

## Nearby Backcountry Routes

Even when the Designated Uphill Routes within the ski-area boundary mentioned above are closed (e.g., early-season conditions, avalanche control, ski area is operating, etc.), two backcountry routes outside of the ski-area boundary remain open at all times and can be accessed from the Mission Ridge Ski Area . For both of these routes, park at the entrance to the lower lot as close as possible to the Lakes Trail trailhead. Click here for more details.

- 1) **Lakes Trail to Clara Lake and Mission Peak.** Start on the Lakes Trail across the road from the entrance to the resort's lower parking area. Follow the trail uphill 1.4 miles to Clara Lake. From Clara Lake, backcountry skiers and snowshoers can travel southwest for about 0.5 miles to the 6,000-foot level and then head WSW for another mile (straight line distances) to reach the summit of Mission Peak (6,876 feet). The terrain to Mission Peak is complex and avalanche hazard exists so backcountry travelers need appropriate skills and navigation aids (map and compass). Get [route details](#) and a [topographic map](#) from WenatcheeOutdoors.org. Mission Ridge does not control, groom, or patrol this area – ski or snowshoe here at your own risk.
- 2) **Outback Route to Stemilt Basin.** Park at the Lakes Trail trailhead near the entrance to the resort's lower parking lot and walk through the lower parking lot to the southeast end of the parking area. Walk behind the designated RV parking area and head uphill staying to climber's left and staying off the Chak Chak ski run. You must stay off all ski runs when using this route. Travel uphill in a SE direction for 0.66 miles to the 5,600 foot level and then travel SW for another mile to reach the top of the Stemilt Basin (6,500 feet). The terrain leading to the top of the Stemilt Basin is complex and subject to avalanche hazard, so backcountry travelers need appropriate skills and navigation aids (map and compass). Get [route details](#) and a [topographic map](#) from WenatcheeOutdoors.org. Mission Ridge does not control, groom, or patrol this area – ski or snowshoe here entirely at your own risk.

## Rules of Use (Backcountry Routes)

- These routes are always open, even if the designated uphill routes within the ski-area boundaries are closed
- Vehicles must park at the Lake Clara Trailhead parking area at the entrance to the lower parking lot. Cars parked in other areas impede our ability to plow the lot and could be towed.
- No trespassing on Mission Ridge structures and developments during non-operating hours.
- In some situations skiers visiting Mission Peak or the Stemilt Basin can return to the parking lot by skiing through the ski area. This is only possible when the terrain you are entering within the ski area is 'open' to skiing. For Mission Peak skiers, this means Bowl 5 and/or Central Park must be open. For Stemilt Basin skiers, Bowl 4 and/or Windy Ridge terrain must be open. It is a violation of state law to enter the resort and ski these areas if they are marked 'closed.' If in doubt about the status of these areas, stay out.

- o Dogs are allowed on these routes but are not allowed within the ski area boundaries. Consequently, backcountry travelers with dogs cannot descend to the parking lot via the ski area.
- o Mission Ridge does not control, groom, or patrol this area – ski or snowshoe here entirely at your own risk.