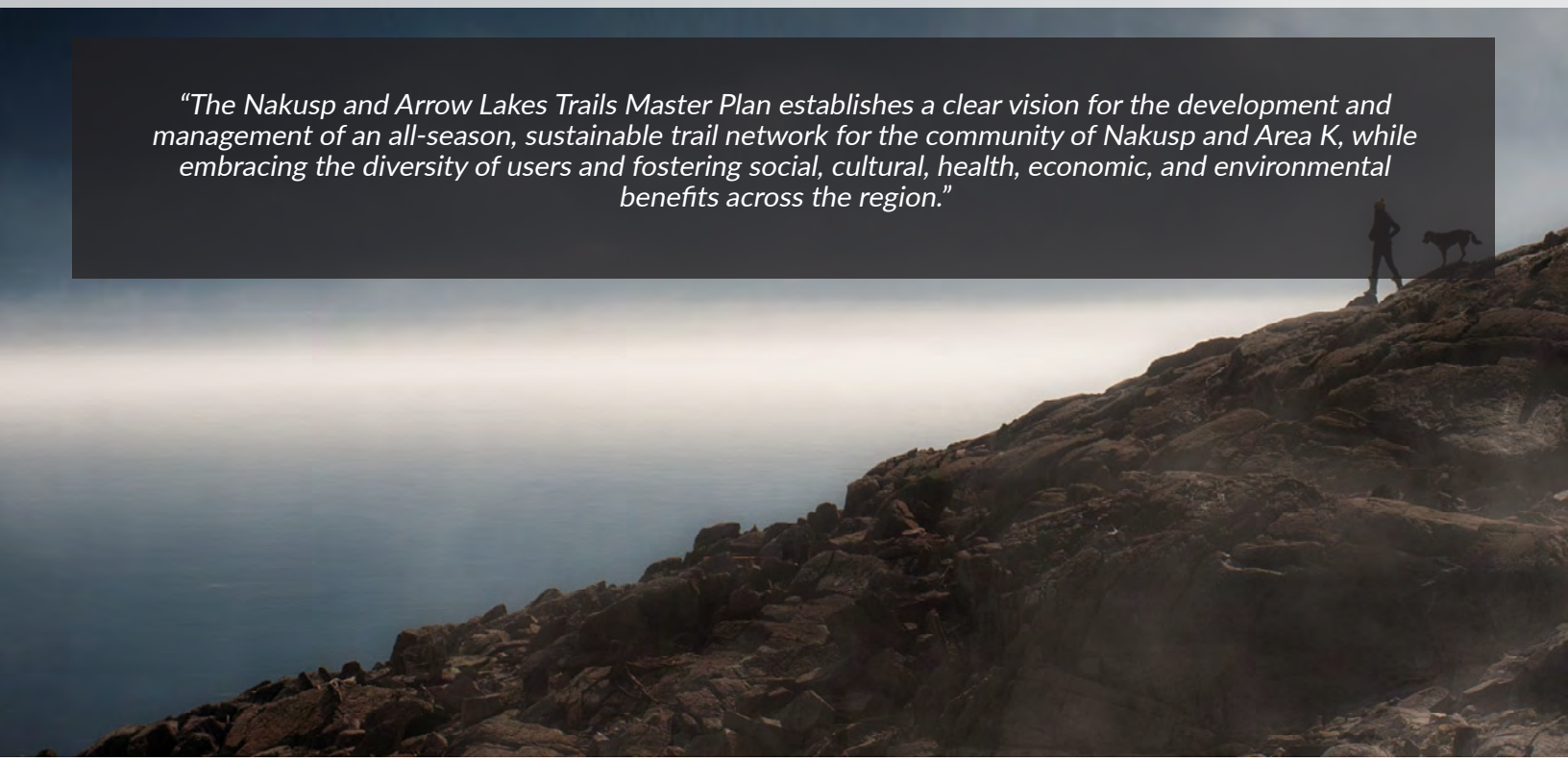
NAKUSP & ARROW LAKES TRAILS MASTER PLAN

JULY 2017



"The Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan establishes a clear vision for the development and management of an all-season, sustainable trail network for the community of Nakusp and Area K, while embracing the diversity of users and fostering social, cultural, health, economic, and environmental benefits across the region."

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DISTINCTIVE MASTER PLANS

Cover Image: Destination BC / Steve Ogle

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The Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan is the result of a significant effort by a number of individuals and groups passionate about the area and the vast network of trails it contains. The plan outlines the existing conditions, vision, goals and objectives and includes a series of recommendations to assist the community in reaching its goals.

Thank you to Area K of the RDCK for providing funding to support the Public Open Houses in Burton/Fauquier and Edgewood.

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Hikers enjoying the alpine near Nakusp
Photo: NACTS

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To verify accuracy and currency of this information, please contact the Village of Nakusp or the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The development of this Trails Master Plan was facilitated by the Village of Nakusp with grant funding from the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT).

The plan itself has been built on a foundation of community input, with a focus on maintaining and creating an inclusive trail network that benefits all trail users. This Trails Master Plan is intended to align with the provincial Trails Strategy, taking an inclusive approach that recognizes the importance of all trail user groups and the need to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for all.

This Trails Master Plan acknowledges the extensive network of existing trails and importance of volunteer efforts that are currently in place, while building a framework that will guide the Nakusp and Arrow Lakes trail network into the future. The Plan envisions an inclusive and well-managed trail network that fosters:

- Individual Wellbeing;
- Community Wellbeing;
- Economic Opportunity;
- Environmental Sustainability.

A Working Committee of representatives from local trail user groups was instrumental in providing guidance throughout the development of the Master Plan. In addition, Public Open Houses and a public survey provided invaluable insight into the specific needs of the local communities.

The Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan incorporates a wide range of background information, best practices, trends, and input from the consultation process. The final plan represents a synthesis and distillation of all of these elements. It is our hope that this Trails Master Plan will be an invaluable communication tool that guides the future of the Nakusp and Arrow Lakes trails network for years to come, supporting a diverse range of trail user groups, and celebrating its unique culture.

On the following pages is an outline of the Trails Master Plan intended to provide a quick introduction to the key elements of the report.

Brent Harley and Associates Inc.
July 2017

Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan Outline

The following outlines the main sections of this document.

Background

- **Introduction:** Project Background, Regional Characteristics, Study Area, Biogeoclimactic Zones, Benefits of Trail Systems, Existing Users, Existing Volunteer Groups, Background Documents;
- **Project Vision:** Purpose, Goals and Objectives;
- **Project Process and Community Engagement:** Working Committee, Public Open Houses, Community Survey;
- **Trail Evaluation:** Existing Trail Network Overview, Trails on Crown Land, Trails on First Nations Land, Trails on Private Land, Parks and Recreation Sites, Trail Land Management Framework, Trails in Ecologically Sensitive Areas.

These initial portions of the document establish the project background, and the process through which the recommendations and implementation strategies were developed. In addition, information on the existing trails network is outlined here. Section 4.0: Trail Evaluation is an excellent resource for understanding the legislative framework that applies to trails on Crown land.

Recommendations and Implementation

- **Framework for Planning and Management:** Overall Trail Network, Potential Development Opportunities, Proposed Priorities by Trail Area;
- **Management Strategies:** Trail Maintenance, User Conflict Strategies, Fundraising Strategies, Design Guidelines and Classification System, Community Outreach and Education Strategies;
- **Implementation Plan:** Next Steps and Framework.

Building on the background information, these sections detail priorities, development opportunities, and recommendations. Detailed Trail Area report sections have been developed to help guide more detailed planning and management of individual elements of the trail network.

The final section in the document, Section 7.0: Implementation Plan outlines recommendations for a series of actions to be taken over the next 5 years. When this Trails Master Plan is adopted and put into action through the formation of a local trails Umbrella Organization, it is recommended that a more detailed action plan be developed annually. This will enable the Umbrella Organization to focus on yearly priorities based on specific needs and budgetary constraints.

Next Steps

The Implementation Plan section prioritizes all of the recommendations established during the development of this Trails Master Plan by timeline. The following recommendations are proposed as Next Steps:

- Establish an Umbrella Organization, which will streamline communication and the flow of information while contributing to a cohesive vision for the Naksup and Arrow Lakes Trails Network that represents all user groups.

The establishment of the Umbrella Organization represents a critical step in the ability to carry this Trails Master Plan forward as an actionable document. This organization will allow all existing trail user groups to coordinate their efforts, apply for unified funding, and have a larger voice as a lobbying group. In addition, the Umbrella Organization will allow the building of partnerships with other local organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce. All member groups will continue to function autonomously, while being able to tap into the invaluable resources of the larger group.

Once an Umbrella Organization has been established:

- Create a website for the Umbrella Organization, which will act as an information hub;
- Adopt the following trail designations for new trail development: **Shared Use** and **Multi-Use** (Non-Motorized).* Shared Use is defined as all trail users including motorized, Multi-Use (Non-Motorized) is defined as all trail users except motorized. For more information on designations, see page 28 of the Trails Master Plan;
- Adopt the Recreation Sites and Trails BC Trail Classification and Standards;
- Install advanced "turn off" signage on driving routes to trailheads and begin work on network-wide signage and wayfinding improvements;
- Secure insurance that will indemnify trail volunteers from liability and create a means of keeping detailed records on all trail work completed by volunteers;
- Identify and apply for grant funding that will enable the hiring of paid youth trail crew members by the summer of 2018;
- Develop a strategy for volunteer recognition;
- Use accepted standards as a guide for developing a locally relevant "Trail Code of Ethics" that encompasses all user groups.

These Next Steps would ideally be implemented over the 12 months following the adoption of this Trails Master Plan. This timeline can be extended if needed due to capacity constraints. This is not a prescriptive list, but is meant to provide a starting point that the Umbrella Organization can refine and build from.

These trail designations were determined in conjunction with the Working Committee and presented during the public consultation process. Prior to implementation, it is recommended that these be revisited by the Umbrella Organization to ensure consensus.

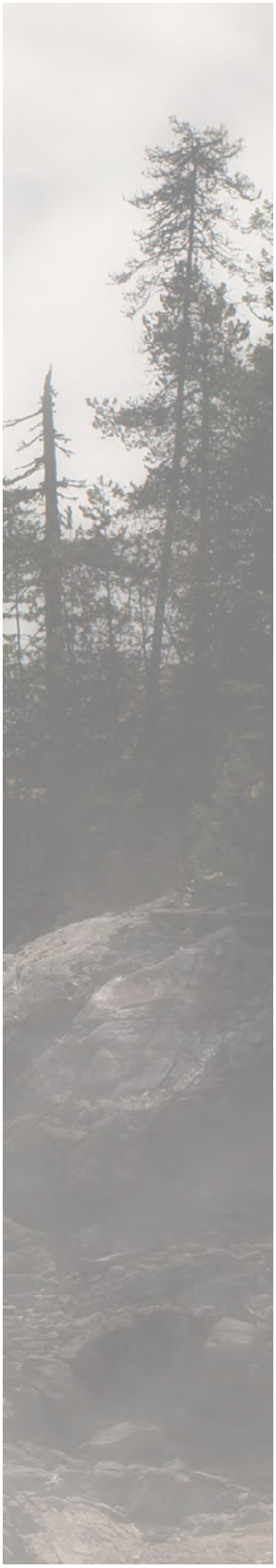
Trail junction signage
Photo: Andrew Strain

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan is intended to act as a long-term strategy document outlining an inclusive vision for the future of the region's trails.

The document includes an inventory and analysis of the existing trails, strategic direction for future improvements based on comprehensive community engagement, and recommendations to help the community reach its goals.

Integral to the implementation of this Trails Master Plan will be the formation of an umbrella organization made up of representatives from the various trail user groups.



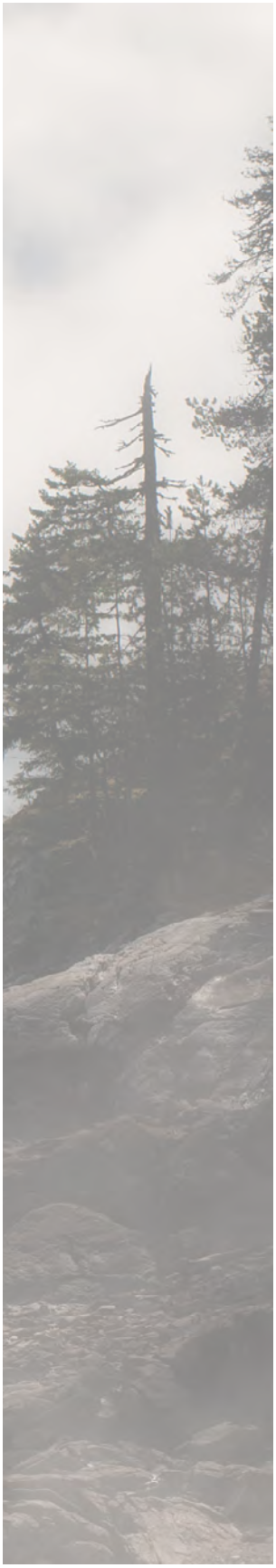
1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

In July of 2016, the Village of Nakusp put out an Request for Proposals (RFP) for a trails plan for Area K of the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) and the municipality itself.

The existing trail network supports a diverse range of user groups. A significant number of volunteer groups are involved in the maintenance and development of these trails, which benefit from strong community support.

The future of the region is dependent on the development of a vision for a sustainable and resilient community model, which capitalizes on the local assets: including residents, associations, institutions, natural resource industries, physical infrastructure and natural capital, as the most valuable resources. The Trails Master Plan incorporates and builds on the existing assets that constitute the regional strength and identity.

The Trails Master Plan takes an asset-based approach that is integrated with extensive community input, and a long-range vision. The Master Plan will inform decision making processes for key stakeholders including trail user groups, Municipal Council, and other pertinent agencies with respect to the vision and priorities for the future development and management of the trails system.



1.2 REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

The region consists of vibrant, safe, and friendly communities located on the shores and in the surrounding areas of the Upper Arrow Lake in the West Kootenay Region of British Columbia. Surrounded by the beautiful Selkirk and Monashee mountain ranges, there are both natural and developed hot springs, and the spectacular Arrow Lakes.

The Arrow Lakes reservoir was created when the Hugh Keenleyside Dam was constructed to bound the original Arrow Lakes and the Columbia River. Water levels fluctuate as a result of the reservoir.

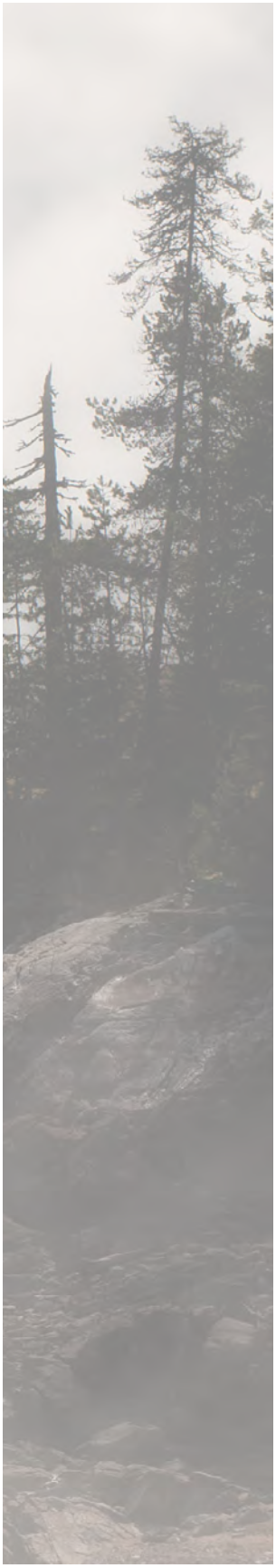
Figure 1.1 - Regional Context

There are three main ferry crossings over the reservoir, between Galena Bay and Shelter Bay, between Needles and Fauquier, and between West and East Arrow Park.

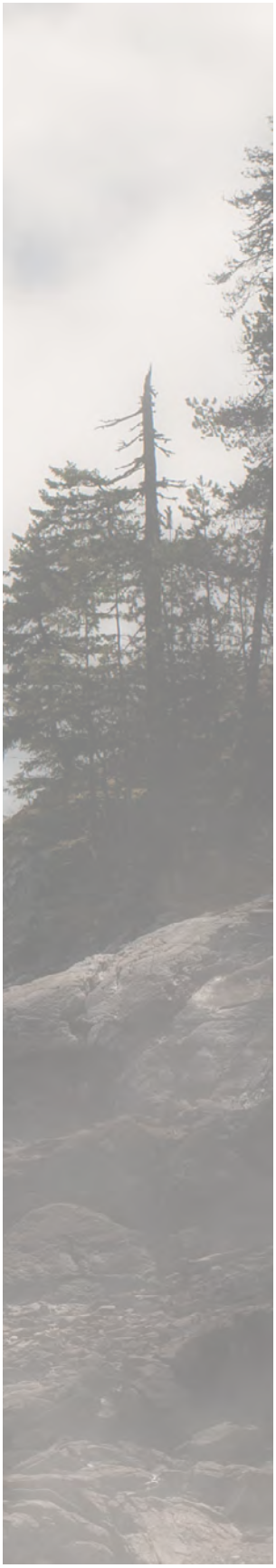
Incorporated in 1964, the Village of Nakusp is home to over 1,600 residents, is the largest community in the northwest portion of the RDCK, and is the hub of economic activity in the area. Nakusp's service area has a population of 4,500 residents, and Area K's service area has a population of 1,700.

From an economic perspective, the forestry industry plays a key role in this region. In addition, the region benefits from tourism in both summer and winter. There are numerous heliskiing operations in the area, guided mountain biking operations, and trails-based events such as poker runs.

The region has a distinct rural culture, with a focus on outdoor recreation. There are significant outdoor recreation opportunities in the region in both summer and winter for all types of recreational users. This region offers excellent recreation for users seeking both motorized and non-motorized trail experiences.



Relaxing on lakeside rocks near the Hot Springs
Photo: Village of Nakusp



1.3 STUDY AREA

The study area is delineated by the existing corporate boundaries of the Village of Nakusp and the boundary of Area K of the RDCK. On the overview maps, a buffer zone of 2.5 kilometres is shown around the boundary of Area K.

Electoral Area K includes the following unincorporated communities: Applegrove, Edgewood, Fauquier, Burton, Arrow Park, Crescent Bay, Whatshan Lake, Brouse, Glenbank, Box Lake, Needles, Halycon, and Inonoaklin Valley. Highway 6 runs through Area K, providing access to the Slocan Valley, Nelson, and Castlegar to the South and Vernon and the North Okanagan to the West. Highway 23 runs north to Revelstoke and the Shuswap.

The Village of Nakusp, although not part of Area K, is entirely surrounded by Area K. Electoral Areas D, H, and J of the Regional District of Central Kootenay share borders with Area K, as well as the Regional District of North Okanagan and the Regional District of Columbia Shuswap.

When appropriate, the study also considers areas beyond these boundaries where regional trail systems and historical, interpretive, and recreational amenities/facilities can be linked to the study area. Regional corridors and linkages will be established wherever possible. This plan will not affect private land within the Regional District, or lands under other jurisdictions (Provincial Parks, or wildlife management areas).

Hiking near the Hot Springs
Photo: Village of Nakusp

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan Study Area

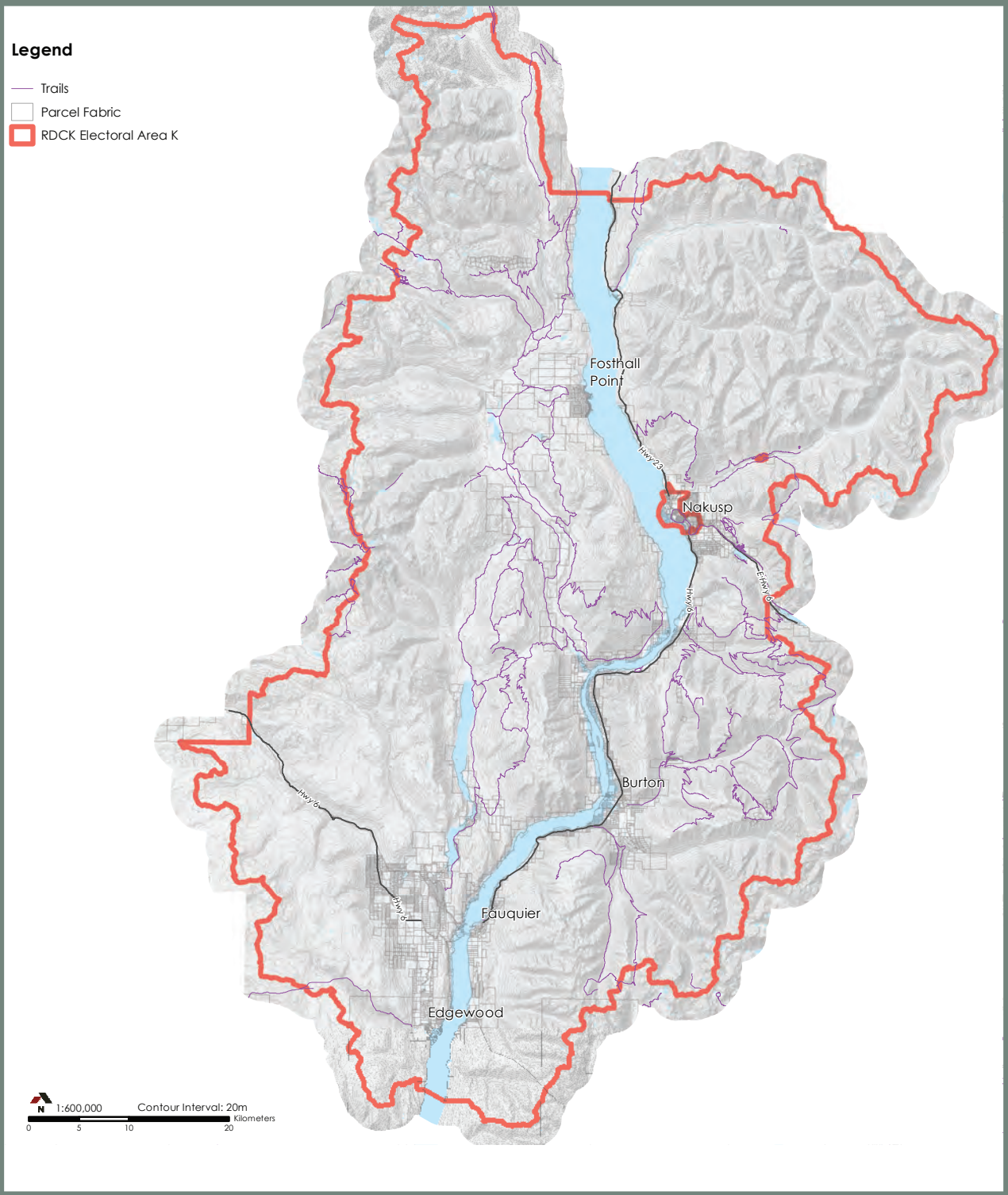
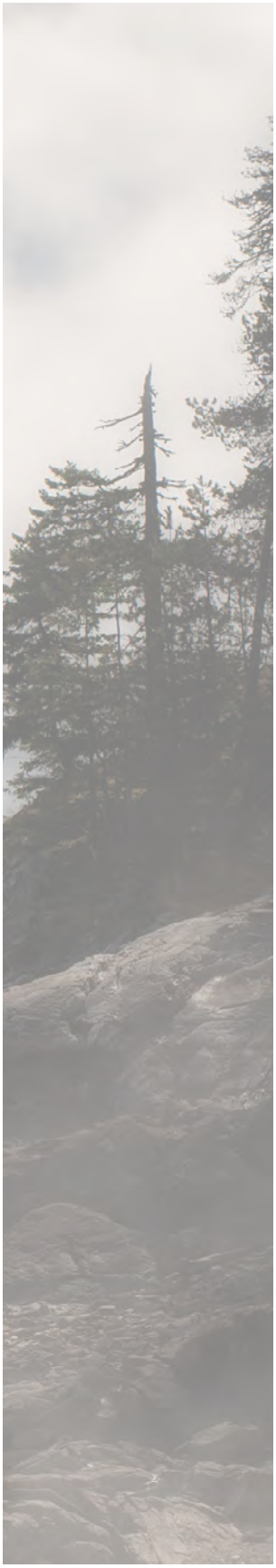


Figure 1.2 - Study Area



1.4 BIOGEOCLIMATIC ZONES

The study area is mainly made up of Englemann Spruce-Subalpine Fir and Interior Cedar - Hemlock. There are small areas of Interior Mountain - Heather Alpine.

These biogeoclimactic zones offer a range of different trail experiences. Trails planning should take applicable subzones into account, which provide more detail on specific local conditions that may not be captured by these broad biogeoclimactic zone descriptions.

Englemann Spruce - Subalpine Fir (ESSF)

This is the common sub-alpine zone in the southern interior of British Columbia, found between 900m and 2300m depending on aspect. This zone has a severe climate which is characterized by a long cold winter and a short cool summer. Only trees that can survive a long period of frozen ground grow here. Englemann spruce and sub-alpine fir dominate wetter areas, while lodgepole pine grows as a pioneer species after a disturbance. Whitebark pine occurs on drier sites, while white rhododendron is a common understory plant.

Interior Cedar - Hemlock (ICH)

This zone occurs at middle to low elevations (400m - 1500m), lying below the Englemann Spruce - Subalpine Fir zone. With cool and wet winters and warm and dry summers, this is a productive interior forest zone with a wide range of tree species. These include western hemlock, western red cedar, and hybrid spruce in wetter areas. Drier sites are characterized by lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir. Devil's club and skunk cabbage dominate the wettest areas.

Interior Mountain - Heather Alpine (IMHA)

This zone is restricted to the highest elevations, above 2000 meters, on mountaintops. Winter are very long with large amounts of snowfall, while summers are brief and cool. Stunted trees grow to limited heights in the warmer areas of this zone, but in the cooler portions mountain heather and wildflowers create alpine meadows and dominate the vegetative cover.

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Biogeoclimactic Zones

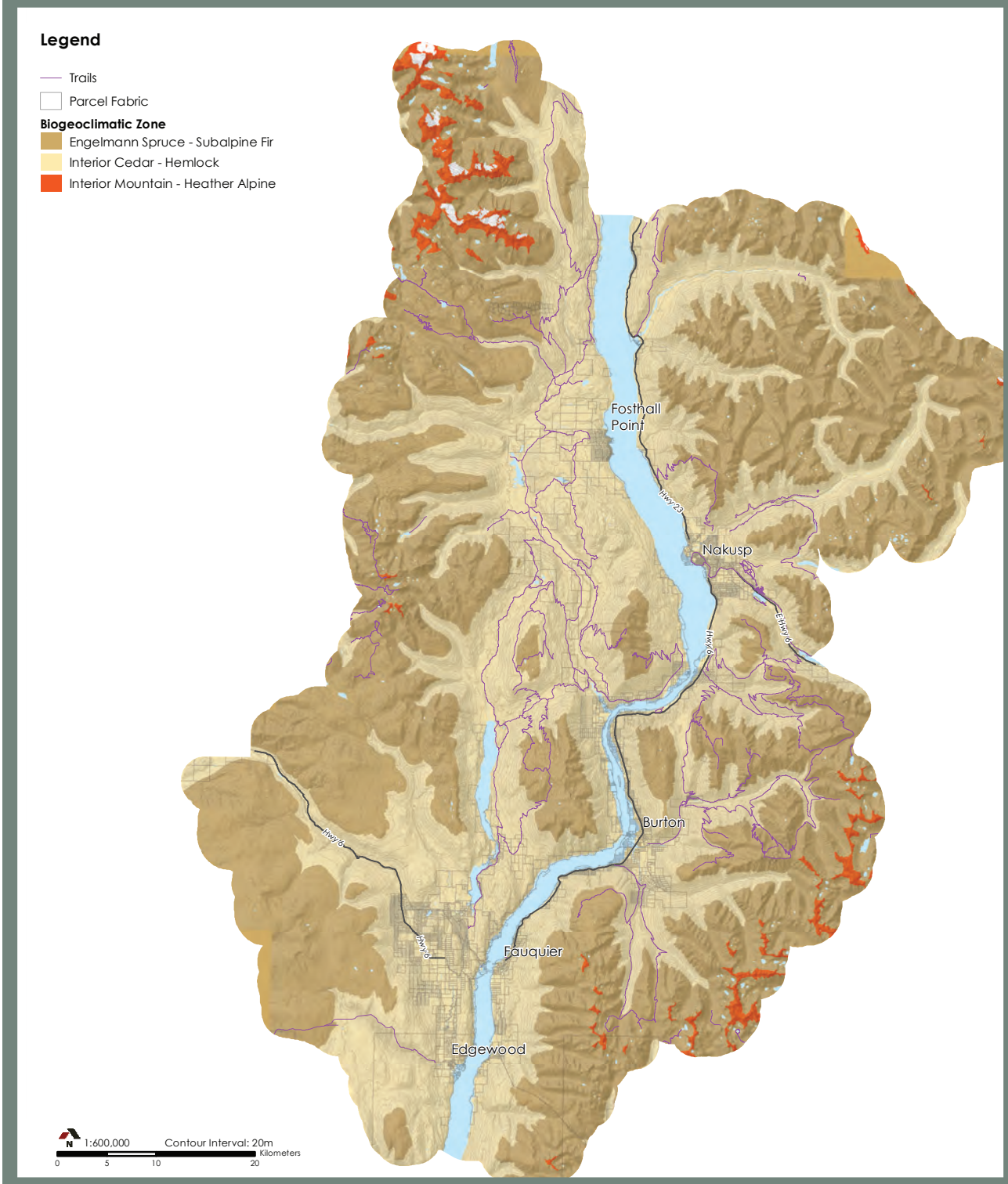
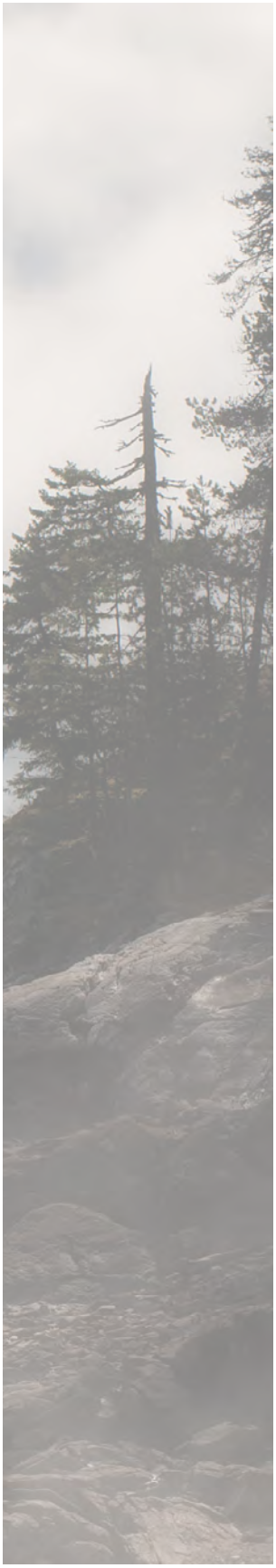


Figure 1.3 - Biogeoclimactic Zones of Area K



1.4 BENEFITS OF TRAIL SYSTEMS

The benefits of a strong regional trail network are many. These include health benefits, creating a strong sense of place and a link to community heritage, working toward environmental sustainability, and boosting economic development. Both locals and tourists alike will benefit from a well maintained and developed network of trails.

According to the Trails Strategy for BC (November 2012), the following are key benefits of recreation trails:

- **Community and social** - developing more cohesive communities, enhancing the overall quality of life, and providing opportunities for families and friends to enjoy time together outdoors;
- **Economic** - increasing tourism revenues, providing opportunities for greater business investment, and working to enhance property values;
- **Educational** - providing an outdoor classroom and learning environment for nature, culture, and history;
- **Environmental** - enhancing environmental awareness, improving understanding of our natural heritage, and encouraging stewardship of the environment;
- **Health and fitness** - improving health and physical well-being for both individuals and communities, reducing health care costs, and enhancing productivity;
- **Heritage and cultural** - recognizing and respecting First Nations culture and historical values;
- **Transportation** - creating greener transportation alternatives, with the commuting use of trails leading to reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved health and wellness of individuals.

During the community consultation process, survey respondents were asked to rank these benefits in terms of importance to the local community. The following benefits were identified as the top three: Health and Fitness, Environmental, and Community and Social.

In addition to these benefits, a number of important trends impacting trail usage were identified in the Trails Strategy. These emerging trends and demographic shifts are worth summarizing here as they will help to inform the Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan.

Emerging Trends and Demographic Shifts

According to the Trail Strategy for BC, a larger number of people are using trails as a form of physical activity and this trend can be seen especially in the 55+ age group. This is particularly significant in Area K where a large proportion of trail users fall into this age category.

There is a growing demand for recreation trails that are accessible and located close to residential areas. The trail areas near the Village of Nakusp work to support this demand.

Figure 1.4 - Community Priorities

Trends Affecting Trail Usage (Trails Strategy for BC)

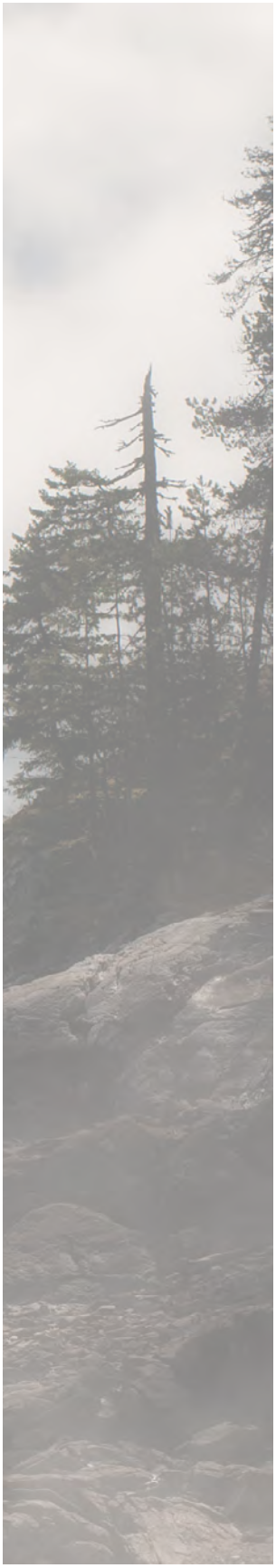
Increasing interest in the benefits of active outdoor lifestyles;

Changing demographics;

An increasing diversity of users;

An increasing recognition of the economic benefits of trails;

An increasing transportation role for trails.



Socioeconomic Benefits of Trails

Economic Opportunity

There is an increasing recognition of the importance of trails as drivers of economic development and tourism. Improving and expanding upon the existing trail network will help to draw more tourists to Area K, and can be a key component of encouraging new residents to settle in the area.

With increasing trail use in British Columbia, there is also an increasing diversity of user groups. Mountain biking, cycling for recreation and transportation, horseback riding, walking, hiking, ATV'ing, dirt biking, and snowmobiling are all growing in volume and popularity. It is important to recognize the economic potential of a strong trail network. Trails have been shown to provide a boost in economic activity while also contributing to the social development of a community, education of local citizens, and having a positive impact on the environment. Not only do recreational trails have the potential to draw individual tourists, but they also have the potential to draw exciting events.

All types of trail users, whether recreational or active transportation/ commuters, are likely to spend money adjacent to the trails they are using if the spending opportunities exist. Facilitating this type of development along trails can lead to increased potential for economic development. This should be a key consideration if any new trail or active transportation corridor development is pursued. Key planning initiatives that may increase trail use include:

- Linking different trail networks and trail areas;
- Connecting community destinations with residential communities (this may include businesses, schools, and recreation centres);
- Providing better trail facilities such as parking, bike racks, benches, picnic areas, and washrooms;
- Providing better signage that facilitates easier navigation of the existing trail network and improves safety in areas where industrial and recreation use overlap;
- Ensuring that a reasonable buffer is maintained between industrial use and recreational use where possible.

A stronger trail network has the potential to stimulate new local business and support economic opportunity and development.

Health Benefits of Trails

A strong trail network helps to support a healthy community. There is an increasing interest in the benefits of active outdoor lifestyles, and a recognition that trails can contribute to lifestyles that improve the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of all ages. Ultimately, active lifestyles have the power to translate into more productive individuals and communities, and lower health care costs. Communities that encourage physical activity register a marked positive impact on public health and wellness.

Creating a Sense of Place

The trail system in Area K and Nakusp is a key part of the social and cultural dynamics of the local communities. These trails help to define a sense of place by providing access to the unique places that make up the region. A range of outdoor experiences, from front country walks to alpine scrambling in the backcountry, can be accessed via this trail network. These trails serve as meeting places, spaces for quiet contemplation, and opportunities to interact with a wide variety of people. They form community hubs.

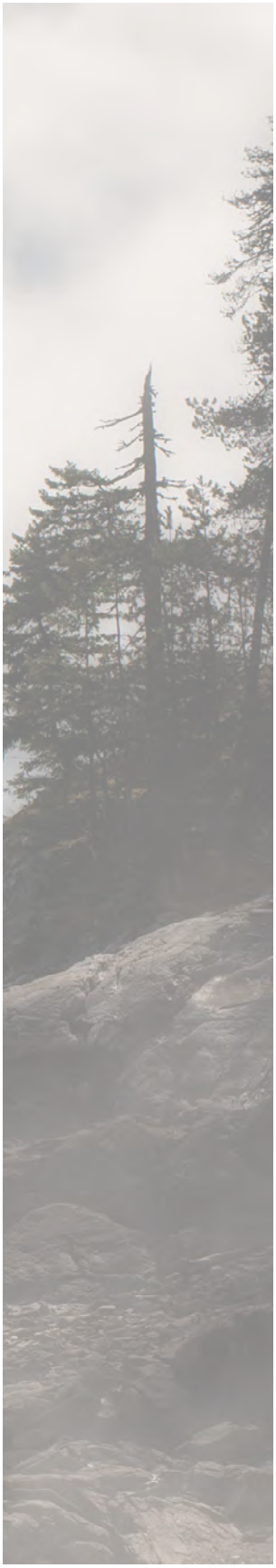
Community involvement and community pride are an important component of the existing trail network in the Nakusp and Arrow Lakes region. With a history of strong volunteerism, local trails clubs and groups have been an integral part of making this trail network what it is today. They can continue to hold this critical role going forward.

Environmental Sustainability & Access to Nature

Increasing outdoor awareness and appreciation can also foster an ethic of caring for the environment. A well-developed and maintained trail system can function as the ultimate outdoor classroom, with plenty of rich opportunities for learning and development. In addition, frequent trail users are more likely to consider their impacts and the impacts of industry on the local environment, and work toward a more sustainable approach to their own lives.

"The links between traditional tourism and outdoor recreation are getting stronger. Communities are recognizing the opportunities associated with recreational trails as a tourism attraction and a driver of economic development. Trails provide opportunities for commercial recreation businesses that contribute to the local economy. Trails have the advantage of boosting economic activity while contributing positive impacts to community, social development, education of citizens, and the environment."

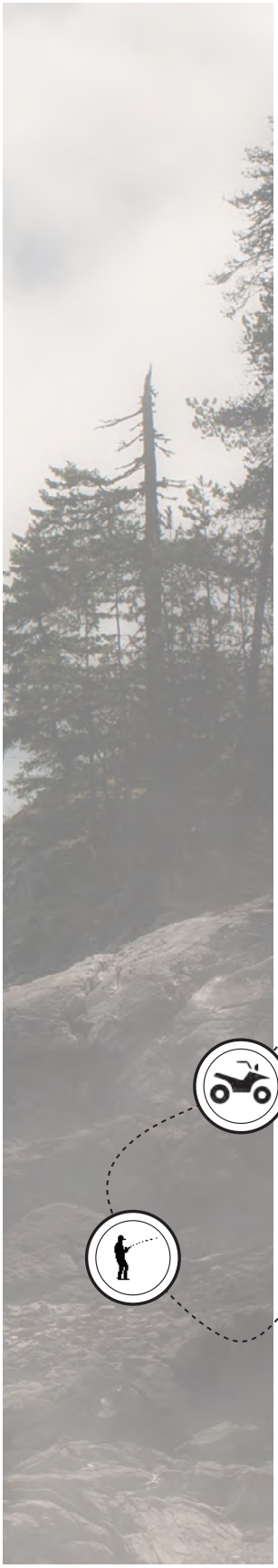
-Trails Strategy for BC, 2012



The Role of Trails in Transportation

Supporting sustainable practices also means working toward a green transportation plan. Trails can play an important part in the development of a communities' active transportation plan. Trails are increasingly being valued as key infrastructure for alternative modes of transportation that are sustainable, economical, healthy, and environmentally friendly. These modes of transportation in communities include cycling and walking.

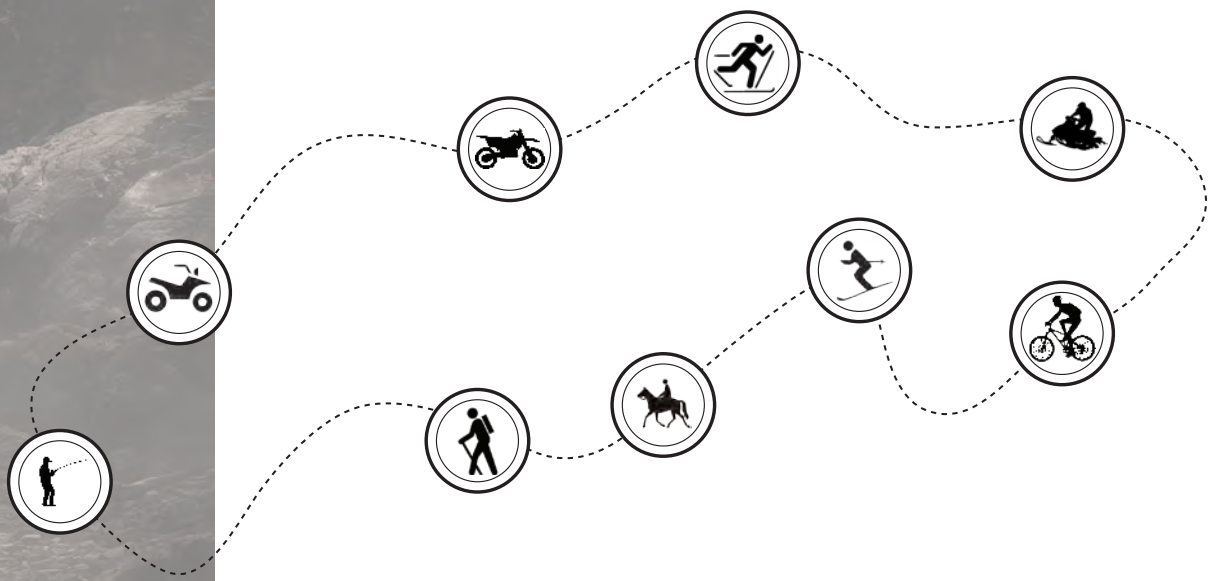
A snowy day on the Kuskanax Creek Bridge
Photo: Andrew Strain



1.4 EXISTING USERS

The trail network in Area K of the RDCK supports a diverse range of existing user groups. Groups identified include:

- Walkers;
- Hikers;
- Backpackers;
- Trail Runners;
- Dog Walkers;
- Equestrians;
- Mountain bikers (cross country and downhill), other cyclists;
- Cross-country Skiers;
- Backcountry Skiers/Mountaineers, Snowshoers;
- Motorized Snowsports Users - Snowmobilers;
- Motorized Users - ATV'ers, dirt bikers;
- Hunters and fishers;
- Foragers and mushroom pickers.



1.5 EXISTING VOLUNTEER GROUPS

There are a number of existing trail user groups in the region, many of whom currently make a substantial contribution to trail maintenance and development. Currently, most of these groups work independently of one another.

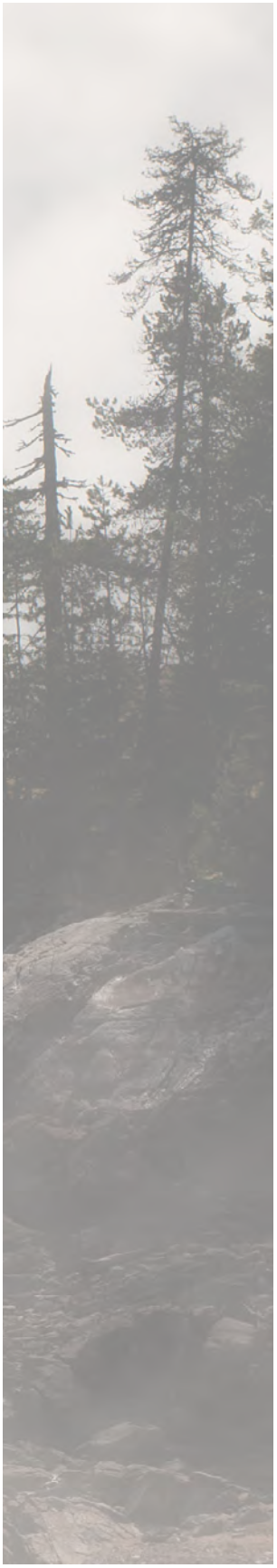
This strong existing community of trail users and outdoor recreation enthusiasts who are willing to volunteer their time to build and maintain the trail network is one of the greatest assets that the Nakusp and Arrow Lakes trails network has.

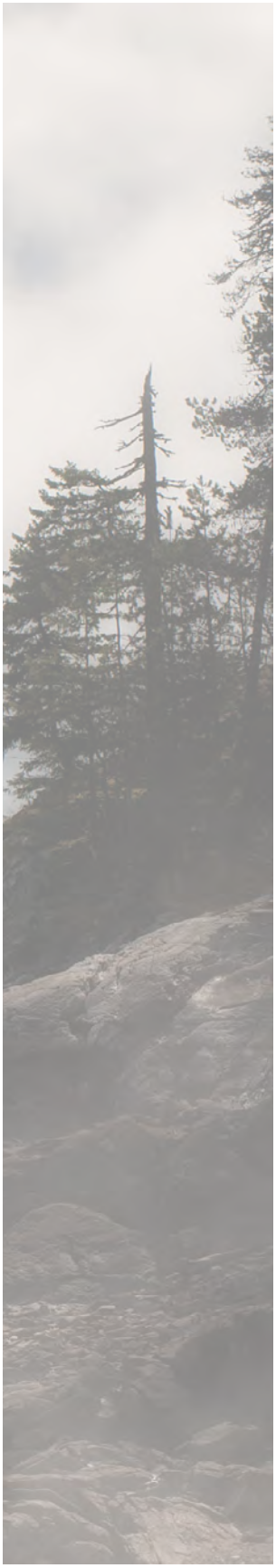
In addition to formal groups, many trail users expressed that they volunteer on an individual basis.

Liability and Indemnification

One of the critical components of developing an effective means of managing the local trail network is the indemnification of trail volunteers. Currently, some individual clubs do hold insurance policies that indemnify trail volunteers. Insurance and an accurate record of all work done will ensure that trail volunteers feel protected making a contribution to the local trail network.

Exploring snowy peaks around Nakusp
Photo: Arrow Lakes Ridge Riders





1.6 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

There are limited documents that have been produced with respect to recreation planning in Area K. The following documents contain information that has value in the future management and development of the Nakusp and Arrow Lakes trails network.

Village of Nakusp
Official Community Plan (2007)

The Recreation and Tourism section of the Village of Nakusp Official Community Plan (OCP) contains the following text that applies to trails.

It is the Policy of Council:

- To ensure any new subdivision has a trail network and connections to trails;
- To improve connectivity between designated trails and accessibility to public in all seasons.

Implementation Strategies:

- Retain the natural topography of campground, parks, and trails as much as possible;
- Expand and enhance trail systems for cycling, hiking, and walking;
- Expand current walkway to incorporate trail west of public beach, old railway grade along bypass and connection corridor back to the wharf;
- Encourage a foot bridge (or other suitable connector) across Kuskanax Creek to tie in with the existing trail system;
- Create and recommend a new cycling trail;
- Clearly mark the trail corridor with signs and maps showing the route around Nakusp;
- Have a representative on 'Rails to Trails' group and stay informed of the project from Nakusp to Rosebery.

Electoral Area 'K' - The Arrow Lakes Official Community Plan (2009)

The following goals of the OCP have implications for the development and management of trails in the region:

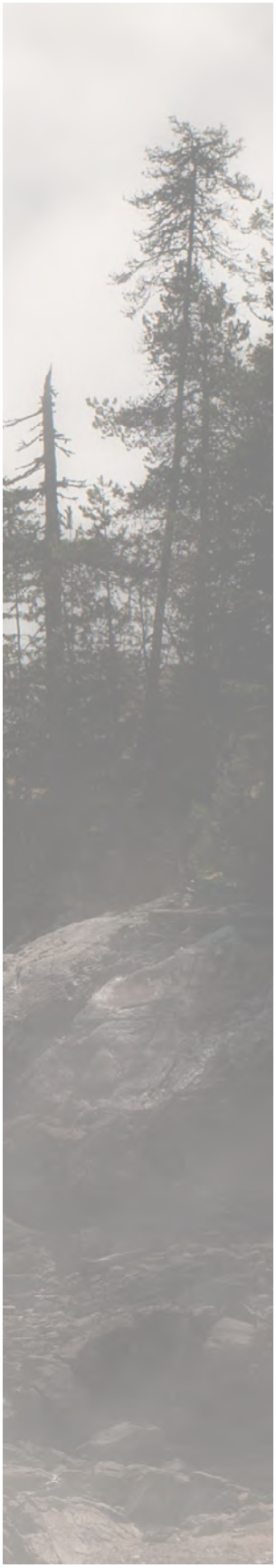
- Protect heritage resource values and concerns in the course of public or private land development;
- Protect the natural environment;
- Ensure efficient transportation systems including the promotion of pedestrian and non-vehicular traffic;
- Ensure that development does not adversely harm or detract from identified wildlife corridors and areas with high wildlife and fisheries value;
- Protect and enhance the unique "community character" of the unincorporated settlements within the rural plan area.

