

ICEFALL TRAVERSE

INFO PACKAGE

WINTER 2026 – GUIDED, CATERED

Group organizer: Please ensure all group members receive the info package.



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Important Contacts

General inquiries/emergency: info@icefall.ca

Catering and staging: Petra Musick

p. (250)344-1453

e. info@mosmountaincuisine.com

Lodge owner/ operator: Larry Dolecki

p. (403)678.7027

e. info@icefall.ca

IMPORTANT INFO

This is a high-level alpine ski traverse which crosses glaciers, climbs peaks and has long runs down to valley bottom. Along the way there are 2 high elevation huts (Mons and Lyell), a cabin at valley bottom (Alexandra), a more comfortable lodge (Icefall Lodge) at tree line and another cabin at tree line (Rostrum). You will stay at a total of 5 shelters on the 6 nights of the traverse.

Please send an email to Petra Musick right away if you or someone in your group has any dietary restrictions. info@mosmountaincuisine.com

We need to know right away because the food is often prepared and flown in ahead of time. There is limited ability to accommodate dietary requests on the traverse, especially serious allergies. We will not be able to accommodate all requests.

The meeting time is **10:00am at the Donald staging area** (directions below) unless otherwise instructed. In Donald, you will make your lunch for the first 3 days which you will carry with you. *Please bring a full water bottle for Day 1.

When you arrive at the Alexandra on day 3 there will be more lunch food.

In the event of bad weather, the helicopter may not be able to do the exchange on the scheduled day. In this case the exchange will happen on the following day. Groups should make travel plans accordingly.

If you are not able to fly in on the scheduled day, you will be responsible for your own food and lodging in Golden. If you are at the lodge and the exchange is not possible, there will be no extra charge.

All guests are required to sign a "release of liability and waiver of claims agreement" prior to departure to the Lodge. Please read the release of liability and waiver of claims agreement before signing. By signing the release agreement, you will waive certain legal rights, including the right to sue should you become involved in an accident.

One of the keys to enjoying this trip is to pack lightly. Most things that you need will be at the huts. The gear list is below but in addition to a regular ski touring pack you won't need much more than a toothbrush, headlamp and sleeping bag liner.

COMMUNICATIONS

Your guide will have a radio for communication with the lodge and outside resources in case of an emergency. Emergency messages may be able to be passed to groups doing the traverse by the lodge, but this may take up to 24 hours. Once at the lodge there will be internet communication available.

The traverse starts at the Mons Hut, spends a night there and then continues to the Lyell Hut. There is a long ski to valley bottom and the Alexandra Cabin, one of the cruxes of the trip.

From the Alexandra, there is a big climb up to Icefall Lodge. After 2 nights at the lodge you will cross Ice Pass to the Rostrum Cabin. You will fly out from the Rostrum Cabin or the valley bottom below.

We will plan on getting helicoptered into the Mons Hut if possible. If not, we will land below the hut and ski up to it. This may be up to 2 hours of skiing. You should treat this as a traverse trip as opposed to a hut-based trip. You will be traveling between huts with everything that you bring, so pack light.

The Lyell and Mons Huts are high elevation compact shelters. The Lyell Hut is actually the 2nd highest building in Canada and the highest ski touring hut. They are heated with propane heaters and are fully stocked with everything for cooking and eating. They have solar powered lights and a USB port. The huts also have blankets and mattresses, they do not all have pillows, you can bring a pillowcase to stuff a sweater in. Bring a sleeping bag liner, there is no regular laundry service. There are cros at the huts and a couple pairs of rubber boots for going to the outhouse. The huts are dorm style sleeping with not a lot of extra room.

The Alexandra and Rostrum Cabins are similar to each other and much more comfortable than the huts. They are in the trees and have wood stoves for heat. They also have blankets and fully equipped kitchens. There are solar lights and you can recharge small electric devices by usb. There are individual beds but no separate rooms. There are also indoor pee toilets.

The huts are stocked with staples but most of our fresh food for the first 3 days will fly with us into the Mons Hut. Once we get to Icefall lodge, all food will be there for our 2 nights there and the night at the Rostrum cabin.

