

Lower Mainland Nature Viewing Region

Hope-Skagit-Manning Area

Blackwall Road & Heather Trail (E.C. Manning Provincial Park)



To Mount Frosty from Big Buck Mountain: photo by Bill Kinkaid



First Brother: photo by Bill Kinkaid

Easy road access to subalpine meadows with moderately easy meadow trails, and a fairly strenuous day or overnight hike to alpine meadows and ridges.

[Photo Gallery](#)

Geographical Description	Cascade Mountains.
Area/ Trail Length	Park size over 70,000 hectares. Road length 16 kilometres from Highway 3 to Blackwall parking lot; the first half to Cascade Lookout is paved, the remainder good gravel.
Seasons to Visit	The road is generally open late June to October, depending on snow conditions, but the meadows and trails can remain snow covered into July. No vehicle access at other times but you can walk, ski or snowshoe the gated road and trails beyond.
Habitat	Interior Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine at low elevations; subalpine fir-Englemann spruce, whitebark pine, subalpine and alpine meadows, alpine tundra at higher elevations.

Viewing Highlights A broad variety of native plant communities along the roadside and through the meadows from low to high elevations, including dry Interior plants, subalpine and alpine

Many forest and mountain birds, including Clark’s Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Mountain Bluebird, Fox Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, and Spruce, Dusky and Sooty Grouse

Mammals include Hoary marmots at higher elevations, yellow-bellied marmots lower; yellow pine chipmunks and Columbian ground squirrels are common. Northern pocket gophers and several species of mice and voles are harder to see but are common.

The Paintbrush Trail and Meadow Loop are moderately easy trails through meadows at the top of the Blackwall; Dry Ridge Trail is a short but steep trail through dry grassy slopes halfway up the road.

Spectacular mountain views from Cascade Lookout and on all trails.

Other Features

Main Access Blackwall Road runs north from Highway 3, across from Manning Park Resort.

Secondary Accesses Access through other trails, all very strenuous (see Connections below)

Cautions Portions of trails can be snow covered, wet and muddy, and snow may fall any time of year at high elevations
This road is steep, narrow and winding; not suitable for large vehicles or trailers. Use caution when stopping on the road; pull right off the road out of the way of traffic.
The Heather Trail is a moderately strenuous trail and anyone hiking it should be in good physical condition, equipped with good footwear, hiking poles, outdoor clothing, and food and water.
Bears and cougars are rare but be watchful.
There is no mobile phone service in this area (nearest is in Hope or Princeton).

Jurisdiction BC Parks.

Regulations No camping except in designated sites; no fires. Dogs on leash. No cycling on trails.

Facilities

Other Recreational Activities

Other Connections The Bonnevier Trail from the east gate of the park connects with the Heather Trail at Big Buck Mountain, the Heather Trail continues via Nicomen Lake to the Granger Creek Trail at Cayuse Flats, and the Fat Dog Trail from Cambie Creek connects with the trail below the First Brother. All of these are very strenuous trails and recommended only for very fit and experienced hikers.

History

Ernest C. Manning Provincial Park was established in 1941, named in memory of BC Chief's Forester who was killed in a plane crash earlier that year. The Park boundary expanded the much smaller Three Brothers Mountain Reserve established in 1931. Manning Provincial Park was established at the time of construction completion of Highway 3 over Allison Pass. The highway was finally completed in 1949, bringing a huge increase in park visitors.

FMI

Manning Park Visitor Centre 604-668-5953

Links

[BC Parks](#)

[Manning Park Resort](#)

[Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning](#)