



# Ice Climbing in Interior Alaska

## Nenana River Area

Interior mountain climate can result in extremely cold temperatures, making conditions, for both the climber and the ice, more ideal early and late in the season. Drive south from Fairbanks or north from Anchorage to the Nenana River canyon area, between Healy and Denali National Park entrance.

### Dragonfly Creek - WI3, 2 pillars: 10 & 20m

The first creek on the south side of the Nenana River Canyon bridge. Pull out parking at Dragonfly Creek. Walk up the road to the creek and head downstream, walking down to the base from the right side or rappelling down the fall. Large conifer on top for solid rappel anchor. The route overlooks the Nenana River and receives direct sunshine on clear days. Ice can soften up by mid-day.

### Fox Creek - WI3, 50 feet

South of Dragonfly Creek, pull out parking exists just south of Fox Creek. Walk up the road to the creek and head up the creek a few hundred yards, cramponing up the creek for the best walking. A 20 foot pitch of WI2 exists midway to the main climb. Mixed climbing possible on climber's left of main routes. Large conifer on top for solid rappel anchor. Main route area is often 20° colder than parking on the road, due to the tight shaded canyon the creek has formed. Belays are cold on this route!



## Delta River Area

Located in the eastern Alaska Range, these areas are also capable of extreme cold and often experience deep snow conditions. Nearly all of the climbs in this region are on eastern tributaries of the Delta River. All climbs are located between Fort Greely, south of Delta Junction, and Paxson, off the Richardson Highway.



### Darling Creek, *The Curtain* – WI3, 10m

One and one half hours up Darling Creek on the right, *The Curtain* is one of the more difficult climbs in the Delta River area. Walk down on right.

### Darling Creek, *Wedding Cake*

WI3-4, 3 steps: 10m each  
Approximately one half hour past *The Curtain*, on the left, this climb often has open water at the base in early season, which can make access difficult until mid-season. Steep climbing with snow steps between. Walk down from top.

### Gunnysack Creek – WI1, 50m

Approximately one hour up the creek, this less than vertical frozen waterfall is a massive climb that offers up big exposure on an easier route. V-thread for rappel.



For more information, go to [alaskaiceclimbing.com](http://alaskaiceclimbing.com) for routes on ice climbs throughout the state.