travel on snow / glaciers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.5 km to Kokanee Lake, elev. gain 450m, moderate-steep hike (1.5-2 hrs)</li> <li>3 km Kokanee Lake to Kaslo Lake; easy hike (0.5 to 1.5hr).</li> <li>Camping at Kaslo Lake: 10 tent sites, day use shelter, food cache, greywater, outhouse. <b>All tent pads are snow covered.</b></li> <li><b>No fires permitted (anywhere in the park).</b></li> <li>Reservations for Kokanee Glacier Cabin (<u>not</u> campground) through <b>Alpine Club of Canada 403-678-3200</b>; no reservations for camping at Kaslo Lake Campground</li> <li>1.3 km (0.5 hrs) Kaslo Lake to Slocan Chief Cabin; moderate</li> <li>Slocan Chief Cabin interpretive centre- open during summer.</li> <li><b>Sapphire Lakes and Kalmia Lake campgrounds are permanently CLOSED.</b></li> <li><b>No camping at Gibson Lake.</b></li> <li><b>Gibson Lake Shelter was removed in 2021.</b></li> </ul>
	Gibson Lake loop trail		Snow Covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.5 km loop</li> </ul>

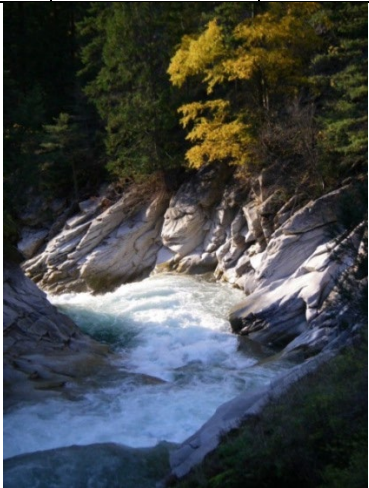
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy hike, views of lake, surrounding peaks, old mine workings.</li> <li>• <b>Note Wolverine Protection Closure Area- closed to all public access from Jan 15- May 15, 2026 in Tanal and Woodbury Drainages. See info posted on main Kokanee Glacier Park webpage, under "Advisories".</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Dogs are PROHIBITED in Kokanee Glacier Park.</b></p> 	Woodbury Creek drainage	<p>Road is snow covered</p> <p>High clearance 4x4 vehicle recommended.</p>	<p><b>Assess Avalanche risk before crossing snow slopes.</b> Avalanche knowledge and gear (transceiver, shovel, probe, ski buddy) is required to travel off trail.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trailhead to Woodbury Cabin: 8 km, moderate hike, elev. gain 762m (2.5-4 hrs). Woodbury Cabin sleeps 8, also camping nearby.</li> <li>• Trailhead to Silver Spray Cabin: 6 km, strenuous hike, elev. gain 1016m (4-5 hrs). Cabin sleeps 10. Mining history and alpine meadows.</li> <li>• Both cabins book through <b>ACC</b> reservation system (see above) for summer season only.</li> <li>• <b>Both cabins are closed during winter season as the hut location(s) poses avalanche hazard to users.</b></li> <li>• Sunset Lake Trail: park at Y-junction, ~1 hr walk on old road to trailhead, 30 min easy hike from there to lake</li> </ul> <p><b>Note Wolverine Protection Closure Area- closed to all public access from Jan 15- May 15, 2026 in Tanal and Woodbury Drainages. See info posted on main Kokanee Glacier Park webpage, under "Advisories".</b></p>
	Keen Creek drainage	<p><b>Road permanently closed at park boundary; 8 km approximately to trailhead</b> (bikeable) <b>Condition unknown.</b></p> <p><b>Expect snow covered roads.</b></p>	<p><b>Snow covered</b></p> <p>Trail to Joker Lakes not maintained and not recommended; known grizzly bear habitat. Trail to Helen Deane Lake and Slocan Chief Cabin last cleared Aug 2023.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 km easy grade road from park boundary to Joker Millsite (trailhead)</li> <li>• 3.5 km moderate-steep hike from trailhead to Helen Deane Lake (1-2 hrs)</li> </ul>