The OCP contains the following policies and objectives with respect to Parks, Recreation, Culture, and Heritage:

- Facilitate the provision of recreation opportunities for residents and visitors;
- Provide a diverse range of recreational and cultural opportunities that are compatible with the rural and cultural character of the Arrow Lakes Area;
- Encourage the preservation and use of the old CPR right-of-way for recreational trail use;
- Consider the development of a linear park along the old CPR right-of-way;
- Encourage the development of low-impact recreational opportunities within the Arrow Lakes Plan Area.

Burton Hiking Trails: A Report (1998)

This report was prepared for the Nakusp and Area Development Board, and focuses on hiking trails that provide access to alpine areas. While an older document, it should be referenced if new trail development near Burton is being considered.



2.0 PROJECT VISION

This Trails Master Plan envisions an inclusive and well-managed trail network with recreational opportunities for all that fosters:

- Individual wellbeing;
- Community wellbeing;
- Economic opportunity;
- Environmental sustainability.

2.1 PURPOSE

The Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan works to provide an overall framework and long-term strategy that guides the future management and development of a comprehensive trails network that benefits all user groups. A Trails Master Plan is a communication tool that establishes a clear vision, goals, objectives, and recommendations for the trails network as a whole.

2.2 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Specific project objectives are to identify and propose a variety and range of trails and trail systems that act as a primary quality of life experience and key amenity attribute that:

- Act to strengthen regional collaboration and partnerships between the various Trail User Groups, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, Area K of the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK), and the Village of Nakusp;
- Foster environmental, social, and economic sustainability and guide the development and management of a robust trail network that embraces the diversity of users and protects this significant and important asset for the future;
- Support the recreational, social, and cultural needs of the local community;
- Encourage healthy living practices within the local community;
- Attract new families to the area and retain families over time;
- Strengthen and stimulate economic opportunity, supporting tourism and ecotourism;

- Stimulate investment and entrepreneurial activity in the region, acting as a key component of an economically viable community.

Additional Master Plan Goals and Objectives:

- Work toward the establishment of a trails organization that functions as an umbrella organization for the design and management of the Nakusp and Area 'K' Trail Network;
- Create a comprehensive Trails Master Plan for Area K and the Village of Nakusp that is informed by community input and participation, and best contributes to the regional economy while supporting social and environmental values.

The Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan will acknowledge the already extensive recreational trail network in the region and the strong volunteerism that has gone into developing and maintaining many of these trails.

The plan sets out to create a framework that will enable the umbrella organization to work toward:

- Securing funding for both capital expenditures and ongoing maintenance;
- Formalization of trails under the Forest Ranges and Practices Act (FRPA);
- Improvements to the trails and trail network in a prioritized manner as recognized by the community;
- Recognition of the importance of trail networks as a tourism asset and, most importantly, a tool for attraction and retention of residents;
- Protection of the environment by discouraging the creation of unsanctioned trails and focusing volunteer efforts on desired connections, the maintenance of existing trails, and the creation of specific new trails; and
- Improvements to trailhead and trail staging elements, and signage and wayfinding throughout the trail network.

Mission Statement

"To establish a clear vision for the development and management of an all-season, sustainable trail network for the community of Nakusp and Area K, while embracing the diversity of users and fostering social, cultural, health, economic, and environmental benefits across the region."

3.0 PROJECT PROCESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan was completed in the following phases:

PROJECT PROGRAM
Consult with stakeholders and trail use groups

↓

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND BACKGROUND
Collate background information, review trail inventory data, and mapping

↓

SITE AND CONTEXT ANALYSES
Prepare trails inventory report and mapping

↓

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OPEN HOUSES
Conduct stakeholder engagement to identify priorities and trail issues/needs

↓

PREFERRED TRAILS PLAN
Draft report

↓

FINAL REPORT
Final Trails Master Plan

3.1 WORKING COMMITTEE

At the outset of the project, a Working Committee comprised of representatives from local Trail User Groups was established. This Working Committee has been an invaluable part of the development of this Trails Master Plan. The committee includes representatives from the following groups:

- Arrow Lakes Ridge Riders Snowmobile Club
- Nakusp Rod and Gun Club
- Nakusp and Area Community Trails Society
- Arrow Lakes Saddle Club
- Dirt Bikers (Informal Group)
- Arrow Lakes ATV Club
- Nakusp and Area Bike Society
- Arrow Lakes Cross Country Ski Club

Throughout the development of the Trails Master Plan, monthly meetings were held with the Working Committee to ensure that the plan accurately represents the needs and desires of the local trail users.

8 High-level Stakeholder groups

Working Committee Quotes

"It is our hope that better communication will be achieved between multiple users and stakeholders."

"The goal of this project is to work together with all user groups in the area to create a working, dynamic plan to develop Nakusp as an outdoor recreation destination which in turn will generate higher tourism numbers and dollars spent in Nakusp. This tool should also create more local jobs based on this tourism industry, keeping the region healthy and full of life."

"We hope to achieve protection of trails and safe, well-maintained quality trails for all abilities."

3.2 PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES

In March 2017, consultants from Brent Harley and Associates Inc. (BHA) travelled to three communities in Area K to present the preliminary direction for the Trails Master Plan as established through the Working Committee, and gather public feedback to inform the final Trails Master Plan. Public Open Houses were held in the following locations:

Burton
March 7th, 2017
7-9pm

Edgewood
March 8th, 2017
7-9pm

Nakusp
March 9th, 2017
7-9pm

Each of the meetings was well-attended, with over 100 members of the public coming out to provide their feedback and input.

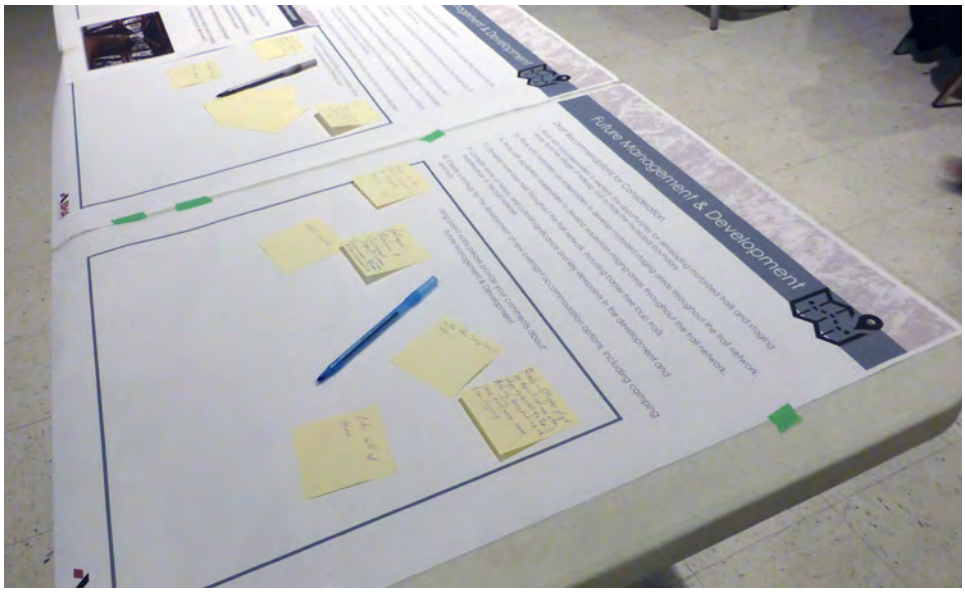
During the open houses, BHA personnel gave a presentation on the project to date, and the public had the opportunity to participate in a SWOT analysis and a "Dotmocracy." In addition, attendees were invited to provide feedback on the Draft Recommendations that were developed in conjunction with the Working Committee.

The SWOT analysis was done as a large group, and encouraged attendees to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to trails in the region.

The dotmocracy involved placing a series of coloured stickers on large mapsheets to identify the following: favourite trails (red dots), most frequently used trails (green dots), and important trailhead staging points (yellow dots). The same maps were used at each of the three meetings so that the final result was an aggregate effect of all of the community feedback.

100+ Community Stakeholders

Following the main presentation, the Draft Recommendations were laid out on tables and attendees were asked to review them and provide notes on post-its. These recommendations fall into the following categories: Future Management and Development, Design Guidelines and Classifications, Signage Standards, and Community Outreach, Education, and Advocacy.



Top: An excellent turnout at the Open House in Nakusp
Photo: BHA

Bottom: Post-it feedback on the Draft Recommendations boards at the Burton Public Open House
Photo: BHA

3.3 COMMUNITY SURVEY

An online survey was conducted using SurveyMonkey from March 6th-24th, 2017. This survey provided an opportunity to collect more detailed individual feedback from those who attended the Public Open Houses, as well as to collect information from those who were unable to attend.

Along with the other information collected through the Public Open House process, these findings helped to shape the Trails Master Plan moving forward.

For a detailed summary of the responses to individual questions and comments submitted, please see Appendix A.

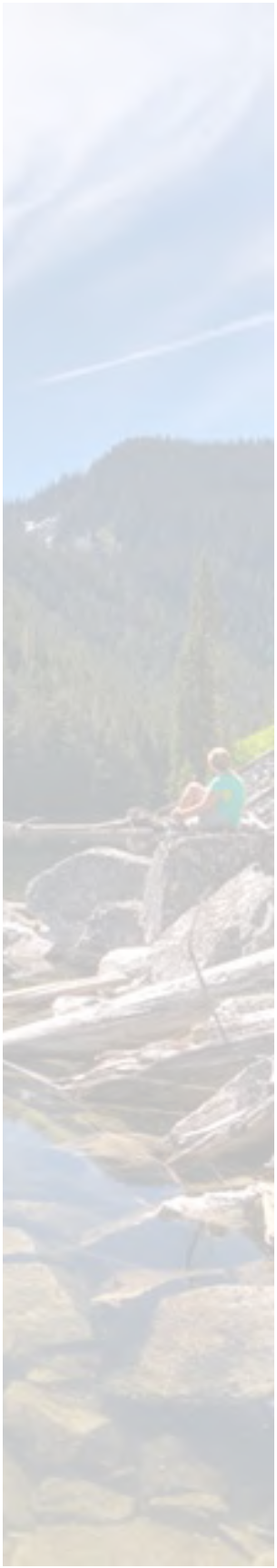
79 Survey Respondents

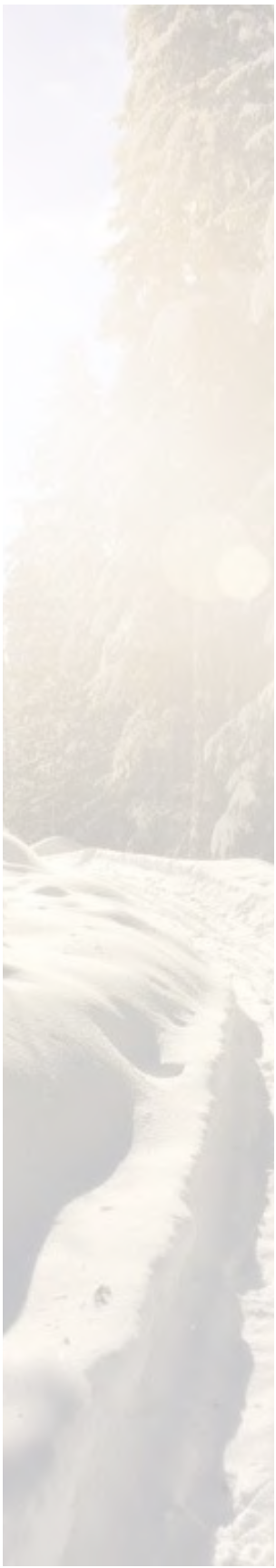
Key Findings

The following are the key findings that came out of the responses to the online survey:

- Several comments indicated a need for environmental considerations to be a key component of the trails planning process moving forward.
- The most commonly cited reason for using the trails was exercise, followed by being close to nature, and spending time outdoors with friends and family.
- The most commonly cited trails activities were: walking, day hiking, and dog walking.
- 67% of respondents felt that there are conflicts between trail user groups.
- The user groups that respondents had experienced conflicts with were: motorized users, dog walkers, and industrial use.
- 54% of respondents would like to see trails dedicated to specific uses.

- The top three trail areas that see the most frequent use (daily or 2-3 times per week) are: the Municipal Trails, the Nakusp and Slocan Rail Trail, and the Wensley Creek Trail Area.
- 55% of respondents indicated that the trails they use are in good condition, while 30% reported moderate conditions on the trails they use most frequently.
- Respondents indicated that the main trail issues for the overall trail network are: Poor signage or wayfinding, Poor (or no) staging areas, and Poor connections between trails/Trail damage from motorized users (tied).
- 78% of respondents indicated that there are not a sufficient number of barrier free/wheelchair accessible trails.
- Respondents indicated a preference for single track trails with a natural surface.
- 84% of respondents indicated that they would support trail-based events as a key tourism and economic driver in the region.
- 67% of respondents indicated that they would embrace or encourage the development of commercial or guided practices on local trails, such as a shuttle service or guided bike tours.
- The top three priorities for overall trail development and improvement identified by respondents were as follows: Install trailhead maps and signage, repair and restore trails or re-route trails, and install signage at trailhead intersections.
- The top three benefits from the Trails Strategy for British Columbia were identified as:
    - Health and Fitness
    - Environment
    - Community and Social
- 62.5% of respondents were already members of groups that contribute to the maintenance of local trails, and of those who weren't currently volunteering their time to help maintain and build trails, 70% indicated an interest in starting to.





4.0 TRAIL EVALUATION

This section of the report details the existing trail network. The existing network has been carefully evaluated, with consideration given to opportunities and constraints, trail user groups, trail areas, and trail types.

Parcel data indicating the locations of private land has been mapped and can be used as a planning tool for future trail development and management. In addition, key environmental information including Old Growth Management areas, Alluvial Fan Hazard Areas, Ungulate Winter Range Areas, and Wildlife Management Areas has been mapped in detail.

The inventory maps included in this section detail the extensive network of existing trails, including those on Crown land, and those located in Provincial Parks, Regional Parks, and Municipal Parks. Where existing trail alignments pass through private land, a right of way needs to be negotiated with the land owner or the trail needs to be deactivated.

Data for the trails inventory and mapping was collected from the following sources:

- Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR)
- Province of British Columbia
- Data BC
- Backroad Mapbooks
- Recreation Sites and Trails BC
- Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK)
- Working Committee Member Groups

While every effort has been made to gather comprehensive trail data, the mapping will need to be updated as the trail network develops. In addition, information such as parcel data will need to be periodically updated.

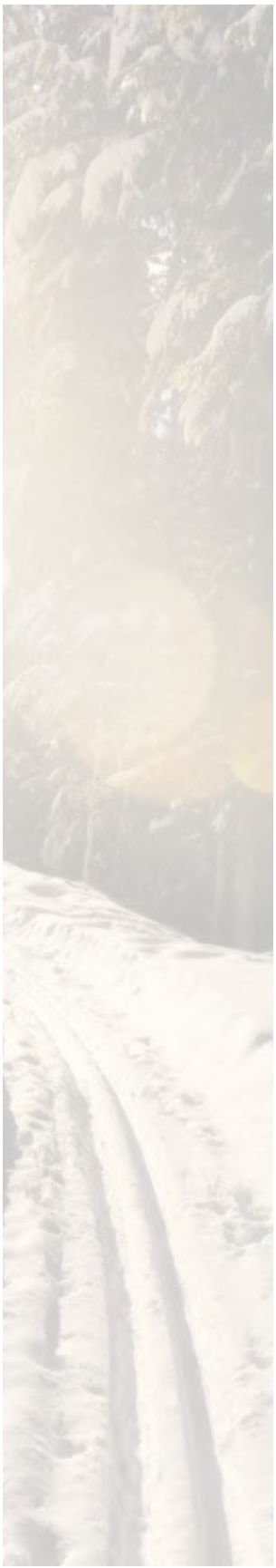
4.1 EXISTING TRAIL NETWORK OVERVIEW

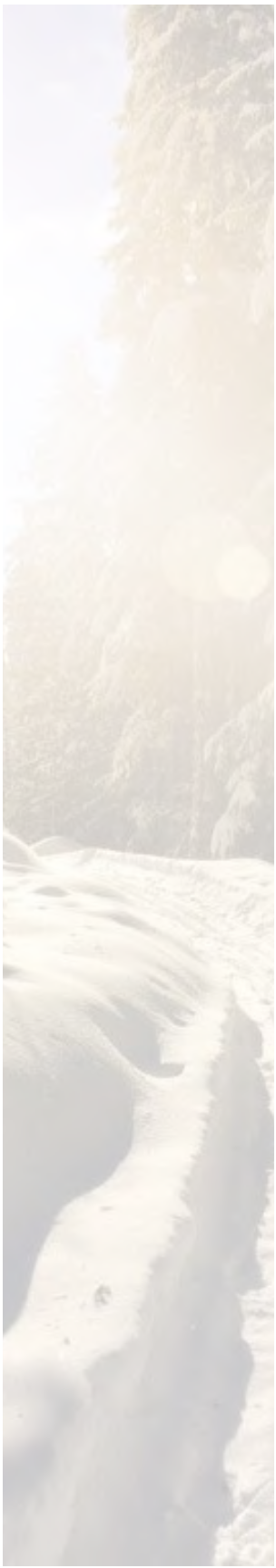
Nakusp and the surrounding areas have an extensive network of existing recreational trails and Forest Service Roads (FSRs) which provide connections between these trails and are used extensively by motorized groups.

In order to evaluate the existing trail network and usage patterns, the trail network has been broken up into 18 main Trail Areas as follows:

- Arrow Park Trail Area
- Box Lake Trail Area
- Burton Trail Area (North and South)
- Eagle Creek Trail Area
- Galena Bay Trail Area
- Hot Springs Trail Area
- Kuskanax Mountain Trail Area
- McDonald Creek Trail Area
- Mount Abriel Bike Park (Under Development)
- Municipal Trails
- Nakusp to Summit Lake Rail Trail
- Paint Lake Trail Area
- Saddle Mountain Trail Area
- Sol Mountain Trail Area
- Upper Arrow Lake Trail Area
- Vista Pass Trail Area
- Wensley Creek Trail Area
- Western Arrow Lakes Trail Area (Upper and Lower)

Note that some of these trail area names were updated following the community consultation process based on feedback received.





Designated Trail Use

The following trail designations were determined to be a good fit for the Nakusp and Arrow Lakes trail network and can be used on signage and for future trail development:

- **Shared Use**: All trail users, including motorized
- **Multi-Use** (Non-Motorized): All users except motorized

These designations have been used throughout the report and on the current mapping. Before implementation, these designations should be revisited by the Umbrella Organization to ensure a consensus is reached.

Single Use trails should also be considered where appropriate (see Trail Classifications for more detail). At the present time, only a small number of the trails being used have designated trail use and appropriate signage.

Trail Classifications

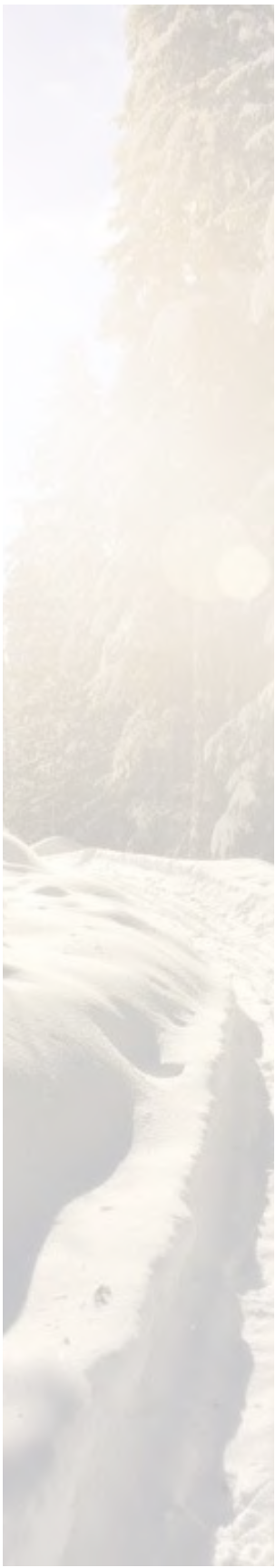
In addition to designations, the design of the trails themselves can support different types of usage. The Recreation Sites and Trails BC Draft Trail Classifications and Standards can be used as a starting point for the design and development of new trails or upgrades to existing trails. For more detail on Design Guidelines and Standards, see Section 6.4. A limited number of existing trails have been built with specific user groups in mind.

Difficulty Rating

Approximately 10% of the trails in the existing network have a difficulty rating assigned. As upgrades are made to the existing network or new trails are built, using a consistent rating system is necessary to enable trail users to make informed decisions about which trails to use. For a breakdown of the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) Difficulty Rating System, which can be used as a starting point for developing a locally relevant system, see Appendix B.

Figure 4.1 - IMBA Trail Difficulty Symbols

Difficulty Rating signage
Photo: Andrew Strain



4.2 TRAILS ON CROWN LAND

The Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan primarily addresses strategies for trails that are located on Crown land. The majority of the trails in the existing trail network are located on Crown land, and these trails are built to varying standards. In many cases old trail infrastructure is in need of replacement. It should be noted that a specific legislative framework is applicable to these existing trails and new trail development on Crown land.

Existing Legislative Framework

Authorization and Establishment Processes

The majority of trails in Area K and Nakusp are on Crown land. It is important to note that Provincial Recreation Sites and Trails on Crown land are in a working forest. These sites and trails are not in parks, and are not protected. In many cases, there are other stakeholders who have tenured rights to the site or trails.

A number of regulations apply under the *Forest Range and Practices Act (FRPA)*:

FRPA Section 57: Authorization to do work -

- Provides the authority to construct, rehabilitate, or maintain a trail on Crown land;
- Does not provide any formal tenure or rights;
- Does not provide protection.

FRPA Section 56: Establishes a Recreation Trail -

- Provides authority to establish an interpretive forest site or recreation trail;
- Objectives can be set for the site, but must be consistent with other government objectives for the area;
- Implies a higher level of protection or negotiated use;
- Provides the land manager with the authority to enter into agreements under Section 118 of the FRPA;
- Makes the land manager more responsible for the safety of the recreating public.

FRPA Section 118: Allows Ministry to enter into Partnership for Recreation Trail -

- Provides authority for a land manager to enter into an agreement to develop, maintain, repair, or close a recreation site or trail.

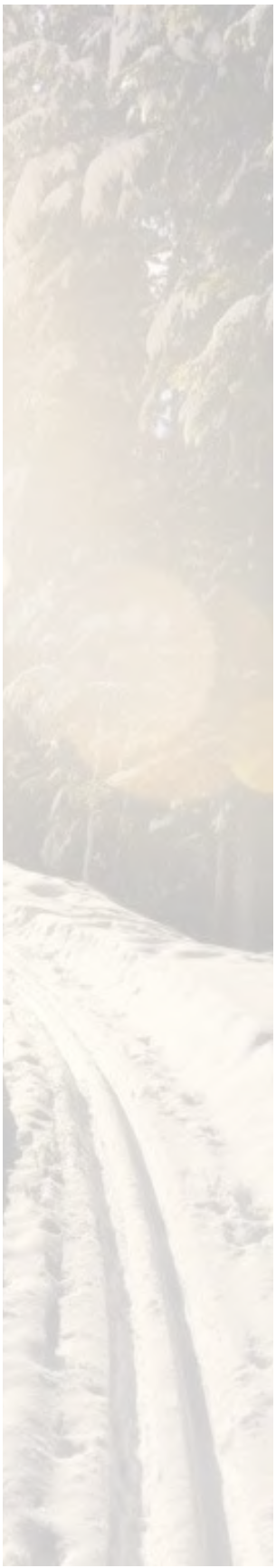
For more information on the application process and guidelines, see Appendix E.

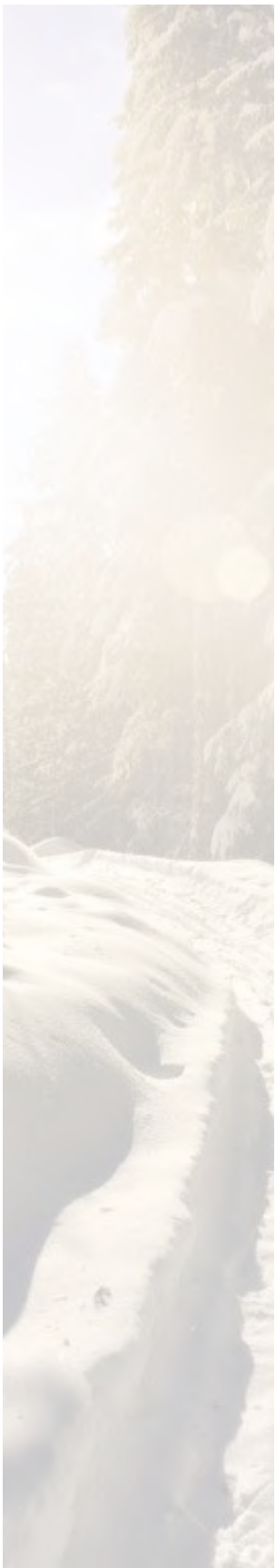
Stakeholder Input

Any authorization or establishment must pass through a referral process. It is critical that all stakeholders have their concerns evaluated and carefully reflected as a proposal is developed. This helps to build stakeholder confidence as you move toward the referral process.

The development of new trails should be done through the Section 57 authorization process. This means that all stakeholders will be notified and will have an opportunity to provide input before the proposed development goes ahead. This consultation process ensures that the proponent and stakeholder groups are able to work together to resolve any issues that arise and create a strong working relationship.

By authorizing any new trail development, this also sets up a structure that ensures the proponent is aware that they are responsible for the proper construction and ongoing maintenance of the trail.





Existing Legitimized Trails

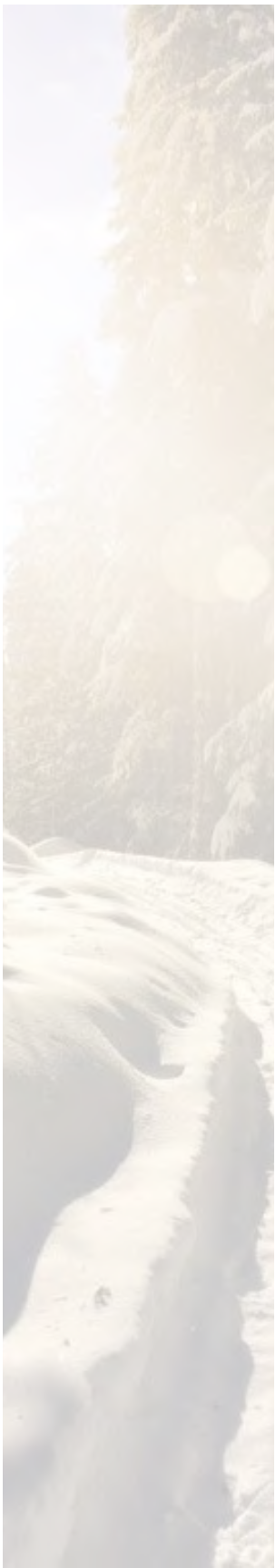
Not all of the trails in the existing network on Crown land are established or authorized under the *Forest Range and Practices Act (FRPA)*. All trails that have an assigned Rec Number have already been established or authorized, or will be in the future by the District Recreation Officer. On the following page is a list of all trails within Area K that have an assigned Rec Number. Note that not all of the trails that were identified as having a high degree of use through the community consultation process are on this list. Information on trails that are frequently used or have a high degree of importance to the community is outlined in **Section 5.3: Proposed Priorities by Trail Area**.

Please note that these Rec Numbers should be confirmed with Recreation Sites and Trails BC. Currently, there are no legally enforcable designations for these trails, but what is shown in the table are the recommended designations that can be put forward to Recreation Sites and Trails BC for the existing trails network. Further work may be needed to refine the designations moving forward.

It is recommended that the Umbrella Organization prioritize the trails and trail areas not listed on the following page for establishment or authorization through the FRPA. This prioritization should be based on the framework in **Section 4.6: Trail Land Management Framework**.

Legitimizing trails can work to ensure that all parties are aware of the existing recreational network on Crown land, and will help to facilitate dialogue between all stakeholders.

Rec Number	Trail Name	Trail Type	Trail Area	Difficulty Rating	Trail Designation
REC107076	Harlow Access Trail	RTR - Recreation Trail	Wensley Creek Trail Area		Shared Use
REC169764	Upper Half Hiking Trail	RTR - Recreation Trail	Upper Arrow Lake Trail Area		Shared Use
REC185531	Nakusp to Summit Lake Rail Trail	RTR - Recreation Trail	Box Lake Trail Area	Easy	Shared Use
REC33083	Kuskanax Mountain Trail	RTR - Recreation Trail	Kuskanax Mountain Trail Area		Shared Use
REC240511	Peter Roulston XC Trail	RTR - Recreation Trail	Hot Springs Trail Area		Multi-Use (Non-Motorized)
REC2437	Eagle Creek Trail	RTR - Recreation Trail	Eagle Creek Trail Area		Shared Use
REC2443	Saddle Mountain Lookout Trail	RTR - Recreation Trail	Saddle Mountain Trail Area	Moderate	Multi-Use (Non-Motorized)
REC2444	Hot Springs Trail	RTR - Recreation Trail	Hot Springs Trail Area	Easy/Moderate	Multi-Use (Non-Motorized)
REC2445	Kimbol Lake Trail	RTR - Recreation Trail	Hot Springs Trail Area	Easy/Moderate	Multi-Use (Non-Motorized)
REC6716	Burton Creek Trail	RTR - Recreation Trail	Burton Trail Area South		Shared Use
REC6717	Woden Creek Trail	RTR - Recreation Trail	Burton Trail Area South		Shared Use
REC6718	Londondary Trail	RTR - Recreation Trail	Burton Trail Area North		Shared Use
REC33083	Kuskanax Mountain Road	Access Road	Kuskanax Mountain Trail Area		Shared Use
REC231276	Connector	RTR - Recreation Trail	Arrow Park Trail Area	Easy	Multi-Use (Non-Motorized)
REC231276	East Beach Access	RTR - Recreation Trail	Arrow Park Trail Area	Easy	Multi-Use (Non-Motorized)
REC231276	West Beach Access	RTR - Recreation Trail	Arrow Park Trail Area	Easy	Multi-Use (Non-Motorized)
REC5039	Bluejoint - Mt Young Trail	RTR - Recreation Trail			Shared Use
REC2474	Pingston Lake Trail	RTR - Recreation Trail			Shared Use
REC4724	Monashee Creek Trails	RTR - Recreation Trail	Vista Pass Trail Area		Shared Use
REC4531	Twin Lakes	RTR - Recreation Trail	Vista Pass Trail Area		Shared Use
REC107076	Ridgeriders East Whatshan Cabin Access	RTR - Recreation Trail	Western Arrow Lakes Trail Area		Shared Use
REC107076	Access to Cedar Grove Trail	FSR	Hot Springs Trail Area		Shared Use
REC4726	Vista Pass (Pinnacles)	RTR - Recreation Trail	Vista Pass Trail Area		Shared Use
REC236340	Mark Berger Traverse	RTR - Recreation Trail	Vista Pass Trail Area		Shared Use
REC5629	Paint Lake Trail	RTR - Recreation Trail	Paint Lake Trail Area		Shared Use
REC107237	Arrow Lakes ATV Trails - Summit Lake	RTR - Recreation Trail	Burton Trail Area North		Shared Use
REC107237	Arrow Lakes ATV Trails - Burton	RTR - Recreation Trail	Burton Trail Area South		Shared Use
REC107237	Saddle Mountain Trail	RTR - Recreation Trail	Western Arrow Lakes Trail Area		Shared Use
REC2446	Cedar Grove Trail	RTR - Recreation Trail	Hot Springs Trail Area		Shared Use
REC 2129	Box Lake Loop	RTR - Recreation Trail	Box Lake Trail Area	Easy	Multi-Use (Non-Motorized)
REC 5185	Wensley Creek Cross-Country Ski Trails	Trail Area under Partnership Agreement with Rec Sites and Trails	Wensley Creek Trail Area	Varies	December 1st to April 1st: Multi-Use (Non-Motorized); trails restricted to Cross-Country skiing and snowshoeing
REC 5185	Wensley Creek Cross-Country Ski Trails	Trail Area under Partnership Agreement with Rec Sites and Trails	Wensley Creek Trail Area	Varies	Remainder of Year: Shared Use



4.3 TRAILS ON FIRST NATIONS LAND

There is evidence going back thousands of years of periodic and some permanent human habitation along the Arrow Lakes. The Arrow Lakes area was part of the traditional territory of the Sinixt or Arrow Lakes People, where they fished, hunted and gathered in addition to setting up seasonal settlements or trading centres. Much of the archaeological evidence of this is not seasonally underwater in the reservoir.

Further study is needed to develop a comprehensive understanding of First Nations interests in the existing and future trail network. Consultation with First Nations groups is necessary for future trail development. As trails are developed that share the cultural history of the area, or new signage is installed, First Nations groups should be engaged.

A Statement of Intent to negotiate a treaty for the area covered by this Trails Master Plan has been accepted by the British Columbia Treaty Commission as of April 2016. This Statement of Intent was issued by the Ktunaxa Kinbasket Treaty Council.

In addition, consultation with the Westbank First Nation is recommended.

4.4 TRAILS ON PRIVATE LAND

Some trails in the existing network infringe on private land. It is critical that trails that pass through or are located on private land either have a right of way negotiated with the landowner releasing them from liability or are deactivated. Up to date parcel fabric can be obtained from the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK), and should be used as a planning tool for the development and maintenance of the trail network. No new trail development should impact private land. See Figure 4.2 for an overview map of land ownership - note that the private land information shown on this map is current as of December 2016.

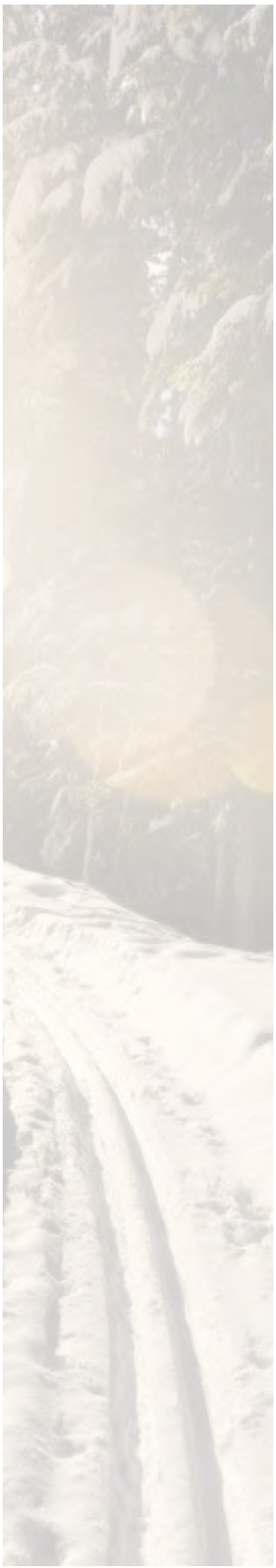
4.5 PARKS AND RECREATION SITES

Many of the trails in the region are located in Provincial Parks and Protected Areas, Recreation Sites, and Municipal Parks. An important distinction needs to be made between Provincial Parks, Protected Areas, Recreation Sites and Trails, and Municipal Parks.

Trails in Provincial Parks and protected areas are under the jurisdiction of BC Parks, and have protected status. Trails in Municipal Parks are under the jurisdiction of the local municipality (Village of Nakusp) and have protected status.

Trails located in areas designated as Recreation Sites and Trails are the responsibility of Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) and Forest, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO). Recreation Sites and Trails are defined as public campgrounds and trails located on Crown land outside of parks and settled areas. They provide recreation opportunities, generally within an integrated resource management setting, which means that the land base is managed for a variety of uses. These uses may include forestry, cattle grazing, mineral extraction, oil and gas exploration, recreation, fish and wildlife management, watershed protection, and more.

See Figure 4.3 for an overview map of parks and recreation sites.



4.6 TRAIL LAND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The following framework can be used to guide high-level decisions with regard to the management of the trail network, based on land ownership. The management of the trail network should take a holistic view that includes this framework, but also considers both cultural and ecological issues related to the development and maintenance of an effective trail network. Section 5.0: Framework for Planning and Management will cover network management in more detail.

PRIVATE LAND	CROWN LAND	PARKS
Negotiate a Right-of-Way (ROW) agreement with the landowner to maintain public trail access or deactivate trail	Evaluate whether the following applies to the trail: -Rules need to be established (Section 56) -A partnership needs to be entered into (Section 56) -Substantial maintenance needs to be undertaken, and government funds are required (Section 56) -Major repairs or maintenance to structures needs to be undertaken (Section 57) Only in these cases should an application for a Section 56 Establishment or 57 Authorization (as applicable) be submitted. It is critical to note that establishment or authorization does not equate to protection. Commercial or industrial activity may still recieve approval from the District Recreation Officer.	Trails in parks have protected status as follows: -Trails in Provincial Parks have protected status, and are under the jurisdiction of BC Parks -Trails in Municipal Parks have protected status and are under the jurisdiction of the local Municipality (Village of Nakusp)

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Land Ownership

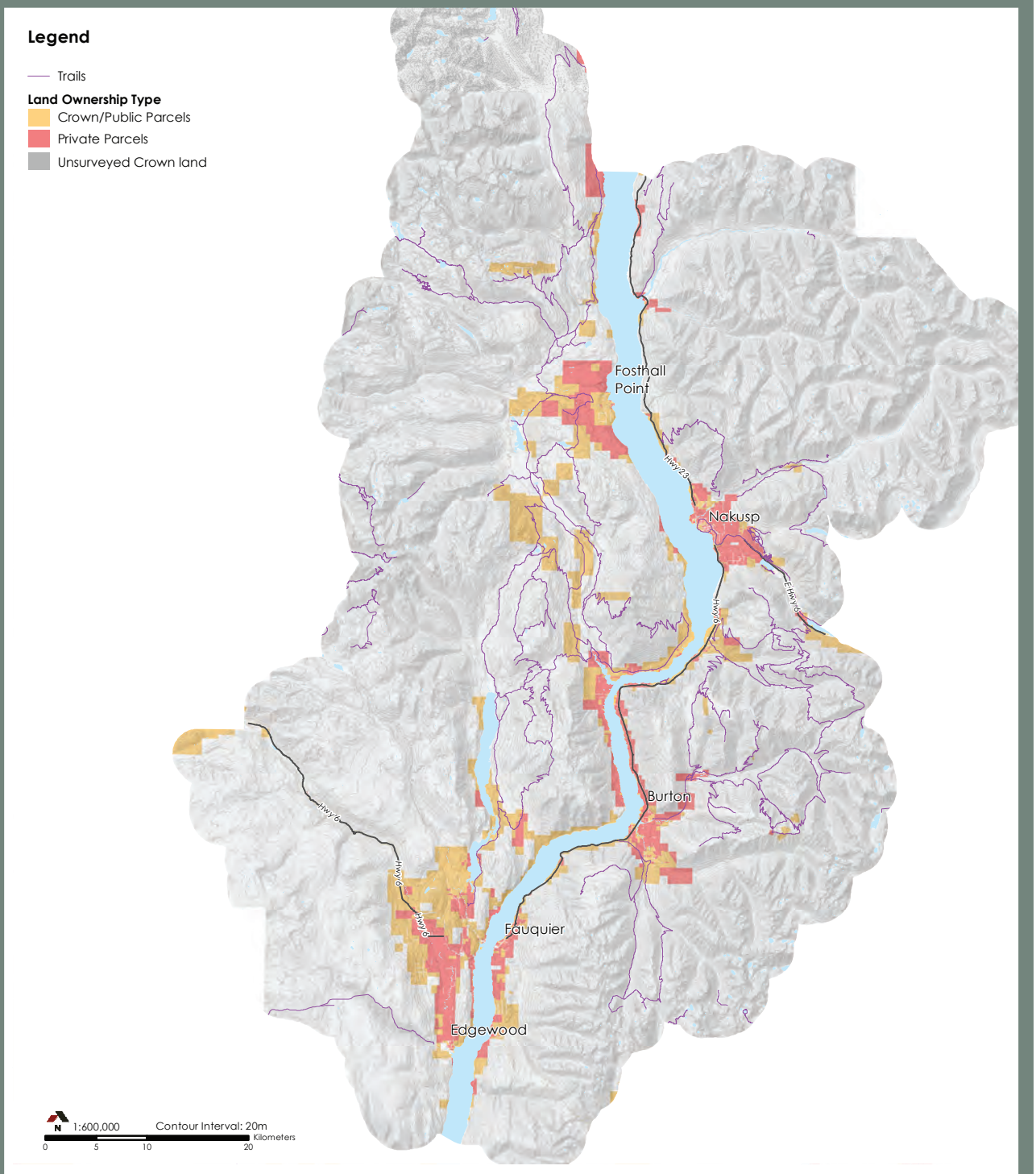


Figure 4.2 - Land Ownership Map

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Parks and Recreation Sites

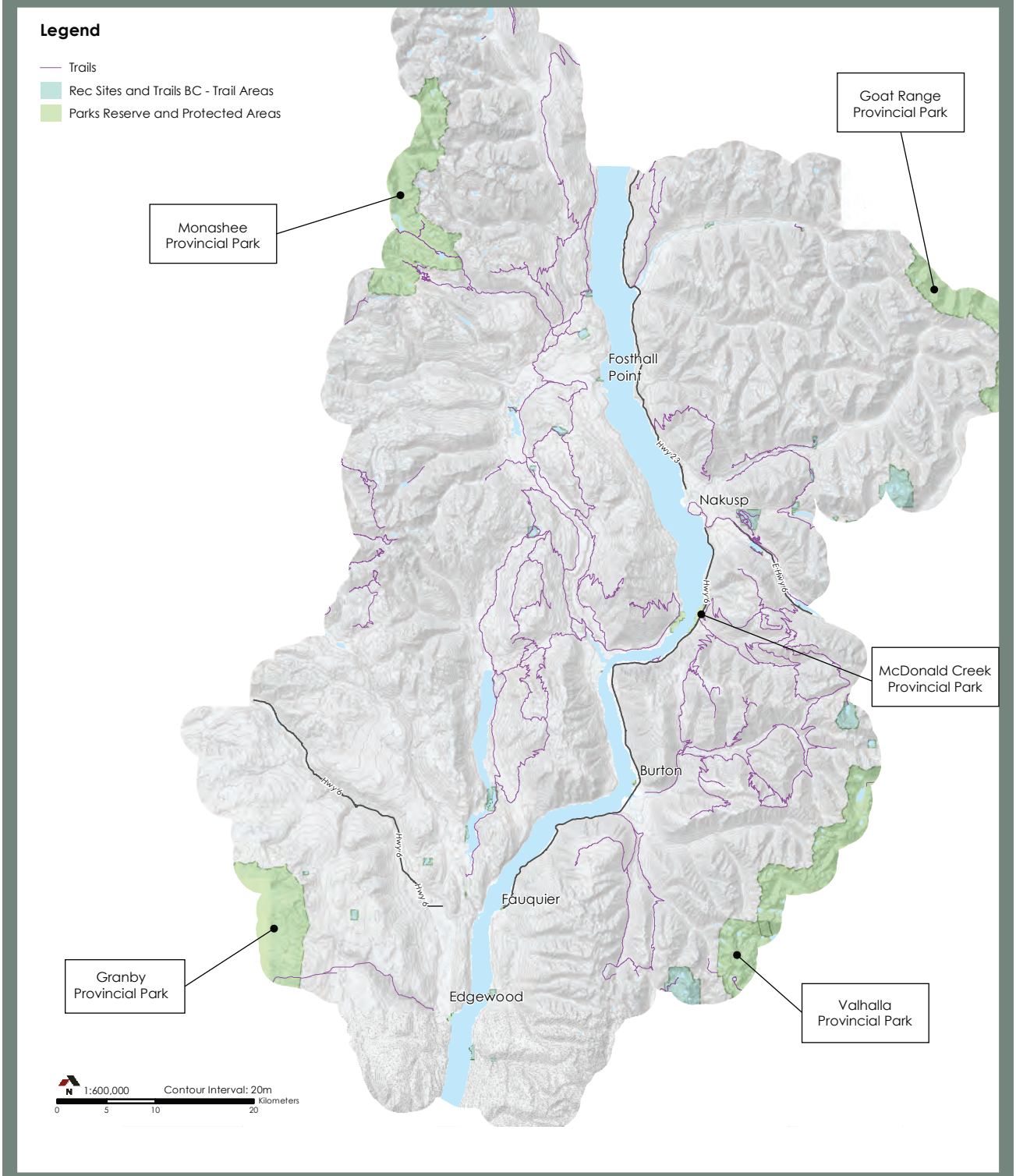
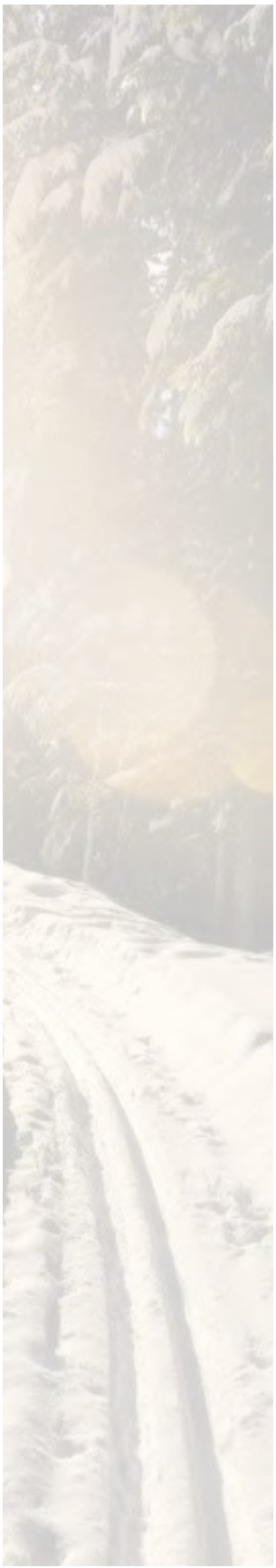


Figure 4.3 - Parks and Recreation Map

4.7 TRAILS IN ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS



Environmental considerations are critical to the development and maintenance of the trail network into the future. The following key environmental elements have been mapped:

- Alluvial Fan Hazard Areas;
- Community Watersheds;
- Old Growth Management Areas;
- Riparian Areas;
- Ungulate Winter Range;
- Wildlife Management Areas.

Additional environmental and ecological considerations should be taken into account where applicable.

Alluvial Fan Hazard Areas

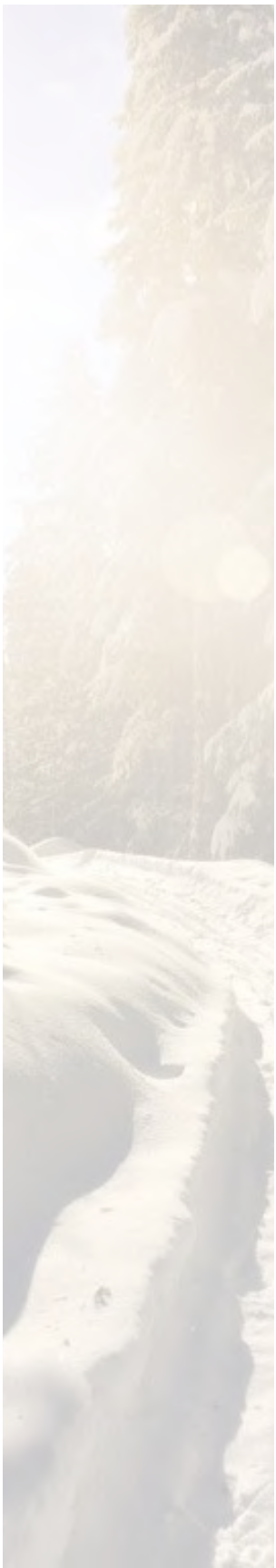
Alluvial fans are a common geographic feature in the Central Kootenays. These landforms develop downslope from the point where steep mountain streams emerge on valley bottoms. Due to their nature, alluvial fans shift over time as new debris are deposited. These areas are not suitable for trail development. The pertinent alluvial fan hazard areas are shown on the individual trail area maps in Section 5.0: Framework for Planning and Management.