The plan is to arrive at Icefall Lodge on day 4. The lodge has a sauna, showers, electricity, running water, double rooms, wood stoves and lots of space. There is a chef at the lodge so the guides likely won't be cooking.

After two nights at Icefall lodge, you will travel over Ice Pass to the Rostrum Cabin. The flight will be out from the Rostrum Cabin or somewhere below the Cabin after skiing down.

ITINERARY OPTIONS

The weather or conditions may not always permit you to complete the traverse as outlined above. Your guide may adjust the trip according to the conditions. One variation would be if you can't travel to the Alexandra Cabin you would go directly to Icefall Lodge from the Lyell Hut. If this happens you may have improvised sleeping arrangements for your first (unscheduled) night at the lodge.

Below is a Sample Itinerary, this may be changed at the guide's discretion.

Day 1: We helicopter into the Mons Hut which sits at the toe of the glacier near the base of Mons Peak. Stepping out the door of the hut you get a view of the Icefall on the Lyell Glacier. The traverse will pass above this icefall the next day. The Mons Hut gives access to many ski peaks and long glacier runs. Possible objectives include Mons Peak, Cambrai or the North Glacier on Mount Forbes. At 3612 m, Mt Forbes is the highest peak in Banff National Park. The run on the North Glacier takes you right up to the imposing north face.

Day 2: After a night at the Mons Hut we travel to the Lyell Hut. There is a long run down to the edge of the Icefall Canyon; a 2000' deep hole ringed with sheer cliffs and filled with frozen waterfalls. The Lyell Hut sits on a rock outcropping at 9300 feet and is surrounded by glacier. This is the highest elevation ski touring hut in Canada. You can watch alpenglow sunsets on the north face of Mt Forbes out the front window. One evening possibility is to ascend Christian Peak, Lyell 5, watch the sunset and ski down to the hut in the evening twilight. It takes about 10 minutes to ski from the summit to the hut.

Day 3: We will cross the Continental Divide over into Alberta and ski Rudolf, Edward and Ernest (Lyell 1, 2 and 3). These are some of the highest peaks in the range and we can normally ski right off the summits. From the summit of Lyell 3 (Earnest Peak 3448m), we have a 2200m descent down, an iconic run called the **Wild West**. This is the longest ski run in Canada. You will ski down from one of the highest peaks in the range through spectacular icefalls and end your run at the Alexandra Cabin.

This run was first skied over 15 years ago but it has only been skied a handful of times in the 10 years that followed. It was normally only skied by very fit groups on the ski mountaineering course. The addition of the Alexandra Cabin has made this run a lot more feasible for the average group.

The other option for this day is to ski the **Deep End** which skis more directly to the Alexandra and gets off the glacier sooner. It is a better option in bad light.

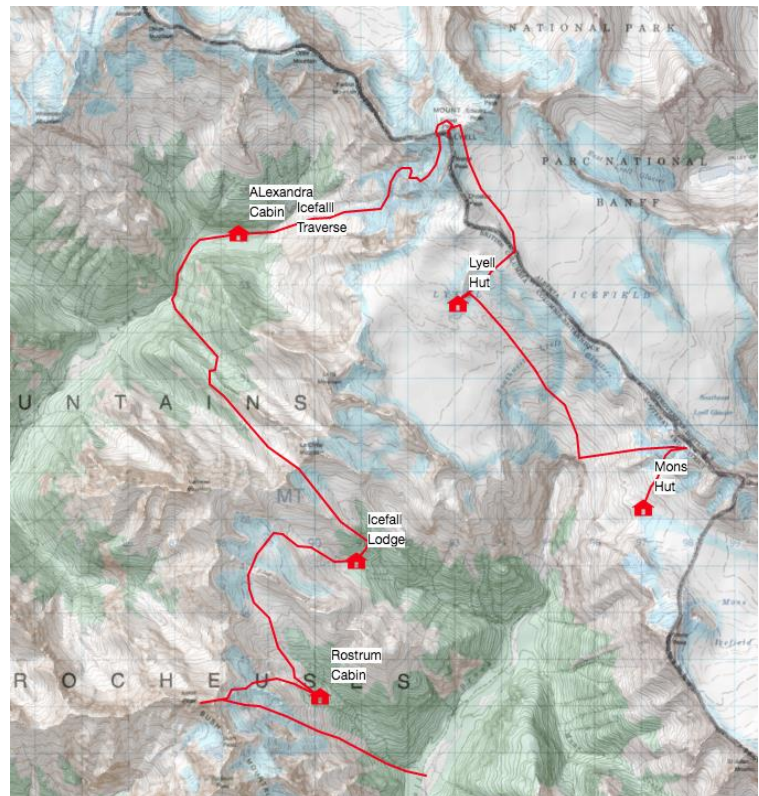
Day 4: After a comfortable night in the Alexandra Cabin with wood stove and sauna, you will head for Icefall Lodge. The route to the lodge climbs up out of Lyell Creek by either the Portal or the Shark's Gate. The addition of the Alexandra Cabin means you will do this in the morning when it is cooler and generally safer.

