

# Proposed Uphill Ski Route from Blackcomb to Phalanx area

Draft for comments

Jay MacArthur, FMCBC

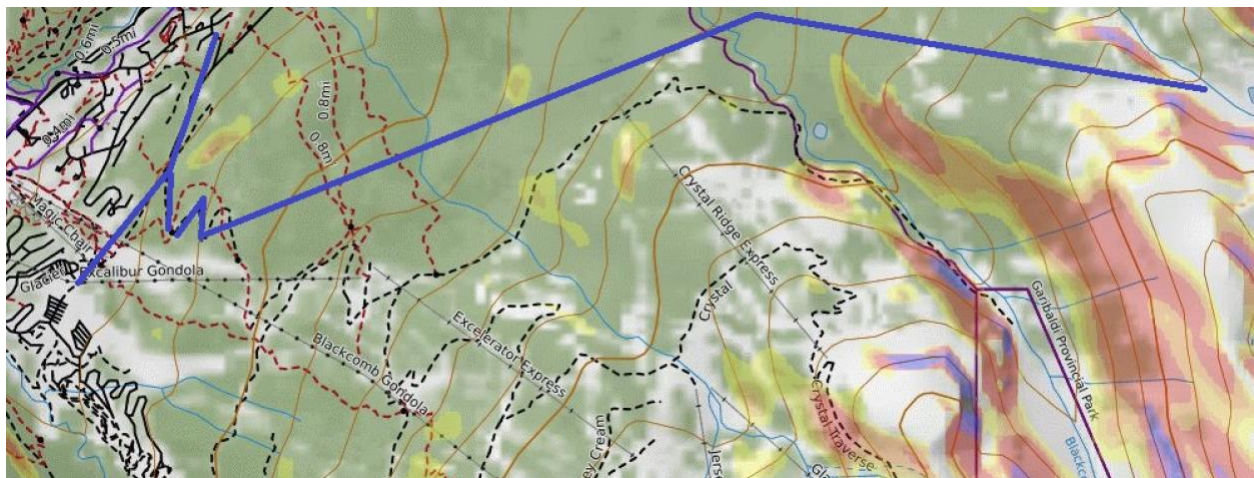
2021/08/09

## 1. Introduction

At a meeting in late June with the Mountain Resorts Branch and Whistler-Blackcomb a proposal for a route to the Phalanx area was presented as well as another route on the south side of Blackcomb. After reviewing the WB presentation, I looked at various maps for a more detailed route.

One advantage of this route is that it almost totally bypasses the Blackcomb controlled recreation area (CRA) that is used as a ski area. Technically the area above the Benchlands is in the CRA, but not currently used in winter.

This document describes some different options that could be considered.



## Option 1: From Blackcomb Benchlands

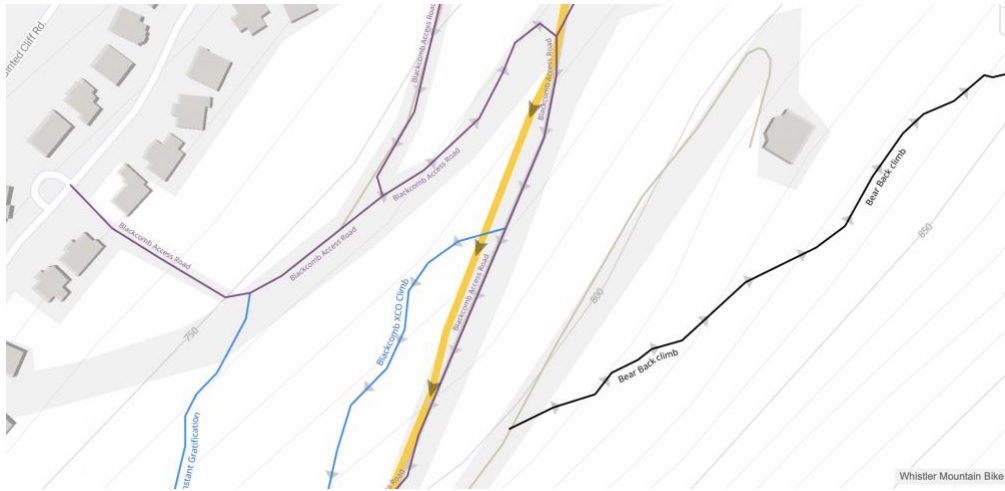


The first option is starting on Horstman Lane. On multi-day ski trip, people could park in Lot 4 and take a taxi (\$10 to 15) to Horstman Lane.



There seems to be a mountain bike access route that goes up from just beside (west of 4934 Horstman Lane). It seems to be an old right of way to an older Blackcomb Access Road however on the Whistler.ca map the route seems to go through private property. I will check with the RMOW. Another possible route is from the intersection of Painted Cliff and Blackcomb Way or the north end of Blackcomb Way. From that road that goes to some water storage buildings, there is a mountain bike trail (Bear Back trail) that heads up in the right direction

towards Garibaldi Park. A bit further west there is an old mountain access road that heads uphill outside of the ski area. That is another good way to go up until it enters the ski area.