Community Watersheds

See Figure 4.4

A community watershed is defined under the *Forest Range and Practices Act (FRPA)* as all or part of the drainage area that is upslope of the lowest point from which water is diverted for human consumption by a licensed waterworks.

Development within these watersheds is put to higher scrutiny since disturbances of soil can have major impacts on the quality of drinking water.



Old Growth Management Areas

See Figure 4.5

The Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) are divided into three distinct classifications based on the nature of the area of preservation. According to the Forest Practices Board report "Conserving Old Growth Forests in BC":

- A Class 1 Old Growth Management Area is an OGMA that has been spatially mapped and is legalized by order;
- Class 2 OGMAs have been mapped but have not been legalized by order;
- Class 3 OGMAs are areas of old growth management that have not been mapped.

Both legal and non-legal Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) are shown on the mapping in this report. These areas are significant for species habitats in these regions.

Riparian Areas

Riparian areas are adjacent to streams, lakes, and wetlands. These areas support a unique mix of vegetation that provide and directly influence fish habitat. Under the provincial Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR), local governments are obligated to protect these sensitive areas. Riparian areas are defined as the following: a watercourse (whether it usually contains water or not); a pond, lake, river, creek, or brook; a ditch, spring, or wetland that is connected by a surface flow to something referred to in the points above. Any future trail maintenance or development should take riparian areas into consideration.

Ungulate Winter Range

See Figure 4.6

According to the *Forest Range and Practices Act (FRPA)*, an Ungulate Winter Range (UWR) is defined as an area that contains habitat that is necessary to meet the winter habitat requirements of an ungulate species.

Wildlife Management Areas

See Figure 4.6

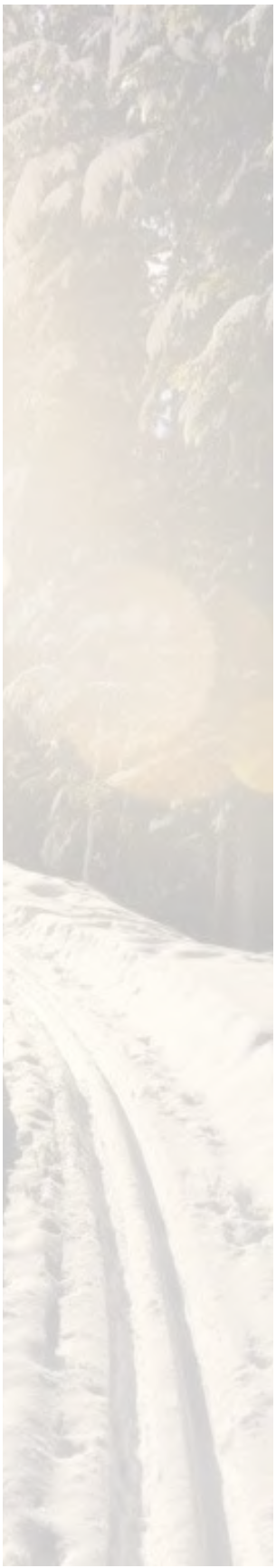
Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are the primary tool for conservation lands in British Columbia. A WMA is an area of land designated under section 4(2) of the *Wildlife Act* for the benefit of regionally to internationally significant fish and wildlife species or their habitats. Conservation and management of fish, wildlife, and their habitats is the priority in a WMA, but other compatible land uses may be accommodated.

The Hamling Lakes Wildlife Management Area, which lies to the east of Nakusp, was created for the maintenance and extension of the biological diversity of Goat Range Park. According to the Ministry of the Environment, this WMA is part of the documented core range of the blue-listed (vulnerable) Woodland Caribou. It also provides important movement corridors and habitat for other blue-listed species including Grizzly Bear, Wolverine, Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron, American Bittern, American Avocet, Lark Sparrow and Lewis' Woodpecker.

Alpine Areas

See Figure 1.3

Alpine areas can be found above 2000 meters, and have unique characteristics that merit protection. These areas provide important habitat. Vegetative cover includes stunted trees, mountain heather, and wildflowers. Any trail development in alpine areas should be carefully considered to minimize impacts.



Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Community Watersheds

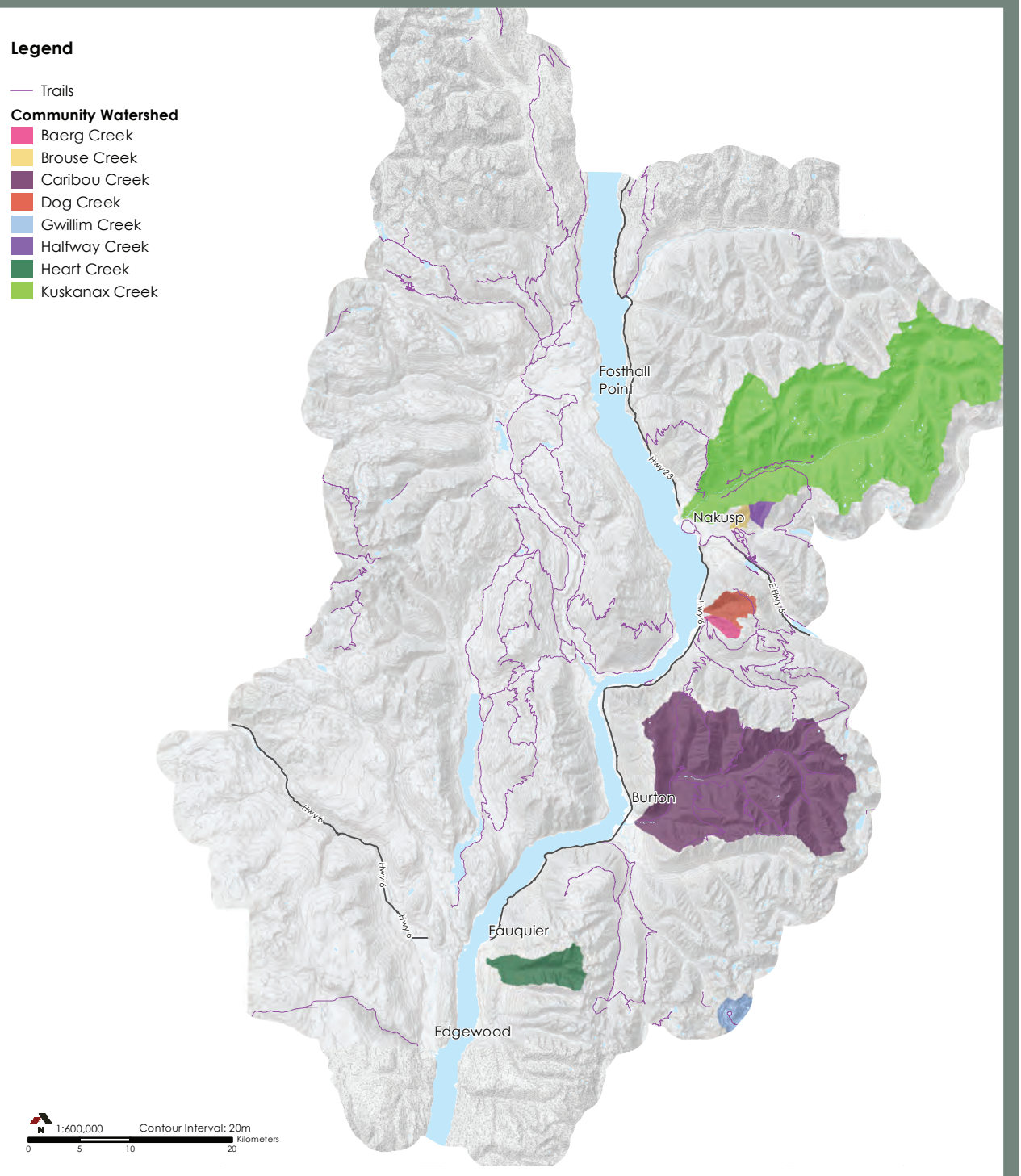


Figure 4.4 - Community Watersheds Map

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Old Growth Management Areas

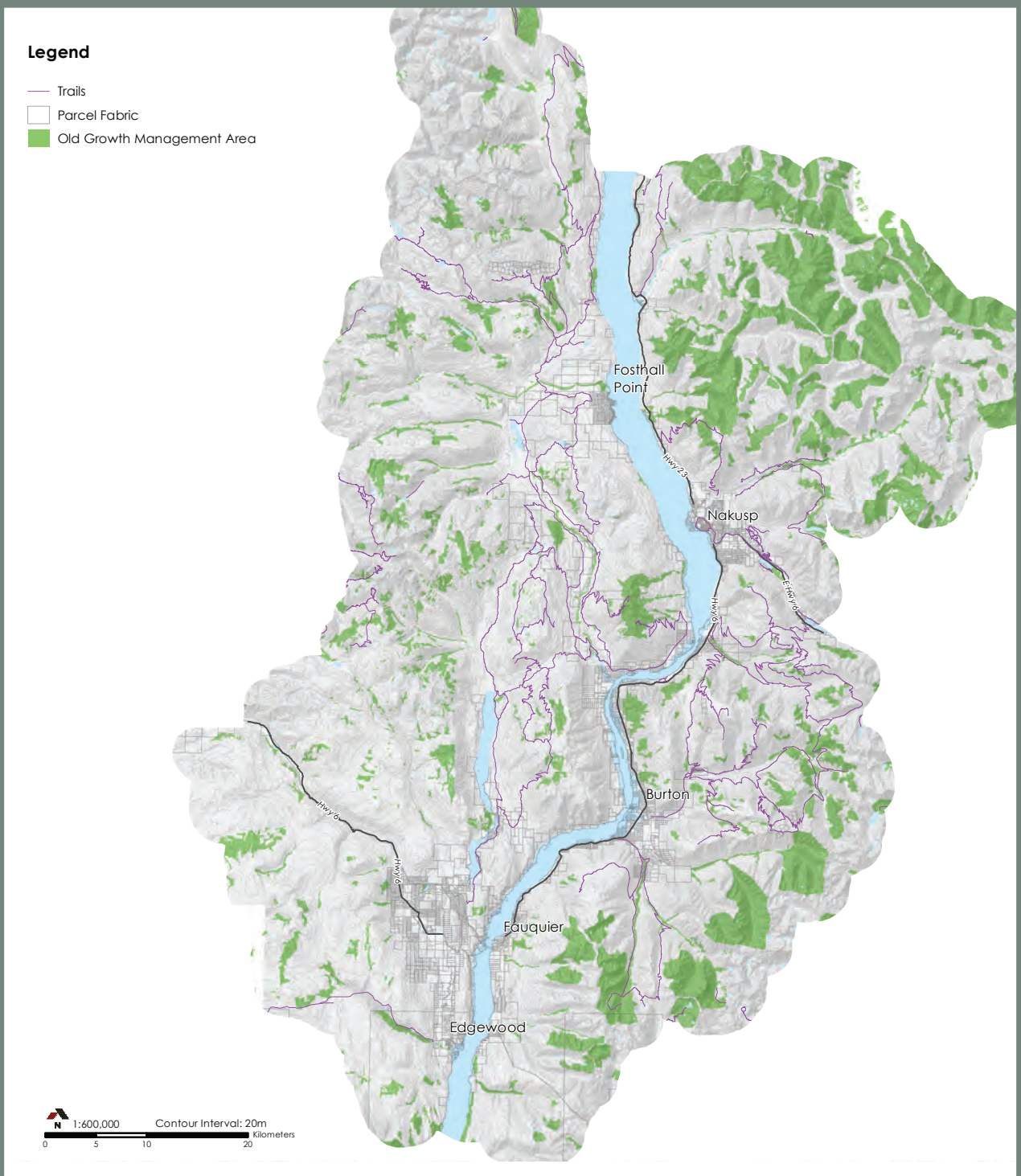


Figure 4.5 - Old Growth Management Areas Map

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Winter Range & Management Areas

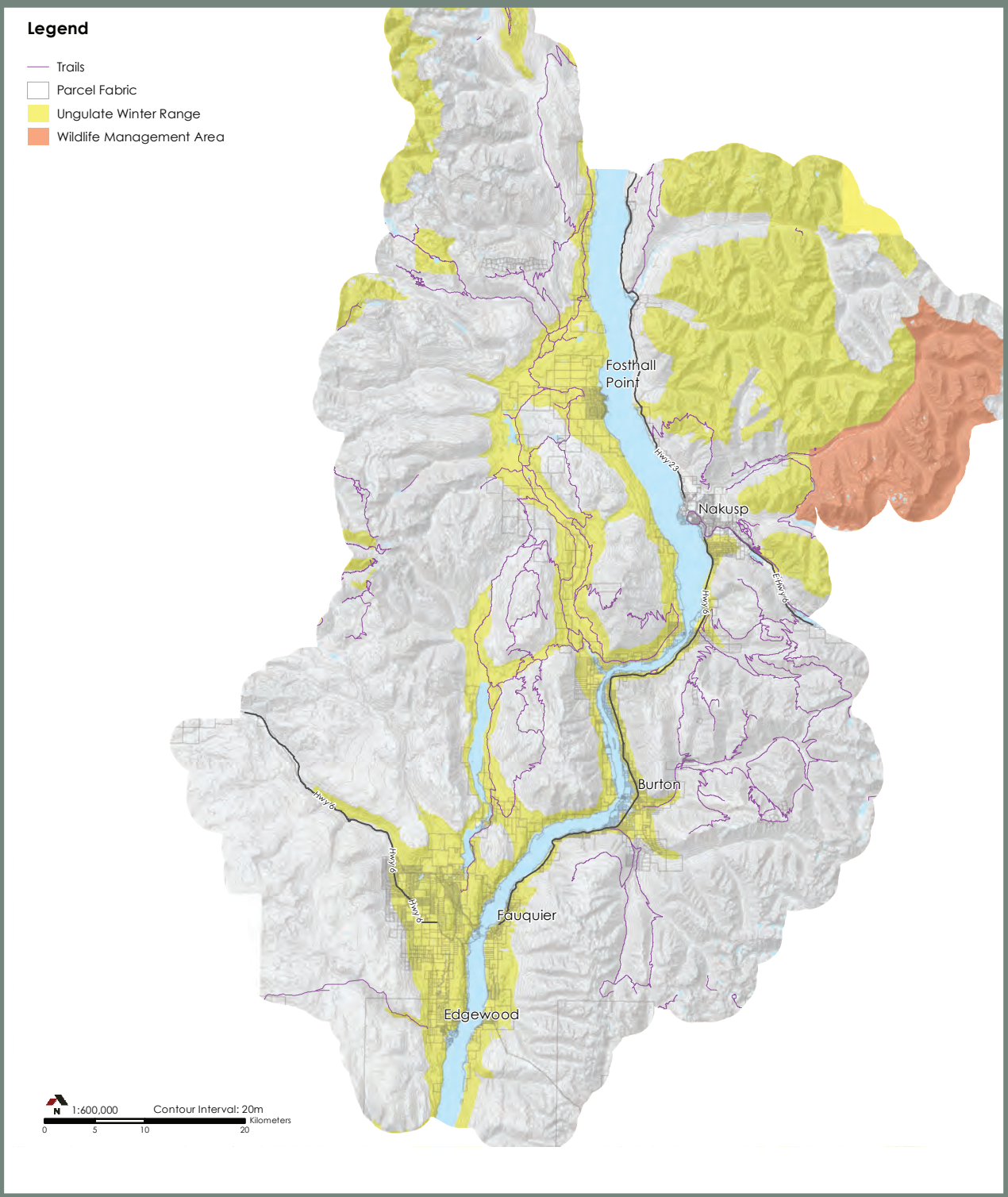


Figure 4.6 - Winter Range & Management Areas Map

Reflections on a calm lake
Photo: Nakusp and Area Community Trails Society

5.0 FRAMEWORK FOR PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

This section of the report identifies priorities and recommendations that will enable the Nakusp and Arrow Lakes trails network to support the established community goals and objectives.

The first portion covers priorities and recommendations for the network as a whole, which is followed by more detailed text on individual trail areas.

5.1 OVERALL TRAIL NETWORK

During the development of this Trails Master Plan, recommendations were developed for four key areas:

- Future Management and Development;
- Design Guidelines and Classifications;
- Signage Standards;
- Community Outreach, Education, and Advocacy.

These recommendations will be prioritized in Section 7.0: Implementation Plan.

Exploring the local trails
Photo: Arrow Lakes ATV Club

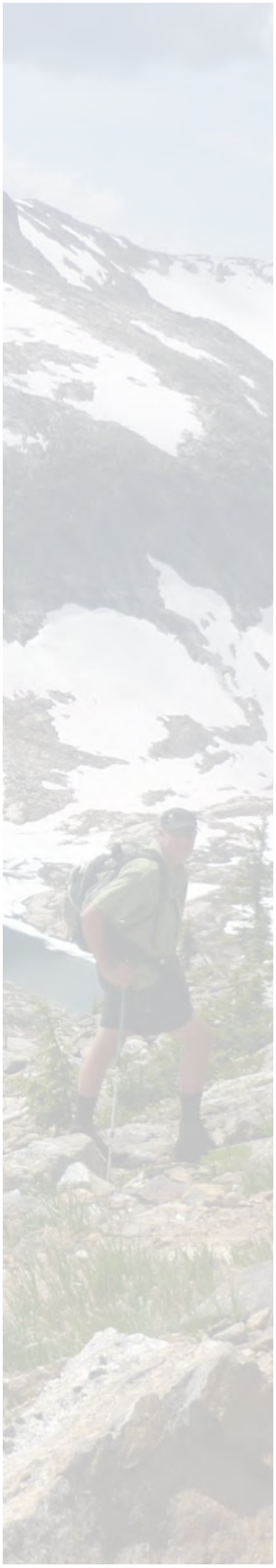
Future Management and Development

This section covers recommendations related to mapping and communication, tourism and economic benefits, maintenance and development, and planning and management. These recommendations are prioritized by implementation timeline in Section 7.0: Implementation Plan.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were developed in conjunction with the Working Committee and informed by the public input received during the public consultation process:

- Mapping and Communication:
    - Establish an Umbrella Organization, which will streamline communication and the flow of information while contributing to a cohesive vision for the Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Trails Network that represents all user groups;
    - Create a website for the Umbrella Organization, which will act as an information hub;
    - Create a Trails App, which will ensure mapping stays current and will help to raise funds for the local trails network;
    - Improve access to trails information, through the use of the umbrella organization website and access to better mapping (both paper and digital);
    - Continually maintain and upgrade the trails map base.
- Tourism and Economic Benefits:
    - Support the development of a variety of recreational experiences to encourage the natural growth of tourism and benefit the local economy;
    - Support the promotion of the local trails network as a destination;
    - Encourage the development of ecotourism with an outdoor recreation focus, striking a balance between recreation opportunities and the protection of the environment.



- Maintenance and Development:
    - Develop a strategic plan for trail maintenance, improvements, and development based on the user groups at different trail areas;
    - Develop a strategic plan for desired linkages, which can be used to guide future trail development;
    - Develop and prioritize points of interest throughout the trail network, drawing on cultural and natural history;
    - Work with other Electoral Areas, and trails groups in other areas on the development of key trail linkages;
    - Work with trail stakeholders and the Village of Nakusp to explore any opportunities for developing motorized trails and staging areas from the Village of Nakusp, but outside the municipal boundary to respect the existing bylaws;
    - Improve staging opportunities, including trailhead kiosks and parking;
    - Work with motorized use stakeholders to develop motorized staging areas throughout the trail network;
    - Work with equestrian stakeholders to develop equestrian staging areas throughout the trail network;
    - Partner with local industry where possible on improvements to the trail network (e.g. viewpoints) and access to trails;
    - Add benches and stopping points throughout the trail network as needed;
    - Design and develop loop trails close to communities, with a focus on accessiblity.
- Planning and Management:
    - Ensure new trail development occurs through the Crown land legitimization process, and continue to work closely with Recreation Sites and Trails BC;
    - Explore a fee-based system for certain trails or amenities as a way of generating revenue for the maintenance of the trail network;
    - Take into consideration ecologically and environmentally sensitive areas when planning for future trail development.

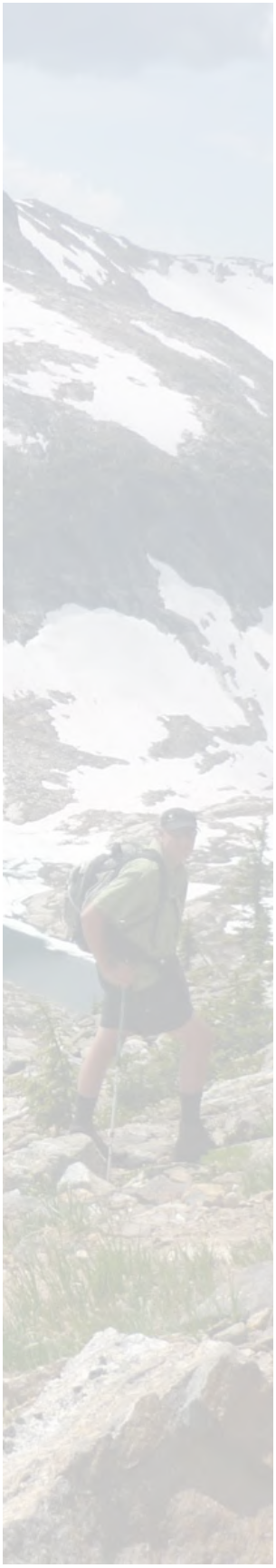
Design Guidelines and Classifications

This section covers trail usage (designations and classifications), as well as the physical design of the trails themselves. These recommendations are prioritized by implementation timeline in Section 7.0: Implementation Plan.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were developed in conjunction with the Working Committee and informed by the public input received during the public consultation process:

- Adopt the following trail designations for new trail development: Shared Use and Multi-Use (Non-Motorized)*;
- Adopt user-group specific designations and classifications where appropriate in the design and development of new trails;
- Work as a group to determine appropriate uses of the Multi-Use (Non-Motorized) trails and ensure that this is reflected on signage at the trailheads;
- Adopt the Recreation Sites and Trails BC Trail Classification and Standards;
- Ensure new trails are built to standards and are legitimized through the *Forest Range and Practices Act (FRPA)*;
- Develop new loop trails that are built to accessible standards;
- Develop new trails that are designed with specific user groups in mind to provide high-quality trail experiences.



**These trail designations were determined in conjunction with the Working Committee and presented during the public consultation process. Prior to implementation, it is recommended that these be revisited by the Umbrella Organization to ensure consensus.*

Signage Standards

This section covers recommendations related to signage throughout the trail network, including high level strategies and specific development objectives. These recommendations are prioritized by implementation timeline in Section 7.0: Implementation Plan.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were developed in conjunction with the Working Committee and informed by the public input received during the public consultation process:

- Standards and Strategies:
    - Collaborate with applicable government, including Recreation Sites and Trails BC and the Village of Nakusp to develop and implement a comprehensive signage and wayfinding strategy that follows Recreation Sites and Trails BC signage and wayfinding guidelines and standards;
    - Ensure that this signage and wayfinding strategy provides a framework for signage throughout the network that is consistent, colour-coded, and easy to understand;
    - Work as a group to determine the difficulty ratings for trails in the network that do not currently have ratings and ensure that this is reflected on signage at trailheads.
- Development and Installation:
    - Provide educational and interpretive information on natural and cultural history throughout the trail network, where appropriate;
    - Engage local artists where possible to share natural and cultural history through unique signage on interpretive trails;
    - Focus efforts on the development of kiosks at key trail staging areas;
    - Install advanced "turn off" signage on driving routes to trailheads.

See Section 6.4: Design Guidelines and Classifications, as well as Appendix D: Signage Standards for more detailed information.

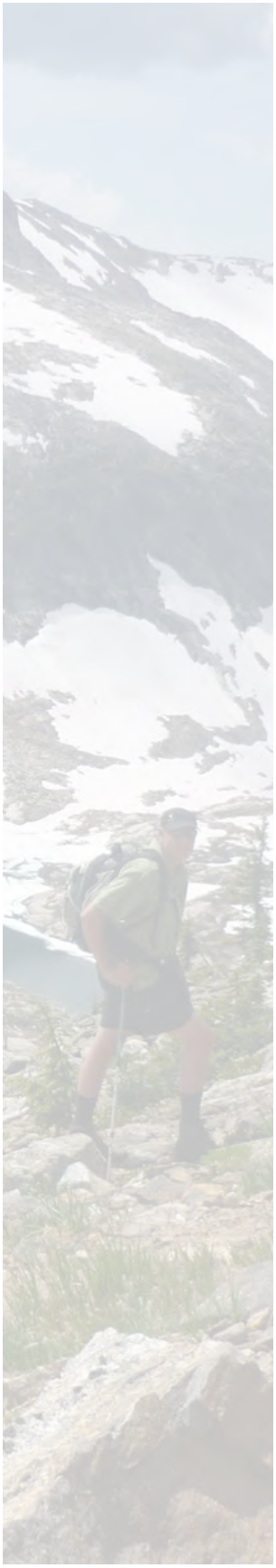
Community Outreach, Education, and Advocacy

This section covers recommendations related to volunteer recognition and trail crews, events, communication, and education. These recommendations are prioritized by implementation timeline in Section 7.0: Implementation Plan.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were developed in conjunction with the Working Committee and informed by the public input received during the public consultation process:

- Volunteer Recognition and Trail Crews:
    - Work with local businesses and stakeholders to ensure that volunteers are adequately recognized for their efforts (Develop a strategy for volunteer recognition);
    - Use grant funding or donations to hire paid trail crew members for specific projects to help mitigate volunteer burnout and provide local employment opportunities;
    - Identify and apply for grant funding that will enable the hiring of paid youth trail crew members by the summer of 2018.;
    - Create a youth outreach strategy, and encourage the younger population to volunteer on trail maintenance;
    - Secure insurance that will indemnify trail volunteers from liability and create a means of keeping detailed records on all trail work completed by volunteers.
- Events:
    - Work with local business and stakeholders to undertake education-based events on the trails and to participate in trail promotion activities;
    - Support trails events that will bring money into the local economy.



- Communication:
    - Use accepted standards as a guide for developing a locally relevant "Trail Code of Ethics" that encompasses all user groups;
    - Advocate for effective communication between government, industry, and recreational users, particularly in regard to the de-activation of resource roads.
- Education:
    - Partner with local stakeholder organizations on the design and development of trails or trail elements that will support outdoor education objectives;
    - Create an education strategy that will support links to the local curriculum, and provide a framework for educating trail users on communication between user groups, stewardship, and wildlife conservation;

Hairpin Way at Wensley Creek
Photo: Julia Burger / ALCCSC

Hiking to the Saddle Mountain lookout
Photo: Little Mountain Outdoor Gear

5.2 POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Through the development of this Trails Master Plan, a number of gaps and opportunities in the existing trail network were identified.

With a wide range of Shared Use and Multi-Use (Non-Motorized) trails in the existing network, it is recommended that future development focus on the following elements which have been specifically identified.

The addition of these trails and trail elements has the potential to benefit local trail users and provide economic opportunity for Nakusp and the surrounding communities.

Due to both capital and maintenance costs, it is recommended that these potential development opportunities be carefully evaluated, prioritized, and implemented in phases.

Linkages

The following potential linkages were identified by the Working Committee and the community consultation process:

- Links between the Municipal Rail Trail, the Nakusp to Summit Lake Rail Trail, and the Slocan Valley Rail Trail;
- Motorized loop trails in Area K connecting to motorized trails in Area H;
- A Multi-Use (Non-Motorized) trail connection between the Village of Nakusp and the Hot Springs;
- A mountain bike trail or trails connecting the campground at McDonald Creek Provincial Park to Summit Lake, continuing to Box Lake and the mountain bike trails there;
- A Multi-Use (Non-Motorized) trail connecting the Box Lake trails to the Hot Springs Trail.
- A long-distance trail connecting Edgewood to Renata.

Further research is needed to determine the feasibility of each of these linkages and prioritize them. It is imperative that new trail development only take place on Crown land, through the appropriate legitimization process, and not impact private land.

Points of Interest

Hot Springs Source

The Village of Nakusp has expressed interest in developing an interpretive site at the Hot Springs Source. Situated in between the Hot Springs Trail and the start of the Kimbol Lake Trail, the source has an interesting history and the potential to enrich the cultural trail experience. The umbrella organization could partner with the Village of Nakusp to explore and develop this opportunity.

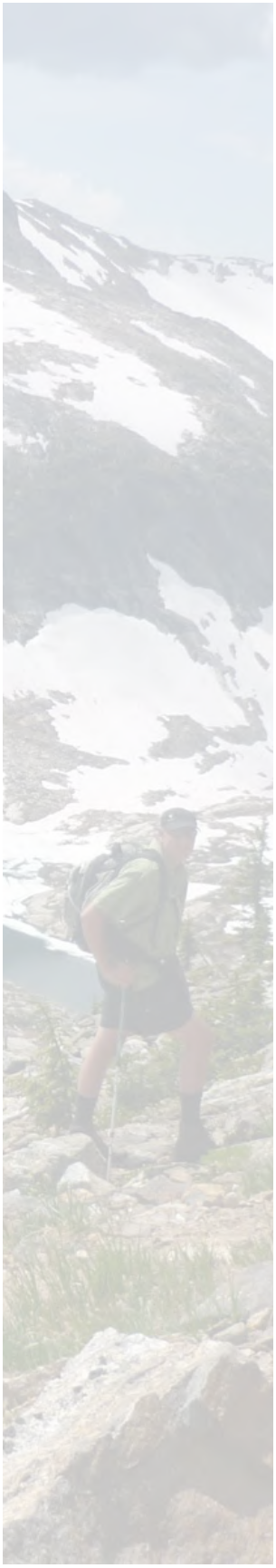
The original hot springs cabins at the source
Photo: Nakusp Hot Springs

Former Industrial Sites

There are numerous former industrial sites throughout the trail network, including former mines and quarries. Many of these already function as points of interest, particularly for motorized users, but they could become a celebrated part of the trail network through the use of interpretive signage.

Key Viewpoints and Heights of Land

There are a number of established viewpoints in the existing trail network, including Vicky's View and the view from the former Fire Lookout atop Saddle Mountain. Going forward, consideration should be given to developing stopping points along new trails where interesting or compelling views exist.



Accessible Loop Trails

Throughout the consultation process, a desire was expressed for loop trails that are accessible to trail users with mobility restrictions as well as mothers with strollers. 78% of community survey respondents indicated that there are not sufficient accessible trail options in Nakusp and the Arrow Lakes Region. Grade, surfacing, and width are key considerations in the design of accessible trails.

Accessible or universal trails should be designed to meet the Type I trail specification outlined in Section 6.4: Design Guidelines and Classification System. A surfacing material such as asphalt or crushed aggregate should be used, and the grade should be an average of 0-4%. These standards provide a smooth and even grade that is suitable for all users including people in wheelchairs, using scooters, walkers, and parents with strollers who may otherwise be unable to enjoy a forest environment. These loop trails can be developed in phases, with the goal of having loop trails of various distances. Signage should inform trail users of the time to complete the trails to provide them with options.

Accessible loop trails should be developed near existing communities and in areas where appropriate parking and staging facilities exist or can be developed. In addition, consideration should be given to selecting areas with points of interest for development.

Accessible lake lookout
Photo: Cariboo Regional District

Motorized Loop Trails

ATV'ing and dirtbiking are popular in Nakusp and the Arrow Lakes region. For many trail users, as they age, ATV'ing becomes a way to explore more terrain in a physically accessible manner. In the wintertime, snowmobiling is popular in this region.

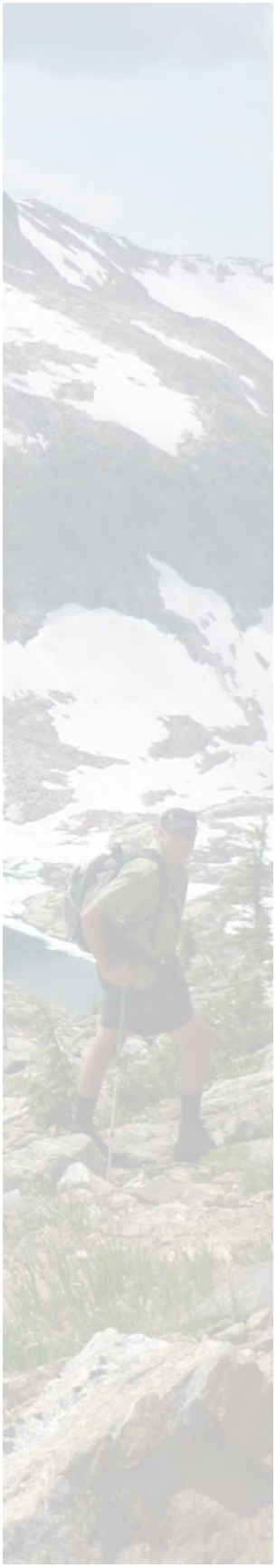
The umbrella organization should identify and prioritize locations for the development of loop trails specifically for motorized use. Old Forest Service Roads (FSRs) are well-suited to this type of development.

Equestrian Trails

There is a long history of equestrian trail use in the Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Region. There are a number of developed trails in this area suitable for equestrian use, but the potential exists for improvements to existing trails and the development of trails specifically for equestrian use. The development of long-distance alpine trails with staging at appropriate intervals is desirable and could become a tourism draw. It is recommended that the Umbrella Organization work closely with the Arrow Lakes Saddle Club and the Horse Council of BC to identify, prioritize, and develop new equestrian trails.

Destination Mountain Biking Trails

Mountain biking tourism is steadily growing across the province of British Columbia, and offers the potential to create economic opportunity and jobs within Nakusp and in the surrounding area. The Mount Abriel Bike Park is currently under development with the goal of improving and promoting cycling in Area K. The vision for this project is a variety of mountain bike trails and facilities that support riders of all levels and types. This new bike park has the potential to make this area a mountain biking destination, while also supporting Multi-Use (Non-Motorized) recreational opportunities including hiking, running, water-based activities, and camping.



Staging Points and Hubs

In addition to the development of trails and points of interest, a need for improved staging and trail hubs was expressed both by the Working Committee and through the consultation process. The following facilities can be developed at trailhead hubs: signage kiosks, washroom facilities (or outhouses), parking with staging areas for trailers and loading ramps for motorized vehicles (where permitted), water fountains, trash/recycling receptacles, and picnic tables.

At a minimum, parking, signage, outhouses, and trash receptacles should be included at staging points.

Due to the capital and maintenance costs, phased implementation of staging points should be considered. The following were identified as locations where staging (or improvements to existing staging) is needed during the consultation process:

- Motorized staging from the Village of Nakusp municipal boundary;
- From Burton;
- From Edgewood;
- At the Halfway River FSR, accessing the Upper Arrow Lakes Trail Area;
- At Box Lake;
- West side of Arrow Lakes via the Arrow Park Ferry - a staging area is needed close to the junction of Saddle Mountain Road and Stevens Road at the ferry area;
- Staging area at Slewskin Road and Highway 6;
- Staging area at the Summit Lake FSR and Highway 6;
- Staging area at Wilson Lake/Wensley FSR.

Further evaluation is needed to determine the feasibility of each of these potential staging points and prioritize them for phased implementation. Additional staging points should be considered as required.

Forest Canopy
Photo: Village of Nakusp

5.3 PROPOSED PRIORITIES BY TRAIL AREA

In order to create a detailed strategic management approach, the existing trail network was divided into individual trail areas which represent high concentrations of existing trails. These trail areas represent a key planning tool in the development of this Trails Master Plan.

The following section of the report details the priorities that are specific to each of the identified Trail Areas. These priorities are reflective of the unique characteristics and use patterns specific to the individual areas. They have been developed in conjunction with the Working Committee and informed by the community consultation process.

In addition, each Trail Area section details characteristics, applicable management and legislative information, as well as opportunities and constraints.

For an overview of the geographic location of each of the trail areas, refer to Figure 5.1.

It is important to note that some trail users, including ATV riders and snowmobilers use Forest Service Roads (FSRs) as their main trails. The FSRs highlighted on the mapping in this section were submitted by the Arrow Lakes ATV Club, and mark the most popular FSRs for motorized use. In addition, snowmobilers are not limited to trails in the same way that other users are, and cover large areas in the wintertime. Staging areas for motorized use should take all motorized user groups into account, and consider both summer and winter use.

In some cases, there may be a gap between the data shown on the following maps and existing infrastructure such as the placement of recreation points. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the mapping. An online trails hub or website can be used in the future to gather real-time information from trail users as the network evolves and changes.

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Trail Areas

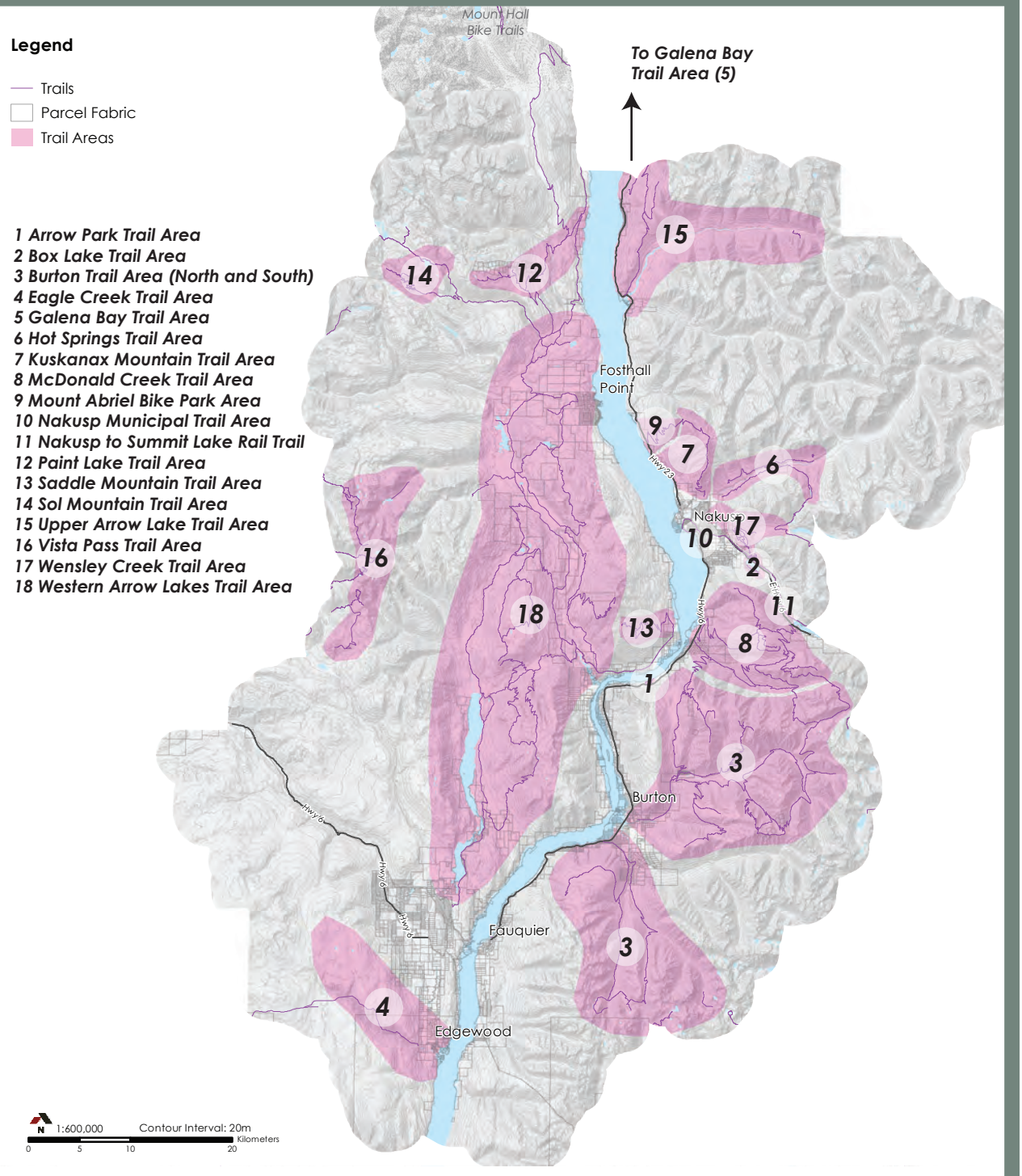


Figure 5.1 - Trail Areas Overview Map

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Arrow Park Trail Area

Figure 5.2 - Arrow Park Trail Area Map

BHA
BRENT HARLEY & ASSOCIATES

Arrow Park Trail Area

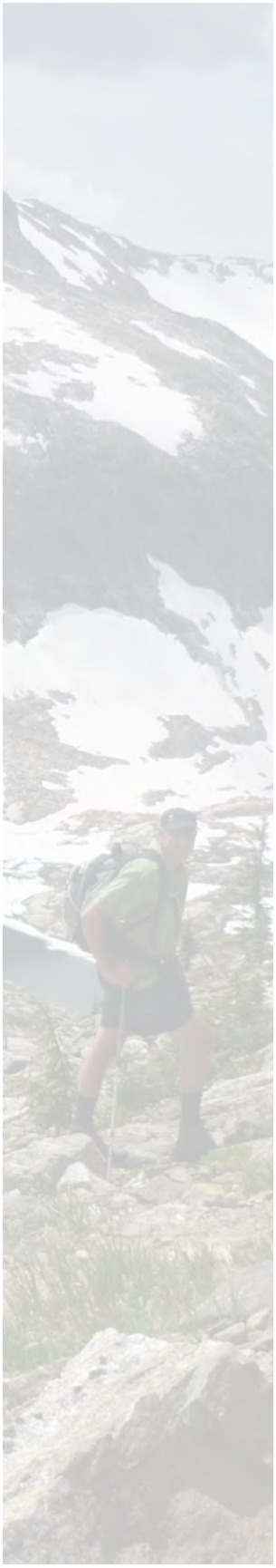
Area Character

The Arrow Park Trail Area is located on the eastern shore of Upper Arrow Lake, off of Highway 6. It is located between the communities of Nakusp and Edgewood.

The Arrow Park Trail is an easily accessible walking trail with beach access and picnic sites for day users that was developed by NACFOR. The trail traverses through moderately rolling terrain and mature forest that was selectively logged between 1900 and 1940, and is now part of the working community forest. It traverses through several small harvested openings, which provides trail users with an opportunity to better understand managed forests and the reforestation process.

The Arrow Park Trail Area can be easily accessed from Highway 6, with parking located adjacent to the highway. Due to its location between the highway and the lakeshore, this trail area is cut off from other existing trail areas.

The beach access trail is designated for hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. This area is also used for geocaching In addition there is lakeside camping, and there are opportunities for water-based recreation such as canoeing.



Status

There is an existing NACFOR tenure in this trail area, with some patches of forest slated for harvest.

The trails in this area are under Rec #231276, and are designated as Multi-Use (Non-Motorized).

Opportunities and Constraints

The Arrow Park Trail has the potential to function as an excellent educational resource for School District 10 due to its accessibility and proximity to Nakusp and Edgewood schools.

Future trail development in this area will need to take into consideration harvest plans.

This area has significant wildlife habitat use. It is an important winter range for ungulate species and has abundant nesting features along the lake shore (NACFOR). Wildlife tree retention areas and mature forest leave areas work to protect habitat areas. Future trail development will need to take into account important habitat areas and values.

Recommended Priorities

- Support educational objectives through the use of interpretive signage and gathering spaces for teachers and students.
- Support water-based recreation opportunities.

Ferry crossing from Needles to Fauquier
Photo: Andrew Strain

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Box Lake Trail Area

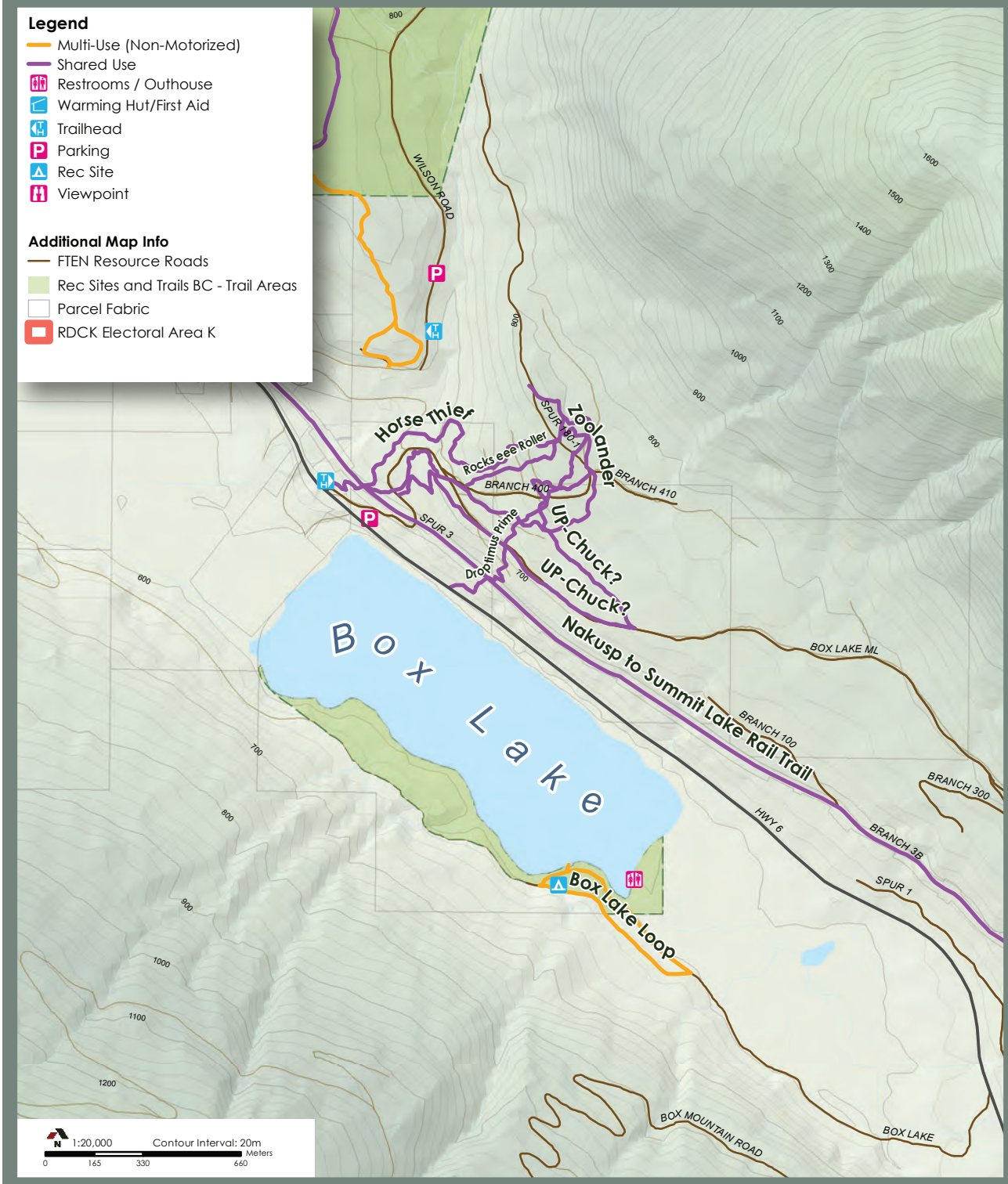


Figure 5.3 - Box Lake Trail Area Map

Box Lake Trail Area

Area Character

The Box Lake Trail Area is located along the Nakusp to Summit Lake Rail Trail. It includes an established Recreation Sites and Trails BC Rec Site, which is operated by the Nakusp and Area Community Trails Society. Accessible from Highway 6, there is a parking and staging area off of the Box Lake Forest Service Road.

The primary user groups at the Box Lake Trail Area are mountain bikers, hikers, cross-country skiers, ATV riders, and dirt bikers. Most of the trails in this area are used for mountain biking, with a number of intermediate and advanced trails. There is currently one beginner trail.

The Box Lake Loop Trail provides a gentle walk or moderate cycle through a second growth cedar and hemlock forest, starting at the camping area on the shores of the lake.

The lake itself provides opportunities for canoeing and fishing. There are established facilities, including a boat launch, picnic tables, toilets, and wharfs.

Status

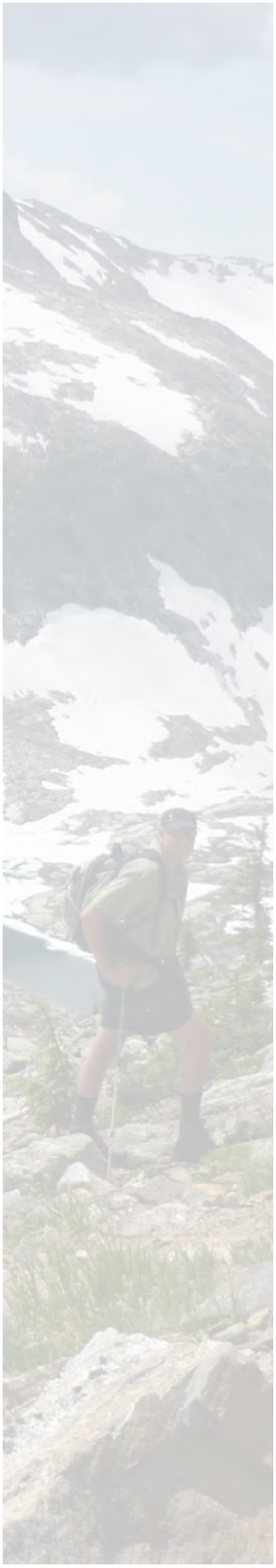
The following trails in this area have assigned Rec Numbers:

- Box Lake Loop (Rec #2129 - Rec Site number)
- Nakusp to Summit Lake Rail Trail (Rec #185531)

Opportunities and Constraints

The location of the Box Lake Trail Area on the Nakusp to Summit Lake Rail Trail provides an opportunity for long distance connections to other trail areas.