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		<p><b>Assess Avalanche risk before crossing snow slopes.</b> Avalanche knowledge and gear (transceiver, shovel, probe, ski buddy) is required for winter travel.</p>	<p><b>Warning:</b> bridge across Joker Creek washed out.</p>	
	Enterprise Creek drainage	<p><b>Expect snow covered roads.</b></p> <p>High clearance 4x4 vehicle recommended.</p> <p><b>Use Caution - post wildfire risks from 2024 may exist in the area:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-danger trees &amp; overhead hazards, ash pits,</li> <li>-terrain instabilities,</li> <li>-amplified runoff after rainfall or snowmelt.</li> </ul> <p><b>Road is NOT plowed.</b></p> <p><b>Assess avalanche hazard before crossing slopes.</b></p>	<p><b>Snow covered trails.</b> Snow can make finding the trails difficult.</p> <p>Trail to Blue Grouse was last cleared of windfall (summer 2023), thanks to Friends of West Kootenay Parks.</p> <p><b>Assess Avalanche risk before crossing snow slopes.</b> Avalanche knowledge and gear (transceiver, shovel, probe, ski buddy) is required for winter travel.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enterprise Creek Trail: 7 km, elev. gain 500m, moderate hike (2.5-3 hrs) to Tanal Lake</li> <li>Tanal Lake to Kaslo Lake: 2.5 km (1.5 hrs), moderate hike</li> <li>Paupo Creek Trail to Blue Grouse Basin: 6.4 km, elev. gain 700m, moderate to strenuous hike (3-4 hrs); lovely subalpine area;</li> <li><b>no camping or fires</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Note Wolverine Protection Closure Area-</b> closed to all public access from Jan 15- May 15, 2026 in Tanal Drainage. See info posted on main Kokanee Glacier Park webpage, under "Advisories".</p>
	Lemon Creek, Sapphire Lakes	<p><b>Road is snow covered</b></p> <p><b>Road is not plowed.</b></p> <p><b>Assess avalanche hazard before crossing slopes.</b></p> <p>Access via 6-mile Lakes Road and Summit</p>	<p><b>Snow covered trails.</b> Lemon Creek Trail was cleared in September 2021.</p> <p>Trails up Nilsik Creek and to Crazy Jane Lake have not been cleared.</p> <p><b>Assess Avalanche risk before crossing snow slopes.</b> Avalanche knowledge and gear</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 km Lemon Creek FSR to Sapphire Lakes, elev. gain 950m, moderate to strenuous hike with washed out sections (5 hrs)</li> <li>3 km Kaslo Lake to Sapphire Lakes, moderate hike (1-2 hrs)</li> <li><b>No camping at Sapphire Lakes</b></li> </ul>

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		South FSR is very rough in places. High clearance and 4WD is necessary.	(transceiver, shovel, probe, ski buddy) is required for winter travel.	
<b>Purcell Wilderness Conservancy (west)</b>	Fry Creek to Birchdale Trail		Trail last cleared – April 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.5 km trailhead to Fry Creek (bridge), easy hike (1-1.5 hrs) open.</li> <li>Fry Creek Trail starts on private property; please be respectful.</li> <li>Fry Creek Trail ends at the community of Birchdale; please respect private property.</li> </ul>
				