This is the biggest mandatory day of the traverse. It involves skiing down valley next to Lyell Creek for about 4 km and then climbing 1500m to the Portal then a downhill run to the lodge. The section in Lyell Creek may involve taking off skis and crossing the creek several times.

Day 5: At Icefall lodge, you are treated to sauna, shower, electricity wood stove, double rooms, running water and many other comforts. The next 2 nights are spent here. The lodge sits at tree line and if the weather is snowy there are many tree skiing possibilities here. It is usually possible to arrive at the lodge earlier in the week if it is bad weather up at the huts. There are multiple ski objectives both summits and ski runs from the Lodge.

Day 6 is a climb over Ice Pass and a ski down to the Rostrum Cabin. It is also possible to ski to the summit of Mt Kemmel along the way and enjoy a 1200m ski down to the hut. The Rostrum Cabin sits at tree line with a view of the blue ice and tumbling glaciers draping Rostrum Peak. While it is smaller than the lodge it has many of the same comforts.

Day 7: The last day is a skin up to the Tempest Glacier and a long run down to the valley bottom for a helicopter pick up. You will pass through Porcupine Saddle skiing past blue glacier ice, and sometimes through crevasses. In the right conditions you can climb and ski from the summit of Icefall Peak all the way to the valley floor. Another run of over 7000 feet vertical.



RISK

Doing the traverse with a guide will allow you to travel through some spectacular, heavily glaciated mountain terrain. Having a guide will not eliminate the risks. The waiver lists many risks that may be present.

On the traverse you will be travelling on glaciers un-rope with the risk of falling in crevasses. You will pass beneath icefall and seracs that can collapse without warning. This is usually done while travelling downhill to minimize exposure time but circumstances such as a lost ski or an injury may mean spending more time than planned exposed to the hazard. The mountains are on a scale that many guests may not be accustomed to. The guides are highly trained and will strive to keep you safe, but they cannot eliminate the risk.

ABILITY

You should be an expert downhill skier and in good physical condition to do this traverse. It is backcountry skiing and there may be variable conditions with anything from powder to frozen crud, breakable crust, moist snow or corn. You must be able to ski in control in any of these conditions to avoid hazards such as crevasses or cliffs.

For the uphill you will have 7 days in a row of touring. There is only one lodge where you spend 2 nights and can have a rest day; all other days are travel days.

The biggest day is from the Alexandra Cabin to Icefall Lodge. It involves 1500m of climbing and 4 km of valley bottom travel.

PACKING LIST

The key to enjoying this traverse is to pack light and travel with a light pack.

- **Water Bottle** – *Ensure your water bottle is full for Day 1.
- **Pack** – your pack contains everything that you bring, plus a small amount of group gear on the traverse days. 40-45 litres is about right.
- **Ski crampons** – make sure you have these; they are not optional.