The terrain around the Box Lake Trail Area is well suited to the development of additional biking trails. There is potential to plan a mountain bike trail that would connect the McDonald Creek campground to Summit Lake, continuing on to Box Lake and the existing network of mountain biking trails.



The west side of Box Lake has parcels of private land, which restricts trail development in some areas. Further research needs to be conducted on the First Nations presence on the northwest side of the lake. In the future, this could represent an opportunity for partnerships and interpretive sites.

Priorities

- Work with mountain bike stakeholders and Recreation Sites and Trails BC to determine if Rec Numbers need to be secured for the bike trails in the area;
- Work with mountain bike stakeholders to determine the feasibility of new bike trails and linkages;
- Improve signage and wayfinding as needed (including where the Zoolander mountain bike trail crosses the Nakusp to Summit Lake Rail Trail).

Camping at the Box Lake Recreation Site
Photo: Recreation Sites and Trails BC

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Burton Trail Area (North)

Figure 5.4 - Burton Trail Area (North) Map

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Burton Trail Area (South)

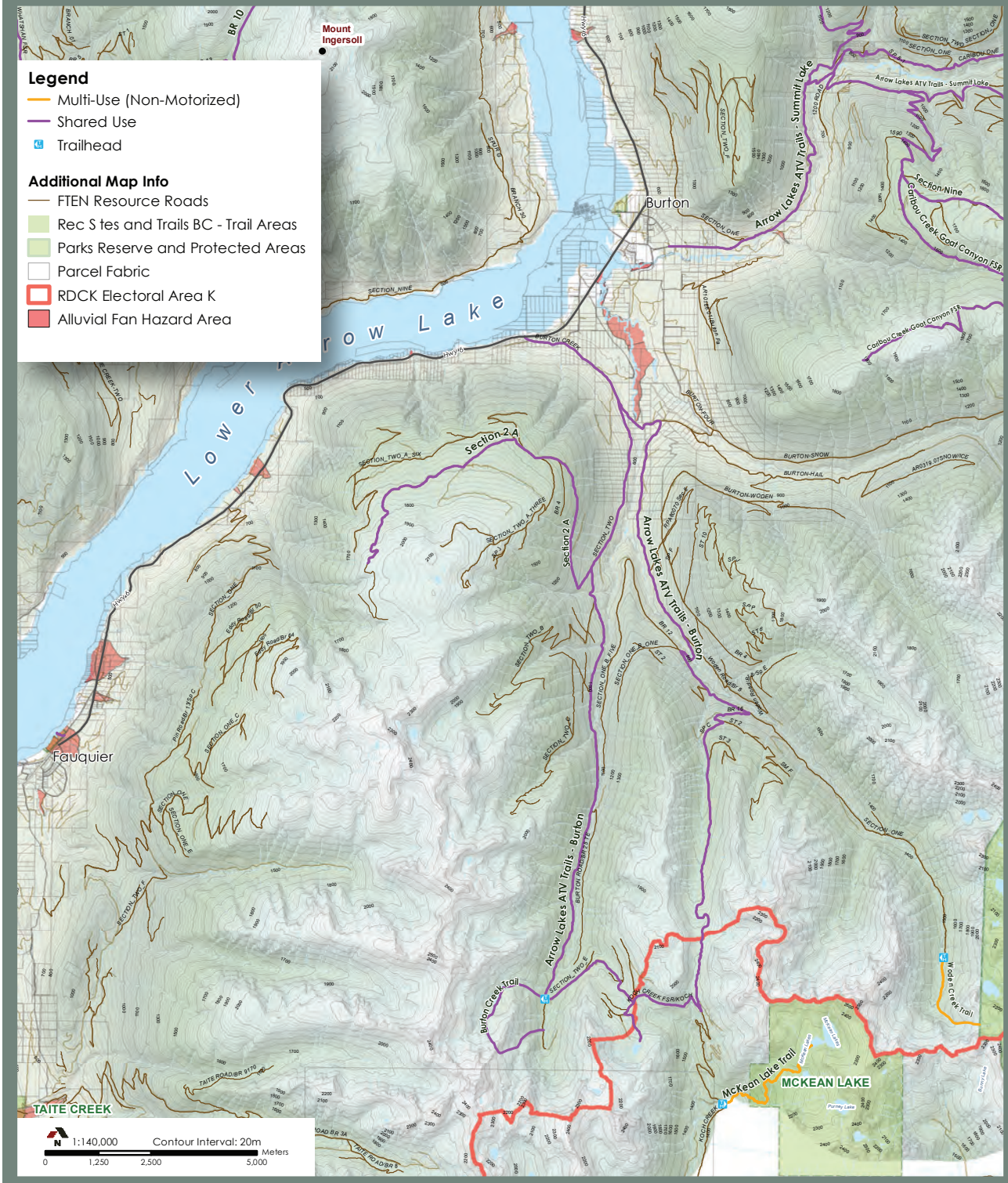


Figure 5.5 - Burton Trail Area (South) Map

Burton Trail Area (North and South)

Area Character

This trail area contains a number of ATV/Shared Use trails. The Woden Creek Trail provides an access point into Valhalla Provincial Park in Electoral Area H, which has opportunities for ski touring, climbing, and mountaineering. A detailed report was completed on the trails in this area in 1998 for the Nakusp and Area Development Board. The *Burton Trails Report* focused on hiking trails that provided access to the surrounding alpine.

The trails can be accessed from the community of Burton, or from the existing resource road network in the area. However, many of the roads in this area have been deactivated and cut with waterbars and cross ditches which impedes vehicle travel.

Status

The majority of the trails in this area have a Rec Number assigned by Recreation Sites and Trails BC as follows:

- Burton Creek Trail (Rec #6716)
- Woden Creek Trail (Rec #6717)
- Londondary Trail (Rec #6718)
- Arrow Lakes ATV Trails - Summit Lake (Rec #107237)
- Arrow Lakes ATV Trails - Burton (Rec #107237)

Opportunities and Constraints

The McDonald Creek Trail Area is connected to the Burton Trail Area (North), and there is potential for shared staging points. Both the north and south sections of the trail area can be accessed from the community of Burton.

Priorities

- Work with motorized use stakeholders on the development of staging points as needed;
- Improve signage and wayfinding as needed.

Nakusp poker ride
Photo: Revelstoke ATV Club

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Eagle Creek Trail Area

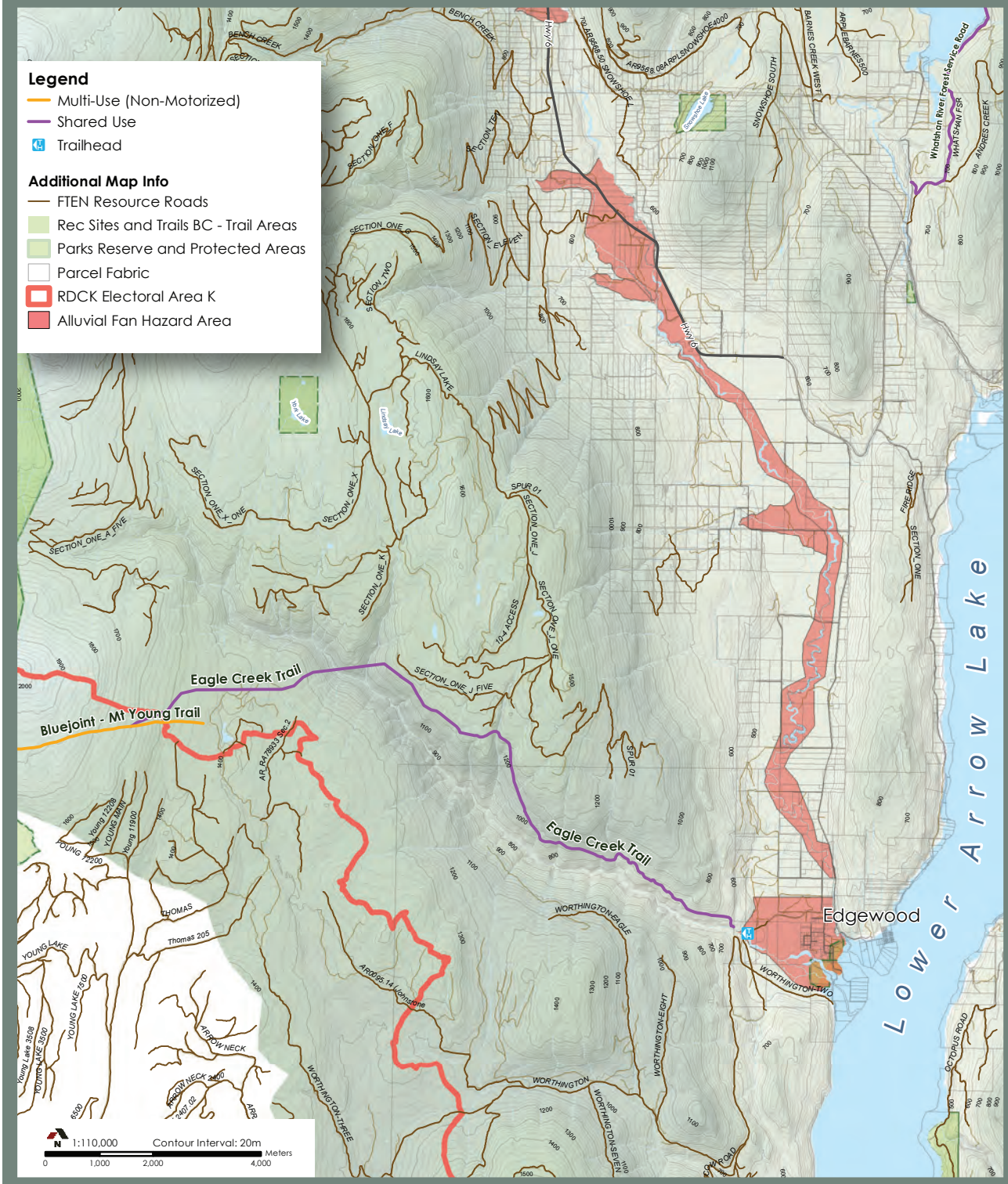


Figure 5.6 - Eagle Creek Trail Area Map

Eagle Creek Trail Area

Area Character

The Eagle Creek Trail Area is located on the western side of Lower Arrow Lake, with access from the community of Edgewood. Resource roads provide a linkage from this trail area to Granby Provincial Park. This area sees different types of trail use, including equestrian use.

In general, there is limited trail development and information for this area.

Status

The upper portion of the Eagle Creek Trail does not have an assigned Rec Number from Recreation Sites and Trails BC. The lower portion is under Rec #2437.

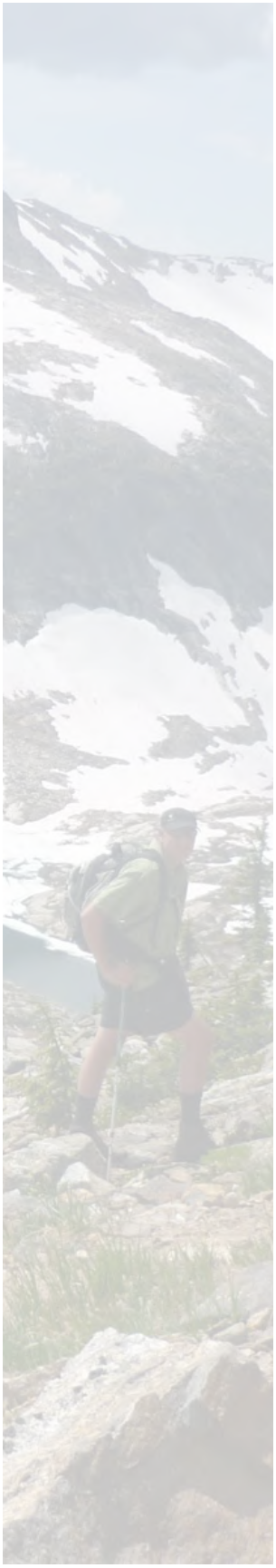
Opportunities and Constraints

A need for loop trails close to town was expressed by the residents of Edgewood during the consultation process. In addition, there is a desire to link these trails to the educational objectives of the local school. This area is well-suited to the development of outdoor learning facilities which can be linked with the trails.

In terms of environmental constraints, the lower portion of the Eagle Creek trail is inside the ungulate winter range.

Priorities

- Gather GPS information for trails in this area;
- Support local residents in the development of new loop trails close to the community;
- Support local residents in the development of interpretive signage and links to educational curriculum.



Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Galena Bay Trail Area

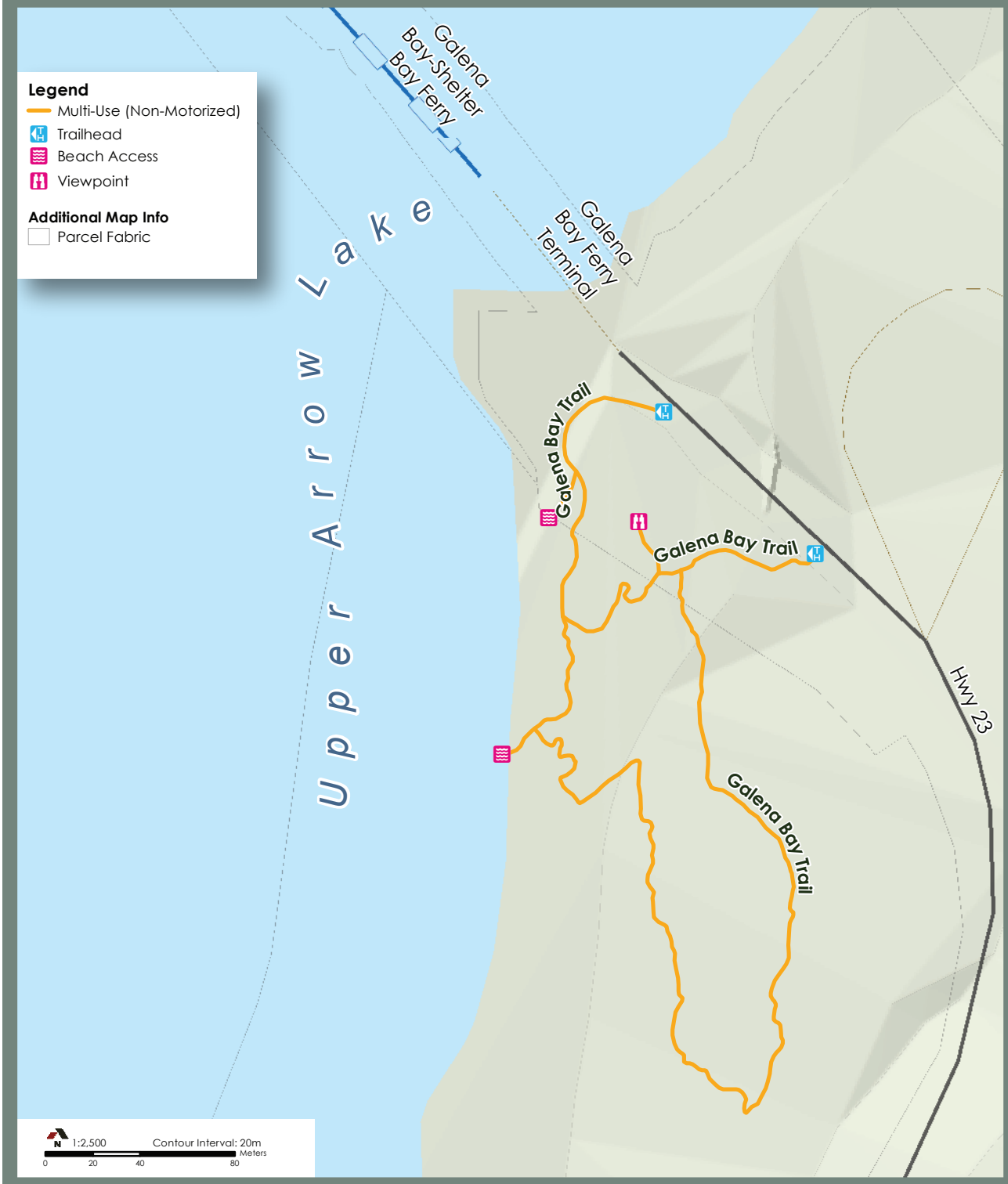


Figure 5.7 - Galena Bay Trail Area Map

Galena Bay Trail Area

Area Character

The Galena Bay Trail Area is located beyond the northern boundary of the RDCK in the Regional District of Columbia Shuswap. This trail area is on the shores of Upper Arrow Lake, adjacent to the Galena Bay ferry terminal. Access to this trail area is off of Highway 23.

The trails in this area have been recently developed by NACFOR, and feature interpretive signage, as well as a viewpoint. In addition, there are two beach areas that are accessible providing opportunities for water-based recreation.

All trails in this area are Multi-Use (Non-Motorized).

Status

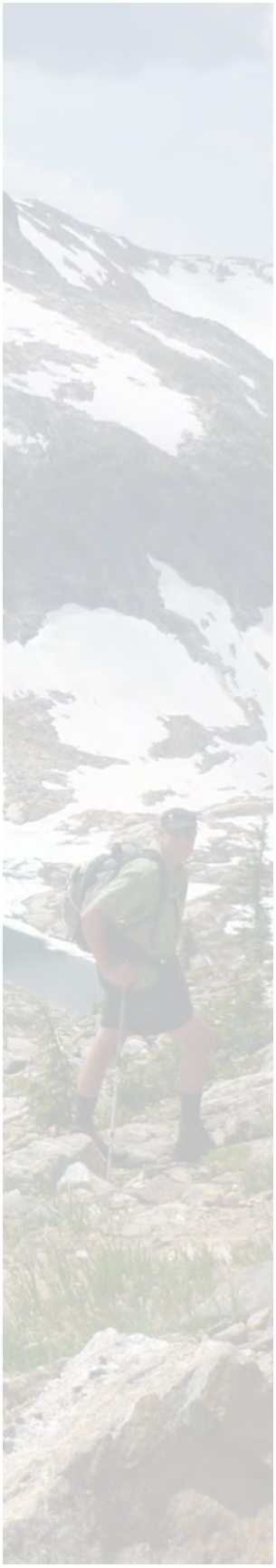
The trails in this area have a Rec Number assigned by Recreation Sites and Trails BC (Rec #231226),

Opportunities and Constraints

Any new development in this trail area will need to take place on the west side of Highway 23.

Priorities and Recommendations

- Explore possible linkages with existing trails on the west side of Highway 23.



Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Hot Springs Trail Area

Figure 5.8 - Hot Springs Trail Area Map

Hot Springs Trail Area

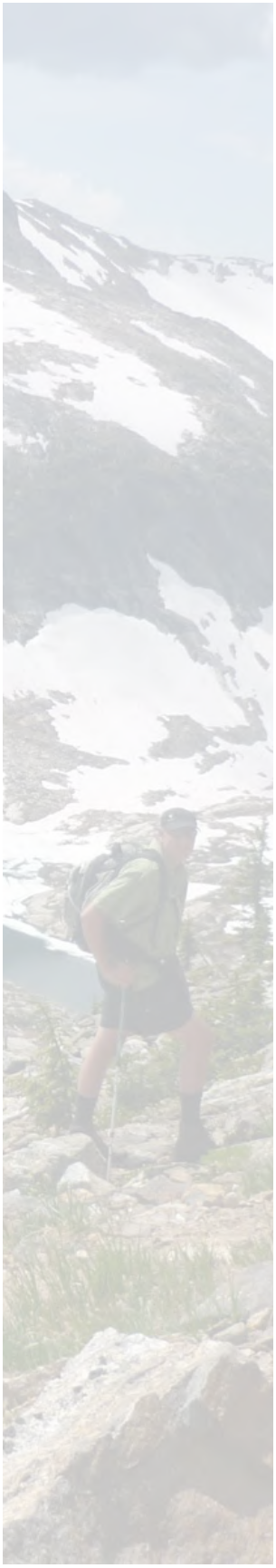
Area Character

This scenic trail area is accessible from the community of Nakusp, and includes a number of popular trails. The Hot Springs Trail can be accessed from a network of resource roads close to the Village, or from the Hot Springs parking area. Other trails in this area can be accessed off of the Hot Springs Road.

Existing use patterns include snowshoeing, hiking, mountain biking, and motorized use. The Kimbol Lake Trail provides a moderate hike that climbs through cedar and hemlock. There is one area of old growth forest in this area, which can be accessed via the Cedar Grove Trail. This trail is a gentle half kilometer loop that passes through this stand of forest. Access to this trailhead is via a network of FSRs that branch off from the Hot Springs Road.

The Hot Springs Trail and the Kimbol Lake Trail are maintained by the Nakusp and Area Community Trail Society (NACTS). The Hot Springs Trail traces a historic route that was used by miners at the turn of the century. In the 1930s, recreational use of this trail began as it provided the only access to the original hot springs on foot or by horse. Along the trail are several points of interest including an old cabin and corral.

A new covered bridge crossing Kuskanax Creek was built in 2013, and includes benches and wider areas along its 123-foot span for viewing the creek below.



Status

The portion of land surrounding the Nakusp Hot Springs is owned by the Village of Nakusp.

The trails in this area have been assigned Rec Numbers as follows:

- Peter Roulston XC Trail (Rec #240511)
- Kimbol Lake Trail (Rec #2445)
- Hot Springs Trail (Rec #2444)
- Access to Cedar Grove Trail (Rec #107076)
- Cedar Grove Trail (Rec #2446)

Opportunities and Constraints

The Village of Nakusp is interested in exploring the possibility of partnering with the Umbrella Organization to develop circle routes or loop trails in this area. New trail development in this area should be Shared Use where possible.

There may be a possibility to connect the lower portion of the Hot Springs Trail directly to the Village of Nakusp, but this would require negotiation with private landowners to secure a right of way. This was expressed as a desired linkage throughout the community consultation process.

There is an excellent opportunity to develop an interpretive site at the source, where old pools, cement foundations and rock walls hint at what once was.

Priorities and Recommendations

- Work with the Village of Nakusp to explore opportunities for circle routes or loop trails;
- Work with the Village of Nakusp to develop plans for an interpretive site at the hot springs source (partner with other local organizations as needed to apply for grant funding);
- Improve signage and wayfinding where needed.

Crossing the Kuskanax Creek Bridge
Photo: Andrew Strain

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Kuskanax Mountain Trail Area

Figure 5.9 - Kuskanax Mountain Trail Area Map

Kuskanax Mountain Trail Area

Area Character

This trail area is adjacent to the planned Mount Abriel Bike Park, which will focus on purpose-built trails for mountain biking. The existing Kuskanax Mountain Trail is primarily hiking, and is maintained by the Nakusp and Area Community Trail Society (NACTS). This trail traces a ridgeline that forms the boundary of the Kuskanax Creek Community Watershed. Self-propelled snowsports users were also identified as using this area according to the results of the community survey.

The Kuskanax Mountain Trail is a community favourite, being cited as both a favourite trail area and a frequently used trail during the community consultation.

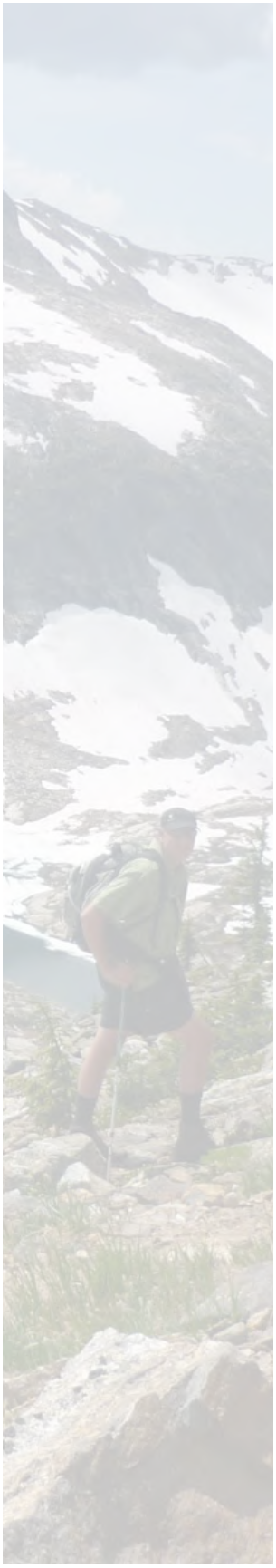
There are two main ways to access the Kuskanax Mountain Trail: one off of the Kuskanax Mountain Road, and one off of Turner Road. Turner Road runs through the middle of the pending NABS Mount Abriel tenure area, providing access to the Turner Road trailhead and staging area. From here, hikers can access Kuskanax Mountain summit and a spectacular view of the Goat Range Provincial Park to the east, the Monashee Range to the west, and the twin peaks of Mount Grady and Mount Burnham to the north. The hike from this end is 1.7 kilometers in length. The hike from the parking on Kuskanax Mountain Road to the Summit is challenging and 4.4 kilometers long.

The Turner Road access to this summit creates the opportunity to complete the Kuskanax Mountain Trail as a loop with a vehicle parked at either staging point.

Vicky's View is also located in this trail area. This viewpoint provides a spectaular view of the Village of Nakusp and its setting. It can be accessed from downtown Nakusp via the Kuskanax Mountain Road. This road does require a 4WD vehicle.

Status

Both the Kuskanax Mountain Trail (Rec #33083) and the Kuskanax Mountain Road (Rec #33083) have Recreation Numbers assigned by Recreation Sites and Trails BC.



Opportunities and Constraints

The upper portions of the Kuskanax Mountain Trail pass through the ungulate winter range. Any future trail maintenance or development should not impact on this important habitat.

The Rod and Gun Club firing range is located near this trail area, just outside of the municipal boundary (shown on the map). It is critical that a Danger Zone buffer be maintained, and no trail development be pursued near the range.

Priorities and Recommendations

- Continue to maintain this trail area to a high standard for the identified user groups;
- NACTS and NABS should work together to ensure that the Turner Road access to the Kuskanax Mountain Trail is preserved and to explore potential partnership opportunities;
- Ensure that a gun range buffer is incorporated into trails planning for this area;
- Improve signage and wayfinding where needed.

Vicky's View
Photo: AdventureBegins blog

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
McDonald Creek Trail Area

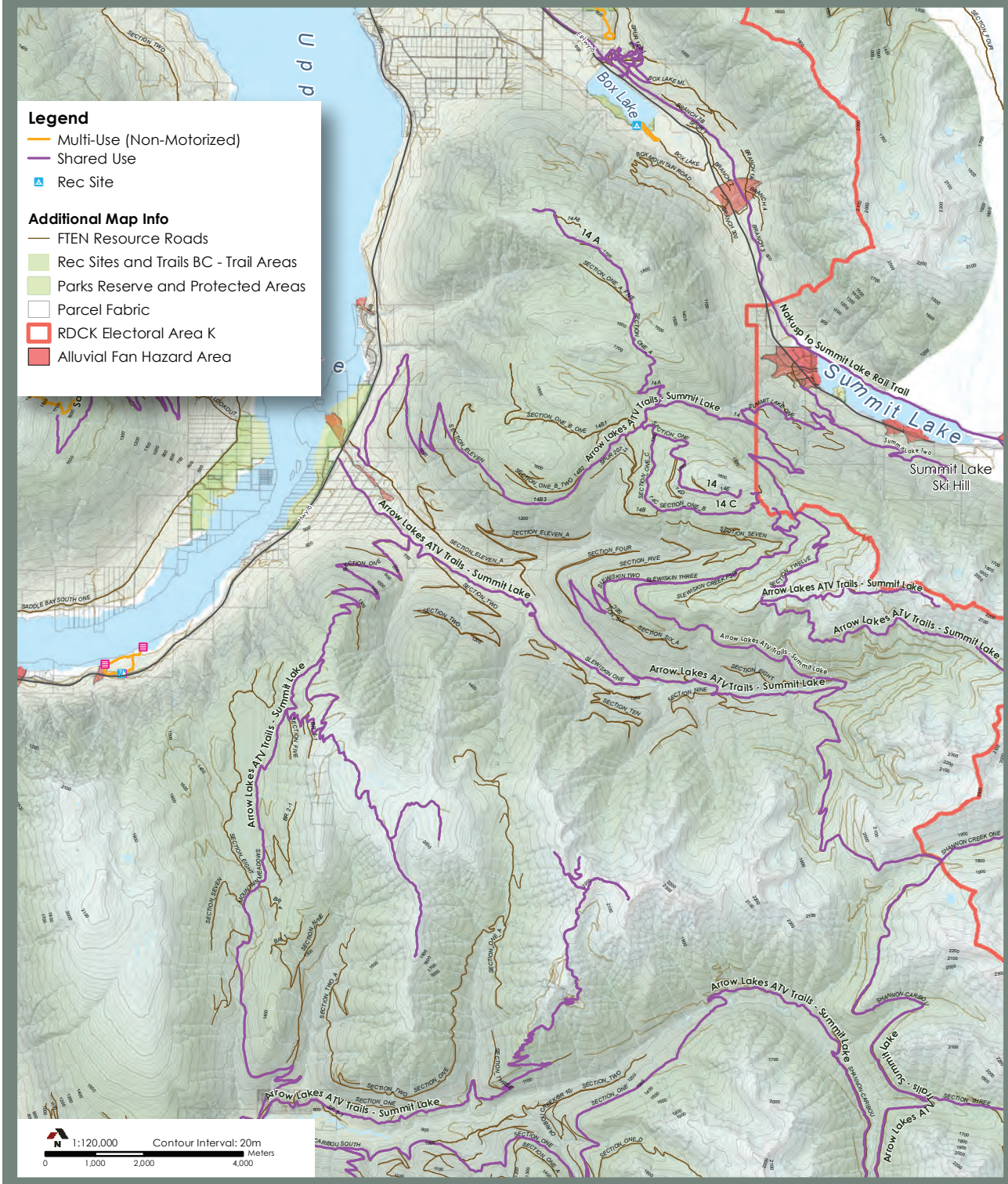


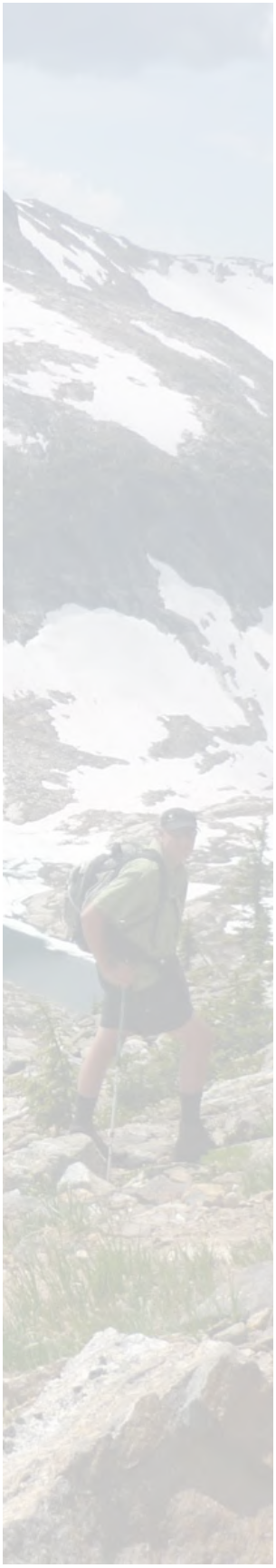
Figure 5.10 - McDonald Creek Trail Area Map

McDonald Creek Trail Area

Area Character

The McDonald Creek Trail Area is predominantly used by motorized trail users, with a large number of ATV trails. Several of the ATV trails in this area are well-suited to beginners.

This area is located on the eastern shores of Arrow Lake, to the south of Summit Lake. There are multiple access points to these trails from Highway 6, as well as from the community of Burton. Some of the existing trails loop or extend into Area H. There is parking at Ruby Range Road (Summit Lake FSR) which provides access to this trail area from the Summit Lake side.



Status

The following trails in this area have been assigned a Rec Number from Recreation Sites and Trails BC:

- Arrow Lakes ATV Trails - Summit Lake (Rec #107237)
- Londondary Trail (Rec #6718)

Opportunities and Constraints

The Caribou Creek Community Watershed and Dog Creek Community Watershed are located in this area. It should be ensured that future trail development and management does not have a negative impact on these important community watersheds.

Priorities and Recommendations

- Work to address the identified need for an improved staging area at Ruby Range Road (Summit Lake FSR and Highway 6) accessing this trail area from the Summit Lake side.

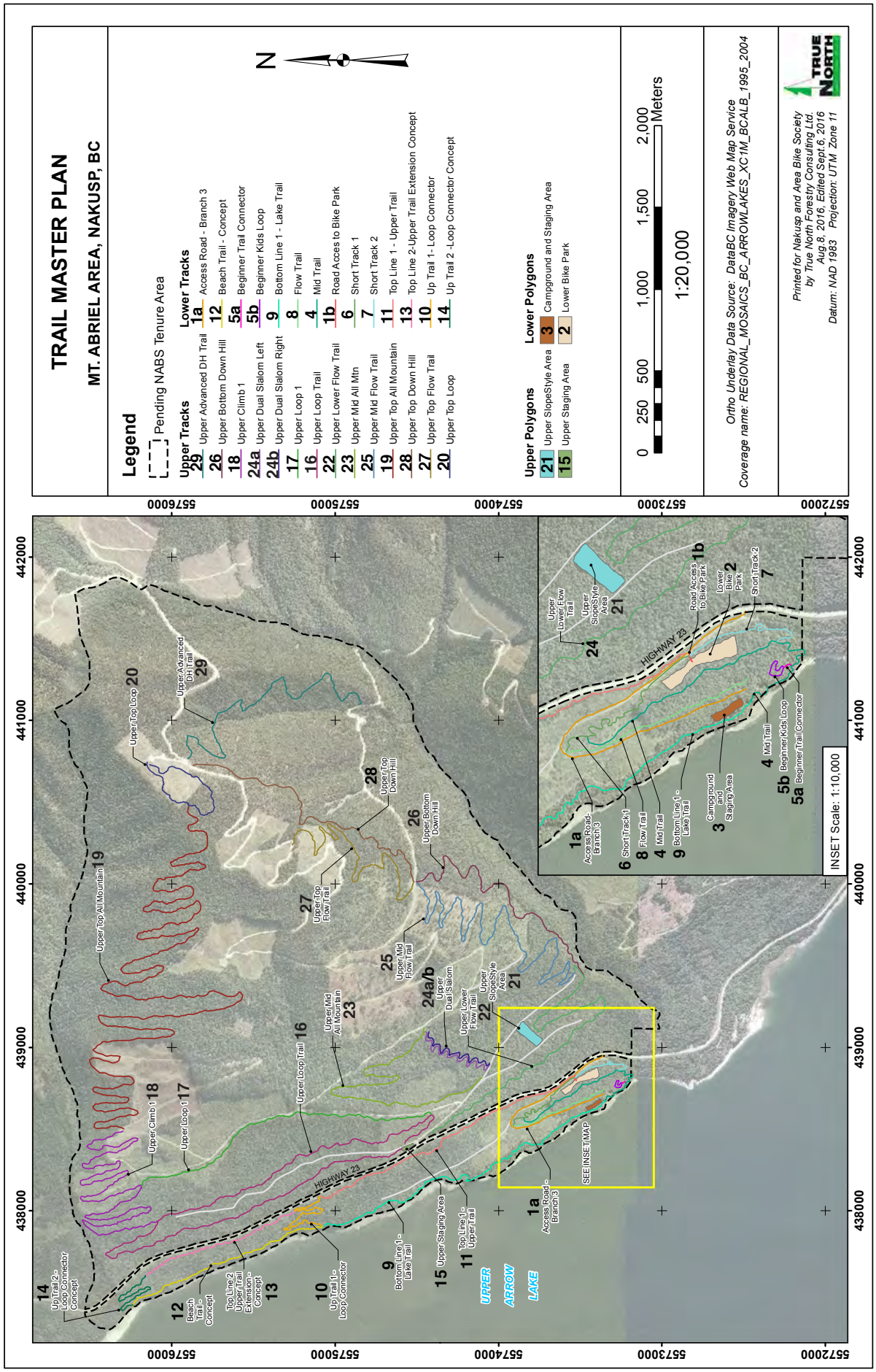


Figure 5.11 - Mount Abriel Bike Park Area Map

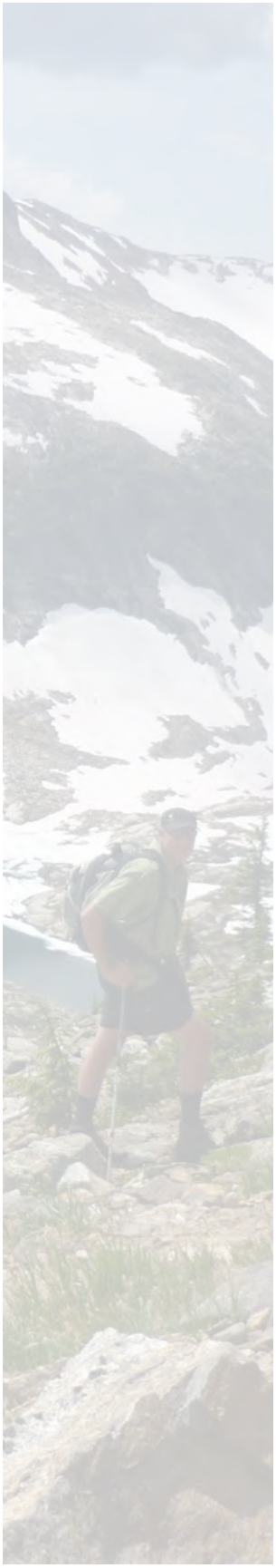
Mount Abriel Bike Park

Area Character

Located approximately 10 kilometers north of Nakusp, this purpose-built mountain biking trail area is currently under development and is being spearheaded by the Nakusp and Area Bike Society (NABS). The Master Plan, completed by Hoots Ltd. in October 2016, details trails that will serve a wide variety of ages and abilities. When complete, there will be approximately 50 kilometers of trails. The map on the previous page is from the Master Plan.

Access to the lower and upper areas of the Mt. Abriel Trail Area is provided by Highway 23, as well as local roads and Forest Service Roads (FSRs).

In addition to serving the local and visiting mountain bike community, a range of recreational opportunities will be incorporated into the plan including hiking/running, water activities, and camping.



Status

The Mount Abriel Bike Park will be in a tenure area on Crown land. The boundary of the pending tenure area is shown on the mapping throughout this report.

Opportunities and Constraints

The development of this area will contribute positively to the trail network as a whole, acting as a hub and an attraction. It represents opportunities for collaboration and cross promotion, as well as programming and education.

Priorities and Recommendations

- Explore the potential for collaboration and the development of recreational opportunities for multiple user groups.

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Municipal Trail Area

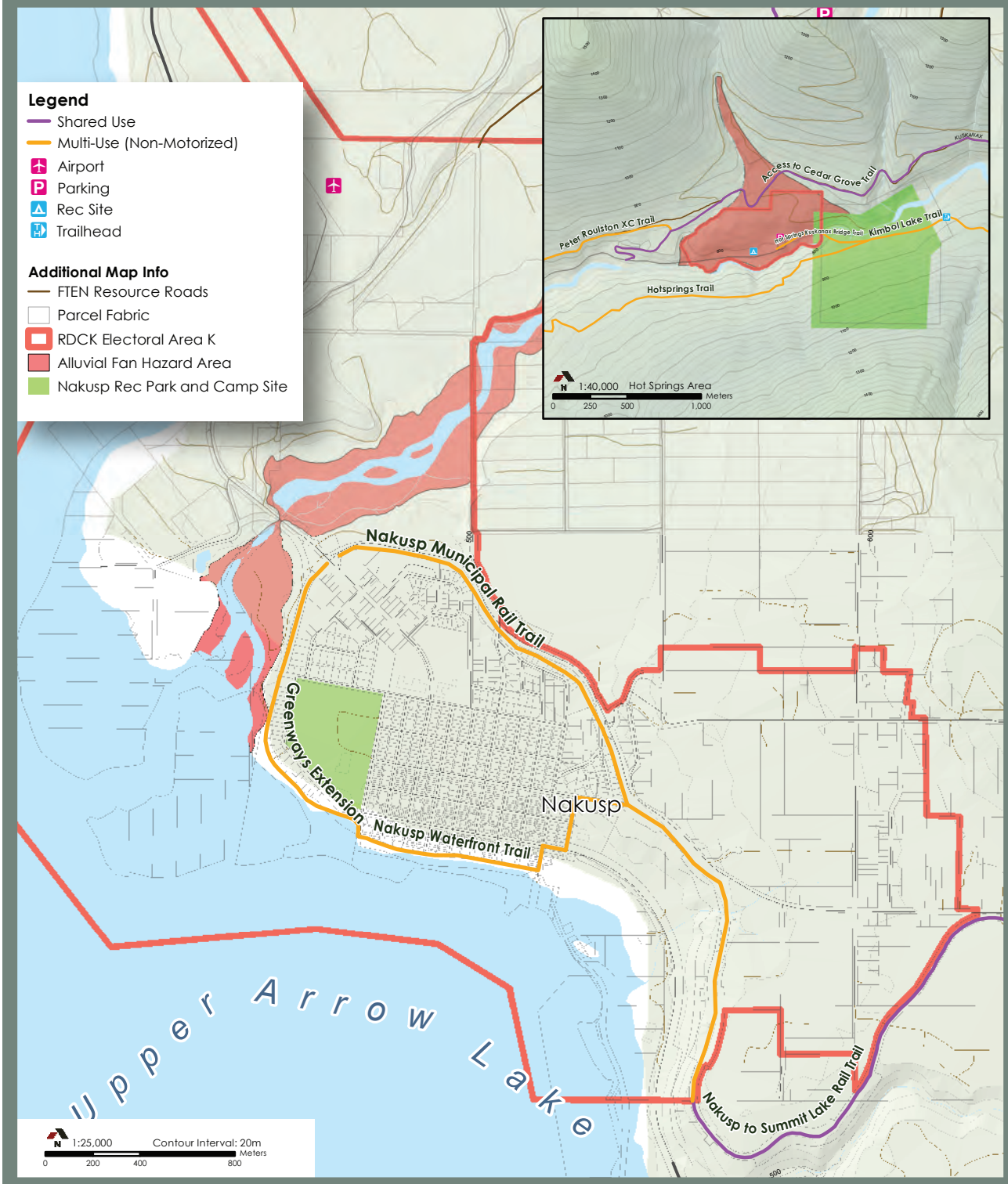


Figure 5.12 - Municipal Trail Area Map

Municipal Trail Area (Village of Nakusp)

Area Character

There are two distinct areas that fall within the municipal boundaries: the Village of Nakusp and the Nakusp Hot Springs.

There is a 12-acre Municipal Park in downtown Nakusp that features a wide variety of amenities as well as a municipal campground. Linked to the public beach and downtown park, the paved and accessible Waterfront Walkway offers stunning views of the Arrow Lakes and surrounding areas.

Part of the old CPR right-of-way has been converted into a Multi-Use (Non-Motorized) trail. The Nakusp Municipal Rail Trail has been linked to the Waterfront Walkway. Along with the Greenways Extension, these three trail segments form the "Wrap around Nakusp" Trail. Currently, the municipal section of the Rail Trail is closed due to a trail washout.

The Nakusp Hot Springs, Cedar Chalets & Campground, nestled in the Kuskanax Valley, is another area with hiking trails and picnic spots. From this area, you can access the historic Hot Springs Trail, Kimbol Lake Trail, Cedar Grove Trail, Peter Roulston XC Trail, or the source of the hot springs. The Kuskanax Hot Springs Trail starts on municipal property and then continues onto Crown land. It links up with the Hot Springs at the Kuskanax foot bridge.

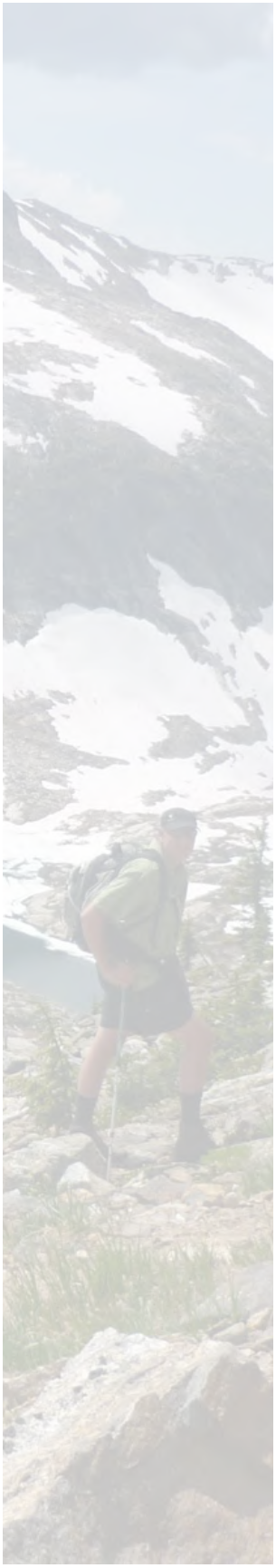
Status

All trails within the Municipal Trail Area are managed by the Village of Nakusp and subject to applicable bylaws.

Opportunities and Constraints

The source of the hot springs represents a unique opportunity for the development of an interpretive site.

The applicable bylaws prohibit the use of Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) within the municipal boundaries. However, opportunities to develop motorized staging areas from the municipal boundaries that provide access to the existing trail network should be explored.



Priorities and Recommendations

- The Village of Nakusp, Umbrella Organization, and other stakeholders could work together to explore solutions to the existing washout;
- Work toward an alternative barrier design that allows the safe passage of strollers and wheelchairs;
- The Umbrella Organization should work to address the safety issue presented by the Rail Trail crossing Highway 6. Opportunities to secure grant funding to design and build a safe crossing could be explored.

Flowers in bloom on the Waterfront Walkway
Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Nakusp to Summit Lake Rail Trail

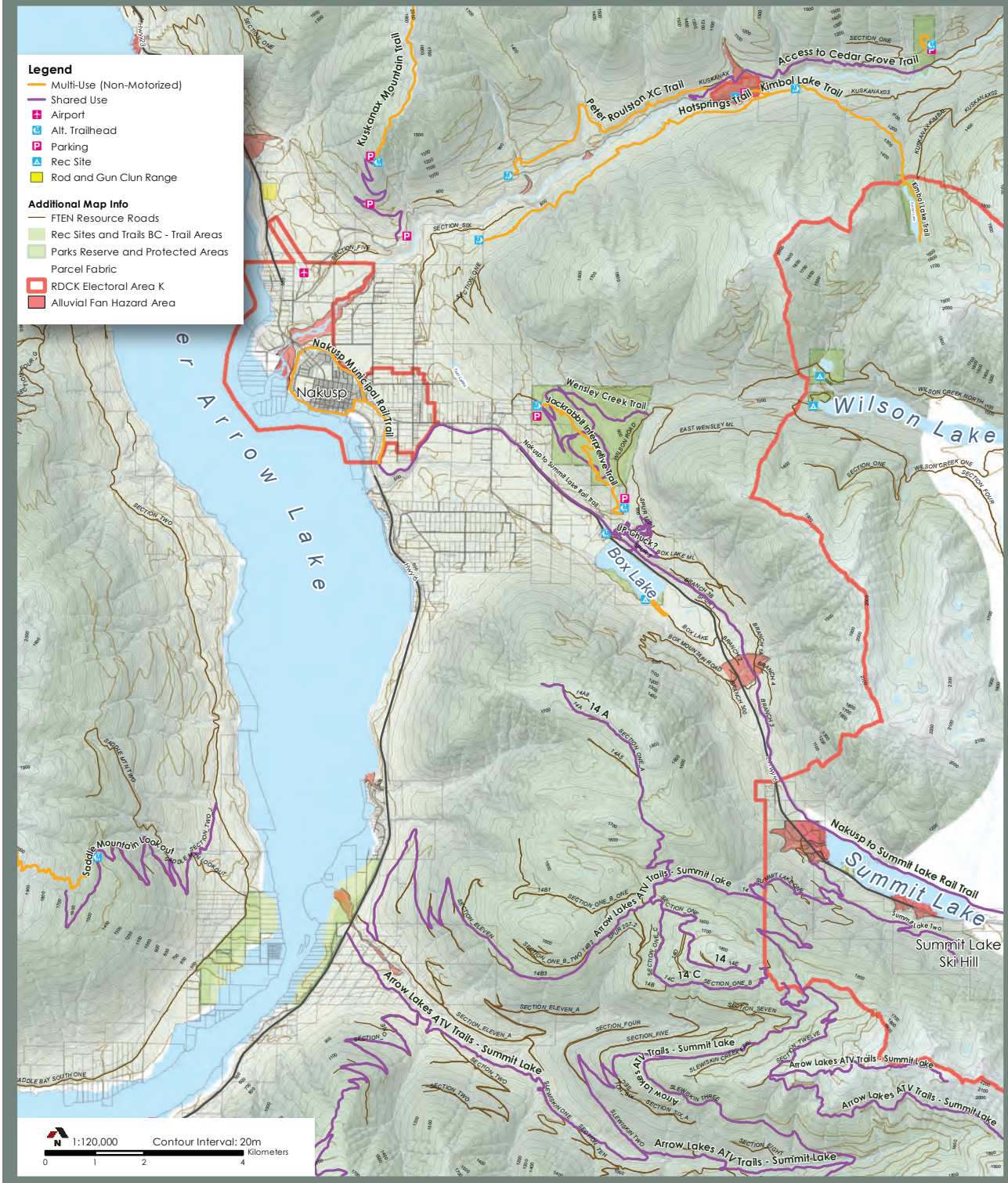


Figure 5.13 - Nakusp to Summit Lake Rail Trail Map

Nakusp to Summit Lake Rail Trail

Area Character

The Nakusp to Summit Lake Rail Trail runs through multiple trail areas, and connects to a larger network of rail trails in the region. This former CPR railbed has a rich history, and the wide nature of the trail and gravel surface supports a diverse range of trail uses including cycling, cross-country skiing, jogging, and walking, as well as snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the winter. In addition, the sections of this trail outside of the municipal boundaries support motorized use by ATVs and dirt bikes.

