

Winter Sports West Chilcotin

Snowmobiling

The West Chilcotin is a premier destination for snowmobiling. There is a wide variety of venues for all levels of skill in the area from highmarking to trail riding.

The Rainbow Mountains

Probably the best known mountain sledding area in the West Chilcotin is in the Rainbow Range. The East Branch parking lot is located about 226 miles or 362 km west of Williams Lake and about 25 miles or 40 km west of Anahim Lake. There is a large parking lot and turn-around area for trailers. The trailhead into the Rainbows starts right there.



Photo courtesy Kendra Wood

The parking lot is located at the head of Heckman Pass and near the boundary of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park. The high elevation means serious snow. Sled enthusiasts have been known to sled right to the end of May in a good year.

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There's lots of high rolling alpine, steep ascents for hillclimbing and deep powder. This is not an area that sees the huge volume of traffic that other areas throughout BC see, so the trails don't get beat up so much. Because that's the case, make sure to come prepared with maps and GPS or a guide if you don't know the area. Heavy overnight snowfalls are the norm and can obliterate the trail really quickly.



There is a small ski hill operated by volunteers not far from the trailhead, where you can ski or snowboard. A favorite for the snowboarders is to be pulled led up into the mountains by guys on snowmobiles where miles of hills can be accessed. This area is also a favorite for cross country skiers, and there are groomed trails across the highway from the parking area. Check out the Tweedsmuir Park website for maps and critical updates for activities in the park.



Photo courtesy Ted Hlokov

Poker Runs

The community of Nimpo Lake, just east of Anahim Lake, hosts an annual Poker Run in February or March. There are a number of trails in the area that go for miles, some at lower elevations, some that access the nearby mountains and suit both novice and expert riders. Tatla Lake also hosts an annual Poker Run when snow conditions permit and they have a series of snowmobile and groomed cross country ski trails, all marked with signs. Ask locals throughout the Chilcotin about trails.



Photo courtesy Fischer Ski

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