- Harness – light mountaineering style.
- Carabiners x2 – 1 locking, 1 non-locking.
- Sling (240cm sling sewn in a loop)
- Skis
- Climbing skins – make sure they are cut to your skis.
- Skin wax – to prevent snow buildup on skins.
- Poles
- Boots – make sure they are broken in and don't give you blisters. Bring moleskin or second skin if you are prone to blisters.
- Probe
- Shovel
- Avalanche transceiver – digital.
- Goggles
- Extra socks
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen/lip protection
- Sun hat
- Headlamp
- Toothbrush
- Earplugs
- Light silk sleeping bag liner – There are blankets at the huts but no regular laundry service.
- Pillowcase – No pillows at the Mons, Lyell. You can use the pillowcase to stuff clothing into.
- Clothes for the occasion – Don't take too much. We won't stand around in the cold, we will either be moving or in the hut.

Most of the food will be stocked at the huts but you will be required to carry some food from the Mons Hut through to the Alexandra Hut. This will most likely be your lunches for 3 days.

There is sometimes **beer** for sale at the Alexandra Cabin and the Lodge. There is no guarantee as to what type or if the group before drank it all. *Bring cash if you intend on purchasing a cold one!*

THINGS NOT TO TAKE:

- Sleeping bag
- Boot crampons, Ice axe

ADDITIONAL INFO

Being on the west side of the continental divide near some of the highest peaks in the range, it gets big snow; more than Rogers Pass. Snow reports from the Golden will underestimate the snowfall at the lodge.

General avalanche information can be found on the [Avalanche Canada](#) website. The **North Columbia** forecast is usually the most accurate for the Icefall area.

Link to [terrain atlas](#)

We have our own radio repeater on one of the nearby peaks. The Icefall frequency is: 162.885 Rx, 167.895 Tx, narrow band, Tx tone 100.00

DIRECTIONS AND LOGISTICS

It is a 282 km drive from Calgary to Golden, then another 28 km to the Donald staging area located on **Donald Cemetery Road**. [Google Maps link](#).

To get to Golden from the Calgary airport there are several options:

There are a couple private shuttle companies that charter vans between Calgary and Golden. We recommend Corin Lohmann at corin.lohmann@gmail.com // (250)531-0506. This option works well with a group travelling together. Prices vary depending on the group size.

Car rentals can be arranged at the Calgary airport by several companies.

Once you arrive in Golden, there is no public transport to the Donald staging area, which is 28 km to the North. There is a taxi service operating in Golden, Mount 7 Taxi. Phone: (250)344-5247. The cost of a drive out to Donald is approximately \$90.00.

Please check www.drivebc.ca for road closures before you leave, particularly if there is a storm in the forecast. Highway 1 occasionally has closures for avalanche control.

FROM REVELSTOKE	FROM CALGARY and the East
<p>(Approx. 1h45 drive)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow Highway #1 East. As you get close to Golden you will see a Highway sign with 'Golden 35km'. The turn off is 9 km from this sign.• After you cross the bridge over the Columbia River you will turn right on Donald Cemetery Rd. If you reach Donald Rd or the weigh scales, you have gone too far	<p>(Approx. 3h30 drive)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Go through Golden (gasoline alley) and reach the last set of lights on the number #1 Highway (the Subway will be on your right).• From this point you will travel 24 km to your first turnoff.• The turnoff will be your second right after the trucking Weigh Scales, onto Donald

- Donald Cemetery Rd is between the Columbia River and the Railway Tracks
- You will pass under the highway beside the railway tracks heading north on Donald Cemetery Rd.
- You will turn right at a t-intersection and continue north next to the railway track.
- About 200m along you will see a pullout on the left and our staging area.

- **Cemetery Road.** If you cross the bridge you've missed the turn off.
- Donald Cemetery Rd is between the Columbia River and the Railway Tracks
- You will turn left at a t-intersection and continue north next to the railway track.
- About 200m along you will see a pullout on the left and our staging area.

FROM CRANBROOK AND THE SOUTH

(Approx. 3h15 drive)

- Follow Highway #95 through Golden.
- Turn left onto the overpass which is posted: Revelstoke, Lake Louise, Banff.
- Turn left and west onto Highway #1 posted: Scale and Revelstoke.
- Go through **Golden** (gasoline alley) and reach the last set of lights on the number #1 Highway (the Subway will be on your right).
- From this point you will travel 24 km to your first turnoff.
- The turnoff will be your second right after the trucking Weigh Scales, onto **Donald Cemetery Road**. If you cross the bridge you've missed the turn off.
- Donald Cemetery Rd is between the Columbia River and the Railway Tracks
- You will turn left at a t-intersection and continue north next to the railway track.
- About 200m along you will see a pullout on the left and our staging area.