This section of the abandoned railway climbs gently from Nakusp to Summit Lake. From there, it descends to Rosebery, where it connects to the Galena Trail. The trail travels through extensive habitat as it traverses the valley bottom. The Western Toad migration occurs near Summit Lake.

The Rail Trail can be accessed from many different points where it crosses local roads or Highway 6. The section of the trail that passes through the Village of Nakusp and Area K is 16 kilometers in length.

Status

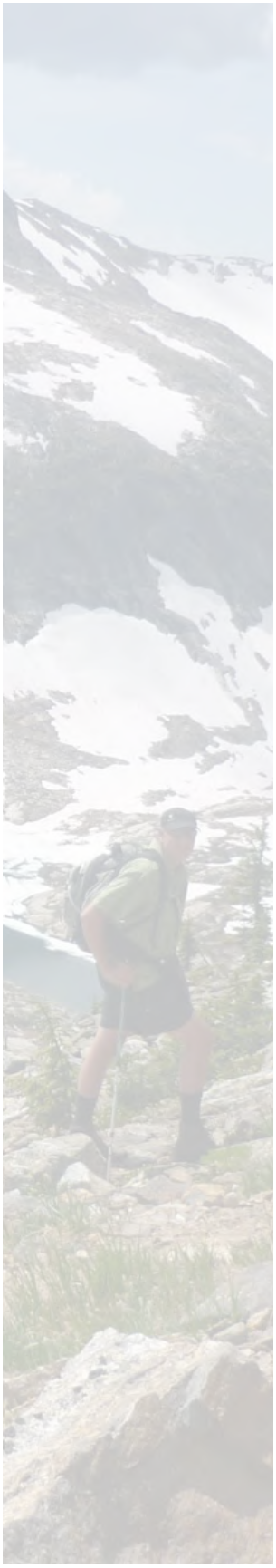
The section of the Rail Trail extending from the municipal boundary to Summit Lake in Area H has a Recreation Number that has been assigned by Recreation Sites and Trails BC (Rec #185531).

The Nakusp and Area Community Trail Society maintains the section of the Nakusp to Summit Lake Trail that extends from the municipal boundary to the boundary of Area K.

Opportunities and Constraints

Currently, concrete barriers are used to restrict motorized traffic from the trail within the Village of Nakusp municipal boundary. Replacing these barriers with gates that provide access for wheelchairs and strollers should be considered.

The wide nature of the Rail Trail corridor lends itself well to being shared by multiple user groups. In addition, the Rail Trail provides opportunities for long distance connections between communities and points of interest, as well as the creation of a long-distance cultural journey.



If these long-distance connections were realized, this represents tremendous potential for economic revitalization and opportunity along the corridor. New local businesses and overnight accommodation could be developed to support trail users who want to complete a multi-day journey.

Priorities and Recommendations

- Address areas where the trail crosses active roadways (safe crossings are needed);
- Address the washout by re-routing;
- Remove abandoned rail ties along the length of the corridor;
- Develop a management plan specifically for this trail;
- Develop interpretive opportunities along the length of the corridor;
- Address signage needs, with a focus on intersections with other trails and roads;
- Develop access and staging points with the Nakusp and Area Community Trail Society;
- Maintain Shared Use of the Rail Trail between the municipal boundary and the boundary of Area K.

Section of rail trail that is not actively maintained
Photo: ourbc.com

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Paint Lake Trail Area

Figure 5.14 - Paint Lake Trail Area Map

Paint Lake Trail Area

Area Character

This area on the west side of Upper Arrow Lake mainly supports motorized use, with a number of ATV trails. Most of the ATV trails are "there and back" as opposed to loop trails, heading up to the old mine site or a height of land and then returning. These routes use Forestry Service Roads.

This trail area is linked to the trails North of Catherine Lake via an existing resource road. This trail area sees quite a bit of use from Revelstoke-based ATV users.

The main access point to this trail area is the Lime Kiln Forestry Service Road.

Status

The Paint Lake Trail has a Rec Number assigned by Recreation Sites and Trails BC (Rec #5629).

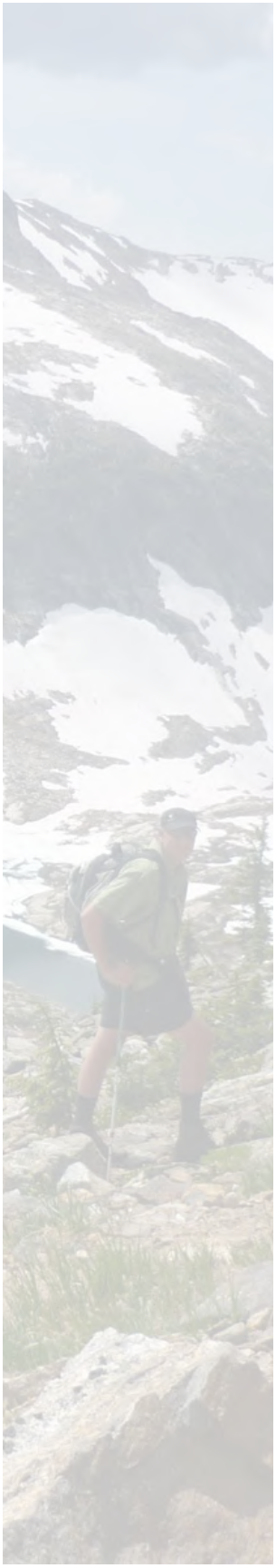
Opportunities and Constraints

Some of the trails in this area are in very bad shape, and maintenance needs should be addressed.

Historic equestrian use and mining in this area may provide opportunities for points of interest or interpretive sites.

Priorities and Recommendations

- Explore partnerships with the Revelstoke ATV Club in terms of maintenance and trail development;
- Explore opportunities for points of interest or interpretive sites (consult with the local archives and museum).



Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Saddle Mountain Trail Area

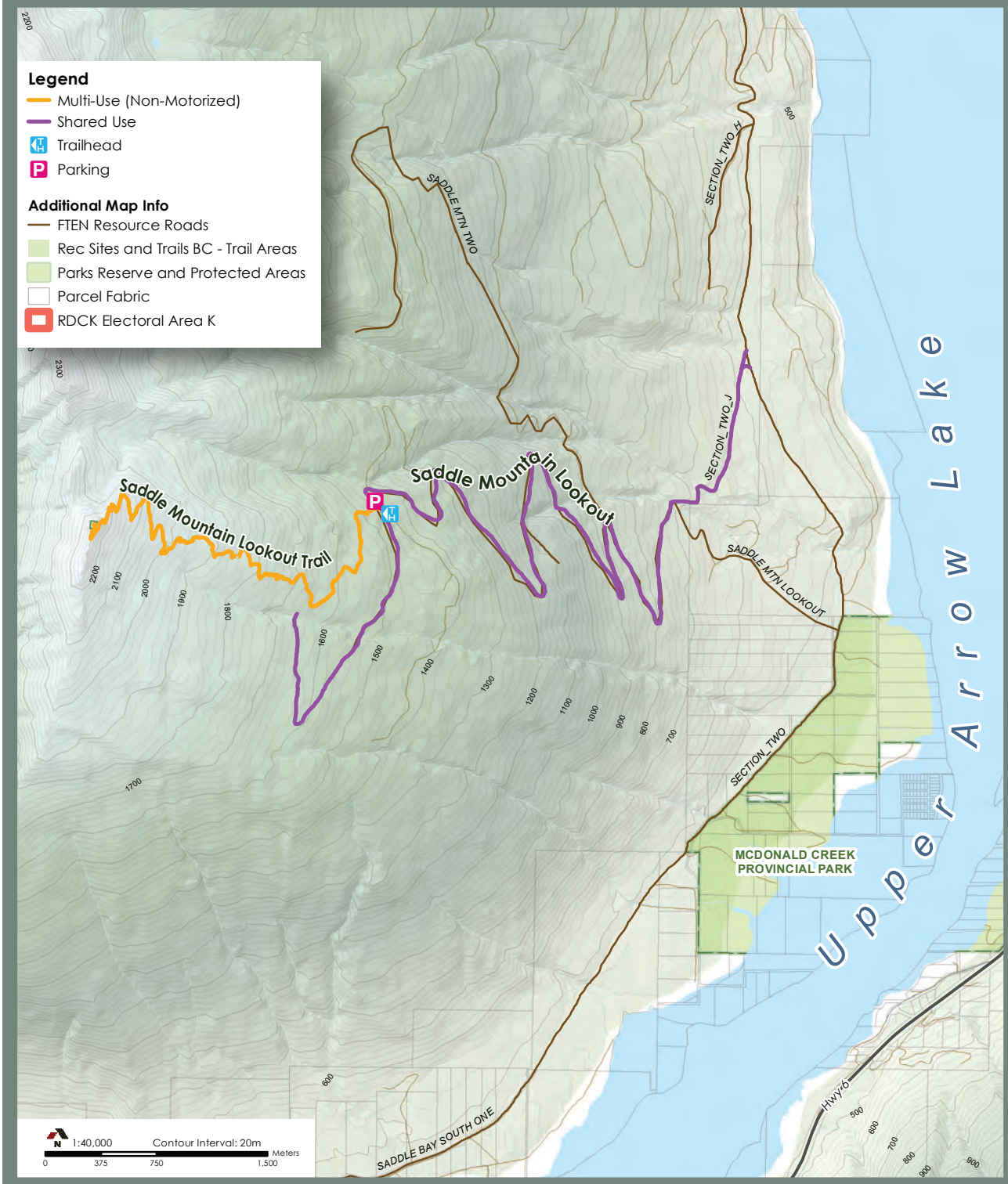


Figure 5.15 - Saddle Mountain Trail Area Map

Saddle Mountain Trail Area

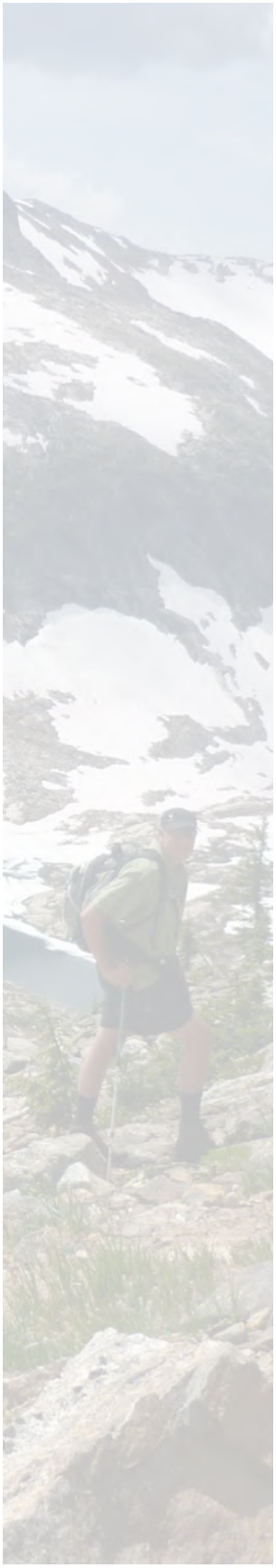
Area Character

This area is characterized by a moderate, 5.3km trail with a dirt and rock surface that leads to a rocky summit atop Saddle Mountain (Saddle Mountain Lookout Trail). This trail is maintained by the Nakusp and Area Community Trails Society (NACTS). At the top of the mountain is a former Forest Service Fire Lookout that has been recently restored by NACTS. This provides a place from which to take in the panoramic view, or spend the night at the summit.

Currently, both hikers and motorized users use the first portion of the trail, which is a road. Motorized users must then park and hike the final distance to the summit. Saddle Mountain Lookout is an alpine hiking trail suitable for summer travel when the snowpack is diminished. Although some trail users have trekked up with ski touring gear or snowshoes, this requires extensive knowledge of back country travel.

This trail provides users the opportunity to experience a variety of vegetation, including dense forest, subalpine, and alpine meadows. Rocky bluffs part way along the trail provide views of the lake below.

Access to the Saddle Mountain Trail Area is off of Highway 6. The Saddle Mountain Trail trailhead is located on Lookout Road.



Status

The Saddle Mountain Lookout Trail has an assigned Recreation Number from Recreation Sites and Trails BC (Rec #2443).

Opportunities and Constraints

One of the major challenges of sustaining the trail network is funding. The Fire Lookout could offer an excellent opportunity for the collection of fees which can be cycled back into the maintenance of the lookout hut and the trail.

The Saddle Mountain Fire Lookout has a rich history, dating back to the 1920s. Interpretive opportunities for this site should be considered.

Priorities and Recommendations

- Ensure the Fire Lookout is maintained into the future, as this represents one of the trail network's unique assets;
- Explore interpretive opportunities;
- Improve signage and wayfinding where needed.

Hiking to the lookout
Photo: Amy Wright / Flickr

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Sol Mountain Trail Area

Figure 5.16 - Sol Mountain Trail Area Map

Sol Mountain Trail Area

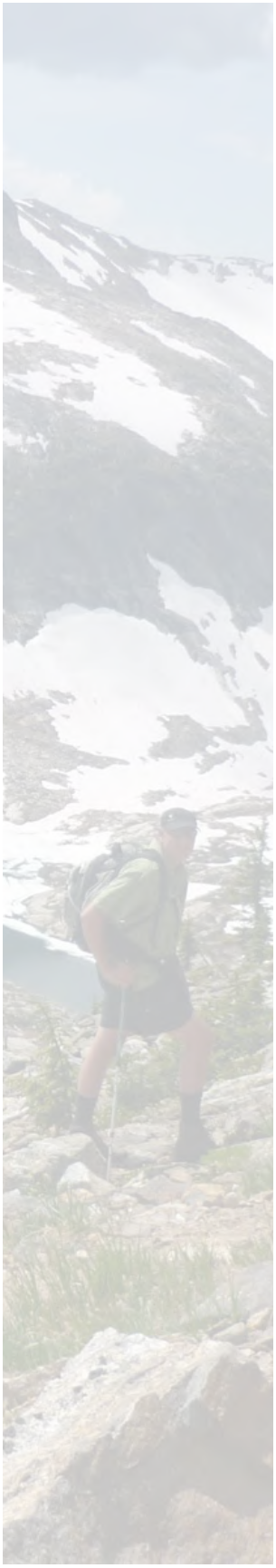
Area Character

This area is popular for ski touring and has a number of developed mountain bike trails. There are opportunities for all user groups in this area. In addition, there is a lodge here (Sol Mountain Lodge) which services these user groups.

Access is typically from Monashee Provincial Park, particularly for those who are accessing this area for skiing. Those accessing the area for biking come from Galena Bay by road. Any of the existing resource roads provides a potential access point to this area.

Some of the trails from this area connect into Monashee Provincial Park, providing excellent hiking and horseback riding opportunities.

Areas outside of the park are also used by ATV'ers and snowmobilers.



Status

The trails in this area do not have assigned Rec Numbers from Recreation Sites and Trails BC.

The trail sections that are located within Monashee Provincial Park are under the jurisdiction of BC Parks.

Opportunities and Constraints

This area has potential for increased mountain bike development outside of the provincial park.

Priorities and Recommendations

- Work with mountain bike stakeholders to explore potential future mountain biking development in this area.

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Upper Arrow Lake Trail Area

Figure 5.17- Upper Arrow Lake Trail Area Map

Upper Arrow Lake Trail Area

Area Character

This trail area is located on the eastern shore of Upper Arrow Lake, and encompasses the Halfway River. There are a large number of ATV Trails in this area, many of which extend north beyond the RDCK boundary toward Revelstoke.

FSRs lead up the Halfway River toward the Halfway Hot Springs and the Upper Half Hiking Trail. Many of the FSRs in this area are also used for snowmobile access in the winter.

The Halfway Hot Springs site has been developed by BC Parks, and a fee is charged for access and camping.

Status

The Upper Half Hiking Trail has a Rec Number (#169764) that has been assigned by Recreation Sites and Trails BC.

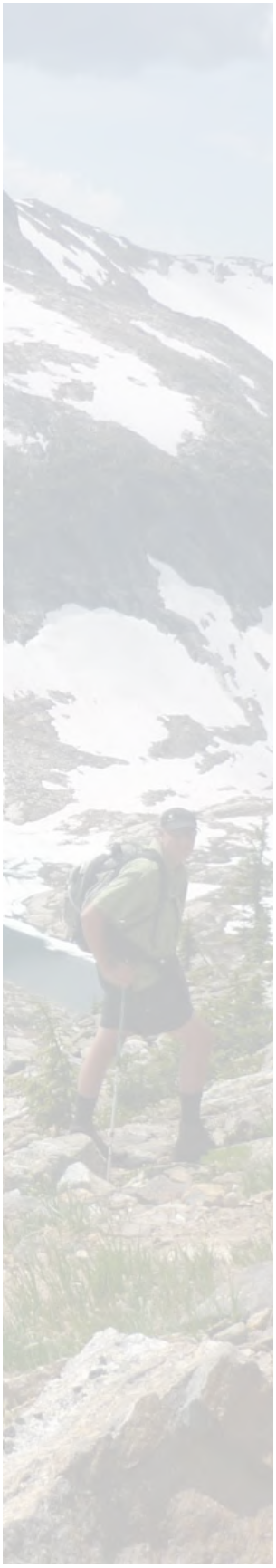
Opportunities and Constraints

The Upper Half Hiking Trail is located in the Ungulate Winter Range area. Future trail maintenance and development will need to be carefully evaluated to ensure it does not have any negative impacts on this important habitat.

The Upper Half Hiking Trail no longer has bridge access over the Halfway River. It is currently inaccessible for hiking.

Priorities and Recommendations

- Work with Recreation Sites and Trails BC to address the missing bridge over the Halfway River;
- Explore opportunities for motorized staging points in this trail area;
- Improve signage and wayfinding where needed.



Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Vista Pass Trail Area

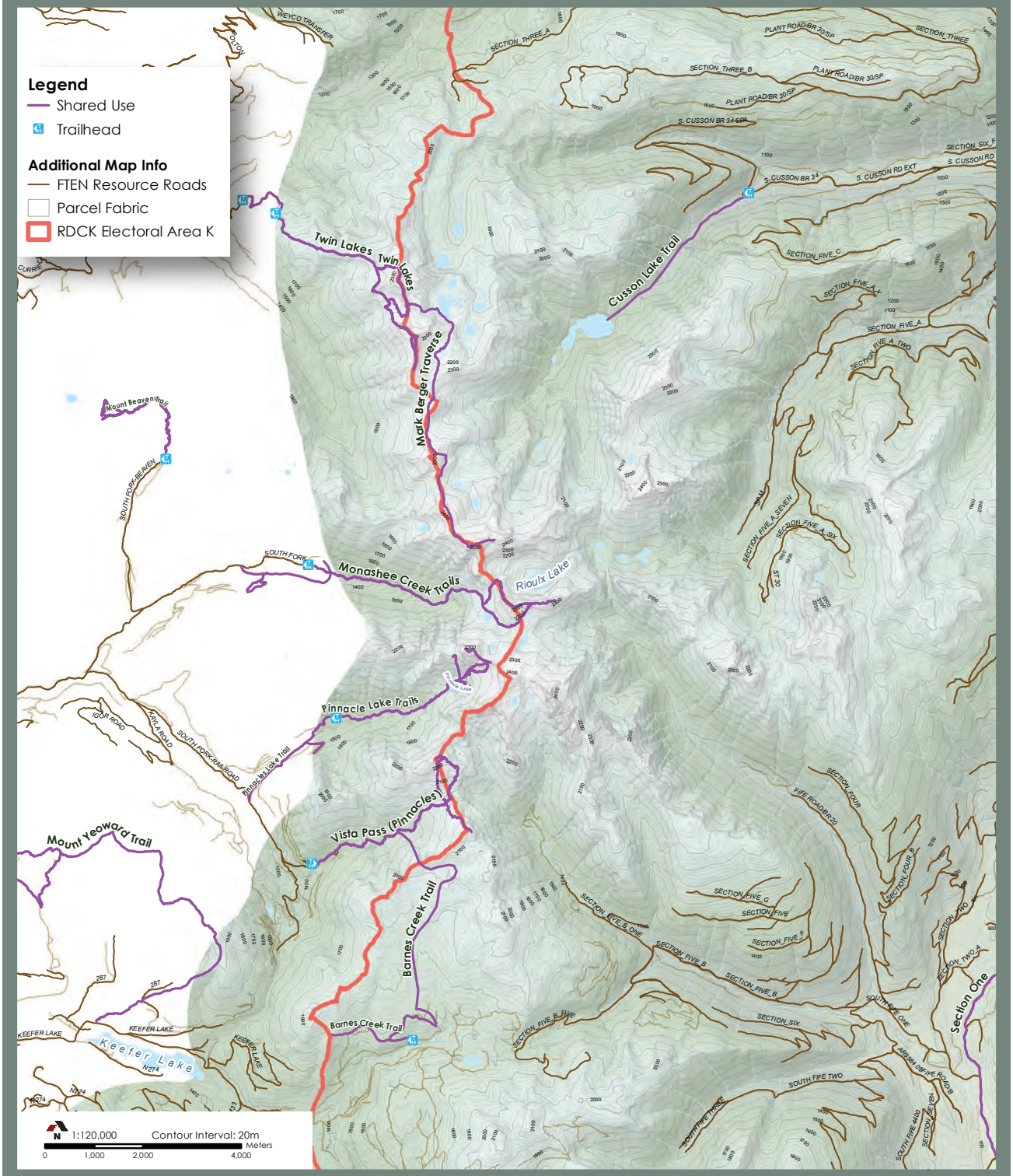


Figure 5.18 - Vista Pass Trail Area Map

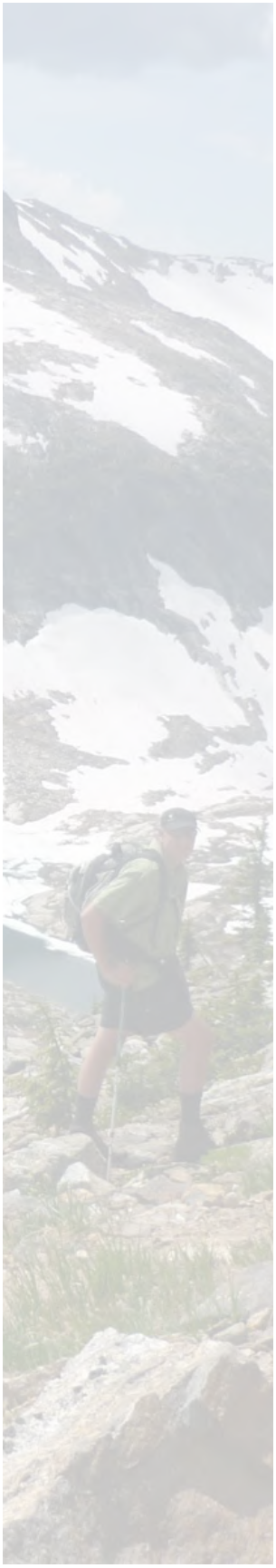
Vista Pass Trail Area

Area Character

This trail area skirts the western boundary of Area K. This area is used by all groups, including hiking, mountain biking, hunting (guided territory), and snowmobiling. In addition, there is an equestrian trail that goes from Whatsan to Vista Pass and continues on to more distant lakes. While this is not a destination area for ATV riders, it is popular with people who live in the community of Edgewood.

There are small zones of old growth forest in this area, which some of the existing trails pass through. In addition, there are small alpine areas.

Access to this trail area is off of Highway 6.



Status

The majority of the trails in this area have a Rec Number assigned by Recreation Sites and Trails BC as follows:

- Monashee Creek Trails (Rec #4724)
- Twin Lakes (Rec #4531)
- Vista Pass (Pinnacles) (Rec #4726)
- Mark Berger Traverse (Rec #236340)

Opportunities and Constraints

There are small areas of Ungulate Winter Range habitat in this area. Future trail management and development should not negatively impact this habitat.

Priorities and Recommendations

Improve signage and wayfinding as needed.

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Wensley Creek Trail Area

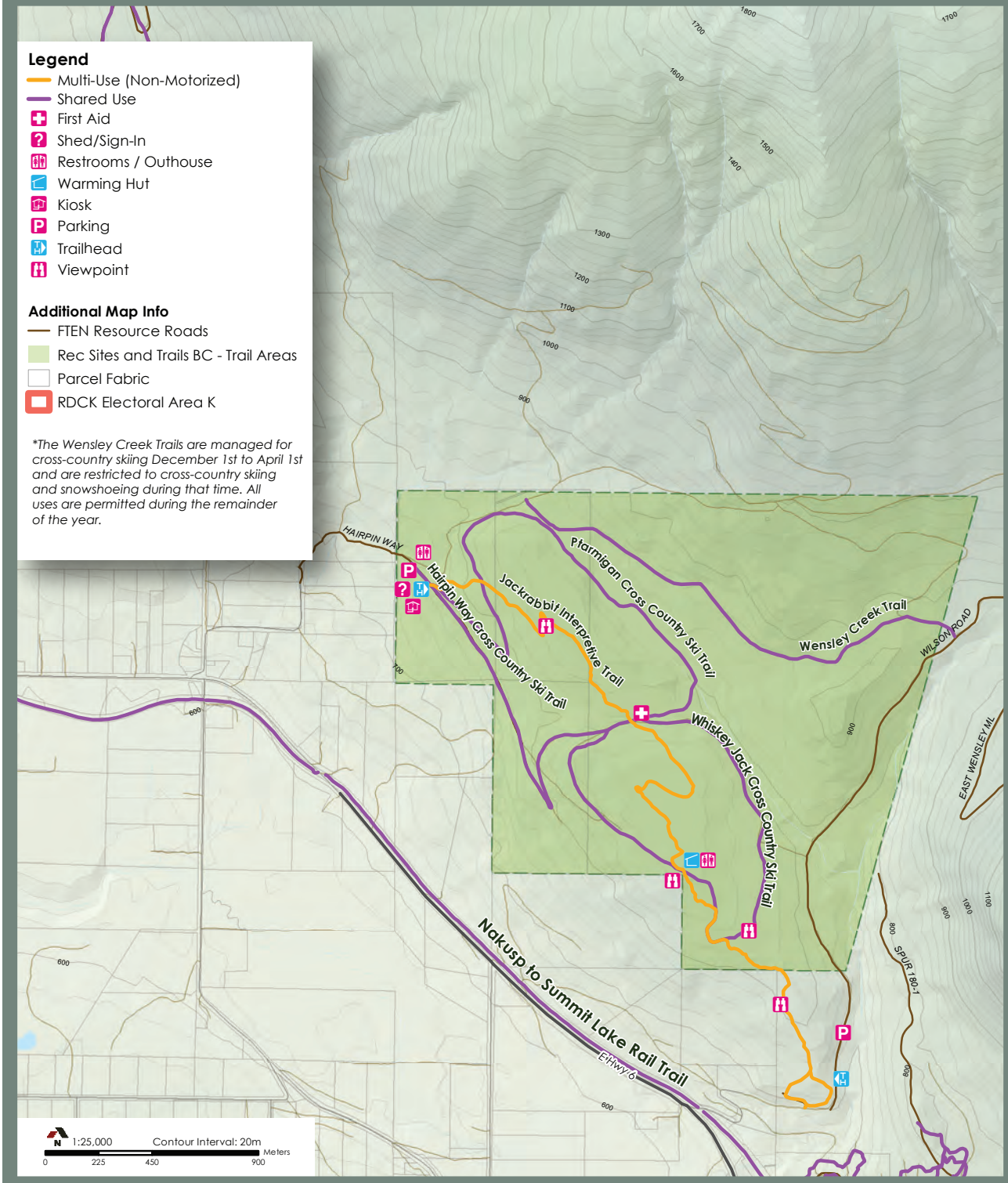


Figure 5.19 - Wensley Creek Trail Area Map

Wensley Creek Trail Area

Area Character

The Wensley Creek Cross-Country Ski Trails are situated 5.2 kilometers east of Nakusp along Highway 6. This trail area can be accessed by driving a few minutes from downtown Nakusp, and parking at the staging area off of Upper Brouse Road. The proximity to town makes this a popular trail area. In addition, there is parking available for this trail area off of the Wilson Lake Forest Service Road. Staging at both ends means that the Jackrabbit Interpretive Trail can be done as a one-way hike.

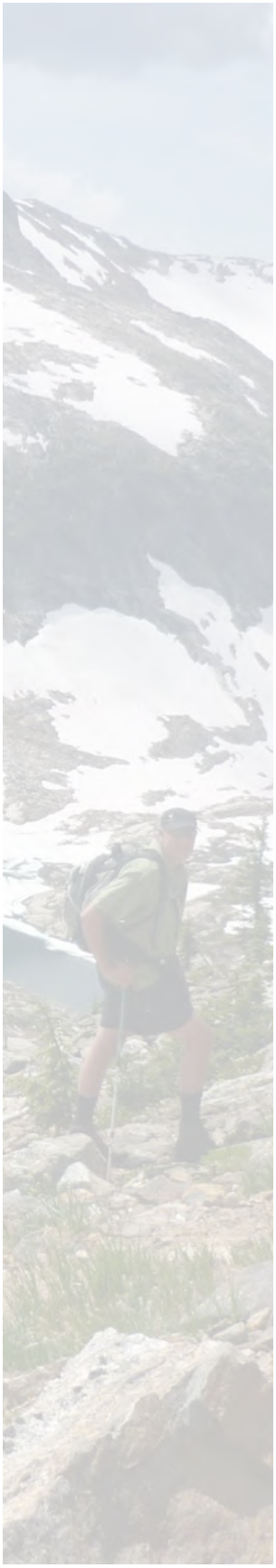
7.4 kilometers of winter trails are maintained by the Arrow Lakes Cross Country Ski Club (ALCCSC) in cooperation with Recreation Sites and Trails BC. The club also maintains a day use warming hut during the winter months and provides track setting. There are a range of beginner and intermediate cross-country ski trails.

The Jackrabbit Interpretive Trail was developed by NACFOR along with the Nakusp and Area Community Trails Society, and features interpretive signage and viewpoints. It also links to the warming hut built by the ALCCSC. This trail is maintained by NACFOR.

The Jackrabbit Interpretive Trail offers an opportunity to walk or hike close to Nakusp during the snow free months, and is used by those walking their dogs. This is a popular trail for snowshoeing in the winter.

In addition, mountain bikers, ATV'ers, horseback riders, hikers, and those in wheelchairs use the other trails in this area outside of the winter months. Additionally, firewood cutting and hunting take place in the Wensley Creek Trail Area. Responses from the community survey indicated that a large number of trail users frequent this area multiple times a week.

There a number of informal dirt bike trails in this area as well. Limited GPS data is available for them. These dirt bike trails extend outside of the identified Cross-Country ski trail area.



Status

There is an existing partnership agreement between Recreation Sites and Trails BC and the ALCCSC that applies to the Wensley Creek Cross-Country Ski Trails, which are managed as a recreation area (Rec #5185). This agreement stipulates that the trails are restricted to cross-country skiing December 1st to April 1st annually. All other uses are permitted outside of that window.

Opportunities and Constraints

Track set cross-country ski trails are negatively impacted by motorized traffic during the winter months.

Private property is encroaching on this trail area, and this impact will need to be monitored.

Priorities and Recommendations

- Work with the dirt bikers to refine and gather more detailed GPS data and map the dirt bike trails in this area;
- Improve signage and wayfinding where needed (at intersections with dirt bike trails).

Cross-country skiing at Wensley Creek
Photo: Julia Burger

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Western Arrow Lakes Trail Area (Upper)

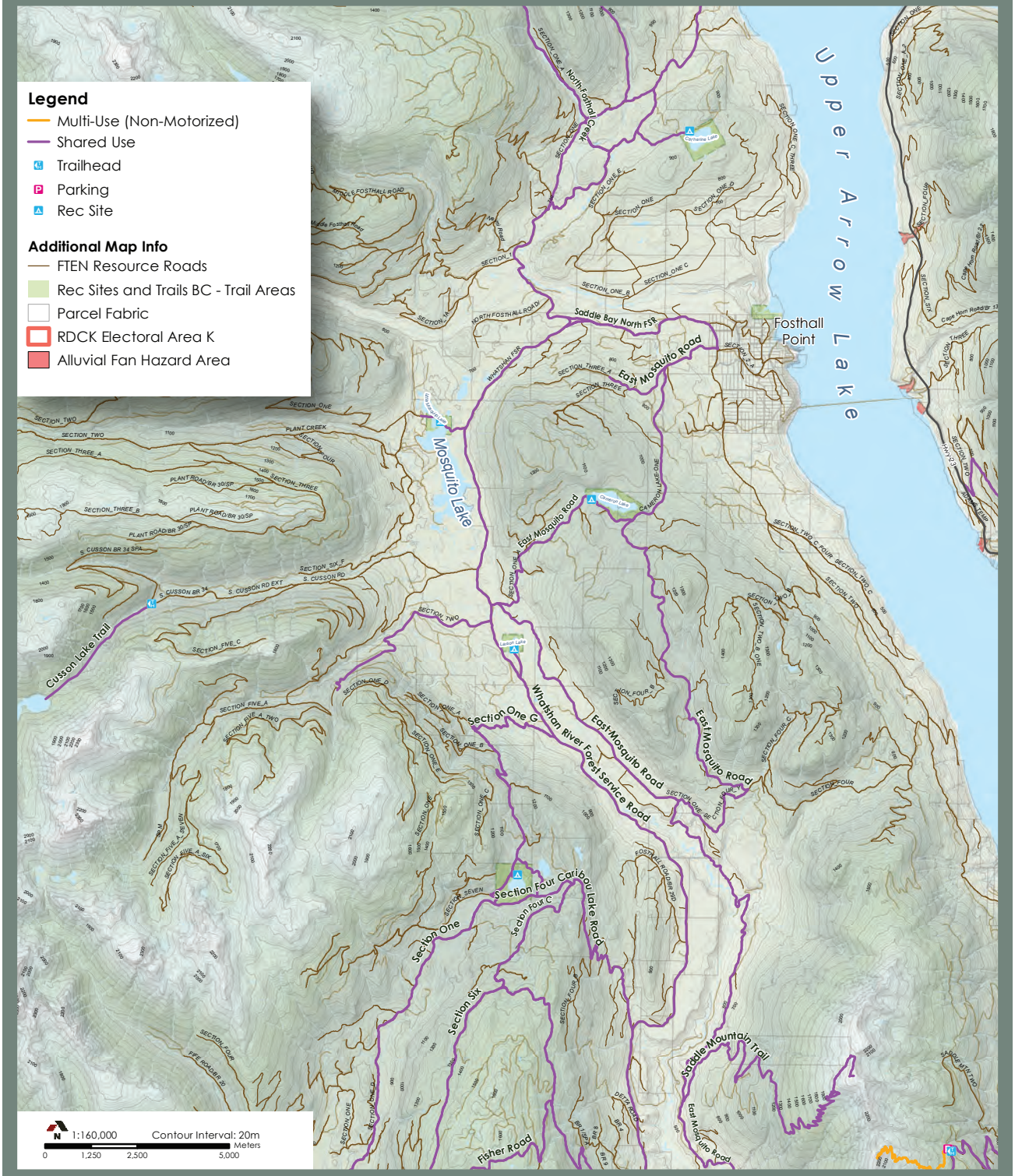


Figure 5.20 - Western Arrow Lakes Trail Area (Upper) Map

Nakusp & Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan
Western Arrow Lakes Trail Area (Lower)

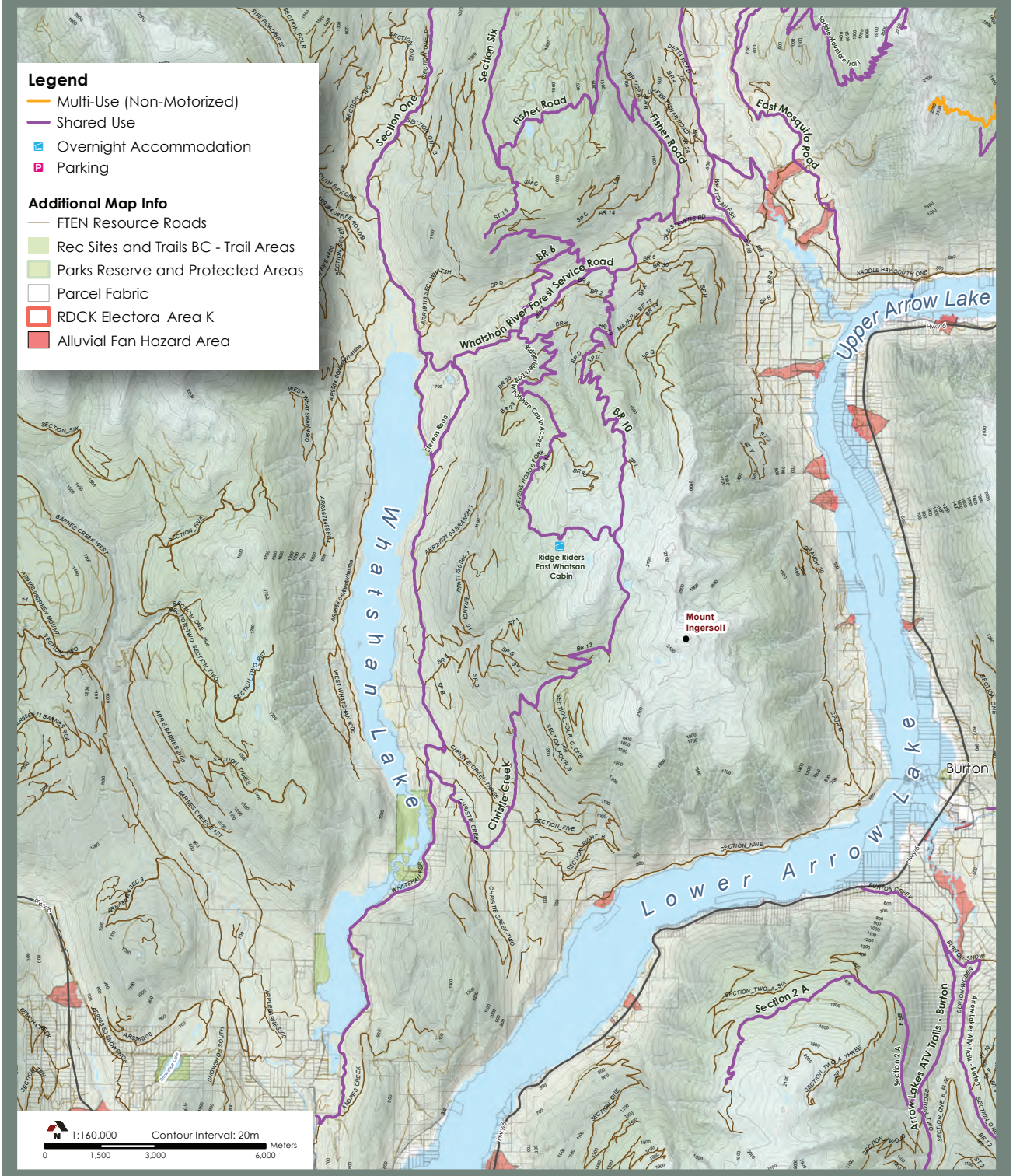


Figure 5.21 - Western Arrow Lakes Trail Area (Lower) Map

Western Arrow Lakes Trail Area (Upper and Lower)

Area Character

This large trail area contains a substantial number of ATV trails, but is used by all groups. The Ingersoll Mountain area is popular with snowmobilers in the wintertime, and the Arrow Lakes Ridge Riders (ALRR) have a cabin here. In the summertime, hikers frequent Ingersoll Mountain.

At the present time, this area isn't a focus from a mountain biking perspective, but the terrain could lend itself to future development.

This trail area can be accessed off of the Saddle Mountain Access Road as well as from Edgewood in the south. The north end of the trail area can be accessed from the Shelter Bay FSR.

Status

The following trails have assigned Rec Numbers:

- Saddle Mountain Trail (Rec #107237)
- Ridgeriders East Whatshan Cabin Access (Rec #107076)

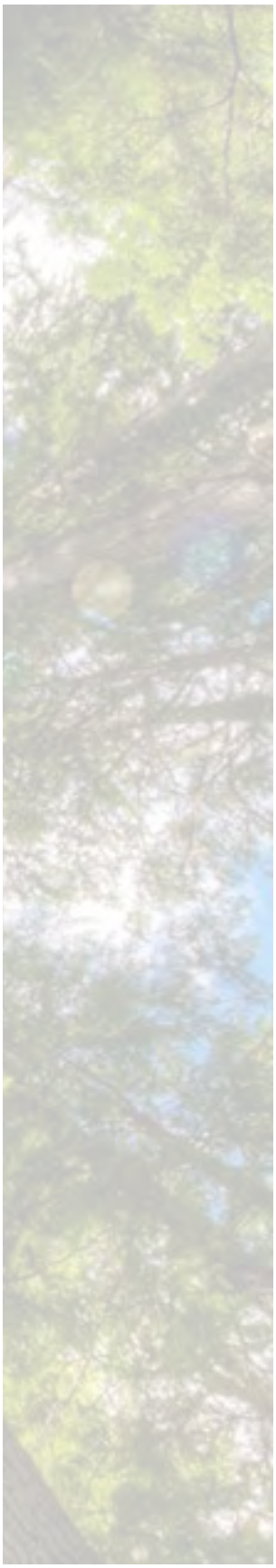
Opportunities and Constraints

Future trail development or management should not negatively impact Ungulate Winter Range areas or old growth forest in this area.

Priorities and Recommendations

- Work with mountain bike stakeholders in the future to determine feasibility of developing mountain biking trails in this area;
- Work with ATV and snowmobile stakeholders on trail maintenance and staging needs in this area;
- Improve signage and wayfinding as needed.

Enjoying a bluebird winter day
Photo: Arrow Lakes Ridge Riders



6.0 MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The following section of the Trails Master Plan covers management strategies in a number of key areas:

- Trail Maintenance Strategies;
- User Conflict Strategies;
- Fundraising Strategies;
- Design Guidelines and Classifications;
- Community Outreach, Education, and Advocacy.

The considered application of these strategies is critical for maintaining the trail network into the future.

6.1 TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Continual inspection and maintenance of the trail network needs to be carried out in order to ensure that the trail network is functioning optimally. Real time data can be collected from trail users through the use of QR codes and/or an online trail information hub. This will help with the coordination of inspection and maintenance efforts. For any additional trail development, it is important that ongoing maintenance costs and needs be considered. Small repairs should be completed in a timely manner to mitigate expensive repairs down the road.

As new trails are developed and the resource road network changes, it is critical to consider the system wide impacts. For example, changing the drainage patterns of an area may create the need for additional or new types of maintenance in other trail areas that are at a lower elevation.

From both a safety standpoint and an effective marketing standpoint, it is important that the trail network is well maintained.

Existing volunteers should be engaged by the umbrella organization to contribute to the ongoing maintenance of the trail network, as they have been doing for many years. In order to do this, insurance must be put in place to release trail volunteers from liability and all trail volunteers will need to sign waivers, as well as keep a record of any work done.

6.2 USER CONFLICT STRATEGIES

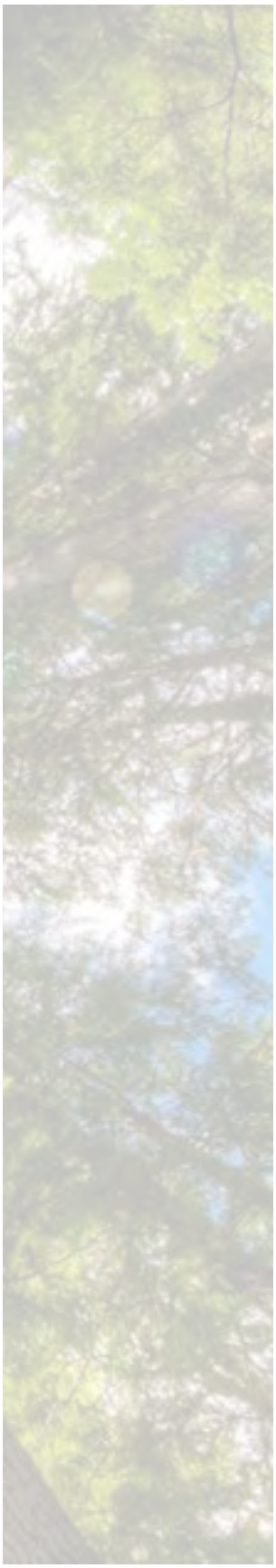
The respectful nature of all existing trail user groups has been acknowledged throughout the development of this Trails Master Plan. The relatively quiet nature of the Nakusp and Arrow Lakes trails network means there are minimal conflicts between user groups. However, community feedback indicated that there are occasional conflicts with dog walkers, motorized users, and industrial uses.

As the trail network gains in popularity, it is important to have strategies in place to address potential user conflict. Advance planning, well thought out trail design, and an open dialogue between various user groups will help to minimize conflict.

Many of the existing trails are inclusive and support Shared Use. Effective signage and trail etiquette education will help to ensure all trail users have an enjoyable experience. Design alterations to existing Shared Use trails can be explored where possible, for example a widening of the trail to provide a pull-out and allow different user groups to safely pass one another.

It is recommended that going forward a select number of trails be designed for specific user groups as outlined in Section 5.0, so that all user groups will have access to quality trail experiences with design standards specific to their desired trail use.

Runners and mountain bikers share a trail
Photo: Explore Steamboat



6.3 FUNDRAISING STRATEGIES

Securing funding for capital projects and ongoing maintenance is one of the biggest challenges faced by trail groups in Nakusp and the surrounding region. This document will function as a key communication tool and component of future fundraising strategies. Forming an organization with representation from a wide range of trail user groups will help to strengthen any applications for funding that are made.

There are a range of potential funding strategies that involve different types of partnering and sponsorships. These are summarized below:

Grants

Grant funding can be secured either for capital expenditures or ongoing maintenance needs. What is shown below is not an exhaustive list of potential funding sources, but instead shows the wide range of organizations that grant funding can be obtained through.

Columbia Basin Trust

CBT's mandate is to support the ideas and efforts of communities and people in the Columbia Basin. CBT administers a wide range of grants, many of which can be applied to trail projects.

http://ourtrust.org/funding-support/funding-support-programs/

RDCK Recreation Commission #4

The Recreation Commission awards amounts up to $10,000 to support indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities in the region.

Nakusp and Area Community Foundation (NACF)

The NACF awards a range of grants that may be applicable to different types of trail projects.

https://nakuspfoundation.com/

Young Canada Works

Young Canada Works (YCW) funding can be applied toward summer jobs that help to build careers in heritage. If a historic interpretive site is being developed, it may be possible to secure this funding by partnering with a local heritage organization such as the Nakusp and District Museum.

http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1466191409480

Work BC

Through their Job Creation Partnerships (JCP) program, Work BC provides funding to organizations to assist with local projects that provide community benefit and require project funding to take place. This works to create jobs for unemployed eligible EI clients, providing them with meaningful work experience. Projects must primarily benefit the job seeker, but also benefit the community and the local economy.

https://www.workbc.ca/Employment-Services/Community-and-Employer-Partnerships/Job-Creation-Partnerships.aspx

TD Friends of the Environment

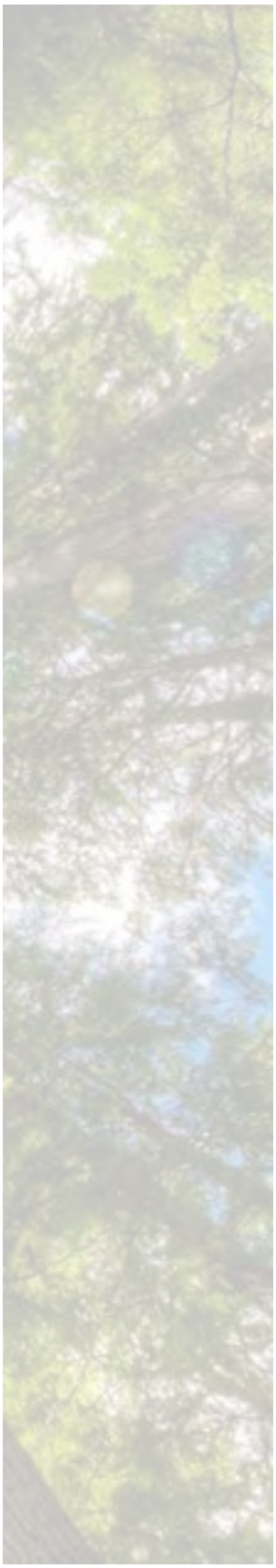
For trails or trail elements (such as an outdoor gathering space) that support outdoor learning and experiential education practices, grants such as the ones administered by TD Friends of the Environment can be used to secure funding.

https://fef.td.com/funding/

Evergreen

Evergreen is one of Canada's leading funders of community and school greening projects. Funding opportunities are focused around education.

https://www.evergreen.ca/get-involved/funding-opportunities/



BikeBC

The Province of British Columbia administers cost-sharing cycling infrastructure projects through the BikeBC program. Types of infrastructure that may receive funding include (in order of preference): Separated bike paths, cyclist/pedestrian bridges and overpasses, buffered bike lanes, bike lanes, shoulder bikeways, and shared roadways.

