

WIND VALLEY

Wind Valley area includes the northwest peak of Mount Lougheed, Windtower and Rimwall. These cliffs are grouped together as they are all accessed from West Wind Pass, a wide, open col between Windtower and Rimwall. In the past, climbs on Windtower and Rimwall have been reached from the Trans-Canada Highway via a tedious 3-4 hour approach up West Wind Creek. However, a trail from the Spray Lakes road up Spurling Creek to West Wind Pass provides a better means of access, being shorter and more convenient for descent from both summits. This applies to all routes on these cliffs including the Northeast Ridge of Windtower.

Approach

Spurling Creek crosses the Spray Lakes road about 5 km south of the Spray Lakes Ranger Station (at Three Sisters Dam) or about 1.6 km south of the "Driftwood" picnic area and boat launch. Park on the south side of the road just west of Spurling Creek and follow a good trail that begins directly across the road on the west bank of a dry creekbed (not at Spurling Creek itself). The trail stays on the west bank above the creekbed for the lower third of the route and then moves away onto steeper hillsides in the middle and upper sections. At present, some care is necessary in locating the correct trail where it descends a little and crosses small rock slabs and cliff bands in its middle section. West Wind Pass is located between the Windtower and Rimwall climbing areas and can be reached in about one hour.