	Fry Creek			
<b>Purcell Wilderness Conservancy (west)</b>	Fry Creek Canyon	<p><b>The Fry Creek Canyon route is no longer classified as a designated route</b></p> <p>The Fry Creek and Carney Creek drainages are deemed wilderness areas. Travel to these areas is not recommended. Use at your own risk and route-finding skills are required.</p>		
<b>Purcell Wilderness Conservancy (west)</b>	Hamill Creek, Earl Grey Pass	Road open above Argenta to trailhead	<p><b>WESTERN PORTION OF THE EARL GREY TRAIL IS CURRENTLY CLOSED DUE TO 2024 Post WILDFIRE HAZARDS.</b></p> <p>WILDERNESS/ROUTE-FINDING SKILLS ARE ESSENTIAL.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>WESTERN PORTION OF EARL GREY TRAIL IS CURRENTLY CLOSED</b></li> <li>There are 3 cable cars crossing Hamill Creek on the west side of Earl Grey Pass. Gloves are advised for pulling them.</li> <li>Total trail length is 61km.</li> <li>The Earl Grey Pass trail is a wilderness trail and good route-finding skills are essential.</li> </ul>
<b>Pilot Bay</b>	Sawmill Bay Campground	Road open	Trail cleared May 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approx 30-45 min hike to Campground.</li> </ul>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approx 1 hr hike Boomers</li> <li>• NO BICYCLES ALLOWED</li> <li>• <b>Please keep dogs on leash at all times in the park.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Pilot Bay</b>	Lighthouse	Road open	Trail cleared	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 400m moderate grade to Lighthouse</li> <li>• Top viewing platform affords excellent views in 3 directions; open to the public year-round</li> </ul>
<b>Lockhart Creek</b>		Access through Gray Creek Pass open. Redding Cr FSR has washout approx. 6 km below trailhead; road beyond washout very good for bicycles	<p><b>Snow covered trails. Snow can make finding the trails difficult.</b></p> <p>Snow covered at higher elevations. Wind-felled trees will likely be encountered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head for Baker Lake Forest Rec Site trail; approx. 1 km in, blue flagging indicates trail jct; stay right for Lockhart Creek access</li> <li>• Approx 15 km top to bottom, elev. change 1450m</li> <li>• Hikers: be alert for mountain bikers descending</li> </ul>
<b>Kianuko</b>	Sanca Creek	<p><b>Expect snow covered roads.</b></p> <p><b>Road is not plowed.</b></p> <p><b>Assess avalanche hazard before crossing slopes.</b></p> <p>Road status: Forestry dirt roads are open and generally require a high clearance vehicle.</p>	<p><b>Snow covered trails. Snow can make finding the trails difficult.</b></p> <p><b>Assess Avalanche risk before crossing snow slopes. Avalanche knowledge and gear (transceiver, shovel, probe, ski buddy) is required for winter travel.</b></p> <p>Trail from Sanca Creek Trailhead to junction with Kianuko Creek Trail cleared June 19, 2021.</p> <p>Trail from Kianuko Creek Trail junction with Haystack Alpine trail cleared in July 2020.</p> <p><b>2018 wildfire risks still exist on trail:</b> -danger trees &amp; overhead hazards, ash pits, -terrain instabilities, -amplified runoff after rainfall or snowmelt.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Haystack Alpine Trail is from Sanca Creek to Meachen Creek</b> Trailhead at end of Sanca Creek FSR; approx. 1 km to park boundary.</li> <li>• Approx 8.5 km through to Meachen Creek trailhead</li> <li>• No official campsites or facilities in this park.</li> <li>• <b>Motorized use is not permitted in Kianuko Park.</b></li> <li>• <b>Snowmobiling is not permitted in Kianuko Park.</b></li> </ul>



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	Kianuko Creek	<p><b>Expect snow covered roads.</b></p> <p><b>Road is not plowed.</b></p> <p><b>Assess avalanche hazard before crossing slopes.</b></p> <p>Road to confluence of Skelly Creek and Kianuko Creek unknown at this time.</p>	<p><b>Snow covered trails.</b> Snow can make finding the trails difficult.</p> <p><b>Assess Avalanche risk before crossing snow slopes.</b> Avalanche knowledge and gear (transceiver, shovel, probe, ski buddy) is required for winter travel.</p> <p><b>Kianuko Creek Trail is OPEN but hazards exist from the 2018 wildfire:</b> -danger trees &amp; overhead hazards, ash pits, -terrain instabilities, -amplified runoff after rainfall or snowmelt.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Kianuko Creek Trail</b></li><li>• Follow Goat River from Kitchener on Hwy 3, to about 20 km, turn west on Skelly Cr road.</li><li>• 3.5 km to Kianuko Creek turnoff, approx 1.5 km from there to park boundary</li><li>• Road deactivated; no vehicles beyond park boundary</li><li>• Old FSR follows Kianuko valley north.</li><li>• <b>Snowmobiling is not permitted in Kianuko Park.</b></li></ul>
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