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/funding-engagement-permits/funding-grants/cycling-infrastructure-funding

BC Equestrian Trails Fund

Administered by the Horse Council of British Columbia, this yearly grant provides support for specific projects related to the construction and/or maintenance of an equestrian trail, trailhead, or horse camping site in BC for public use. Examples of projects that would be eligible for funding include: new trail construction; trail upgrade/improvement; bridge and water crossing construction; upgrades, or rehabilitation; signage; trail surveying and tracking; trail rehabilitation; horse camp facilities such as corrals, high lines, toilets, fire rings, signage, stock water facilities, etc.; and trailhead modifications to accommodate horses and horse trailers.

http://www.hcbc.ca/index.php/membership/funding-for-hcbc-members/bc-equestrian-trails-fund/

Corporate Sponsorships

Partnering with local business and organizations such as ski or bike shops, tourism boards, the Chamber of Commerce, or local overnight accommodation may provide opportunities to secure funding.

User / Community Groups / Service Clubs

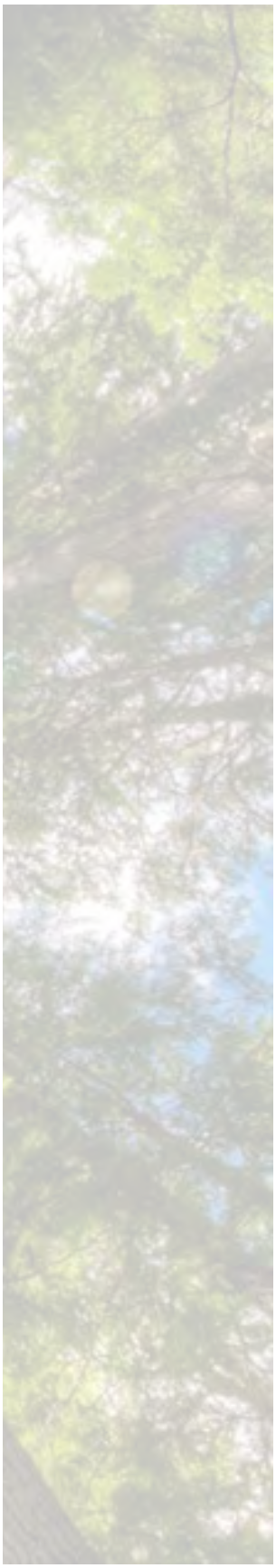
Consider a wide range of potential local community groups as partners for trail projects. The local museum, Rotary or Lions Club, and different environmental groups are all examples of potential partnerships. Support may come in the form of monetary donations, in-kind donations, or individual volunteers.

Trails App (trailmapps.com)

Developing a locally relevant Trails App, which can be administered through the App Store, can provide a source of ongoing funding to be applied toward trail maintenance. For a multi-use trail network of this size, the expected yearly returns will be approximately $2,700-$3,000.

Winter sunset on the Hot Springs Trail
Photo: Village of Nakusp

Hiking up an old FSR
Photo: NACTS



6.4 DESIGN GUIDELINES AND CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

A formalized trail classification system is a necessary component of creating an effective and safe trail network for all user groups. A formalized system allows users to select trails that meet their skill level, abilities, and desired trail experience. In addition, a consistent formal system enables stakeholders to better understand the requirements when planning, building, and maintaining a trail.

Ideally, a trail system or network will include trails that engage different skill levels and user groups, and are a range of widths and trail types.

Trail Classification and Standards

The Ministry of Forests Trail Standards Draft from Spring of 2013 provides a strong basis for developing a set of trail standards for Area K and Nakusp. A newer version of this document with some updates will be released in 2017.

These trail standards cover surfacing, width, grade, usage, and setting. See Appendix C for a detailed summary of these trail standards.

Accessible Trail Standards

An identified need for accessible trails was established through the community consultation process. Accessible trails should be built to a standard that will enable all trail users with mobility concerns to use the trails. This includes people in wheelchairs and trail users with strollers. Ideally, excellent recreational opportunities should be available for all trail users and visitors.

Trail width, grades, and surfacing are the key considerations, as well as ensuring that any physical barriers are built to a standard that enables a wheelchair to pass through. Appropriate surfacing materials included paved hardscapes (asphalt, concrete, pavers with smooth joints) and compacted crushed aggregate. Other compacted surface materials may also be used, and boardwalks are considered accessible surfaces. Ideally, accessible trails should be a minimum of 1.5 meters wide.

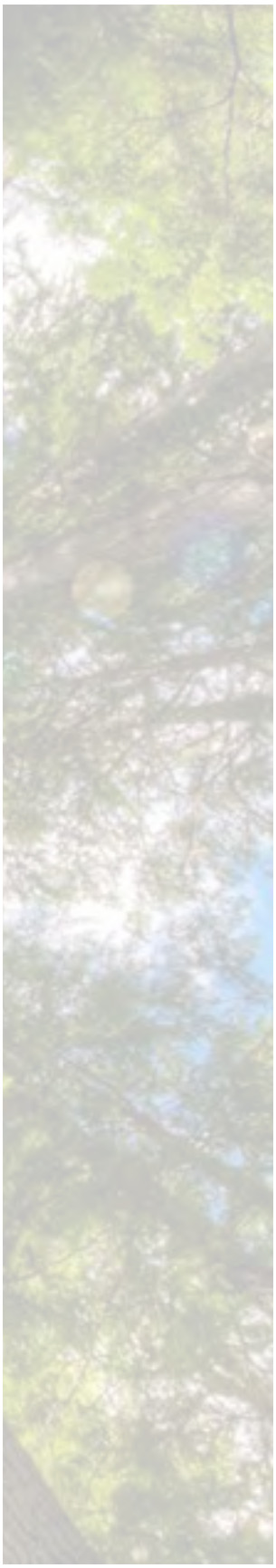
	Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV	Abandoned Resource Road
Trail Surface (typical)	Asphalt or crushed aggregate	Crush aggregate or natural mineral soil surface	Natural mineral soil surface	Natural surface, loose surface	Hardened road surface, road base and aggregates
Typical Average Width	1.5m to 3m	1.0 to 2.0m	0.3m to 1.2m	0.3m -0.5m	>3m
Average Grade	0%-4%	5%-8%	8%-10%	8%-12%	NA
Maximum Grade	7%	12%	10%	15%	20%
Typical Uses	Hiking , Cycling, XC Skiing, Equestrian, Snowshoe	Hiking , Cycling, XC Skiing, OHV, Equestrian, Snowshoe,	Hiking , Cycling, XC Skiing, OHV, Equestrian, Snowshoe,	Hiking, backcountry skiing, limited cycling (usually not appropriate)	All
Typical Setting	Developed and urban areas, community connector	Semi-developed, front country, forested	Front country, backcountry, wilderness	Alpine, wilderness, remote	Forested, resource areas, wilderness, backcountry
Descriptor	Pathway	Double Track	Single or Double Track	Route	

Figure 6.1 - Recreation Sites and Trails BC Draft Trail Classifications and Standards

Other important elements that need to be designed with accessibility in mind are parking and staging points that provide access to accessible trails, as well as washroom facilities.

BC Accessibility standards should be consulted when designing an accessible trail. The Cariboo Regional District is an excellent precedent. Using grant funding, they have completed 18 accessible trails within the Regional District, providing inclusive outdoor recreation opportunities.

An accessible pathway in the Cariboo
Photo: Caribou Regional District



Environmental Considerations

When designing new trails or additions to the existing trail network, it is important to employ a systems-based approach. In other words, a change at one place in the system can have significant downstream effects.

Ecosystem elements that need to be taken into consideration when adding to or altering the trail network include:

- Watercourses and associated wetlands and riparian areas;
- Wildlife dens, nests, and wildlife habitat trees;
- Old growth forests.

Trail design and development should include a rigorous environmental evaluation and process to ensure that negative environmental impacts will not occur as a result of the new trail or trail upgrades. Where needed, an environmental consultant should be engaged to do a detailed assessment.

Watercourses, Wetlands, and Riparian Areas

All riparian setbacks should be respected when designing trails. These riparian setbacks are typically 30m from watercourses. These setbacks must be taken into account for any additional infrastructure such as outhouses or hut buildings.

In general, it is good practice to avoid watercourses and wetlands. However, there will be cases where crossings are necessary. Freespan bridges should be used to minimize the impact to the watercourse. Culverts should only be used in cases where streams are not fish bearing, or they are ephemeral.

Wildlife Dens, Nests, and Habitat Trees

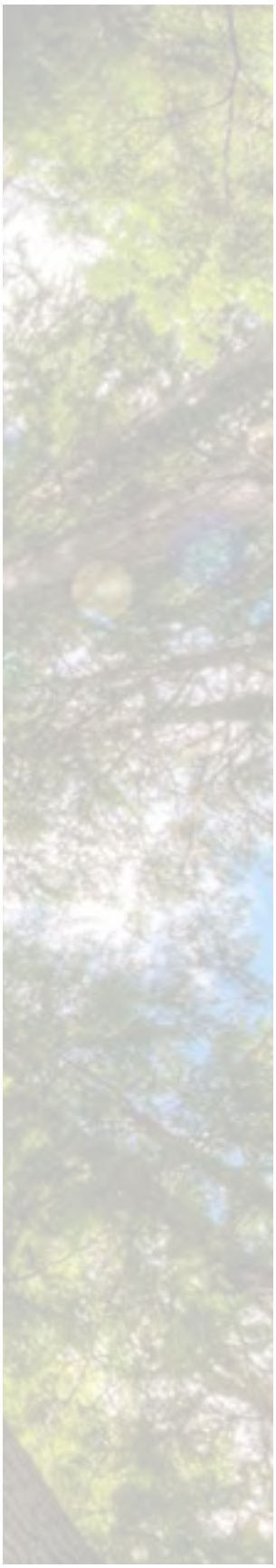
These elements should be identified and avoided at the design level of the project. In some cases, trails may need to be temporarily closed to minimize impacts on local wildlife. Additional wildlife considerations specific to location conditions will also need to be taken into account.

Old Growth Forests

In general, minimal new trail development should occur in areas of old growth forest. These ecosystems are highly sensitive to changes in their environment and do not respond well to soil or groundwater disturbance.

Old growth management areas identify areas of old growth forest in BC. These areas are important not only for supporting a wide variety of wildlife, but also represent an important pillar for recreation and tourism. These areas cannot be found anywhere else on this continent and represent natural flora and fauna that have existed for hundreds to thousands of years, untouched by natural events such as forest fires. These areas also provide numerous food sources for different aquatic and terrestrial species. Certain species may only be found in these old growth areas and will not thrive in second cut or younger forests.

A Western Toad migrates across Highway 6
Photo: Kerri Martin



6.5 COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION STRATEGIES

Trails have the capacity to play a critical role in community outreach. In addition, they have the potential to play a key role in education surrounding issues of environmental conservation, natural history, cultural history, and stewardship. Trails can also be used as a setting for experimental education initiatives.

Local residents and visitors alike benefit from the trails in Area K and Nakusp, which provide access to recreation for all ages and income levels. The trails are a welcoming space. Awareness, education, and advocacy are key components of building an effective, well-managed, and well-maintained trail network for years to come.

Interactive Trail Inventory

The lack of a centralized information hub for trails was expressed through the community consultation process. It is critical to recognize that the trails network is continually evolving and changing.

An online inventory of trails that can be readily updated and used to gather real-time data from trail users can help to ensure that volunteer resources are directed to key trail issues. It is recommended that the umbrella organization incorporate this type of trails inventory into their website. Programs such as Google Docs can facilitate the gathering of this information.

A great example of this is the ***interactive trail inventory*** that is managed by the Sunshine Coast Trails Society (SCTS).

Public Volunteer Events

The Area K and Nakusp trail network already benefits from many different volunteer groups. However, while some individuals may not want to join one of the existing groups, they may be interested in volunteering at specific events such as a trail clean up day or trail building day. Ideally, these events should be coordinated by the Umbrella Organization once one has been put in place.

Trail volunteer events are a great way to bring different user groups together, providing a forum for discussing and working to resolve trail issues.

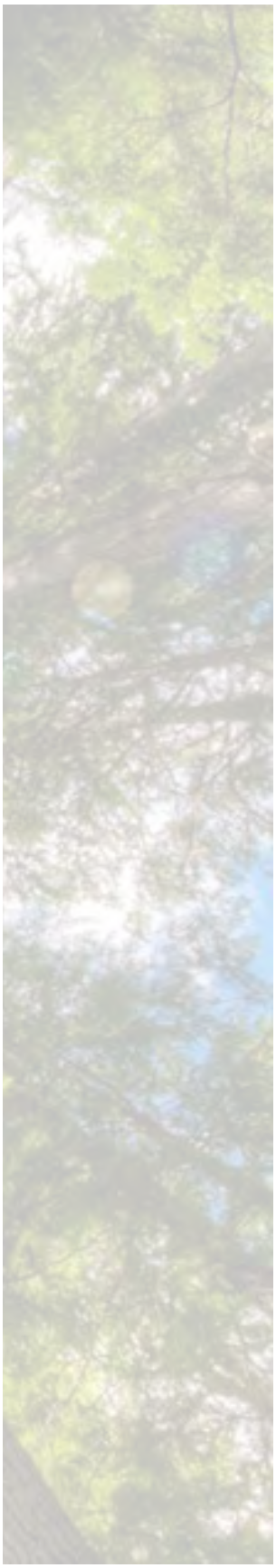
To have productive trail maintenance days and encourage repeat volunteers:

- Be organized: Have tools, a location, and the day's objectives and strategies ready to go;
- Set reasonable goals for the day;
- Engage local businesses to provide thank-you items for the volunteers;
- Be prepared for different sizes of turnout by having a few different work plans prepared;
- Be safe - make sure all volunteers know how to use the tools effectively and are given tasks for which they are physically prepared;
- Make the event fun! Provide encouragement, refreshments, and snacks;
- Ensure that any crew leaders have prior experience in trail construction or maintenance;
- Keep records of the number of volunteers, before/after photos, and amount of volunteer time invested.

Another way to encourage increased volunteerism is to implement an Adopt-A-Trail program. Local businesses, community organizations, schools, families, or individuals can all become adopters of trails. This is an effective way to tackle maintenance of trails that are not already maintained by a specific volunteer group. This could be accomplished through a partnership with local government.

Sponsored Events

Trails-based sponsored events can be a driver of tourism and economic opportunity for Nakusp and the Arrow Lakes region. Poker Runs and other motorized events are already drawing large numbers of people to the area. With the addition of the upcoming Mount Abriel Bike Park, and improvements to other trails, other types of sponsored events could be attracted. 84% of respondents to the community survey indicated that they would support trails-based sponsored events as a tourism and economic driver.



Marketing Initiatives

While marketing the trails network would not be the responsibility of the Umbrella Organization, it is recommended that marketing initiatives that have the potential to draw tourism into the region be supported. Bringing more money into the region can help to bolster funds available for capital projects and ongoing trail maintenance. All marketing should reflect the unique local culture, with a focus on outdoor recreation.

Successfully marketing a trail network is a combination of a number of different factors. Some of the most effective marketing tools are simply word of mouth. By ensuring that visitors have their trail expectations met by their experiences, you have a ready source of on the ground marketers. Don't limit your marketing to existing trail users - promoting the existence and extent of the trail system, and the ease of accessing the trails can help to encourage non-users to become new users. Marketing isn't solely about drawing tourists to the region, but is also an important tool for encouraging healthy living among the local population.

Key considerations:

- Work with local businesses and community leaders; make sure everyone is aware of the positive economic impact that an effective trail network can have;
- Make sure local business are well-positioned and informed so that they can answer visitor's questions (supply them with mapping and trails information);
- Support the development of local businesses (restaurants and lodging) that cater specifically to trail users;
- Develop a strong online presence;
- Effective signage and mapping ensures that trail users do not get lost, and goes a long way toward encouraging repeat visits;
- Hire professional photographers to capture the trail experience - strong imagery will compel visitors to come to your destination;
- Encourage media coverage - celebrate the addition of new trails, and upgraded trails or trail elements such as lookout points or overnight accommodation.

Trail Etiquette Education

Public education is a critical component of an effective and successful trail network. A public education strategy informs users of the harm that is caused by activities such as illegal dumping or walking dogs off leash in areas that are not designated as off leash. Trail users can also be educated in responsible trail use, sustainable trail management practices, and regional history.

Information on trail etiquette should be displayed throughout the trail network. Where possible, keep trail etiquette signage friendly and light with humorous messaging and language. It is recommended that the Umbrella Organization work together to develop a locally relevant Code of Ethics that reflects all user groups.

Outreach can take the form of signage, print campaigns, or online campaigns depending on the preferred audience for the messaging. The following are suggested as outreach strategies for trail etiquette education.

- Cover trail basics for new trail users and prepare them for their first trail experience;
- Point to the health benefits of trail-based activities;
- Communicate the negative impacts of off-trail activity and off-leash pets on the understory of the forest;
- Create a trail code of conduct/etiquette;
- Communicate the existing governance and legislative framework of trails on Crown land to the public;
- Cover the negative impacts of illegal dumping of garbage and other waste material in forest areas;
- Share information about invasive species, sensitive species, water quality, and important habitat areas.

Educated trail users are more likely to lead to better trail practices, including a strong sense of environmental stewardship and reduced conflicts between user groups.

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

It is critical that the Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Trails Master Plan functions as an actionable document, with clear priorities for where to begin.

The following implementation plan works to guide the development and management of a sustainable trail network that will be an important economic driver to revitalize, expand, and diversify the regional economy.

It is important to note that existing volunteer groups have limited capacity at the present time in terms of available volunteers and funding. The Umbrella Organization will need to work to build this capacity over time. The Implementation Plan may need to be adjusted by the umbrella organization to reflect these realities.

If possible, securing funding for a paid coordinator would help to increase this capacity.

A detailed GIS database has been developed as part of this plan, which will be a valuable resource moving forward. Partnerships with organizations that are publicly funded and have in-house GIS capability should be explored to maintain and upgrade this database.

7.1 NEXT STEPS

This Trails Master Plan has established a framework for the development and management of the Area K and Nakusp trails system. This should be thought of as a working document, and can be amended as needed to reflect future changes and remain a relevant tool. It is recommended that these updates be carried out every 3-5 years.

In the Implementation Plan, the recommendations from earlier in the Trails Master Plan have been broken up into the following categories:

- Very Short Term (12 months);
- Short Term (1-3 years);
- Medium Term (3-5 years);
- Long Term (5+ years);
- Ongoing.

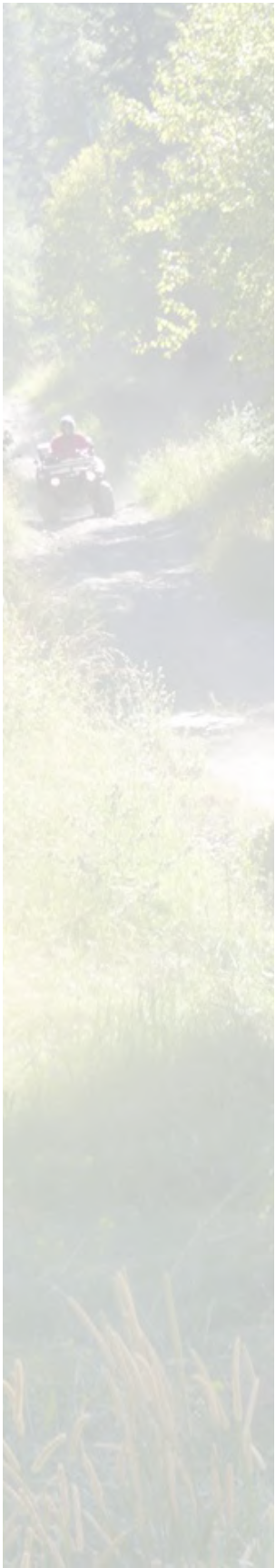
Note that the long-term recommendations are more conceptual ideas that will need further exploration as the needs of local and visiting trail users and the trail network itself evolves over time. These recommendations are not included in Section 5.0: Framework for Planning and Management. They are based on the input received from both the Working Committee and the public during the development of this Trails Master Plan, and work to capture the long term goals for the network.

For trail projects, detailed master planning and site analysis may be required for technical projects such as the construction of new bridges or trails in sensitive habitats.

Immediate Priorities

The following recommendations should be considered immediate priorities and carried out over the next year:

- **Future Management and Development**: Establish an Umbrella Organization, which will streamline communication and the flow of information while contributing to a cohesive vision for the Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Trails Network that represents all user groups;
- **Future Management and Development**: Create a website for the Umbrella Organization, which will act as an information hub;
- **Design Guidelines and Classifications**: Adopt the following trail designations for new trail development: Shared Use and Multi-Use (Non-Motorized)*;
- **Design Guidelines and Classifications**: Adopt the Recreation Sites and Trails BC Trail Classification and Standards;
- **Signage Standards**: Install advanced "turn off" signage on driving routes to trailheads and begin work on network-wide signage and wayfinding improvements;
- **Community Outreach, Education, and Advocacy**: Secure insurance that will indemnify trail volunteers from liability and create a means of keeping detailed records on all trail work completed by volunteers;



**Or agreed upon designations*

- **Community Outreach, Education, and Advocacy**: Identify and apply for grant funding that will enable the hiring of paid youth trail crew members by the summer of 2018;
- **Community Outreach, Education, and Advocacy**: Develop a strategy for volunteer recognition;
- **Community Outreach, Education, and Advocacy**: Use accepted standards as a guide for developing a locally relevant "Trail Code of Ethics" that encompasses all user groups.

On the following pages, the recommendations are broken down by timeline and agency involvement. As decisions are made by the Umbrella Organization regarding the future of the Nakusp and Arrow Lakes trails network, this Implementation Plan can serve as an important guide.

Snowy trees surround a warming hut
Photo: Susan Rogers / ALCCSC

FUTURE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: RECOMMENDATIONS			
INITIATIVE	**LED BY**	**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**	**TIME FRAME**
1. Establish an Umbrella Organization, which will streamline communication and the flow of information while contributing to a cohesive vision for the Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Trails Network that represents all user groups	Working Committee members		Very Short Term (12 months)
2. Create a website for the Umbrella Organization, which will act as an information hub	Umbrella Organization		Very Short Term (12 months)
3. Improve access to trails information through the use of the Umbrella Organization website and access to better mapping (both paper and digital)	Umbrella Organization		Short Term (1-3 years)
4. Create a Trails App, which will ensure mapping stays current and will help to raise funds for the local trails network	Umbrella Organization	App Developer (trailmapps.com or other developer)	Short Term (1-3 years)

FUTURE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: RECOMMENDATIONS			
INITIATIVE	**LED BY**	**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**	**TIME FRAME**
5. Develop a strategic plan for trail maintenance, improvements, and development based on the user groups at different trail areas	Umbrella Organization	Trail stakeholders that aren't members of Umbrella Organization (if applicable), Village of Nakusp (Municipal Trails)	Short Term (1-3 years)
6. Develop a strategic plan for desired linkages, which can be used to guide future trail development	Umbrella Organization		Short Term (1-3 years)
7. Develop and prioritize points of interest throughout the trail network, drawing on cultural and natural history	Umbrella Organization	Local museum and archives; other individuals knowledgable about local history; applicable First Nations groups	Short Term (1-3 years)
9. Explore a fee-based system for certain trails or trail amenities as a way of generating revenue for the maintenance of the trail network	Umbrella Organization		Medium Term (3-5 years)

FUTURE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: RECOMMENDATIONS			
INITIATIVE	**LED BY**	**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**	**TIME FRAME**
10. Design and develop loop trails close to communities, with a focus on accessibility	Umbrella Organization	Village of Nakusp	Medium Term (3-5 years)
11. Work with other Electoral Areas, and trails groups in other areas on the development of key trail linkages	Umbrella Organization	Trails groups in other Electoral Areas, applicable government	Medium Term (3-5 years)
12. Improve staging opportunities, including trailhead kiosks and parking	Umbrella Organization	Village of Nakusp, Recreation Sites and Trails BC	Medium Term (3-5 years)
13. Work with motorized use stakeholders to develop motorized staging areas throughout the trail network as needed	Umbrella Organization	Arrow Lakes ATV Club, Arrow Lakes Ridge Riders, Dirt Bikers, Revelstoke ATV Club, Grand Forks ATV Club	Medium Term (3-5 years)
14. Work with equestrian stakeholders to develop equestrian staging areas throughout the trail network as needed	Umbrella Organization	Arrow Lakes Saddle Club	Medium Term (3-5 years)

FUTURE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: RECOMMENDATIONS			
INITIATIVE	**LED BY**	**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**	**TIME FRAME**
15. Add benches and stopping points throughout the trail network as needed	Umbrella Organization	Village of Nakusp, Recreation Sites and Trails BC	Medium Term (3-5 years)
16. Work with trail stakeholders and the Village of Nakusp to explore any opportunities for developing motorized trails and staging areas from the Village of Nakusp, but outside the municipal boundary to respect the existing bylaws	Umbrella Organization	Village of Nakusp	Medium Term (3-5 years)
17. Explore the potential for developing epic alpine mountain bike and equestrian trails	Umbrella Organization	NABS, Arrow Lake Saddle Club	Long Term (5+ years)
18. Explore the potential for developing new overnight accommodation opportunities such as camping or huts	Umbrella Organization		Long Term (5+ years)

FUTURE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: RECOMMENDATIONS			
INITIATIVE	**LED BY**	**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**	**TIME FRAME**
19. Explore the potential for long journey trails connecting communities that tell stories of natural and cultural history and incorporate the work of local artists	Umbrella Organization		Long Term (5+ years)
20. Explore the potential for a more developed Nakusp to Summit Lake Rail Trail with multiple access points that functions as a linear park	Umbrella Organization	Recreation Sites and Trails BC, RDCK, Village of Nakusp	Long Term (5+ years)
21. Take into consideration ecologically and environmentally sensitive areas when planning for future trail development	Umbrella Organization	Environmental consultants if needed	Ongoing
22. Support the promotion of the local trails network as a destination	Kootenay Rockies Tourism, Destination BC	Umbrella Organization, NABS (Mount Abriel Bike Park), Village of Nakusp, Chamber of Commerce, local businesses	Ongoing

FUTURE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: RECOMMENDATIONS			
INITIATIVE	**LED BY**	**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**	**TIME FRAME**
23. Encourage the development of ecotourism with an outdoor recreation focus, striking a balance between recreation opportunities and the protection of the environment	Umbrella Organization		Ongoing
24. Support the development of a variety of recreational experiences to encourage the natural growth of tourism and benefit the local economy	Umbrella Organization		Ongoing
25. Ensure new trail development occurs through the Crown land legitimization process, and continue to work closely with Recreation Sites and Trails BC	Umbrella Organization	Recreation Sites and Trails BC	Ongoing
26. Continually maintain and upgrade the trails map base	Umbrella Organization		Ongoing

FUTURE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: RECOMMENDATIONS			
INITIATIVE	**LED BY**	**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**	**TIME FRAME**
27. Partner with local industry where possible on improvements to the trail network (e.g. viewpoints) and access to trails	Umbrella Organization	Various industry partners	Ongoing

DESIGN GUIDELINES AND CLASSIFICATIONS: RECOMMENDATIONS			
INITIATIVE	**LED BY**	**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**	**TIME FRAME**
1. Adopt the following trail designations for new trail development: Shared Use and Multi-Use (Non-Motorized)	Umbrella Organization	Village of Nakusp, Recreation Sites and Trails BC	Very Short Term (12 months)
2. Adopt the Recreation Sites and Trails BC Trail Classification and Standards	Umbrella Organization	Recreation Sites and Trails BC	Very Short Term (12 months)
3. Work as group to determine appropriate uses of the Multi-Use (Non-Motorized) trails and ensure that this is reflected on signage at the trailheads	Umbrella Organization	Recreation Sites and Trails BC	Short Term (1-3 years)
4. Develop new loop trails that are built to accessible standards	Umbrella Organization		Short Term (1-3 years)

DESIGN GUIDELINES AND CLASSIFICATIONS: RECOMMENDATIONS			
INITIATIVE	**LED BY**	**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**	**TIME FRAME**
5. Develop new trails that are designed with specific user groups in mind to provide high-quality trail experiences	Umbrella Organization		Medium Term (3-5 years)
6. Ensure new trails are built to standards and are legitimized through the *Forest Range and Practices Act (FRPA)*	Umbrella Organization		Ongoing
7. Adopt user-group specific designations where appropriate in the design and development of new trails	Umbrella Organization		Ongoing

SIGNAGE STANDARDS: RECOMMENDATIONS			
INITIATIVE	**LED BY**	**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**	**TIME FRAME**
1. Install advanced "turn off" signage on driving routes to trailheads	Umbrella Organization	Recreation Sites and Trails BC	Very Short Term (12 months)
2. Collaborate with applicable government, including Recreation Sites and Trails BC and the Village of Nakusp to develop and implement a comprehensive signage and wayfinding strategy that follows Recreation Sites and Trails BC signage and wayfinding guidelines and standards	Umbrella Organization	Recreation Sites and Trails BC, Village of Nakusp	Short Term (1-3 years)
3. Ensure that this signage and wayfinding strategy provides a framework for signage throughout the network that is consistent, colour-coded, and easy to understand	Umbrella Organization		Short Term (1-3 years)

SIGNAGE STANDARDS: RECOMMENDATIONS			
INITIATIVE	**LED BY**	**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**	**TIME FRAME**
4. Work as a group to determine the difficulty ratings for trails in the network that do not currently have ratings and ensure that this is reflected on signage at trailheads	Umbrella Organization		Short Term (1-3 years)
5. Focus efforts on the development of kiosks at key trail staging areas	Umbrella Organization		Short Term (1-3 years)
6. Provide educational and interpretive information on natural and cultural history throughout the trail network, where appropriate	Umbrella Organization		Medium Term (3-5 years)
7. Engage local artists where possible to share natural and cultural history through unique signage on new interpretive trails	Umbrella Organization	Local artists	Medium Term (3-5 years)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH, EDUCATION, & ADVOCACY: RECOMMENDATIONS			
INITIATIVE	**LED BY**	**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**	**TIME FRAME**
1. Work with local businesses and stakeholders to ensure that volunteers are adequately recognized for their efforts (Develop a strategy for volunteer recognition)	Umbrella Organization		Very Short Term (12 months)
2. Identify and apply for grant funding that will enable the hiring of paid youth trail crew members by the summer of 2018	Umbrella Organization		Very Short Term (12 months)
3. Use accepted standards as a guide for developing a locally relevant "Trail Code of Ethics" that encompasses all trail user groups	Umbrella Organization		Very Short Term (12 months)
4. Secure insurance that will indemnify trail volunteers from liability and create a means of keeping detailed records on all trail work completed by volunteers	Umbrella Organization		Very Short Term (12 months)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH, EDUCATION, & ADVOCACY: RECOMMENDATIONS			
INITIATIVE	**LED BY**	**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**	**TIME FRAME**
5. Create an education strategy that will support links to the local curriculum, and provide a framework for educating trail users on communication between user groups, stewardship, and wildlife conservation	Umbrella Organization	Local school district, local environmental groups	Short Term (1-3 years)
6. Create a youth outreach strategy, and encourage the younger population to volunteer on trail maintenance	Umbrella Organization		Short Term (1-3 years)
7. Partner with local stakeholder organizations on the design and development of trails or trail elements that will support outdoor education objectives	Umbrella Organization		Medium Term (3-5 years)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH, EDUCATION, & ADVOCACY: RECOMMENDATIONS			
INITIATIVE	**LED BY**	**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**	**TIME FRAME**
8. Advocate for effective communication between government, industry, and recreational users, particularly in regard to the de-activation of resource roads	Umbrella Organization		Ongoing
9. Work with local businesses and stakeholders to undertake education-based events on the trails and to participate in trail promotion activities	Umbrella Organization	Local businesses	Ongoing
10. Support trails events that will bring money into the local economy	Umbrella Organization		Ongoing
11. Use grant funding or donations to hire paid trail crew members for specific projects to help mitigate volunteer burnout and provide local employment opportunities	Umbrella Organization		Ongoing

Kids cross-country skiing at Wensley Creek
Photo: Catherine Griffin McLean / ALCCSC

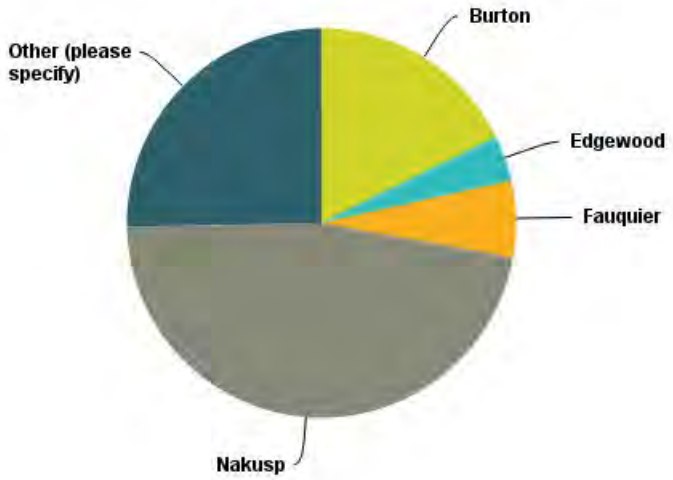
APPENDIX A: SURVEY FINDINGS

An online survey through SurveyMonkey was conducted from March 6th to 24th, 2017 with the goal of capturing additional community feedback beyond what was collected at the Public Open Houses.

On the following pages are the charts summarizing the findings for each of the survey questions. Where there was an opportunity to provide further comment on a question, the feedback has been summarized.

Q1 Where do you reside?

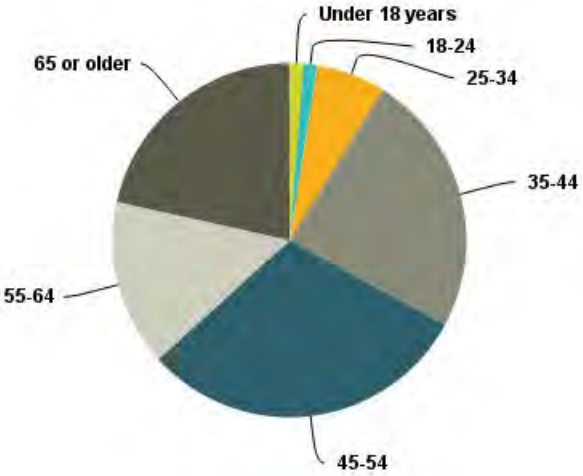
Answered: 79 Skipped: 0



QUESTION 1: Those who responded "Other" submitted the following comments:
Bayview (2)
Kootenays and surrounding area
Revelstoke (4)
Arrow Park - west side of Columbia River Arrow Lakes
Castlegar (2)
Castlegar and Silverton in the summer
Recreation property near Summit Lake
Calgary
New Denver (3)
Slocan but do business in Burton
Vancouver Island
Sandon

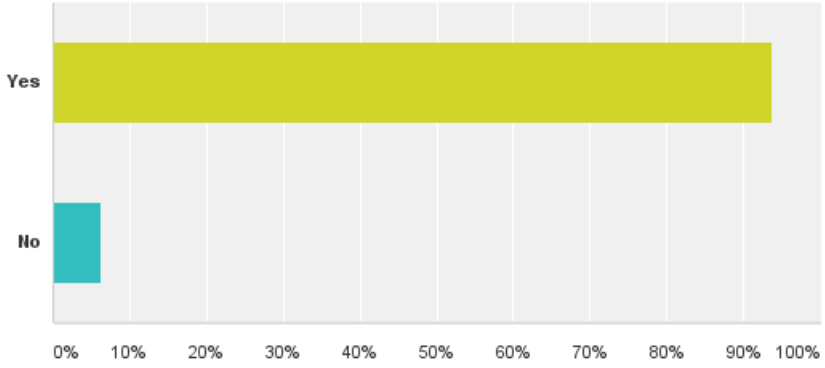
Q2 How old are you?

Answered: 79 Skipped: 0



Q3 Do you currently use the trails in Nakusp and Area K?

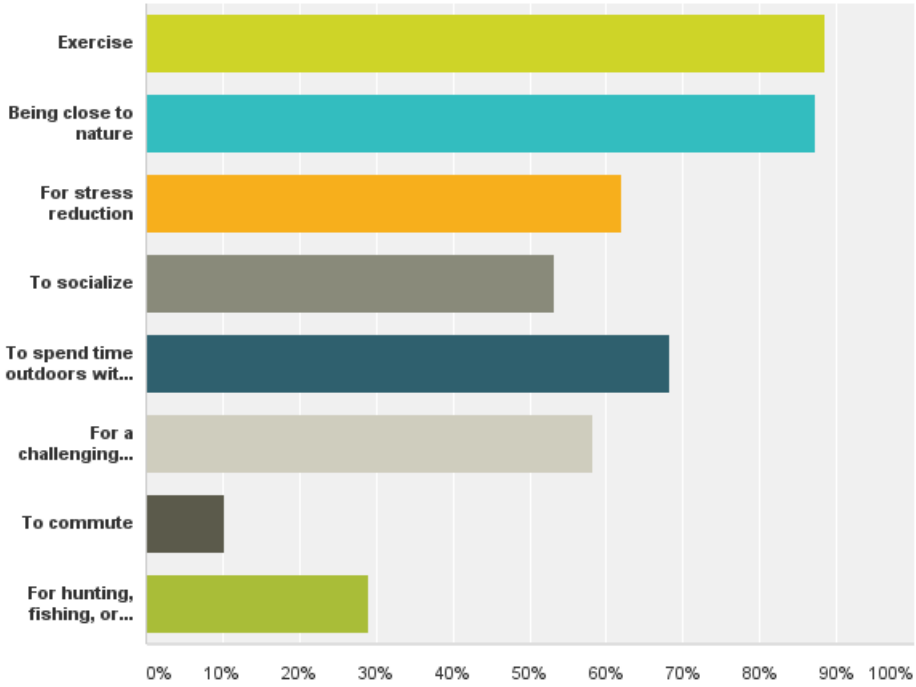
Answered: 79 Skipped: 0



QUESTION 3: Those who responded "No" submitted the following comments:
Time (2)
Most of them are becoming non-motorized
New to the area - haven't discovered the locations yet
Handicapped right now - will use once well enough

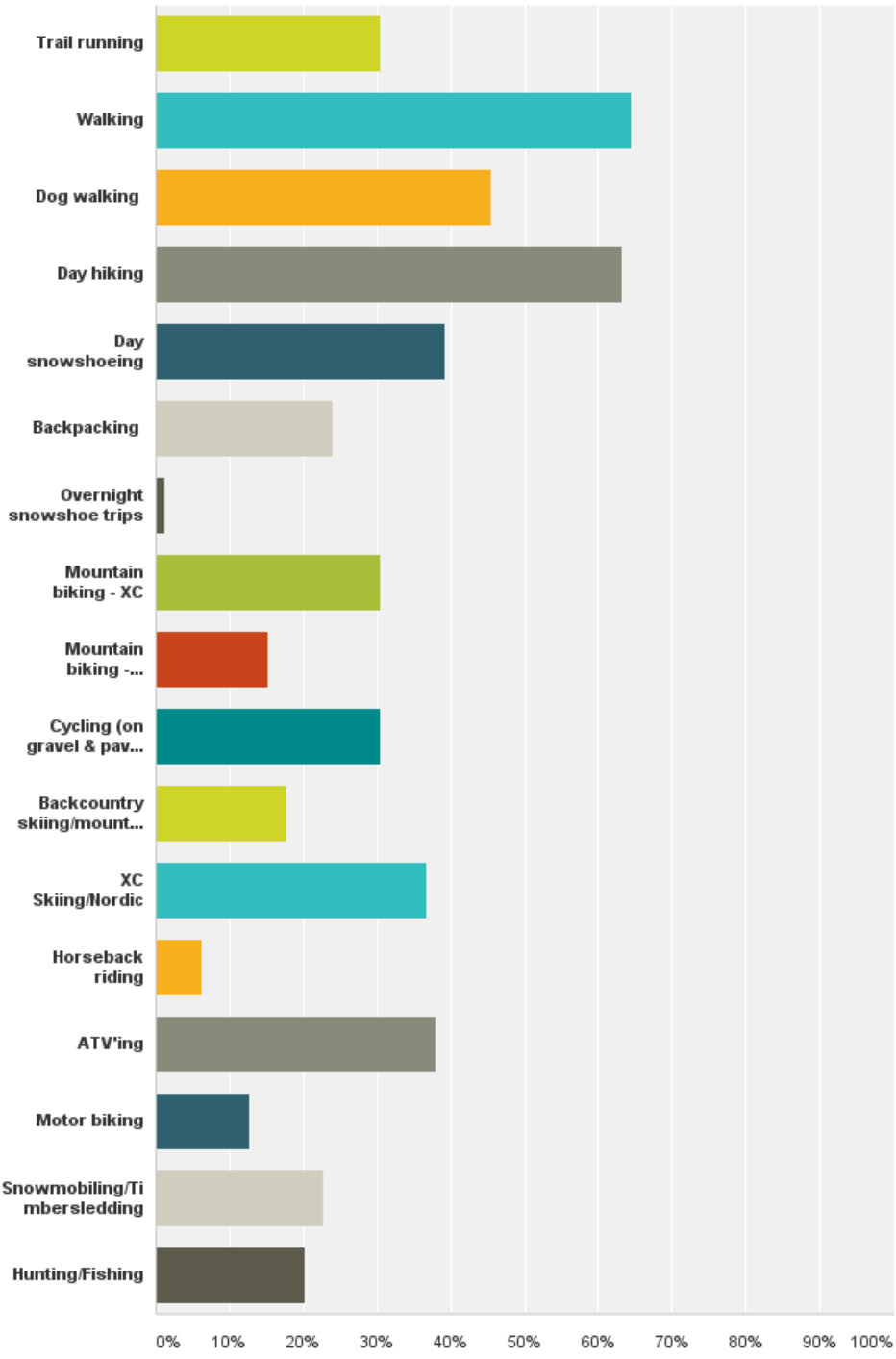
Q4 Why do you use the trails in Nakusp and Area K? Please select all that apply.

Answered: 79 Skipped: 0



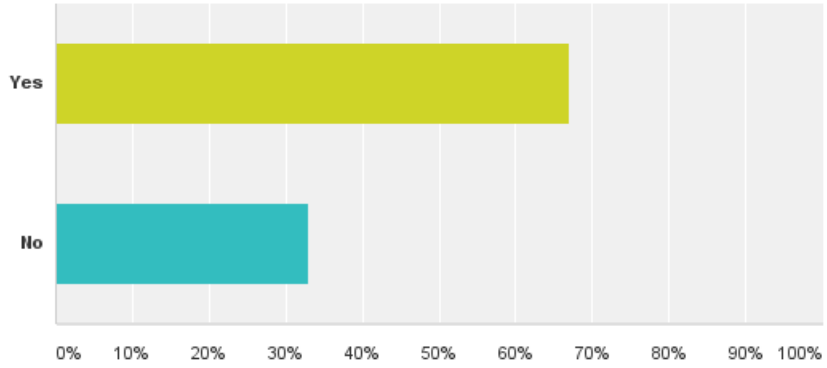
Q5 In what ways do you use the trails? Please select all that apply.

Answered: 79 Skipped: 0



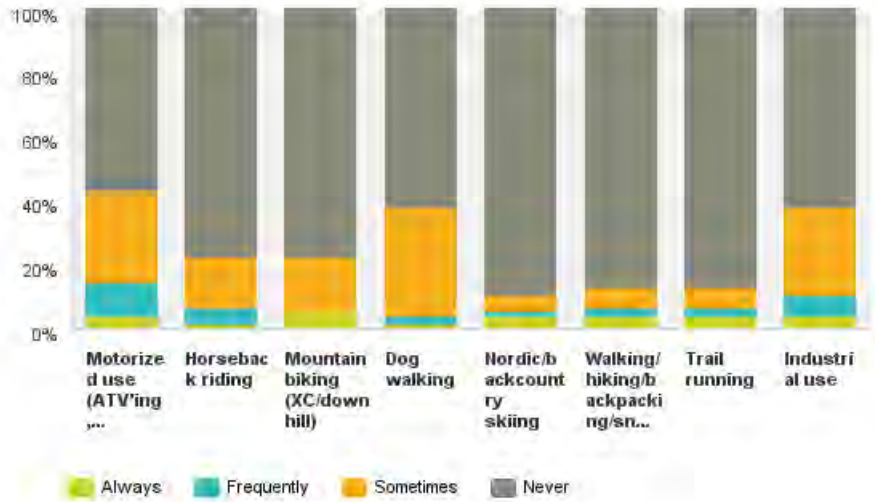
Q6 Do you feel that there are conflicts between trail user groups?

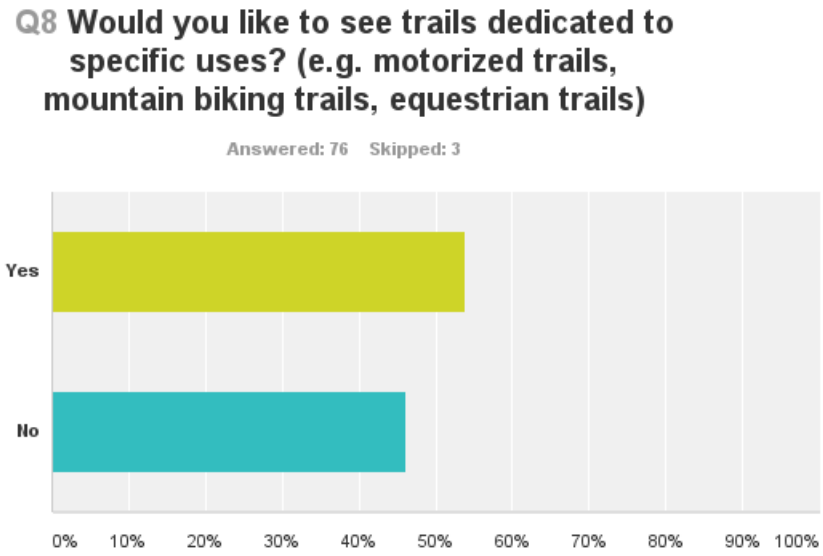
Answered: 76 Skipped: 3



Q7 Which of the following user groups have you experienced conflicts with? Please provide a response to all rows.