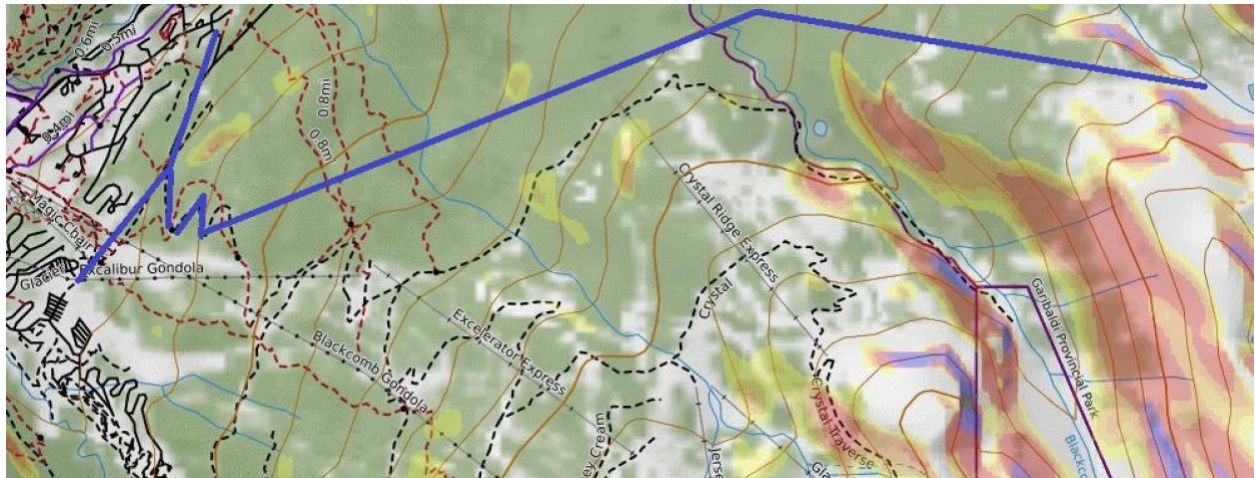


### Option 2: From Base II/Lot 6 or Lot 7

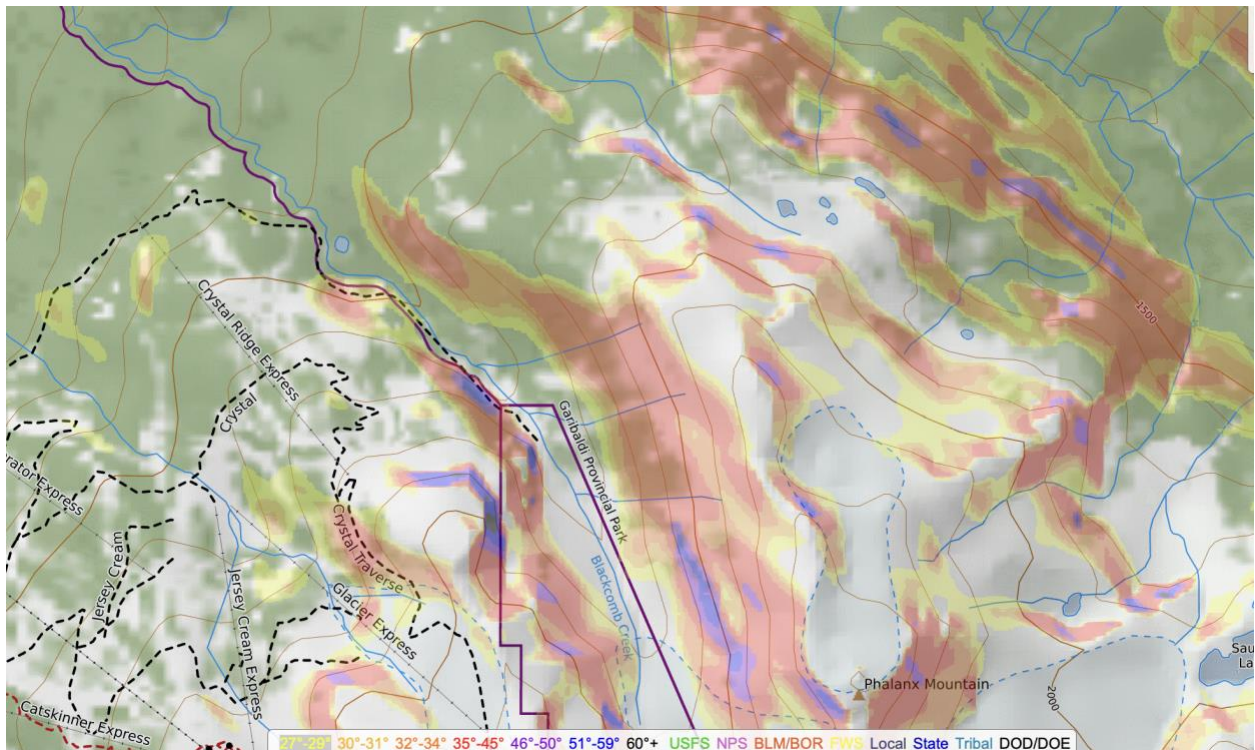
Another option is starting from Base II or Lot 6 and heading along a flat road that heads to the area above the Benchlands. This route would work better for day trips since you could park in Lot 6 or 7 and start skinning along the flats for 1 km until the uphill begins



The idea is to head east up towards Garibaldi Park on gentle second growth forest slopes just north of the ski runs, cross Blackcomb Creek into the park and then follow the creek southeast towards a ridge that heads toward Phalanx Mountain:



Once you get closer to where the Blackcomb Glacier run meets the Blackcomb Glacier Road just north of the Poop Chutes, the idea is to stay further east on the benches just below the steeper parts of Phalanx Mountain. There is a bench here that people quite often use to ski down from the Phalanx Glacier.



This map shows the approximate route from Base II. If you zoom in you can see the route as a blue line.

7 km (not including switchbacks)  
1500 m of elevation gain

I think the route can be adjusted a bit so less downhill at bottom

