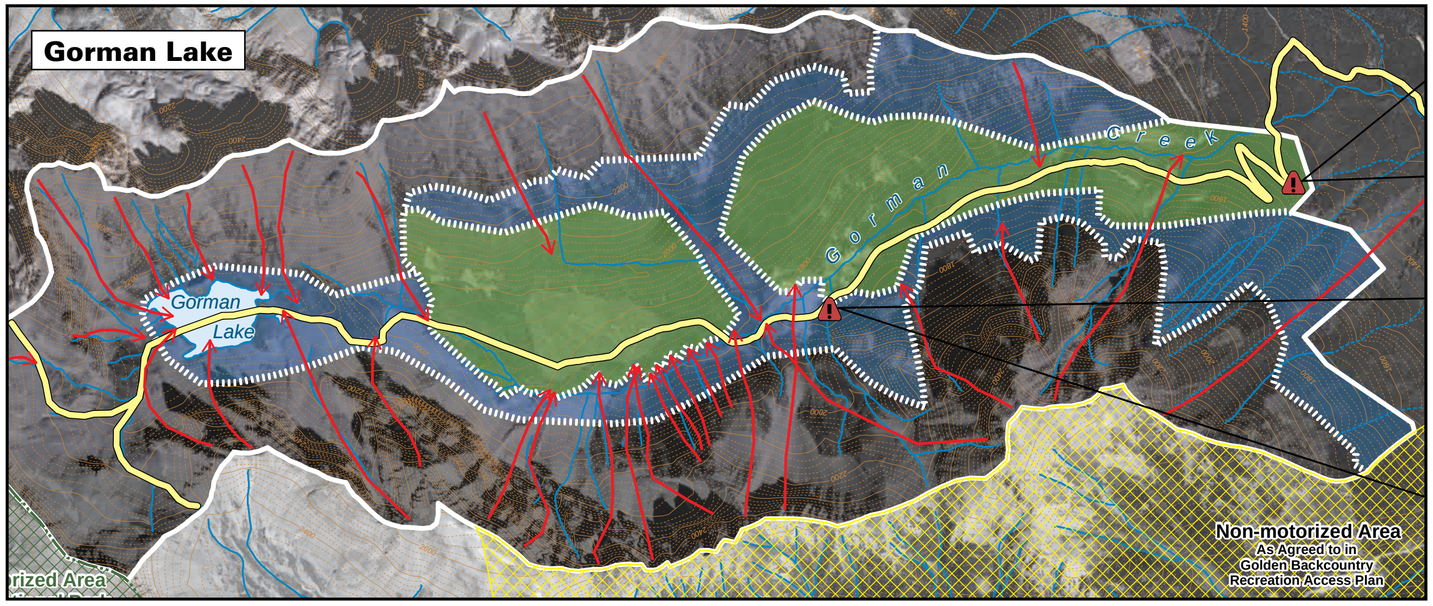
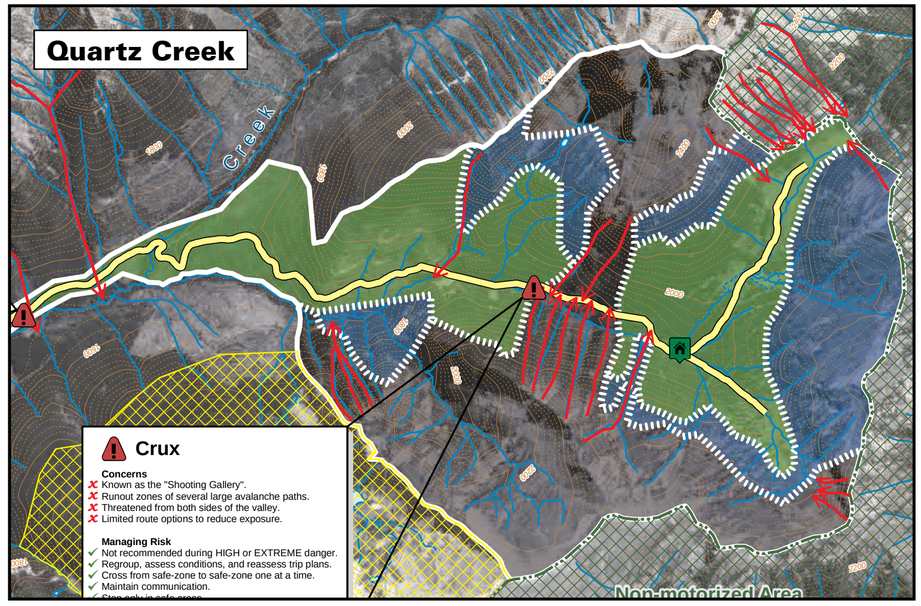
1. What is the Avalanche Terrain Ratings of the area you are heading into?





CABIN
CRUX
PARKING

AVALANCHE PATH
ROAD/TRAIL
TERRAIN RATED

SIMPLE
Exposure to low angle or primarily forested terrain. Some forest openings may involve the runout zones of infrequent avalanches. Many options to reduce or eliminate exposure. No glacier travel.

CHALLENGING
Exposure to well defined avalanche paths, starting zones or terrain traps; options exist to reduce or eliminate exposure with careful route finding. Glacier travel is straightforward but crevasse hazard may exist.

COMPLEX
Exposure to multiple overlapping avalanche paths or large expanses of steep, open terrain; multiple avalanche starting zones or terrain traps below; minimal options to reduce exposure. Complicated glacier travel with extensive crevasse bands or icefalls.

