



Canyon Creek Ski Trails
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These cross-country ski trails are near Smithers, about 25 minutes out of town up the Babine Lake Road. The bottom section of trails is groomed regularly (although not set with tracks), while the upper section offers ungroomed trails for backcountry touring and some opportunities for tree-skiing. This rec site is sponsored by the BV Outdoor Recreation Society, and maintained by volunteers. This will be their sixth year of operation. There is no fee.

Being 500 m higher than the town of Smithers, the snow here can be in great shape even when it's melting in the valley bottom. The parking lot for the Canyon Creek Rec Site (at 1040 m) is located on Babine Lake Road just before you enter McKendrick Pass. The groomed trails top out below 1100 m, but the ungroomed ones reach farther up this west-facing slope, through an old burn (from 1934), and end just below 1600 m on the ridge connecting Dome Mtn. to Mt. McKendrick. Although this area just barely reaches timberline (see sidebar), there is access to alpine meadows at the top of this trail. The tree skiing, indicated on the map, is through portions of the old burn where the trees are still widely spaced.

It takes about 25 minutes to get here from Smithers: leave town headed for Telkwa, and turn on Babine Lake Road, which you'll take for 22 km. Pass the point where the road turns to gravel, the intersection with Old Babine Lake Road coming in from the left, and finally the turn for the Canyon Creek forest service road on the right. Look for a plowed parking lot on the right.

Snowshoers are welcome, although they are asked to keep to the outside edges of the groomed trails and leave the middle for skiers. Dogs are also welcome, as long as their owners clean up after them. Firewood is provided at both picnic table sites.

See their web page at <http://www.bcnorth.ca/canyoncreek/default.asp>.