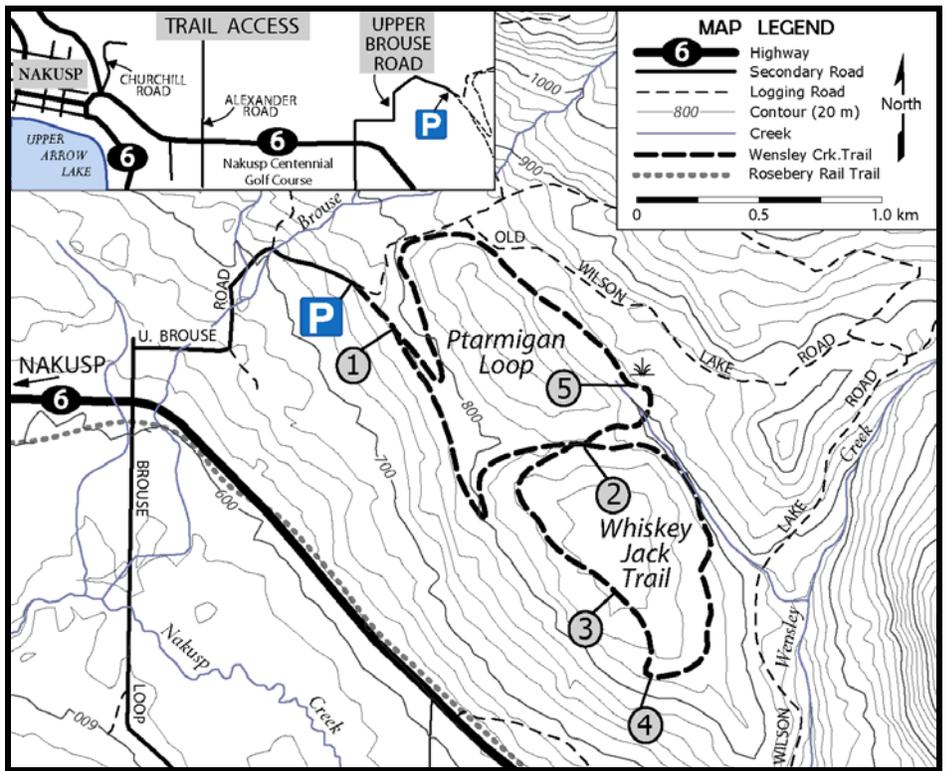


Wensley Creek Ski Trails

Rating: beginner & intermediate ski
Distance: 9.6 km **Time:** 2-3 hrs
Surface: ski tracks on old skid roads
Modes: ski, hike, horseback, dirtbike

Point	GPS	Description
P	50° 14' 26" N 117° 44' 38" W	Park atop Brouse Loop Rd
①	50° 14' 19" N 117° 44' 29" W	Ptarmigan Loop begins
②	50° 14' 5" N 117° 43' 50" W	Trails intersect/1st Aid Kit
③	50° 13' 34" N 117° 43' 35" W	Taddy Cabin
④	50° 13' 45" N 117° 43' 43" W	Trail veers northward
⑤	50° 14' 13" N 117° 43' 41" W	Marshy habitat



Trail Description

Just outside of Nakusp lie the Wensley Creek Cross Country Ski Trails, 9.6 kilometres of groomed classic track skiing for both beginner and intermediate skiers in the winter, available for horseback riding, hiking, mountain or dirtbiking in the spring, summer and fall.

The trail is usually ready for skiing by mid-late December, and the season extends through to late March, with variable conditions throughout the season and even along different sections of the trail. Bringing a variety of waxes is recommended.

The trail forms a figure eight, providing two loops of varied terrain for low elevation skiing, hiking, riding or biking. The trails traverse through second growth cedar-hemlock forests, incorporating existing skidtrails and old logging roads. Branching onto Ptarmigan Loop (GPS Point 1 on the map) provides a quick ski on mostly intermediate terrain. The trail passes an old hunter's cabin on the first hairpin corner, then skirts around behind a hill to pass through the marshy Hasrap Creek corridor. This shady haven for birds and mammals far from the sounds and sights of civilization is a magical part of the trails (GPS Point 5). The section of Ptarmigan Loop from GPS Point 1 to GPS Point 2 is beginner terrain.

Whiskey Jack Trail meets the Ptarmigan Loop in the middle of the figure 8 (GPS Point 2). There is a First Aid survival kit at the junction. Whiskey Jack provides more intermediate skiing terrain. Whiskey Jack Trail also skirts a knobby hill, passing behind and then climbing up to higher ground that provides views of the valley below (GPS Point 4). Here, Taddy Cabin, a newly constructed warming hut, offers shelter for a lunch break, with a stove for warmth and pit toilets nearby (GPS Point 3). Another First Aid survival kit is located at the cabin. From the cabin, beginner terrain leads back to the parking lot.

Taddy Cabin was named after Weldon Taddy, one of the founding members of the Arrow Lakes Cross Country Ski Club. The club's volunteers maintain the trails and cabin in the winter, ensuring track is set and wood is available. The 2004 ALCCSC President was Frances Swan (265-4818). A \$2 charge for day use is payable at the trailhead for those who are not members of the ski club. The club hosts special events at the trails occasionally, like full-moon skis and Sunday club skis; notices are posted at the trailhead.

Spring, summer and fall use by hikers, horseback riders, mountain and dirt bikers is popular, although by no means crowded.

Access

Head south from Nakusp on Highway 6 toward Nelson for about 4 kilometres, past the Nakusp Centennial Golf Course. Turn left on Upper Brouse Road and follow it to the top through a series of turns until reaching the parking area for the trails (GPS Point P).

Modes of Use

The trails are designed for skiing and maintained by dedicated skiers, so in the winter other uses, which may destroy the set tracks, are discouraged. Spring, summer and fall usage by other modes provides pleasant diversion for bikers, riders and hikers close to town. No overnight use of the cabin is permitted. The trails are in an important domestic watershed and require due caution.

Past and Future

The Wensley Creek Trails were developed as a Ministry of Forests recreation site in 1982. The Arrow Lakes Cross Country Ski Club has a cooperative agreement with the MOF to maintain and improve the trails. In the past, logging companies working in the area made their cutting plans to accommodate the ski club's plans, helping to open up new terrain and maintain appropriate grades.

If You Liked This Trail

If you enjoyed skiing Wensley Creek, look for cross country tracks behind Summit Lake and between Summit Lake and Hills, described on the Nakusp to Rosebery Railway brochure. Tracks are also set sometimes from the Nakusp Hot Springs; inquire at the desk for more information. If you enjoyed biking or hiking the trail, try the Rosebery Railbed, Nakusp Hot Springs Trail, or the Kimbol Lake Trail.



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