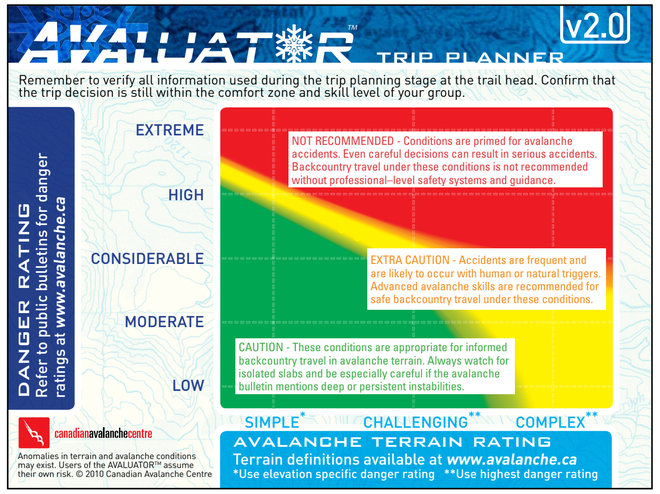
2. What is the Avalanche Danger Rating today?

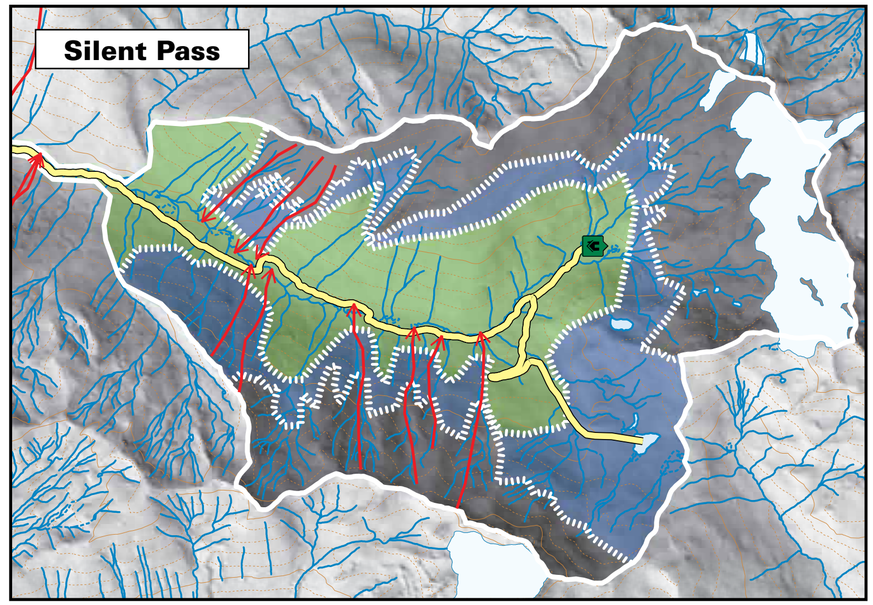
Where can I access today's forecast?
1-800-667-1105, select number for South Columbia>>Purcells region.

Danger Level		Travel Advice
5 Extreme	4 5	Avoid all avalanche terrain.
4 High	4 5	Very dangerous avalanche conditions. Travel in avalanche terrain not recommended.
3 Considerable	3	Dangerous avalanche conditions. Careful snowpack evaluation, cautious rout-finding and conservative decision-making essential.
2 Moderate	2	Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features. Evaluate snow and terrain carefully; identify features of concern.
1 Low	1	Generally safe avalanche conditions. Watch for unstable snow on isolated terrain features.

3. What does the Avaluator recommend?

Combine the danger and terrain ratings on the Avaluator chart to manage risk.





WHEN RIDING BE GUIDED BY THESE QUESTIONS:

AVALANCHE CONDITIONS

Regional Danger Rating: Is the avalanche danger rating "Considerable" or higher?
Persistent Avalanche Problem: Is there a persistent or deep persistent slab problem in the snowpack?
Slab Avalanches: Are there signs of slab avalanches from today or yesterday?
Signs of Instability: Are there signs of snowpack instability including whumpfs, shooting cracks or drum-like sounds?
Recent Loading: Has there been loading within the past 48 hours including roughly 30 cm of new snow or more, significant wind transport or rain?
Critical Warming: Has there been a recent rapid rise in temperature to near 0 C, or is the upper snowpack wet due to strong sun, abovefreezing air temperatures or rain?

TERRAIN CHARACTERISTICS

Slope Steepness: Is the slope steepness between 30 and 35 degrees? Or Is the slope steeper than 35 degrees?
Terrain Traps: Are there gullies, trees or cliffs that increase the consequences of being caught in an avalanche?
Slope Shape: Is the slope convex or unsupported?
Forest Density: Is the slope in the alpine, in a sparsely treed area or in open forest (cut-block, burn, wide-spaced glades)?

GENERAL SAFETY

Have you told a responsible person your trip plans?
Is everyone in your group properly dressed and equipped with a transceiver, probe and shovel?
Do you have any backcountry knowledge or avalanche awareness training?
For more information go to: www.avalanche.ca

Questions based on the Avaluator™ Slope Evaluation Card available at www.avalanche.ca

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canadianavalanchecentre www.avalanche.ca

Warning: Mountain travel is dangerous –hazards exist. Spotting hazards and assessing their risk is your responsibility. Decision guides like the Avaluator cannot eliminate these hazards, but will help you understand and manage them. The Avaluator is no substitute for training, experience, and choosing skilled and responsible travel partners. Use the Avaluator and the information on this sign at your own risk. Travel the back country at your own risk.

Terrain Assessment Maps Warning:
This map is illustrative only and should not be used to determine precise routes or location of features. The terrain ratings shown are an approximation and may assist with trip planning. Use the information provided on this map at your own risk.