WHERE TO STAY

We recommend that you stay in Golden the night before. There are multiple lodging options in Golden ranging from Hotels to AirBnBs.

TIPS

Tips are appreciated by staff (guides, cooks, custodians). Cash given directly to staff is preferred. Tip amounts are usually 10% of the trip price and are split equally by staff at the lodge.

CHECKLIST

- I've passed this information package on to all the members of my group.
- Everyone in my group has read and agreed to the attached waiver.
- The trip has been paid in full by all group members.
- I've passed on all dietary allergies and restrictions for my group to Petra info@mosmountaincuisine.com
- My group has considered trip cancellation insurance (recommended, not mandatory) <https://lifestylefinancial.ca/get-a-quote/blbca/>
- Follow **Icefall Lodge** on [Facebook](#) and/ or [Instagram](#)

We look forward to welcoming you at the lodge!

If you have any additional questions, please reach out.

Thanks!

The Icefall Lodge team

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS,
ASSUMPTION OF RISKS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT
(hereinafter the "Release Agreement")**

**BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT YOU WILL WAIVE OR GIVE UP CERTAIN
LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO SUE FOR NEGLIGENCE, BREACH
OF CONTRACT OR BREACH OF THE OCCUPIERS LIABILITY ACT OR CLAIM
COMPENSATION FOLLOWING AN ACCIDENT**

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

**THIS RELEASE AGREEMENT SHALL APPLY TO ALL FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN
WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES AND USE OF THE LODGE THIS SEASON**

Initial

Name	Last	First	Middle Initial
Address	Street		City
	Prov/State	Country	Postal/Zip Code
Telephone	Home	Work	Mobile
Date of Birth	Year	Month	Day
Email Address	Age		

TO: Icefall Lodge Ltd., carrying on business as **Icefall Lodge, His Majesty the King in the Right of the Province of British Columbia, Icefall Lodge, Snowfall Lodge, Larry Dolecki, Backcountry Lodges of BC Association, Whitetooth Helicopters Ltd, Glacier Helicopters**, and their respective directors, officers, employees, guides, apprentice guides, agents, independent contractors, subcontractors, volunteers, representatives, successors, assigns and other guests or participants (all of whom are hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Releasees").

DEFINITION

In this Release Agreement, the term "**wilderness activities**" shall include but is not limited to: alpine skiing, nordic skiing, telemark skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, hiking, touring, ski and snowboard touring, mountaineering, ski and snowboard mountaineering, rock climbing, ice climbing, expeditions, trekking, glacier travel, and all activities, services and use of facilities (including the lodge and all other buildings), either provided by or arranged by the Releasees including orientation and instructional sessions or classes, transportation, accommodation, food and beverage, water supply, renting or loaning of equipment and all travel by or movement around helicopters, other aircraft, snowcats, snowmobiles or other vehicles, and all other activities and services in any way connected with or related to wilderness activities.

ASSUMPTION OF RISKS – AVALANCHES, ALPINE TERRAIN, WILDERNESS TRAVEL WEATHER

I am aware that participation in wilderness activities, involves many risks, dangers and hazards. Avalanches occur frequently in the terrain used for wilderness activities and may be caused by natural forces or by persons travelling through the terrain. I am aware that the Releasees may fail to predict whether the terrain is safe or whether an avalanche may occur. The terrain used for wilderness activities is uncontrolled, unmarked, not inspected, and involves many risks, dangers and hazards in addition to that of avalanche. These may include, but are not limited to: cornices; crevasses; cliffs; trees, tree wells; tree stumps; forest dead fall; creeks; rocks; rockfall; boulders; holes and depressions on or below the snow surface; variable and difficult snow conditions; hypothermia, snow immersion; slips trips and falls; effects of high altitude including pulmonary edema and cerebral edema; infectious disease contracted through viruses, bacteria, parasites, and fungi which may be transmitted through direct or indirect contact; equipment failure; encounters with domestic and wild animals; impact or collision with other persons including other guests; becoming lost or separated from one's party or guide; negligence of other persons; and **NEGLIGENCE ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES. I UNDERSTAND THAT NEGLIGENCE INCLUDES FAILURE ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES TO TAKE REASONABLE STEPS TO SAFEGUARD OR PROTECT ME FROM OR WARN ME OF THE RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS OF PARTICIPATING IN WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES.** Communication in the alpine terrain may be difficult, and in the event of an accident or illness, rescue, medical treatment and evacuation may not be available or may be delayed. Alpine weather conditions may be extreme and can change rapidly and without warning.