Answered: 76 Skipped: 3



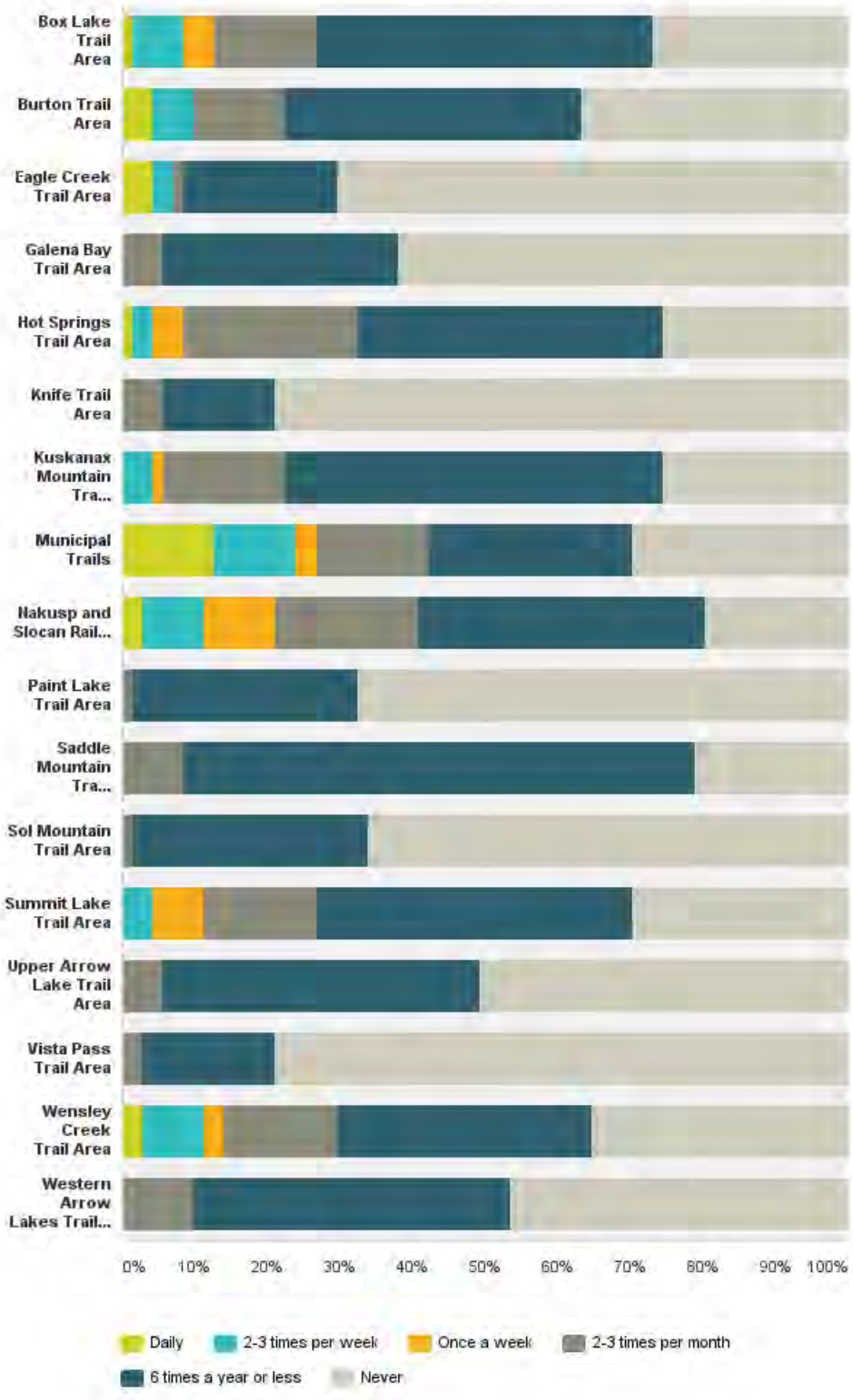


QUESTION 8: The following is a summary of comments submitted:

- Dedication to specific uses can help to avoid conflicts;
- Separation of user groups is more of an urban idea - all trails should be shared use which will encourage user groups to get along and work together;
- Restrict use in urban areas or areas of high/frequent use where there is a higher probability of encounter/conflict, otherwise trails can be shared by all users;
- Shared usage teaches etiquette to all users (motorized and non-motorized);
- Motorized use was repeatedly mentioned as needing to occur on dedicated trails to create a safe environment for all and to keep some trails quiet;
- Anyone is welcome on ATV or snowmobile trails - but few users choose to walk or hike on the same trails, mountain biking trails are too narrow for ATVs - these types of trails should be dedicated;
- Depends on the terrain and signage;
- Motorized users and logging trucks appear quickly around corners and it can be difficult to get out of the way quickly enough;
- Horses can damage wet ground;
- Dedicated use can help with maintaining the ecological integrity of areas;
- Some trails should be dedicated and designed with specific user groups in mind - there should be an effective and considered mix. Not all uses are compatible;
- For backcountry winter use, consideration should be given to the incompatibility of snowmobiling and skiing;
- Create a main artery for shared use branching off into dedicated trails.

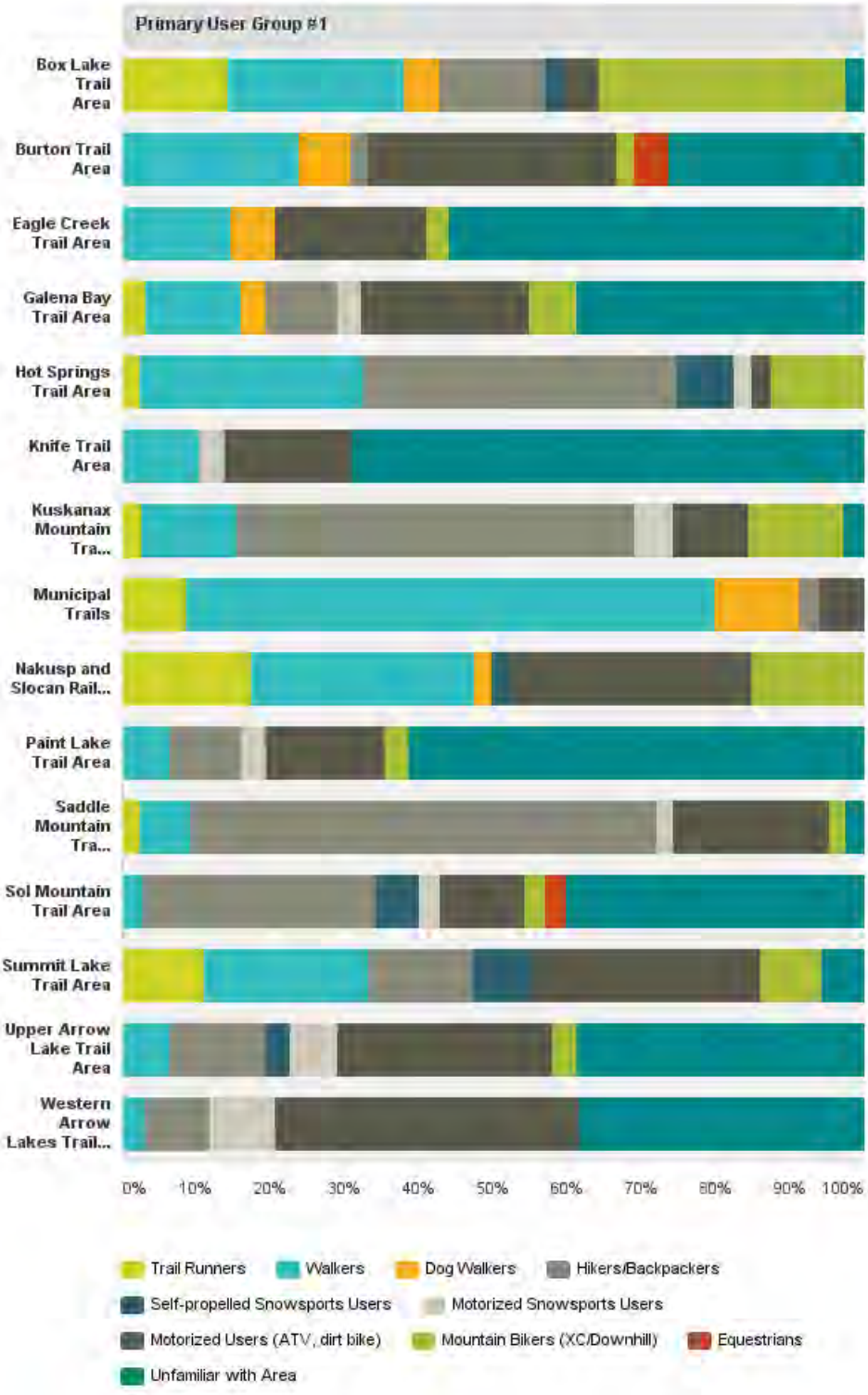
Q9 How often do you use trails in the following areas? Please provide a response to all rows.

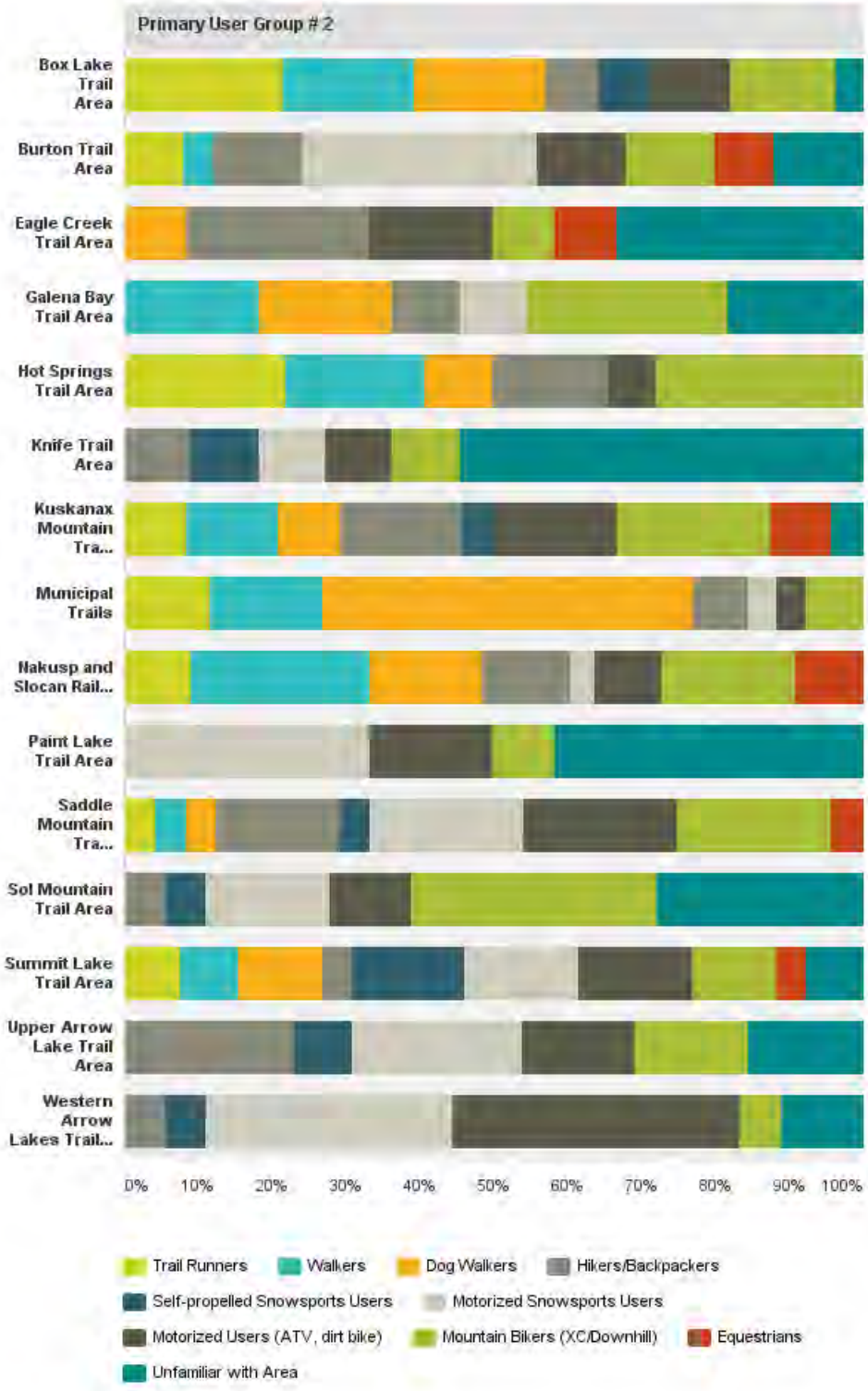
Answered: 71 Skipped: 6

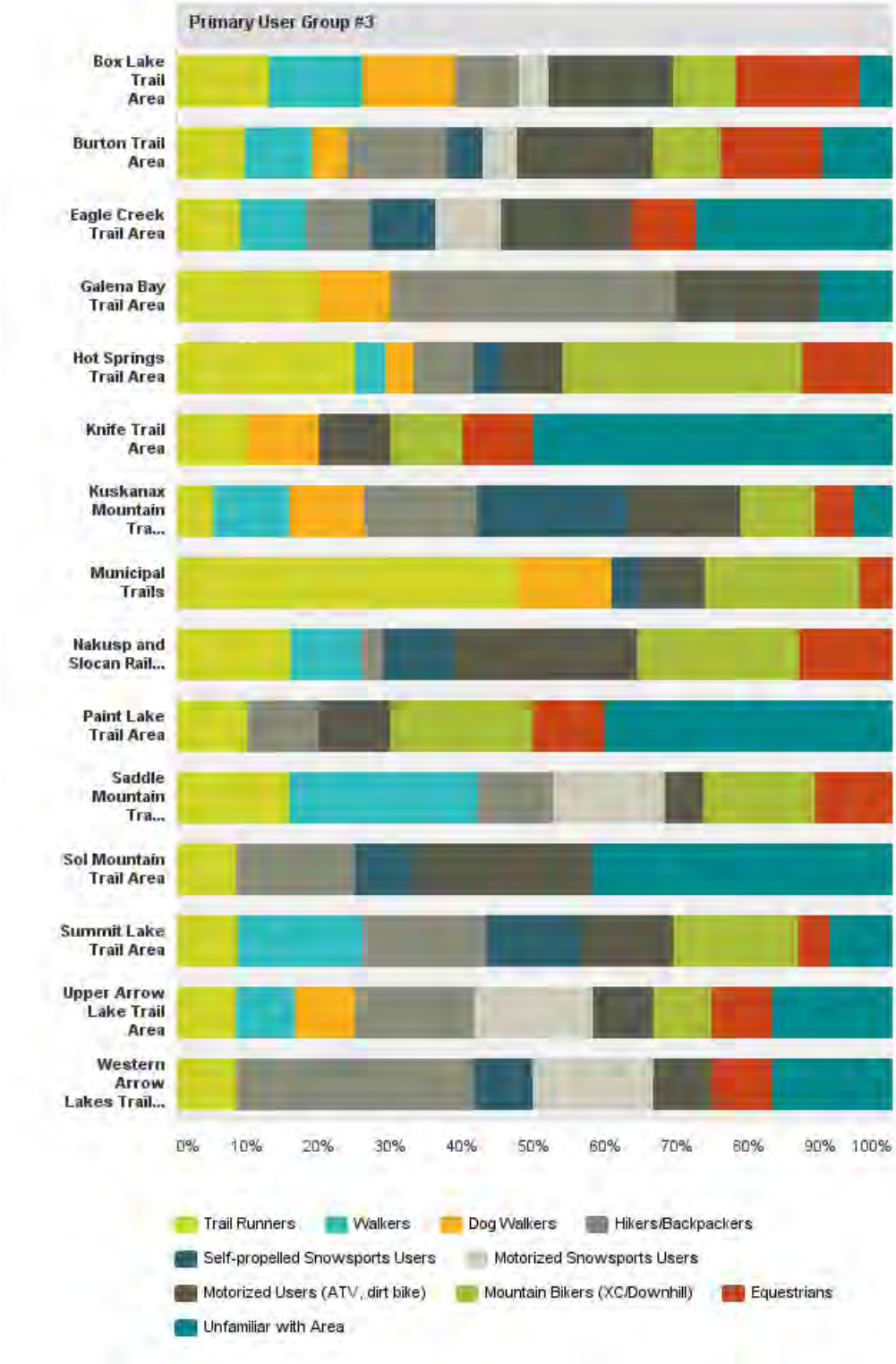


Q10 Please select the top 3 primary user groups at each trail area that you are familiar with.

Answered: 57 Skipped: 22

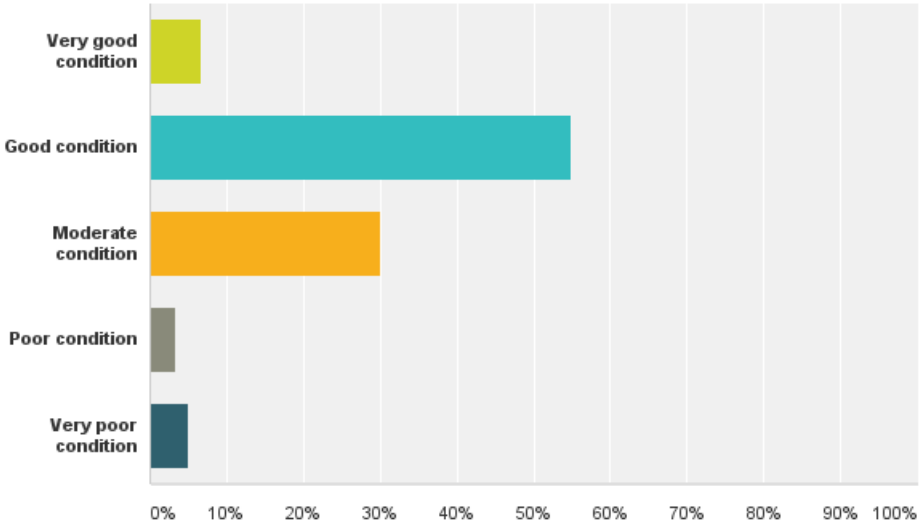



Primary User Group # 2
Box Lake Trail Area
Burton Trail Area
Eagle Creek Trail Area
Galena Bay Trail Area
Hot Springs Trail Area
Knife Trail Area
Kuskanax Mountain Tra...
Municipal Trails
Nakusp and Slocan Rail...
Paint Lake Trail Area
Saddle Mountain Tra...
Sol Mountain Trail Area
Summit Lake Trail Area
Upper Arrow Lake Trail Area
Western Arrow Lakes Trail...
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
Trail Runners
Walkers
Dog Walkers
Hikers/Backpackers
Self-propelled Snowsports Users
Motorized Snowsports Users
Motorized Users (ATV, dirt bike)
Mountain Bikers (XC/Downhill)
Equestrians
Unfamiliar with Area


Primary User Group #3
Box Lake Trail Area
Burton Trail Area
Eagle Creek Trail Area
Galena Bay Trail Area
Hot Springs Trail Area
Knife Trail Area
Kuskanax Mountain Tra...
Municipal Trails
Nakusp and Slocan Rail...
Paint Lake Trail Area
Saddle Mountain Tra...
Sol Mountain Trail Area
Summit Lake Trail Area
Upper Arrow Lake Trail Area
Western Arrow Lakes Trail...
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
Trail Runners
Walkers
Dog Walkers
Hikers/Backpackers
Self-propelled Snowsports Users
Motorized Snowsports Users
Motorized Users (ATV, dirt bike)
Mountain Bikers (XC/Downhill)
Equestrians
Unfamiliar with Area

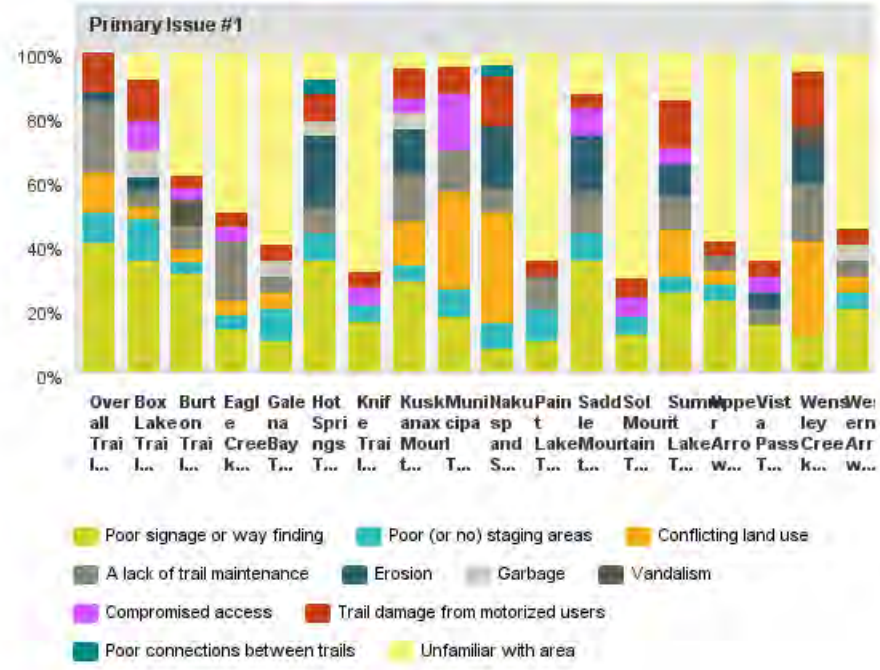
Q11 How would you rate the condition of the trails you use most frequently?

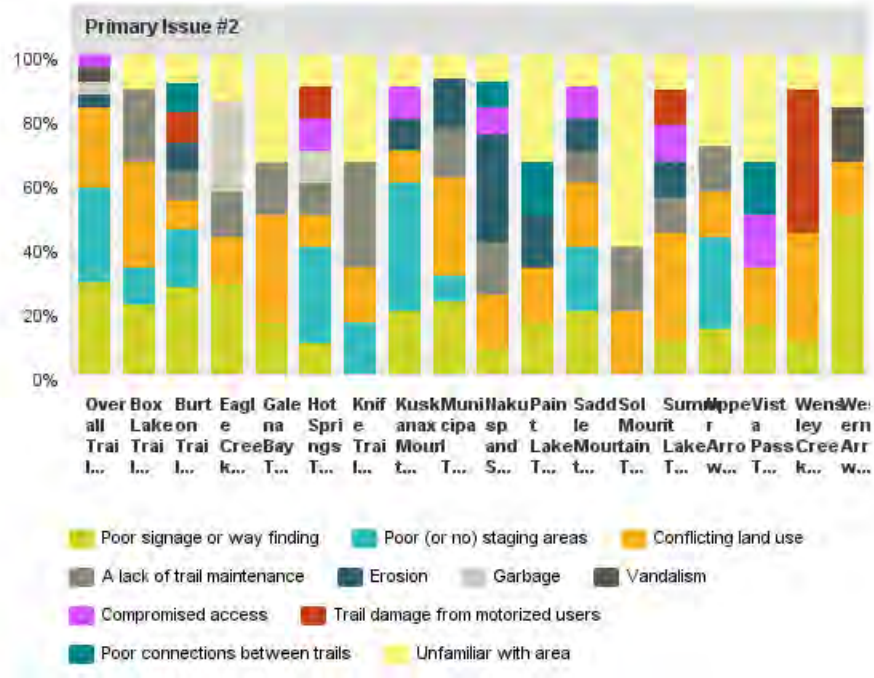
Answered: 60 Skipped: 19

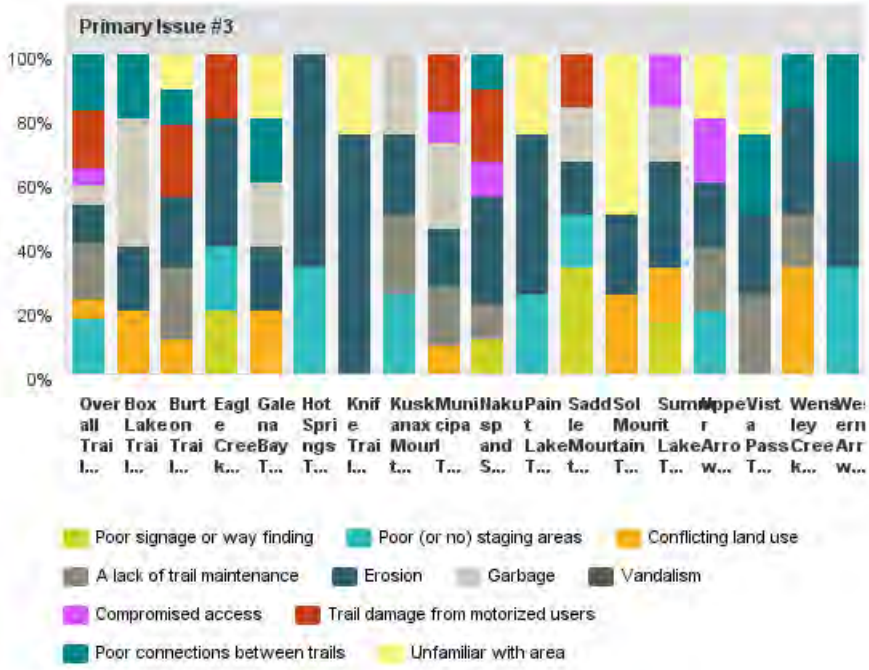


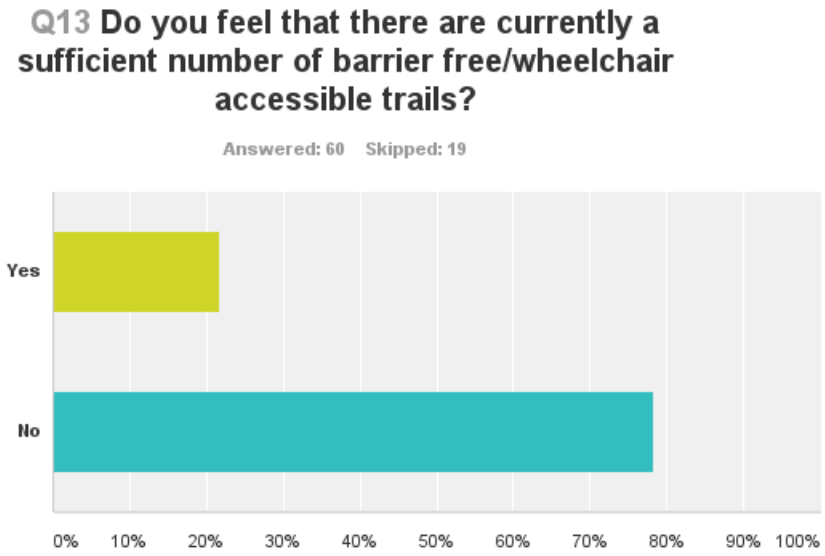
Q12 What would you consider the main trail issues at the following trail areas?

Answered: 48 Skipped: 31




Primary Issue #2
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
Overall Trail...
Box Lake Trail...
Burton Trail...
Eagle Creek...
Galena Bay T...
Hot Springs T...
Knife Trail...
Kuskanax Mount...
Munici pal T...
Naku sp and S...
Paint Lake T...
Saddle t...
Sol Mountain T...
Summit Lake T...
Upper Arrow...
Vista Pass T...
Wensley Creek...
Western Arrow...
Poor signage or way finding
Poor (or no) staging areas
Conflicting land use
A lack of trail maintenance
Erosion
Garbage
Vandalism
Compromised access
Trail damage from motorized users
Poor connections between trails
Unfamiliar with area


Primary Issue #3
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
Overall Trail...
Box Lake Trail...
Burton Trail...
Eagle Creek...
Galena Bay T...
Hot Springs T...
Knife Trail...
Kuskanax Mount...
Munici pal T...
Naku sp and S...
Paint Lake T...
Saddle Mountain...
Sol Mountain T...
Summit Lake T...
Upper Arrow...
Vista Pass T...
Wensley Creek...
Western Arrow...
Poor signage or way finding
Poor (or no) staging areas
Conflicting land use
A lack of trail maintenance
Erosion
Garbage
Vandalism
Compromised access
Trail damage from motorized users
Poor connections between trails
Unfamiliar with area

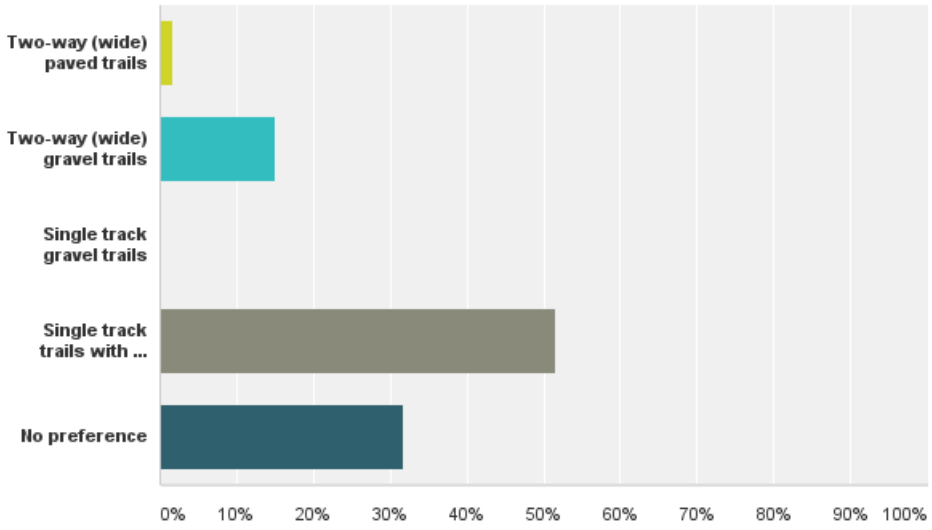


QUESTION 13: The following is a summary of comments submitted:

- ONLY the short waterfront walkway in the Village is wheelchair accessible;
- There are never enough wheelchair accessible trails;
- It will be good when the municipal trails are accessible (the barriers also block wheelchair use);
- More in-town trails that are accessible and easy for a large percentage of the population to use;
- I do not feel the trails are accessible in the least;
- Would like to see some more stroller friendly trails, and trails that are suited to mountain bikes towing child carriers.

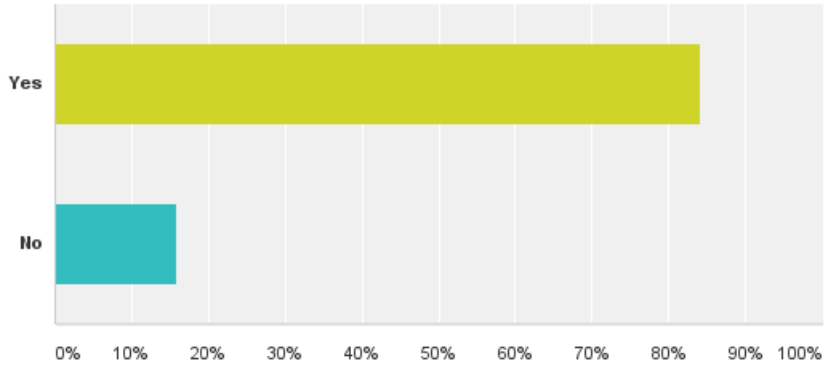
Q14 What type of trails do you prefer?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 19



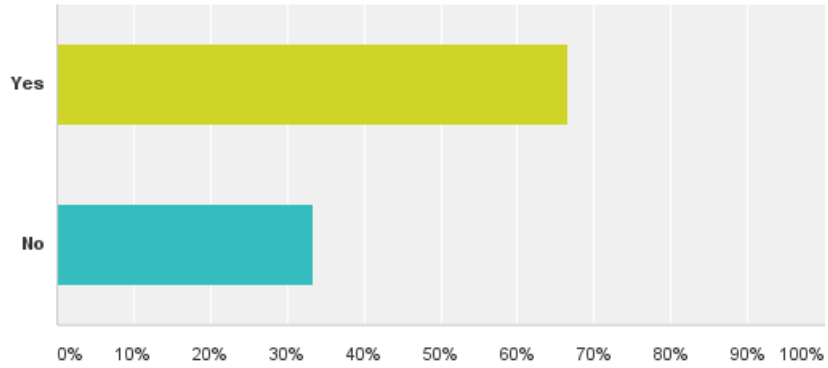
Q15 Events can be a key tourism and economic driver in the region. Do you support encouraging trail-based events to be held in Nakusp and Area K?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 22



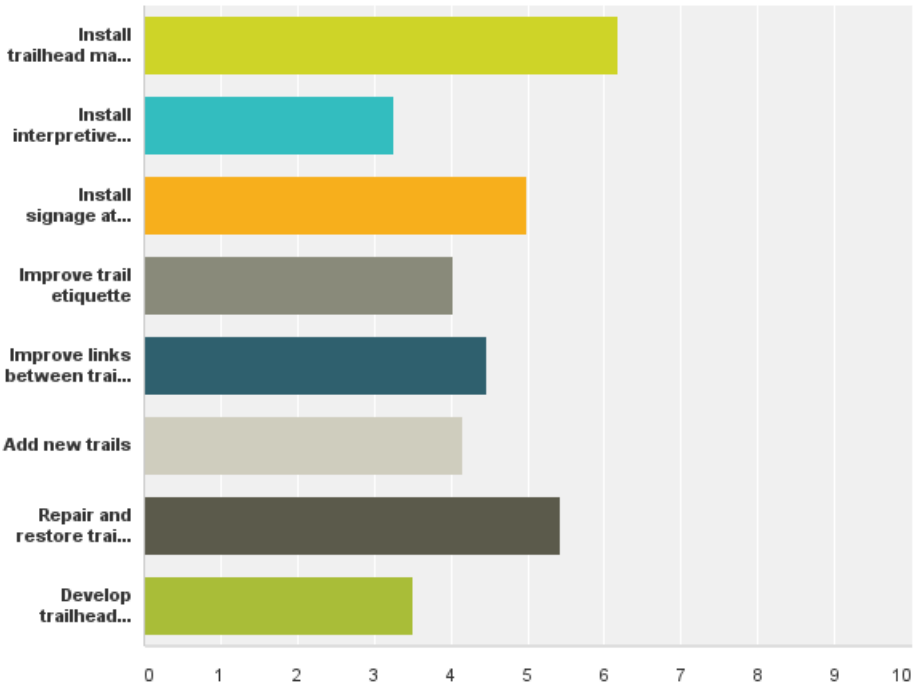
Q16 Would you embrace or encourage the development of commercial or guided practices on local trails, such as a shuttle service or guided bike tours?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 22



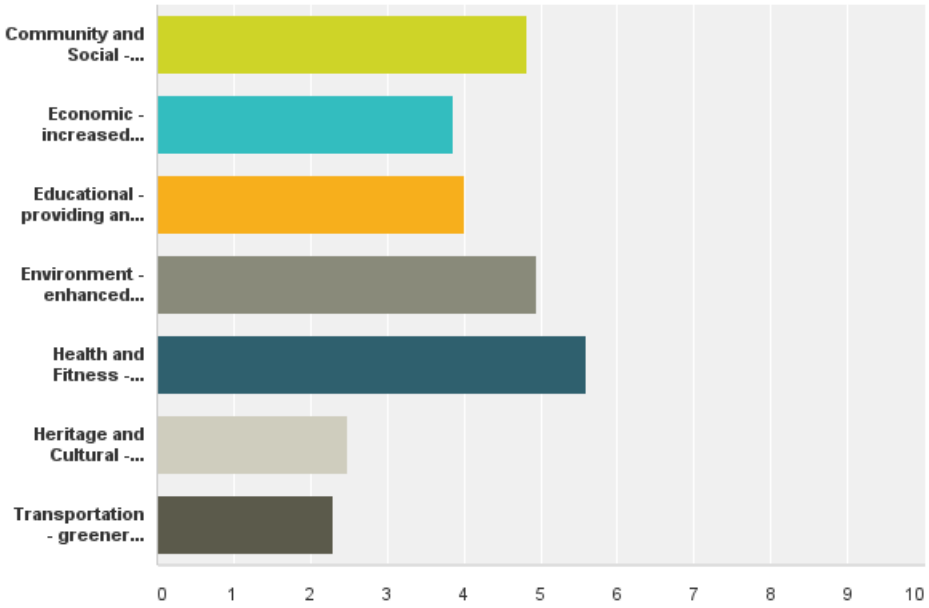
Q17 Please rank the following priorities for overall trail improvement and development.

Answered: 57 Skipped: 22



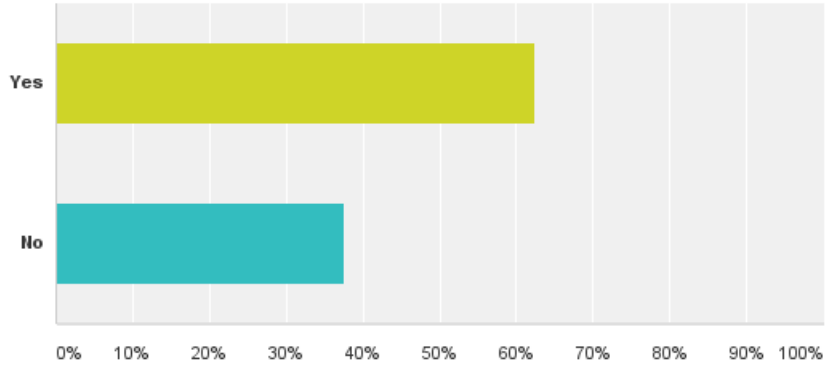
Q18 Please rank the following benefits of recreational trails (from the Trails Strategy for British Columbia) in terms of what is most important for your local trails network (Nakusp and Area K).

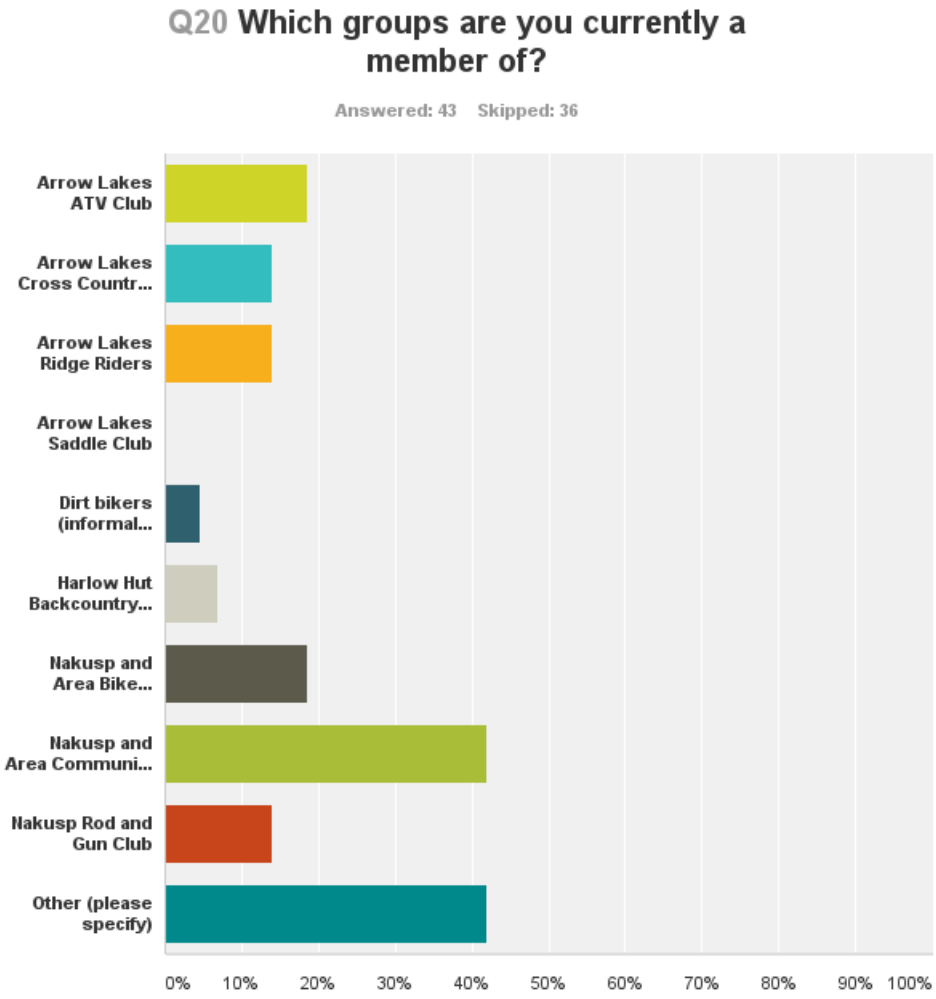
Answered: 56 Skipped: 23



Q19 Are you a member of a club or group that contributes to the maintenance of local trails?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 23

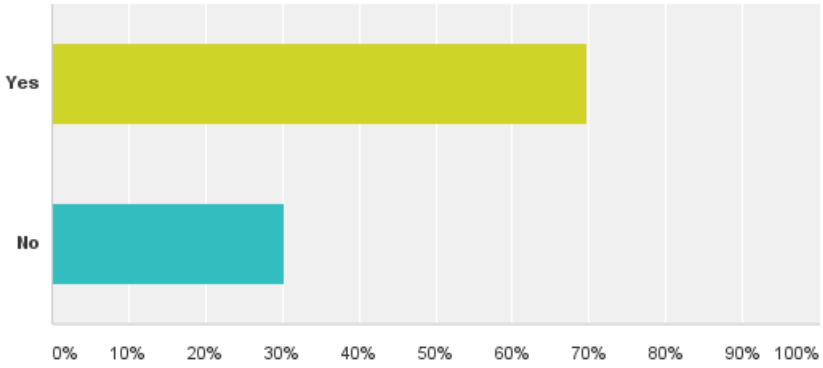




QUESTION 20: Those who responded "Other" submitted the following comments:
Development Board, Library, Hospital Foundation
Revelstoke ATV Club
Burton Learning Centre (2)
Burton Seniors
NACFOR
Castlegar Parks and Trails Society
Revelstoke Cycling Association (2)
Valhalla Hills Nordic Ski Club
North Slocan Trail Society & Kaslo to Sandon Rail to Trails Society
Columbia Basin Revitalization Coalition
Edgewood Conservation Club

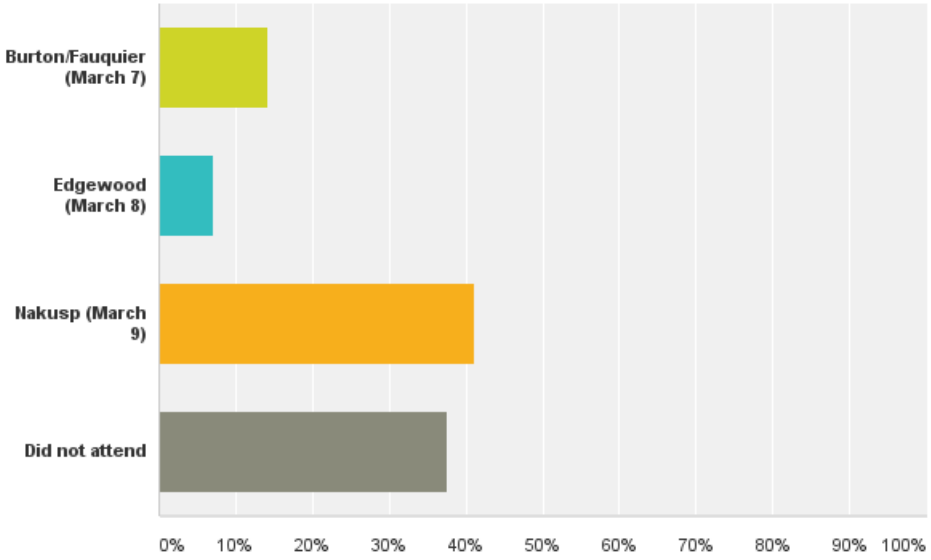
Q21 If you are not currently, would you be interested volunteering your time to help maintain and or build trails?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 23



Q22 Which Public Open House did you attend?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 23



QUESTION 23: The following is a summary of additional comments or suggestions that were submitted:

- There was disproportionate representation of trail user groups at the meetings;
- There should be more discussion of how FSRs fit into the local trails network, and the role of backcountry usage;
- Explore the benefits that can be realized by using non-profit organizations to carry out proposals;
- Tourism can provide an alternative source of economic growth for the region;
- The development of tourism should have a "mountain culture" focus as opposed to extensive commercialization;
- The Trails Master Plan is an important initiative if it contributes to the overall sustainability of the region;
- More consideration needs to be given to wildlife concerns and environmental issues;
- There are garbage and dumping issues throughout the trail network;
- Nakusp has potential for more amazing trails that will draw young people and recreational tourism - careful and strategic planning of additional non-motorized trails in the close vicinity of Nakusp would be a real asset to both locals and visitors;
- Keep connecting the communities, and keep the trails planning process community-driven.;
- GPS information for all trailheads would be beneficial;
- Deactivating and cross-ditching roads is problematic;
- There would be a benefit to building more shelter cabins or huts at trail ends on mountain tops.

APPENDIX B: IMBA TRAIL DIFFICULTY RATING SYSTEM

The IMBA Trail Difficulty Rating System is a basic method used to categorize the relative technical difficulty of recreation trails. The IMBA Trail Difficulty Rating System can:

- Help trail users make informed decisions
- Encourage visitors to use trails that match their skill level
- Manage risk and minimize injuries
- Improve the outdoor experience for a wide variety of visitors
- Aid in the planning of trails and trail systems

This system was adapted from the International Trail Marking System used at ski areas throughout the world. Many trail networks use this type of system, most notably resort-based mountain biking trail networks. The system best applies to mountain bikers, but is also applicable to other visitors such as hikers and equestrians. These criteria should be combined with personal judgment and trail-user input to reach the final rating.

Trail Difficulty Rating System

	Easiest White Circle	Easy Green Circle	More Difficult Blue Square	Very Difficult Black Diamond	Extremely Difficult Dbl. Black Diamond
Trail Width	72" or more	36" or more	24" or more	12" or more	6" or more
Tread Surface	Hardened or surfaced	Firm and stable	Mostly stable with some variability	Widely variable	Widely variable and unpredictable
Average Trail Grade	Less than 5%	5% or less	10% or less	15% or less	20% or more
Maximum Trail Grade	Max 10%	Max 15%	Max 15% or greater	Max 15% or greater	Max 15% or greater
Natural Obstacles and Technical Trail Features (TTF)	None	Unavoidable obstacles 2" tall or less Avoidable obstacles may be present Unavoidable bridges 36" or wider	Unavoidable obstacles 8" tall or less Avoidable obstacles may be present Unavoidable bridges 24" or wider TTF's 2' high or less, width of deck is greater than 1/2 the height	Unavoidable obstacles 15" tall or less Avoidable obstacles may be present May include loose rocks Unavoidable bridges 24" or wider TTF's 4' high or less, width of deck is less than 1/2 the height Short sections may exceed criteria	Unavoidable obstacles 15" tall or greater Avoidable obstacles may be present May include loose rocks Unavoidable bridges 24" or narrower TTF's 4' high or greater, width of deck is unpredictable Many sections may exceed criteria

APPENDIX C: TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

A formalized trail classification system is a necessary component of creating an effective and safe trail network for all user groups. A formalized system allows users to select trails that meet their skill level, abilities, and desired trail experience. In addition, a consistent formal system enables stakeholders to better understand the requirements when planning, building, and maintaining a trail.

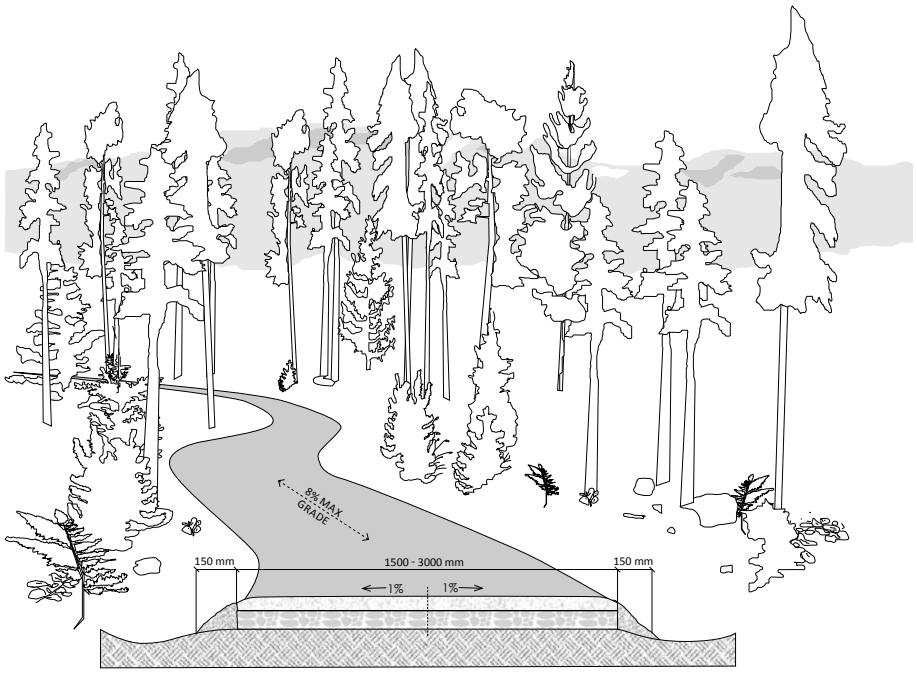
Ideally, a trail system or network will include trails that engage different skill levels and user groups, and are a range of widths and trail types.

The Ministry of Forests Trail Standards Draft from Spring of 2013 forms the basis for this Appendix. A newer version of this document with some updates will be released in 2017.

