

Sunshine Coast Community Forest Trail Recreation Strategy Open House

April 25th, 2009

Goal

To develop a strategy that would guide recommendations to the Board of directors for trail-based recreation and resource development.

Although the workshop was very successful in having a broad section of community attend, the facilitator (Mark Schmidt) was unable to fulfill his obligations to write up the event. The file was handed over to Elise Rudland for documenting.

Why are Trails important in the Community Forest?

Group 1

- Nature appreciation
- Spiritual health
- Walk the dog
- Escape from noise
- Solitude
- Physical health

Group 2

- Access to nature
- Environmental conscious
- People can access forest – see logging – more monitoring
- Transparency about what is happening in the forests
- Trails give us access and says that our community values natural environments – positive sense of place
- Encourages clean air
- Healthy people

Group 3

- Makes use of existing logging roads
- Trails prevent damage in sensitive areas
- They are important for people to have a place to recreate
- Views capes/corridors- cutting is good for this
- Wildlife viewing

Group 4

- Part of the network of connecting trails
- Accessibility for everyone – importance of signage
- Helps us appreciate where we live, the beauty of nature
- Supports tourism and other forest values (photography, bird watching , spiritual aspect etc)

What are the issues with trails now?

Group 1

- Trail standards- some trails are dangerous and not signed
- Environmentally damaging – not in the watershed
- Garbage
- Conflicting use eg horses and ATVs

Group 2

- Cross ditches
- Signage and mapping
- Facilities (out/pit toilets)
- Shelters for emergency
- Water crossing
- Use, causing erosion
- Designate uses for SIGsb ?
- Special interest groups
- Maintain accessibility
- Easier access at trail head
- Define and access old growth areas
- Access to nature
- Health and well being
- Activities and opportunities for children to connect with nature
- Safe & defined trails for tourists
- Special interest groups can work together to share the resources
- Connect places of interest
- Something unique
- Sustainable tourism
- Heritage
- Mt. Crucil

Group 3

- Lack of signage
- Liability paranoia
- Poor access roads- erosion and fallen trees
- Managing use and trail use conflict

Group discussion followed:

Main issues within the community forest

- Signage
- Communication with the CF
- How to get the trails established – section 57
- How to re-establish the trails after cutting – road to trail
- Deactivated roads, causing problems with users forced into watershed
- Liability
- Bad access – roads
- User conflict
- Facilities (outhouses)
- Garbage, vandalism

Issues that need to be resolved in a Community Forest and a Sunshine Coast Crown Land Recreation Strategy

- Access
- Standardize Signage
- How to deal with vandalism & garbage
- Managing use and trail user conflict
- Forest values – how can we integrate these in a strategy
- Map of trail and recreation resources (lakes, fishing camping etc)
- Establish high value recreation zones
- Data base of recreation users

CF Recreation Resources mapped (GPS'd and prioritized)

West Sechelt

- Section 57 S C Trails Society trails pending
 - Frogger, B.R.A.T, Over Easy, Desoto ridge, Rock A Billy, Easy Street, Skulduggery, VFR and QCA bypass, Duroid
- Big Tree Crowston Loop Trail – Section 57 held by the SCRDR
 - Priority trail for multi use, wildlife viewing old growth appreciation, swimming and fishing. Needs to be considered for special management re future logging
- Lakes-
 - Crowston, Lake WS – camping, fishing, swimming,
 - Wormy Lake WS - stocked by S C Salmon Enhancement Soc
 - camping, hiking and biking
 - Beaver Pond WS – wildlife viewing

Wilson Creek

- Section 57 held by S C Trails Society
First Step, Side Step, Dave's Detour

Chapman Gray Creek

- Heritage Forest- hiking biking
- Hidden Grove – hiking , forest interpretation, old growth appreciation – high rec value
- Section 57 held by S C Trails Society
Jekill & Hide Huigi's
- Gray Creek Forest Service Road to
 - Tetrahedron and Mount Richards Provincial Parks
 - winter recreation for snowmobiling on Mt Crucil

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Attendees

Grey Waddell	Hidden Grove	spiderlegs@dccnet.com
Bert Carswell	Creating Trails	bertcars@telus.net
Mike Allegretti	Hiking	mallegetti@dccnet.com
Joel Bellerive	Snowmobiling	g.dougan@dccnet.com
Rupert Clark	Hiking	rupertcra@hotmail.com
Machael Davidson	Hiking Biking	pacidavi@gmail.com
D'Arcy Davis-Case	Hiking Process	darcydc@dccnet.com
Marilyn Jares	HG Hiking education	mjares@dccnet.com
Kathy Turner	Hiking	kathyturner@dccnet.com
Alda Grames	hiking photography	alda@dccnet.com
Brad Proctor	Biking SCUMB	bradr@dccnet.com
Tony Greenfield	CFAC	
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Rod Camposano	Biking SCUMB SC Trails	rtcamosano@dccnet.com
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