

Mt. Shark and Chester/Sawmill Winter Trail Conditions

Date: Friday, March 23rd, 2012

Mount Shark Trails

Trail Names	Last Day Groomed	Last Day Trackset	Comments <small>(overview comments located below itemized trail information)</small>
Watridge Lake	Mar. 22	Mar. 22	
2km Blue Loop	Mar. 23	Mar. 23	
5km Red Loop	Mar. 23	Mar. 23	
5km Red/Black	Mar. 23	Mar. 23	
5 km Red/Purple	Mar. 23	Mar. 23	
10km Yellow Loop	Mar. 23	Mar. 23	
15km Green Loop	The last loop of this trail is not maintained.		

COMMENTS:

Since March 15th more than 60 cm of fresh snow has fallen in the Chester Lake parking area, with even more at higher elevations. Grooming and tracksetting of very early this morning followed the majority of the March 22nd storm but may have between 1 and 5 cm of new snow ovetop. Today's forecast calls for periods of light snow and a high of -2 C. Saturday is predicted to be mainly cloudy with a high of + 2 C with Sunday shifting to a mix of sun and cloud and high of + 8 C. Please note that the annual freestyle Sharkfest Crosscountry race weekend is scheduled for March 31st and April 1st this year.

Note: If venturing beyond the designated trails system, please consult the Kananaskis Country avalanche report at www.kananaskis-country.ca

Mass Start Area: The mass start area was groomed and trackset on March 23rd.

Snow Depth: Chester Lake Trailhead: 180 cm (including 12 cm since March 22nd)

Smith-Dorrien/Spray Road (Hwy. 742): Expect winter driving conditions.

Ungroomed Chester/Sawmill Trails

Trails in this area are in "Simple-Class 1" terrain which is defined as: "Exposure to low angle or primarily forested terrain. Some forest openings may involve the run-out zones of infrequent avalanches. Many options to reduce or eliminate avalanche exposure and no glacier travel required." More information on the Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale can be found on our website under the avalanche report link.

Snowshoers: Please avoid skier-set tracks and keep well off the groomed ski trails.

Please Note: The lower section of the Chester Lake Ski Trail (the loop) is now a one-way system due to public safety concerns. Skiers must now travel in a counter-clockwise direction.

Note: Watch for natural hazards such as brush and downed trees. Please ensure that you stay well away from avalanche run-out zones, pay attention to potential terrain traps, and make conservative route selection decisions.

Snow Depth: Chester Lake Trailhead: 180 cm as of March 23rd (including 12 cm since March 22nd)

Smith-Dorrien/Spray Road (Hwy. 742): Expect winter driving conditions

Please Note: The Avalanche Report is available at: www.kananaskis-country.ca

Ungroomed Backcountry Trails

Burstall Pass	Please share the trail, keeping to the tracks specific to your chosen sport.
Rummel Lake	Please share the trail, keeping to the tracks specific to your chosen sport.
Chester Lake	Please share the trail, keeping to the tracks specific to your chosen sport.

COMMENTS:

These trails are shared by multiple user groups. Please keep to the tracks specific to your sport and exercise caution on trails. Please ensure you are prepared and consult the **backcountry avalanche report** at: www.kananaskis-country.ca prior to heading out.