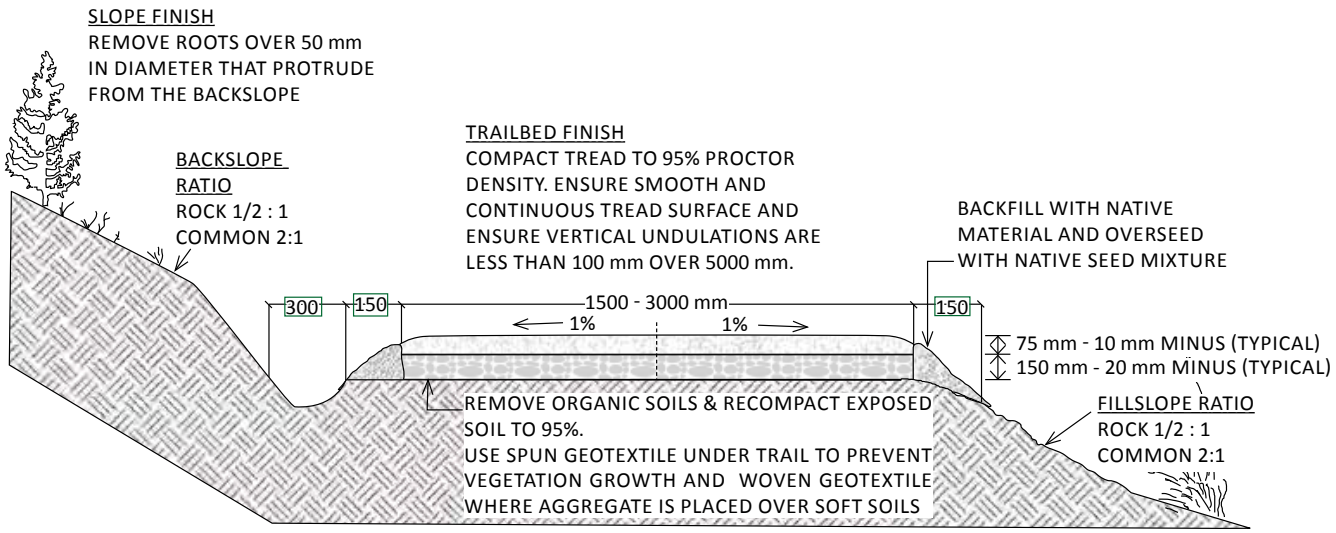
	Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV	Abandoned Resource Road
Trail Surface (typical)	Asphalt or crushed aggregate	Crush aggregate or natural mineral soil surface	Natural mineral soil surface	Natural surface, loose surface	Hardened road surface, road base and aggregates
Typical Average Width	1.5m to 3m	1.0 to 2.0m	0.3m to 1.2m	0.3m -0.5m	>3m
Average Grade	0%-4%	5%-8%	8%-10%	8%-12%	NA
Maximum Grade	7%	12%	10%	15%	20%
Typical Uses	Hiking , Cycling, XC Skiing, Equestrian, Snowshoe	Hiking , Cycling, XC Skiing, OHV, Equestrian, Snowshoe,	Hiking , Cycling, XC Skiing, OHV, Equestrian, Snowshoe,	Hiking, backcountry skiing, limited cycling (usually not appropriate)	All
Typical Setting	Developed and urban areas, community connector	Semi-developed, front country, forested	Front country, backcountry, wilderness	Alpine, wilderness, remote	Forested, resource areas, wilderness, backcountry
Descriptor	Pathway	Double Track	Single or Double Track	Route	

Top (left to right): Type I, Type II, Type III
Bottom (left to right): Type IV, Abandoned Resource Road

Trail Type I - Pathway
Typical Details

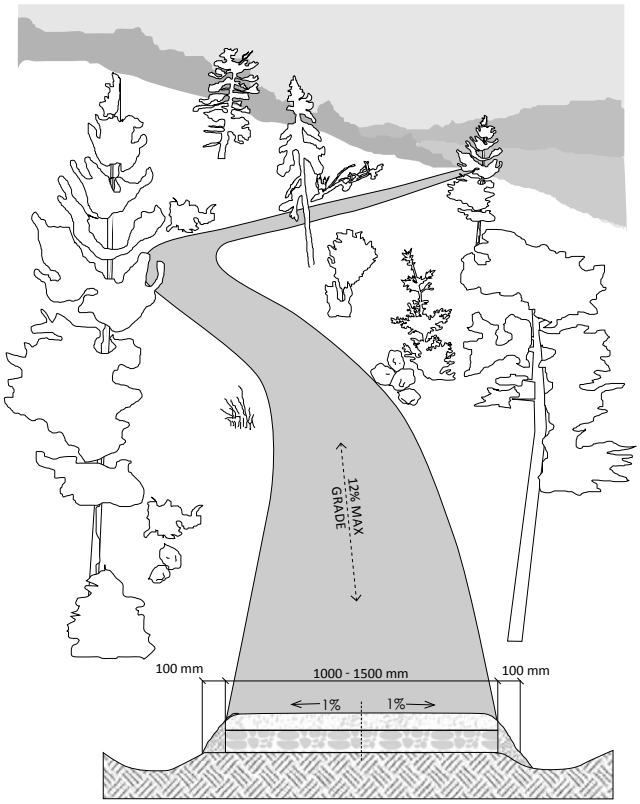


Trail Type I - Pathway
Source: Ministry of Forests - Trail Standards Draft, Spring 2013, pg. 4

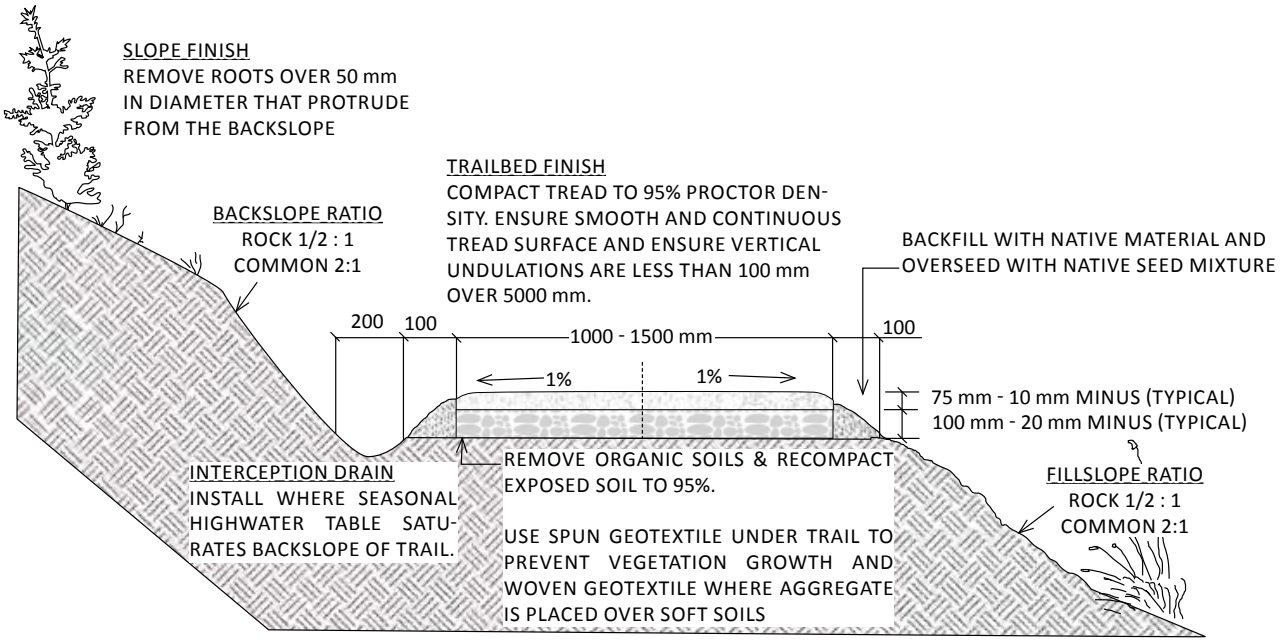


Trail Type I - Pathway - Typical cross section
Source: Ministry of Forests - Trail Standards Draft, Spring 2013, pg. 5

Trail Type II - Double Track
Typical Details

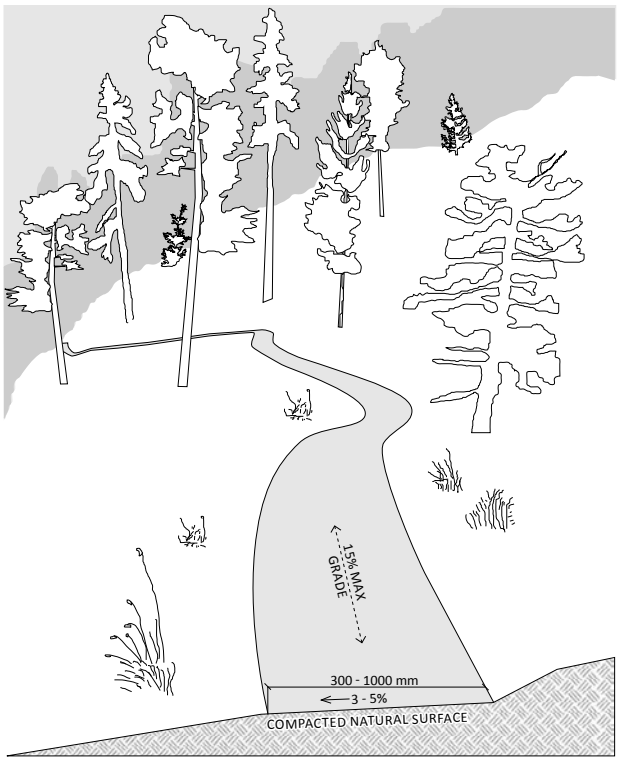


Trail Type II - Double Track
Source: Ministry of Forests - Trail Standards Draft, Spring 2013, pg. 7

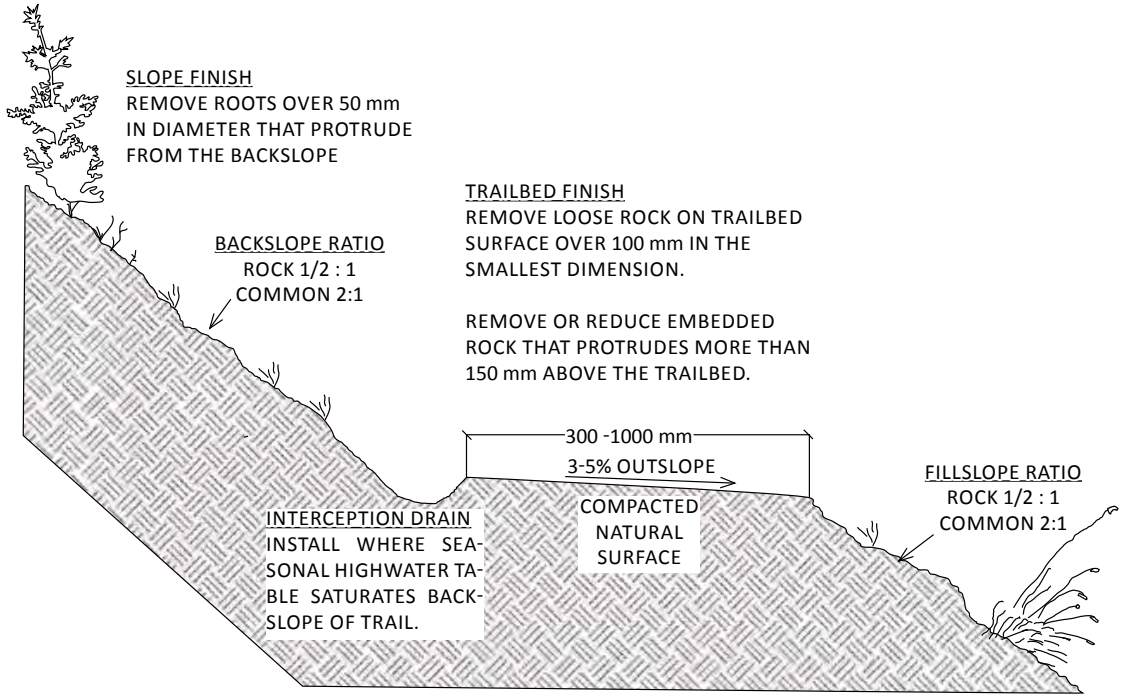


Trail Type II - Double Track - Typical cross section
Source: Ministry of Forests - Trail Standards Draft, Spring 2013, pg. 8

Trail Type III - Single or Double Track
Typical Details

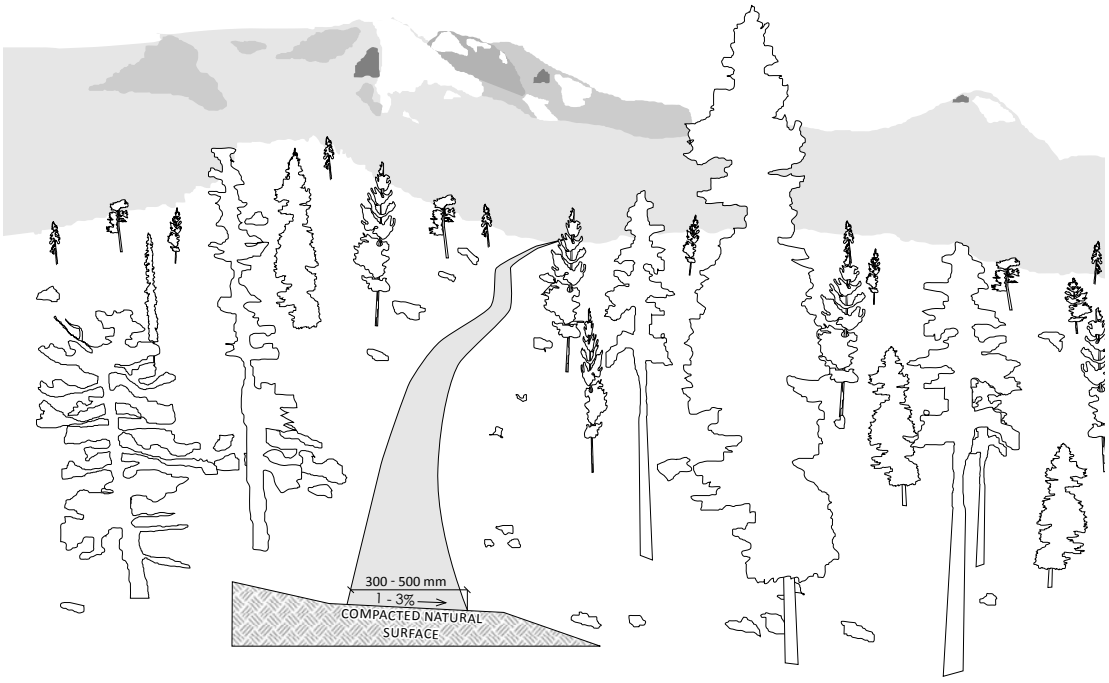


Trail Type III -Single or Double Track
Source: Ministry of Forests - Trail Standards Draft, Spring 2013, pg. 10

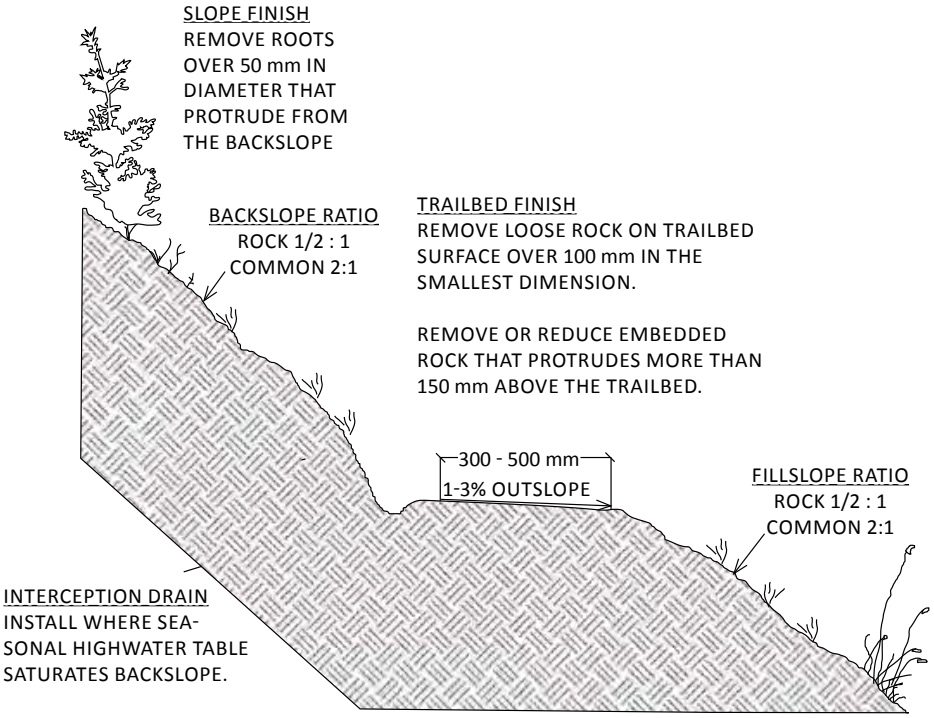


Trail Type III - Single or Double Track - Typical cross section
Source: Ministry of Forests - Trail Standards Draft, Spring 2013, pg. 11

Trail Type IV - Route
Typical Details



Trail Type IV -Route
Source: Ministry of Forests - Trail Standards Draft, Spring 2013, pg. 13



Trail Type IV - Route - Typical cross section
Source: Ministry of Forests - Trail Standards Draft, Spring 2013, pg. 14

APPENDIX D: SIGNAGE STANDARDS

This appendix covers relevant material for coming up with a unique set of signage standards for the Area K and Nakusp trail network. The sections are as follows:

- Signage and Wayfinding
- Signage and Trail Etiquette
- Trailhead Signage
- Classification Signage
- Interpretive and Educational Signage
- Signage as Placemaker

Signage Standards

Proper signage is critical for making a trail network user friendly, helping to ensure that trail users are able to effectively navigate through the trail system. This signage should include signs that enable clear wayfinding, both at trailheads and at trail junctions; trailhead signage that covers trail etiquette as well as maps; classification signage that makes it clear what skill levels and user groups trails are appropriate for; and educational signage that allows trail users to engage with their surroundings in a deeper way.

Signage is a crucial aspect of an effective trail network. It provides the following:

- A base level of information for new users or novice participants in sports such as mountain biking
- A means for communicating the rules and etiquette of a trail
- A way to manage risk
- A way to add to the enjoyment of trail users
- A potential opportunity for depending understanding of the natural environment and ecology

Effective signage is signage that is consistent across the trail network, with a consistent aesthetic and messaging. Things to consider when implementing a consistent signage program include costs and maintenance. A well designed signage program can help to foster local pride in the trail system and encourage trail users to contribute to the

Effective signage can also work to aid in marketing trails to tourists, as well as making trails more welcoming to new residents, and new trail users.

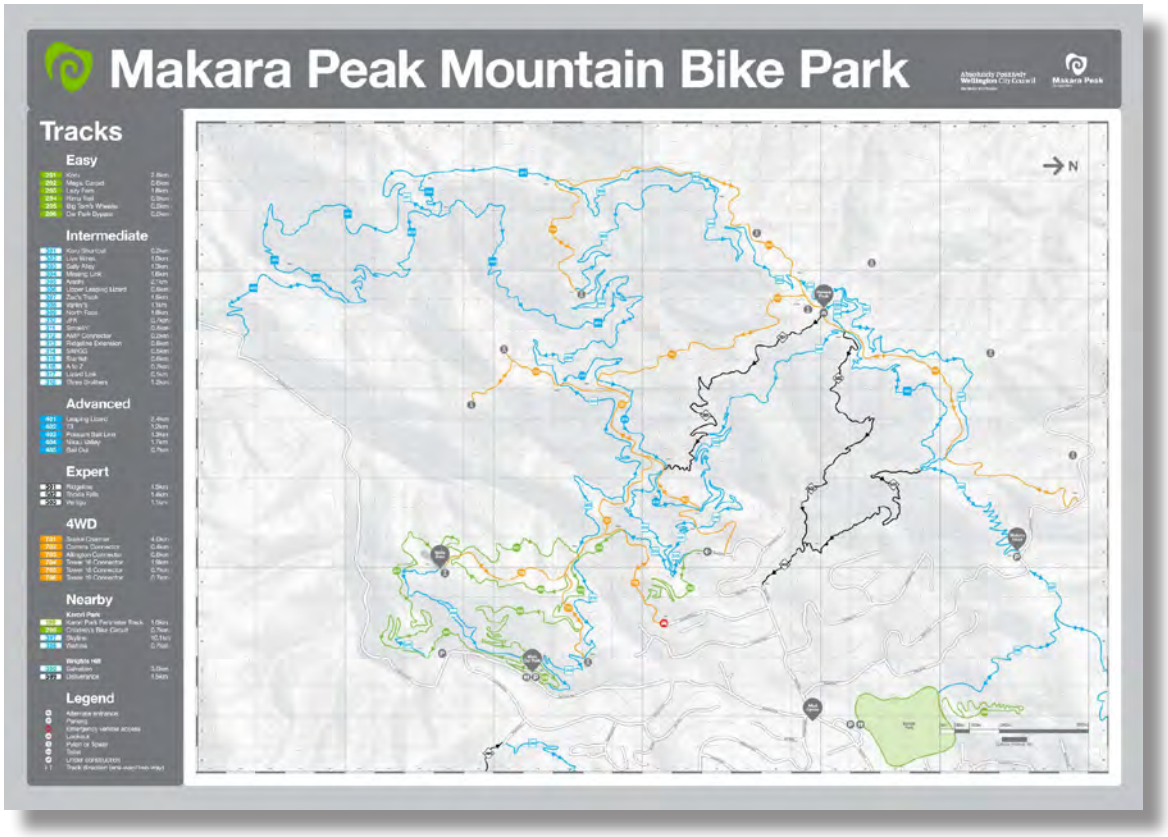
In general, to avoid signage pollution, signage should be kept to a minimum while enhancing the trail experience.

Signage and Wayfinding

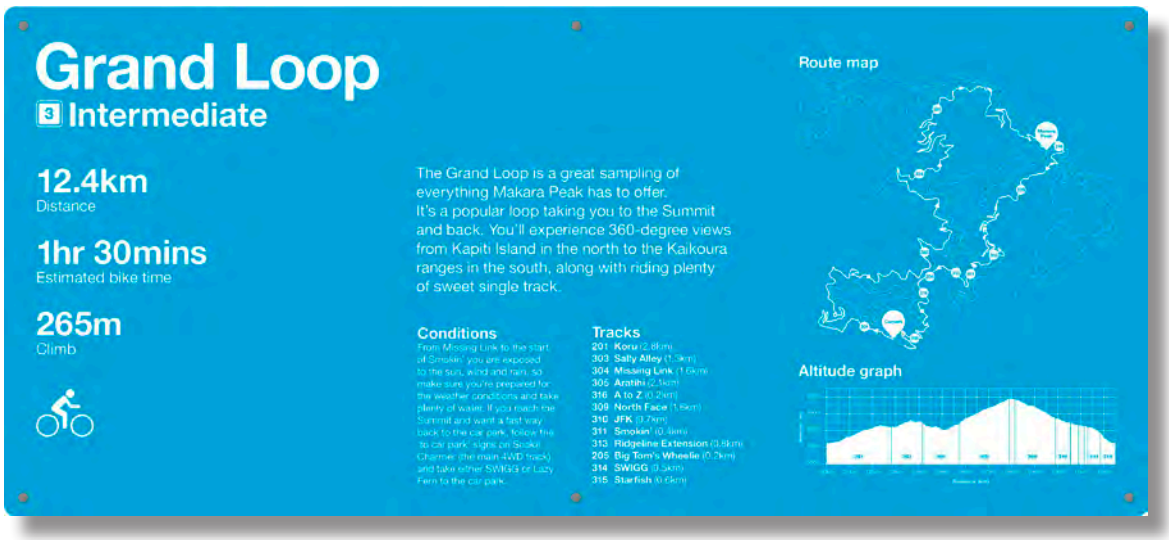
Consistent wayfinding signage should be used throughout the trail network, particularly at trailheads and trail junctions. Where appropriate, distance markers can also be incorporated into the trail network.

MAKARA PEAK MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK

An excellent example of a consistent aesthetic, these modern signs for a bike park in New Zealand have won several design and communication awards. With a simple graphic identity, the individual signs convey a wealth of information including distance, time, difficulty, trail user groups, and directionality.



Overall trailhead map, clearly breaking trails down by difficulty level and showing location of staging points



Individual trailhead sign, providing a wealth of trail information

Wayfinding signs to be used at the beginning of trails and trail junctions

Warning sign in context

Signage and Trail Etiquette

Proper signage can go a long way toward encouraging better trail etiquette and mitigating any potential conflict between trail user groups. In general, trail etiquette signs should focus on the positive, or things that can be done, as opposed to a list of rules that focus on negative behaviours that won't be tolerated.

Above: Signage promoting good trail etiquette on a multi-use trail in Chilliwack, BC

Right: An overly negative approach to encouraging good trail etiquette

Trailhead Signage

Trailheads function as a staging point. Trailhead signage should include area maps, pertinent safety information, and information on trail use and difficulty levels, as well as trail etiquette. These signs should be incorporated at all major access points to managed trails. Their primary function is to orient users.

There are two main types of trailhead signage: individual signs, and trailhead kiosks. Trailhead kiosks are also a good opportunity to convey information regarding the natural and cultural history of an area. In addition, notice boards can be incorporated into trailhead kiosks to facilitate the communication of up to date information.

Trailhead kiosk

Key elements to be included in trailhead signage:

- Contact information and addresses for emergencies
- A code of conduct
- Applicable by-laws
- Orientation maps
- QR codes linked to more in-depth mapping information

All trailhead signage should:

- Include simple, direct, and clear language
- Reflect the language(s) of the neighbourhood
- Have high visual contrast with the background, and use a font that is easy to read
- Be the only sign on the post where possible

Classification Signage

Classification signage is used to communicate trail difficulty or to express which user groups trails are meant for. A formalized trail difficulty system should be implemented across all trails, with the same symbols used. The International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) has put together a Difficulty Rating System that is specifically designed to:

- Help trail users make informed decisions
- Encourage visitors to use trails that match their skill level
- Manage risk and minimize injuries
- Improve the outdoor experience for a wide variety of visitors
- Aid in the planning of trails and trail systems

Classification signage based on the IMBA system in Whistler, BC

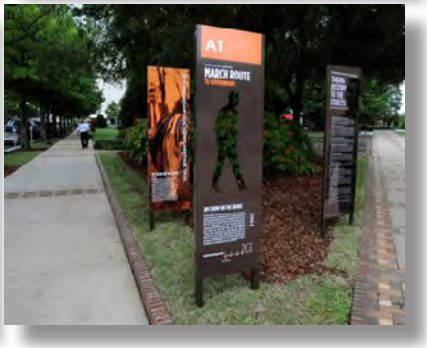
This rating system was adapted from the International Trail Marking System used at ski areas globally, and while it is primarily applicable to mountain bikers, it can be applied to all user groups. It is recommended that the Umbrella Organization use this method for establishing classification signage through its trail network. For a full breakdown of the IMBA Difficulty Rating System, please see Appendix D.

Interpretive and Educational Signage

Interpretive and educational signage can be used to enhance the experience of the trail user, particularly those who are new to the area. This signage can be used to communicate narratives about the natural and cultural history of the area.

Ideally, it should be incorporated at trailheads, along with wayfinding signage, or at certain key vantage points. One way to minimize the overall number and size of signs is to develop Smartphone Apps or utilize QR codes to enable trail users with smartphones to connect with more in-depth content. This can also be a great way to collect real time information on any trail issues such as a need for maintenance or illegal dumping.

Above: Interpretive and wayfinding signs with QR codes incorporated
Below: Example of an integrated approach to interpretive signage and wayfinding



Signage as Placemaker

While there is a need for official signage, it is worth mentioning that certain types of signage can help to define what is special about a specific place. Hand carved wood signs on bike trails, or other unique signage elements can be left in place and augmented by the more official types of signage mentioned above. Local artists or craftspeople can be hired to produce unique signage.

Unique signs that evoke a sense of place - at left, in Yosemite National Park, at right - in Powell River, BC

APPENDIX E: FRPA INFORMATION

This appendix covers pertinent information from the *Forest Range and Practices Act (FRPA)*. On the following pages, the Section 57 Authorization Process and the Section 56 Establishment Process are summarized. In addition, the proposal package from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) is included, which provides detailed information and guidelines.

Section 57 Authorization Process

An application is submitted to and received by the Recreation Office via FRONTCOUNTER BC. The application is vetted for completeness of information, and must meet a set of certain conditions to proceed. These include (but are not limited to):

- Application is made by an organized group with a demonstrated ability to construct/ maintain the trail and/or other recreational works;
- Proposal has no major conflicts with applicable land use plans;
- Proposed trail or works must be entirely on Crown land or have the written consent of the local government, government agency, landowner, leasee, etc.; and
- If needed a management plan for the development is submitted as part of the proposal (for significant development).

If the Recreation Officer finds that the proposal passes this initial screening, it is sent out for referral to:

- All Recognized Stakeholders, such as: Local and Provincial Government, First Nations, Clubs, Tenure Holders, Licensees;
- Comments are recieved from these groups. If possible identified problems are addressed through negotiation between the proponent, RSTBC and the referee; and
- If relevant issues are successfully addressed, the works can be authorized under Section 57 of the Forest Range and Practices Act.

Section 56 Establishment Process

A Section 56 Establishment is essentially the granting of a tenure. This results in a change in status of Crown land and is referred out to stakeholders. This makes the provincial government directly responsible for the management of the recreational feature (site or trail), and the Forest Recreation Regulation applies. Due to the limited resources of the Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) branch only trails for which a Partnership Agreement can be signed with an appropriate organization will be considered for establishment under Section 56. If the Recreation Officer determines that it is appropriate to establish a recreational feature, the proposal will be sent out to all stakeholders for commentary. Similar to the Section 57 Authorization process, identified problems are addressed through negotiation between the Recreation Officer and the Referee. If these issues are addressed successfully, the outcomes are included in a Management Intent document, which guies the future management of the recreation feature. This is included with a request for Establishment, and sent to the Minister of FLNRO for signing. Once signed, the recreation feature is established under Section 56 of the FRPA as a Provincially Managed Recreation Feature.

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Application Information and Guidelines
for
Proposal Form for Trails and Recreation Facilities

The purpose of this information package is to assist proponents of trail and recreation facility applications in meeting the requirements for authorization according to *Section 57, of the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) and Part 3 of the Forest Recreation Regulation*.

These Guidelines:

- Outline and clarify which activities do or do not or require authorization;
- Provide direction on how a proponent should prepare a proposal (for activities that do require consent);
- Explain the process for review and adjudication of a proposal;
- Identify the criteria for a decision and how it will be communicated to applicants;
- Outline enforcement of unauthorized activities (i.e., non-compliance with Section 57); and
- Provide additional resources and information for trail or recreation facility proponents.

1. General Information

Authorization for constructing, maintaining, rehabilitating trails or recreation facilities on Crown land under the Forest and Range Practices Act.

Section 57 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) prohibits construction, maintenance or rehabilitation of a trail or recreation facility unless authorized in writing by the Minister or under another enactment. Section 57 of FRPA applies to all provincial Crown land outside of parks. If you are in doubt as to the status of an area and whether or not section 57 applies, please contact the nearest District Recreation Officer (DRO).

Some activities DO NOT require authorization under section 57:

Section 57 does not apply to basic public access or basic recreational use of Crown land. The following activities do not require authorization:

- Basic access or travel through the forest or across the land, by individuals or groups, whether on a one-time basis or repetitive use of the same route.
  For example: hiking on Crown land and the normal ground disturbance associated with this activity.

- Route finding or route marking using ribbons, cairns or other directional indicators.
  For example: marking one's way with cairns in an alpine area or with ribbons in a forest.

  Note: the standard practice of nailing route markers to trees is an allowable practice and is not considered tree spiking under Section 55 of the *Act* (Tree Spiking Prohibited).

- Minor, piecemeal or incidental clearing of brush or downed trees either on or off established trails.
  For example: bushwhacking, or clearing branches or deadfall that has fallen across an existing path or trail.

- Emergency repairs to a trail or recreation facility that is necessary to prevent imminent damage to the environment, the trail or the facility.
  For example: repairing a water bar on a section of trail where flooding is occurring and immediate repair is needed.

- Emergency construction or maintenance of a trail when this is the only reasonable way of minimizing risk to personal safety.
  For example: placing a log over a stream that is necessary to cross to get out of the woods by dark.

- Basic recreational use of a localized area, by individuals or groups.
  For example: camping on Crown land and the normal ground disturbance associated with this activity.

- Construction of small, rustic structures of a temporary nature.
  For example: construction of rock fire rings, latrines, etc.

If you are uncertain whether or not your intended activity requires consent, please contact the nearest District Recreation Officer

Activities that DO require authorization under section 57:

The following activities are considered trail or recreation facility construction, rehabilitation or maintenance and do require authorization before the activity may begin:

- Ground disturbance
  - significant, continuous grubbing of the soil or rocks along a linear route to establish a visible, long lasting treadway
  - significant ground excavation for the purpose of parking vehicles, launching boats, etc.
  - significant ground or root disturbance associated with corralling horses.
- Clearing or cutting of vegetation
  - significant, continuous uprooting of shrubs or understorey plants along a linear route or over an extended area
  - cutting of standing trees.
- Construction of structures:
  - water bars, stairs, bridges, signs, corrals, etc.
  - other significant structures of a long-term or permanent nature.

2. Preparing a Proposal

Individuals or groups planning to construct, rehabilitate or maintain a trail or recreation facility must prepare and submit a proposal and all required accompanying information to the appropriate Front Counter BC Office location. A list of Front Counter BC Office locations is provided at the end of this document.

Incomplete applications or applications that do meet the requirements as specified by these Guidelines will be returned to the applicant without review.

Before you begin a proposal please consider if the intended activity or facility is of a **"commercial"** or **"exclusive"** nature.

- "commercial" means there is locally recognized business entities using the area for commercial or 'for-profit' purposes.
- "exclusive" means there is a membership requirement for use or a facility is locked with no key available to the public".

In these cases, please contact Front Counter BC about their requirements under various authorities, including their commercial recreation policy.

http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/

Proposal Requirements

- ☐ Completed Proposal Form
- ☐ Overview Map (recommended scale 1:50,000 to 1:250,000)
- ☐ *General location map (recommended scale 1:20,000 to 1:30,000)
- ☐ *Specific location map (recommended scale 1:2,000 to 1:10,000)
- ☐ *Digital geo-spatial information of proposed trail or facility (.gpx, .kml or shape file)

**for proposals to construct, rehabilitate or maintain un-managed or new trails.*

To assist personnel in processing of applications, please complete and submit the proposal in a digital format.

Part 1. Proponent Name and Contact Information

Please provide the full legal name and contact information for the proponent. If the proponent is not an individual, please provide the name and contact information for the most appropriate representative of the organization.

Part 2. General Proposal Description

1. *Purpose of proposed trail or recreation facility*

Briefly describe the overall purpose of the proposed trail or recreation facility including its relation to existing trails or other recreation features. Is the proposed trail part of an existing network of trails? Does the proposed trail provide access to a particular recreation feature or connect to other trails?

For example: The purpose of the proposed trail is to provide scenic hiking and cycling access to Pine Lake and an alternate linkage to the Fir Mountain Trail Network. The trails and/or facilities established will be of a non-commercial, non-exclusive nature.

2. *Brief description of the proposed trail or recreation facility.*

Briefly describe the type of trail or facility being constructed or maintained including length, type of terrain, type of trail etc.

For example: Work will consist of constructing 15 km of naturally surfaced single track hiking and cycling trails through second growth forest and into the alpine. An existing, abandoned road will be used for the first 3 km, and new trails will be constructed for the remaining 12 km.

3. *Location of the proposed trail or recreation facility*

Describe the general location of the proposed trail or recreation facility using commonly referred to landmark names such as valley or watershed names, mountain peaks, proximity and orientation to local communities or other descriptors.

For example: The proposed 5 km trail is located on the north slope of Deer Lake, approximately 3 kilometers southwest of Maryville.

4. *Managed trail or recreation facility*

If known, please identify if the trail is recognized and currently managed by Recreation Sites and Trails BC (i.e. is the trail or recreation facility being proposed currently established under section 56 of FRPA).

Managed trail or recreation facility
A managed trail or recreation facility has been designated as a recreation trail or site under section 56 of FRPA and is being actively managed by the Province. Normally, mapping information will not be required for an application to maintain or rehabilitate a managed trail or recreation facility. If known, please reference the REC number in the application. The recreation district office may be contacted for information about the current status of a recreation trail or facility.

Un-managed trail or recreation facility
An un-managed trail or recreation facility has not previously been designated as a recreation trail or site under section 56 of FRPA and is not being actively managed by the Province. If an existing trail or recreation facility is not formally managed and not in the Ministry records, a general location map, specific location map and submission of digital geo-spatial information identifying the proposed trail track or facility as described in this document will be required. The recreation district office may be contacted for information about the current status of a recreation trail or facility.

New trail or recreation facility
If a trail or recreation facility does not exist, a general location map, specific location map and submission of digital geo-spatial information as described in this document will be required.

Heritage Trail
A heritage trail is a trail having cultural significance by reason of established aboriginal use or use by early immigrants. Many heritage trails have received official status as designated heritage trails, having been designated under the Heritage Conservation Act.

Please specify if the proposal is for construction, rehabilitation or maintenance (or all that apply).

5. *Will you be seeking designation of the proposed recreation site or trail under section 56 of the Forest and Range Practices Act? (Yes/No)*

Recreation Sites and Trails on Crown land outside of Parks and settled areas can be 'legally established' by the Minister's order under section 56 of the Forests and Range Practices Act (FRPA). Established trails are managed within an integrated land base framework and receive consideration in forest planning and practices. Prior to establishing recreation sites and trails under FRPA, Recreation Sites and Trails staff will consider numerous factors including public safety, environmental impacts, potential for conflict with other users, impact on stakeholders and potential to impact on asserted First Nations' right or title.

Part 3. Detailed Trail Description

1. Specify the approximate length of the proposed works. If the proposal includes new construction and maintenance of existing trails, please specify.
2. Specify the proposed width of new or rehabilitated trail. Refer to trail construction guidelines and standards identified in this document for guidance on appropriate trail construction widths.
3. Specify proposed work initiation and completion dates.

4. Please identify the intended primary users of the trail (i.e. hikers, cyclists, snowmobiles, equestrians etc.). The primary intended users will guide appropriate trail or facility construction standards. Note: specifying intended primary users on this proposal will not guarantee use restrictions as determined by district recreation officers. Also specify anticipated season of use and estimate of annual number of users.
5. If known, specify if the proposed works fall within a designated community watershed.
6. Describe any trail construction guidelines or standards that will be followed when conducting works. Guidelines may include specific user type construction guidelines such as *IMBA's Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack* for mountain bike trails, general construction guidelines or could include best management practices for protecting specific resource values. For a more detailed list of standards, guidelines and other documents, see the References section of this document.
7. Describe any significant water features including creeks, streams, rivers or wetlands the proposed trail might cross or potentially impact. Include water features that will require any crossing infrastructure such as bridges, boardwalks or culverts. Identify any water courses where the trail may impact the associated riparian area. For further information on regulations and guidelines related to water features refer to B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection's Standards and Best Practices for Instream Works (2004), and other documents listed in the References section of this document.

Part 4. Mapping Requirements

Applications for construction of new trails or maintenance/rehabilitation of previously unmanaged trails must include three (3) maps as described below. Maps are to be provided on paper at 8 ½" x 11" or 8 ½" x 14" or 11" by 17". In addition, applicants are required to submit digital GPS data for trails as described below. Maps can be created using the public imap mapping function (iMapBC) or the FrontCounterBC "Discovery Tool" (http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/mapping/index.html).
Applications with incomplete mapping or incomplete GPS data will be returned.

1. Overview Map (1:50,000 to 1:250,000)
The purpose of this map is to indicate the relationship of the site to the overall area. An overview map should indicate the relationship of the proposed area to nearby communities, major watercourses, public highways, etc.

2. General Location Map (1:20,000 to 1:30,000)
The purpose of this map is to indicate the general location of the site. Information on this map may include topography, water courses, existing access including primary resource roads, any known private lands and/or forest tenures and any known cultural or historic sites.

3. Specific Location Map (1:2000 to 1:10,000)
A Site Specific map is a detailed version of the proposed site or trail showing the boundary of recreation sites or location of linear trails, including points of commencement and termination, and connections to existing trails or recreation resources. Multiple separate trails should be individually named and identified. If the application site or trail crosses a stream provide an indication of proposed culvert or bridge locations.

Maps should be provided at the best appropriate scale depending on the area and scope of the application.

4. GPS Data

Applicants for proposals to construct, rehabilitate, or maintain un-managed trails must provide digital GPS data for each proposed trail.

GPX files or equivalent, depending on GPS device manufacturer, are preferred. KML/KMZ files may be accepted, but must be derived from field collected GPS data.

Shape (.shp) files will be accepted but are not required.

Part 5. Additional Requirements

1. *Describe any discussions or communications with potentially impacted stakeholders, interest holders or First Nations regarding this proposal*.

   This information will assist the district recreation officer in completing the referral and consultation process. Specifying indications of support or opposition from other interest groups will ensure the district recreation officer completes the referral and any required consultations in an efficient manner.

2. *Describe your or your organization's capacity and commitment for ongoing maintenance of the proposed trail or recreation facility.*

   This information will assist the district recreation officer in assessing the capacity for long term management or maintenance of the proposed trail or facility, and the Ministry's requirements for the management of a trail or recreation facility, in the event that an applicant is unable to follow through. Include information about the current membership, current trail or facility maintenance commitments, past maintenance experience and commitments and any other relevant information. Attach additional pages as necessary.

3. PROCESSING A PROPOSAL

Upon receiving a proposal to construct, rehabilitate, or maintain a trail or recreation facility, Recreation Sites and Trails BC will respond to a proposal as follows:

Step 1. FrontCounter BC will receive Trail or Recreation Facility Proposals

Proposals must be submitted in the format described in this document to the appropriate FrontCounter BC Office location. When a proposal is received, a *cursory review will be undertaken to determine* if:

- All necessary information required to accompany an application has been provided.
- The proposal contains all the information necessary to evaluate and adjudicate the proposal.

Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet the requirements as specified in these guidelines will not be processed and the applicant will be informed.

Step 2. Assess the Proposal

To obtain information needed to adequately assess proposals, the DRO or FrontCounter BC staff will, as appropriate, review existing plans/objectives; conduct a status check; refer the proposal, notify or consult with First Nations; conduct a site visit; meet with the proponent and meet with other interests, agencies or stakeholders.

Complete Section 57 proposals will be assessed to determine if the proposal will:

- Present obvious conflicts or issues that make the proposal unsuitable,
- Conflict with existing management direction,
- Present a risk to public safety,
- Result in unacceptable damage to the environment,
- Result in unacceptable conflicts with other resource values or users,

In addition, the DRO may also assess the proposal to determine if it will:

- Include the proponent entering into a long-term trail management agreement with Recreation Sites and Trails BC,
- Be supported by a proponent that has the capacity (e.g., knowledge, experience and resources) to undertake the required trail works and maintenance,
- Require the recreation district to undertake the required level of trail management when the proponent may not have the capacity to do so.

If an approved plan (e.g., Trail Management Plan or Strategy) exists which confirms the general acceptability of the proposed trail use, the assessment process may be simplified. In these cases, DROs may, at their discretion, limit the amount of information collection and consultation that goes into assessing the proposal. A current status check should be conducted in all cases, and First Nations consultation must occur unless the First Nations have previously agreed that their involvement in the planning process may substitute for proposal-by-proposal consultation.

If the proposal cannot proceed due to irreconcilable issues, FCBC will notify the applicant and provide reasons for not proceeding with the application.

Step 3. Adjudicate the Proposal

Following an assessment of the Proposal, a decision will be made to:

- Approve the proposal, as proposed;
- Approve the proposal subject to some modifications to prevent or mitigate an issue, as negotiated with the proponent;
- Refuse the proposal where it would result in an unacceptable level of risk to public safety, environmental damage, resource value or user conflict, or in cases where a Trail Management Agreement is required and the proponent cannot demonstrate sufficient capacity.
- Defer a decision pending the resolution of an issue or the provision of additional information needed to adjudicate the proposal.

The timeline for completing the assessment and adjudication of an application may vary depending on the nature and complexity of the proposal. Where conflict, competing interests, environmental issues or First Nation concerns exist, proposal adjudication may be significantly delayed.

Step 4: Notify Proponent of Decision

The DRO will communicate with the proponent to discuss the adjudication result, as follows:

- If the proposal is *approved*, discuss next steps and timing.
- If the proposal is *approved with modifications*, discuss and agree upon the modifications.
- If the proposal is *refused*, specify the reasons and discuss potential alternatives that may satisfy the interests of the proponent.
- If a decision on the proposal is *deferred* because further information is required, indicate what additional information is required and identify timeframes.

Adjudication decisions, actions and any follow-up agreed upon with the proponent are documented in writing and a copy is provided to the proponent. If a proponent is dissatisfied with a decision on a FRPA Section 57 trail or recreation facility proposal, they may request a decision review. The general process is for the proponent to contact the DRO to first try to address the issue informally at the local level. The issue may be referred to the Regional Manager or the Recreation Sites and Trails BC Director, if necessary.

4. Enforcement of Unauthorized Activities

Note: This section only summarizes and sketches, for reference purposes, the enforcement provisions regarding Section 57 that are provided for under the *Act*. This section is neither a complete or official presentation of this broad and complex subject. For more information on enforcement, please contact the nearest district recreation office.

Experience has shown that information, education, and voluntary compliance is the most effective means of managing recreation activities and enforcing recreation management rules and objectives. This can be expected to be the case with Section 57 and its intent to bring about a more planned approach to trail and recreation facility management in British Columbia.

This section deals with regulatory, as opposed to voluntary, enforcement of Section 57 as set out in the *Act* and regulations. It outlines the actions an official may take if he/she believes a person is illegally constructing, rehabilitating, or maintaining a trail or recreation facility on Crown land.

In summary, the actions that may be carried out, either individually or in various combinations, are as follows:

Written warning
If an official believes that a person(s) is contravening Section 57, he/she may inform them through a written notice of the apparent contravention. The notice should contain information pertaining to the alleged contravention, including the name and phone number of the official. Failure to heed the warning may lead to penalties.

Stop work order
If an official believes that a person(s) is contravening Section 57, he/she may order the contravention to stop, or to stop to the extent required for the person(s) to get the required consent. Such a stop work order may or may not name, or apply to, specified persons. The minister may apply to the courts for an order for compliance if the minister considers that a person(s) is not complying with a stop work order.

Violation ticket (specified penalty ticket)
If an official believes that a person(s) is contravening Section 57, a ticket may be issued under the authority of the *Offence Act*. A person may appeal a ticket issued under the *Offence Act*.

Remediation order

A senior official may order a person(s) to remedy a contravention of Section 57 by requiring them to repair any damage caused by the contravention. Such a remediation order must set out all information required by the *Act* and regulations, including:

- the nature of the contravention
- the nature of the work to be done to remedy the contravention
- the date by which the work must be completed
- the person's right to a review or an appeal
- the right of the government to carry out the work and levy a penalty if the person fails to comply with the order

Prosecution

If an official believes that a person(s) is contravening Section 57, he/she may prosecute. A person(s) prosecuted by the Crown for contravening Section 57 is subject to a maximum penalty of $5,000 in fines and six months in jail.

6. REFERENCES

Legislation Regulations and Policy

Forest and Range Practices Act
http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/code/legislation.htm

Forest Recreation Regulation, Forest and Range Practices Act
http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/14_16_2004

B.C. Ministry of Environment. A Users Guide to Working In and Around Water - Understanding the Regulation under British Columbia's *Water Act*. 2005.
http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/water_rights/cabinet/working_around_water.pdf

BC Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts Authorizing Public Recreation Trail on Crown land: Policy Statement.

Guidelines and Standards

International Mountain Bike Association. Trails Solutions: IMBA's Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack. 2004.

Resort Municipality of Whister. Whistler Trail Standards: Environmental and Technical Trail Features. 2003.

BC Ministry of Forests. Recreation Manual Chapter 10

BC Ministry of Environment. Wildlife Guidelines for Backcountry Tourism/Commercial Recreation in British Columbia. 2006.

Best Management Practices

B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection's Standards and Best Practices for Instream Works. 2004.
http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/iswstdsbpsmarch2004.pdf

B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. A guide to using and developing trails in farm and ranch areas. 2002.
http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/sf/trails/TrailGuide_CompleteBook.pdf

B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. Best Management Practices for Recreational Activities on Grasslands in the Thompson and Okanagan Basins. 2004

7. GLOSSARY

"determination" means an act, decision, procedure, levy, order, or other determination made under the *Act*, or the regulations by an official or a senior official.

"establishment " means the legal declaration by order of the minister of an area covered by a recreation map notation as a recreation site or trail and the public notification of that declaration via a notice in the British Columbia *Gazette*.

"facility" means any area or portion of a recreation site, recreation trail, or interpretive forest site that serves as or provides for a day use area, boat launch area, trail head, or other similar functions.

"minister" means the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The Minister may delegate his authority under the Act and the Recreation Regulation.

"official" means a designated forest official.

"Recreation site"or Recreation trail, means a recreation site or recreation trail:

- designated under the *Forest Act*, or,
- established under Section 6 of the *Forest Practices Code of BC Act* or,
- established under Section 56 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*.

"standards" are recommended design and construction specifications for recreation structures.

"status" check" means the process of determining rights, titles, or interests in a particular area or parcel of land by searching records, maps, and other documents for jurisdictions, tenures, or expressed interests by other agencies or parties in the area in question. Status checking means "checking the status of" an area with respect to existing reports, titles, or interests.

"structure" means any improvement of a long-term or permanent nature that is fixed to the ground or permanently secured in a fixed location and includes cabins, bridges, litter barrels, shelters, signs, corrals, etc.

BHA
DISTINCTIVE MASTER PLANS

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