I AM AWARE OF THE RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES AND I FREELY ACCEPT AND FULLY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR LOSS RESULTING THEREFROM.

NOTICE TO SNOWBOARDERS, SNOWSHOERS AND TELEMAR SKIERS - INCREASED RISK

Unlike alpine ski boot/binding systems, snowboard, snowshoe and some telemark boot/binding systems are not designed or intended to release and will not release under normal circumstances, thus increasing the risk of not surviving an avalanche.

NON-SCHEDULED OR EMERGENCY EVACUATION, RESCUE OR FIRST AID

I acknowledge and agree that all expenses associated with non-scheduled or emergency evacuation, rescue or first aid will be my responsibility and will not be covered by the Releasees.

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS,
ASSUMPTION OF RISKS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT
BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT YOU WILL WAIVE OR GIVE UP CERTAIN LEGAL
RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO SUE FOR NEGLIGENCE, BREACH OF
CONTRACT OR BREACH OF THE OCCUPIERS LIABILITY ACT OR CLAIM
COMPENSATION FOLLOWING AN ACCIDENT**

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

***THIS RELEASE AGREEMENT SHALL APPLY TO ALL FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN
WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES AND USE OF THE LODGE THIS SEASON***

Initial

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration of the Releasees allowing me to participate in wilderness activities as defined in this Release Agreement, and for other good and valuable consideration, I hereby agree as follows:

1. **TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS** that I have or may in the future have against the Releasees and **TO RELEASE THE RELEASEES** from any and all liability for any loss, damage, expense or injury including death that I may suffer, or that my next of kin may suffer as a result of my participation in wilderness activities, DUE TO ANY CAUSE WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE, BREACH OF CONTRACT, OR BREACH OF ANY STATUTORY OR OTHER DUTY OF CARE, INCLUDING ANY DUTY OF CARE OWED UNDER THE **OCCUPIERS LIABILITY ACT**, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 337, ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES. I UNDERSTAND THAT NEGLIGENCE INCLUDES FAILURE ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES TO TAKE REASONABLE STEPS TO SAFEGUARD OR PROTECT ME FROM OR WARN ME OF THE RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS OF PARTICIPATING IN WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES;

- 2. TO HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFY THE RELEASEES from any and all liability for any property damage or personal injury to any third party resulting from my participation in wilderness activities;
- 3. This Release Agreement shall be effective and binding upon my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators, assigns and representatives, in the event of my death or incapacity;
- 4. This Release Agreement and any rights, duties and obligations as between the parties to this Release Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted solely in accordance with the laws of British Columbia and no other jurisdiction; and
- 5. Any litigation involving the parties to this Release Agreement shall be brought solely within British Columbia and shall be within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of British Columbia.

In entering into this Release Agreement I am not relying on any oral or written representations or statements made by the Releasees with respect to the safety of participating in wilderness activities, other than what is set forth in this Release Agreement.

I CONFIRM THAT I HAVE READ AND I AGREE TO THIS RELEASE AGREEMENT. I AM AWARE THAT BY SIGNING THIS RELEASE AGREEMENT I AM WAIVING CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS WHICH I OR MY HEIRS, NEXT OF KIN, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, ASSIGNS AND REPRESENTATIVES MAY HAVE AGAINST THE RELEASEES. I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS RELEASE AGREEMENT SHALL APPLY TO ALL FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES AND USE OF THE LODGE THIS SEASON.

Witness Signature
Witness Printed Name
Date

Guest Signature
Guest Printed Name
Signature of Parent or Guardian if guest is under age 19
Date