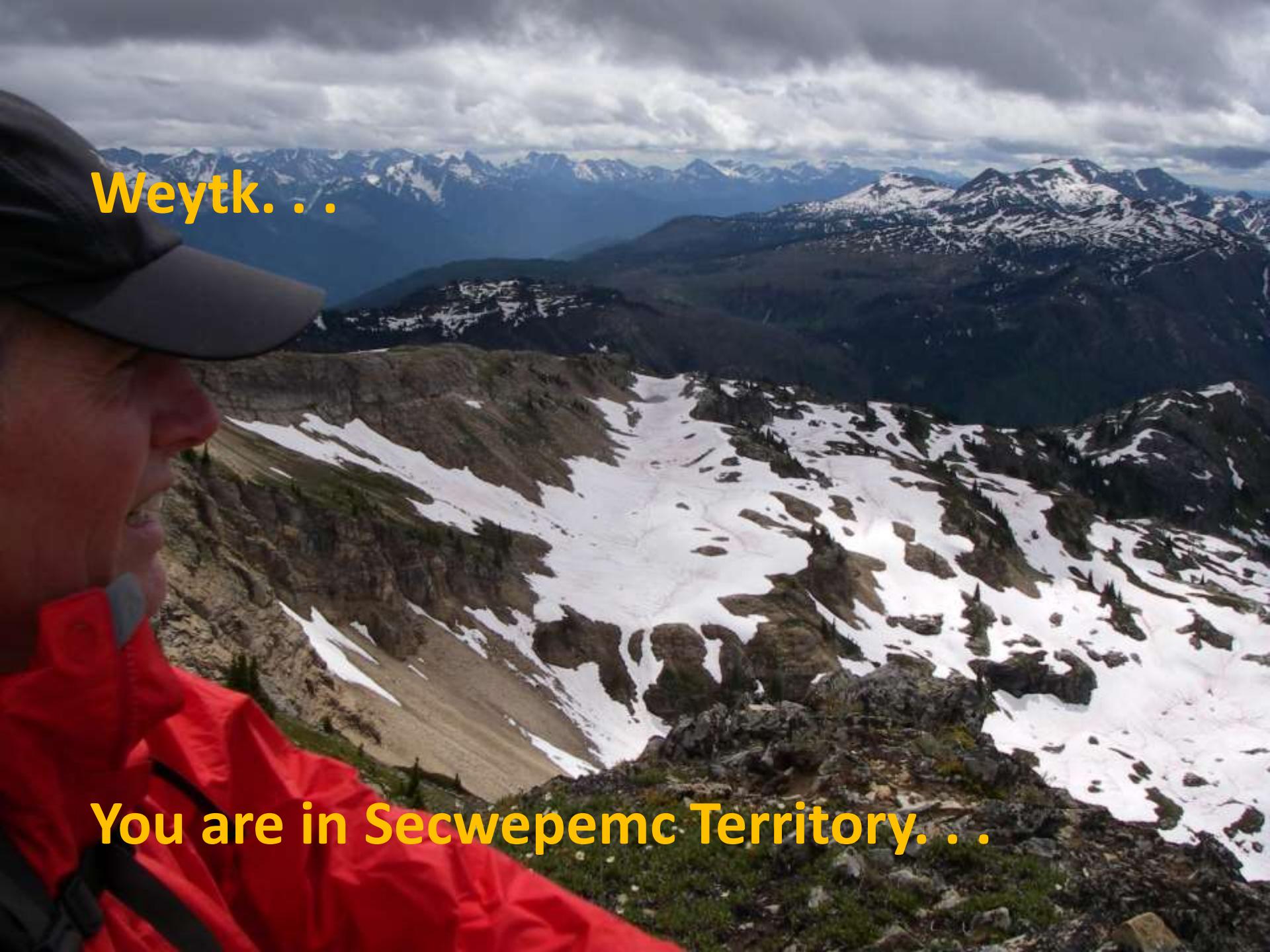


Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy: Recreational Access & Adaptive Management Planning

Updated: December 10, 2018

Prepared by the Shuswap Trail Alliance
on behalf of the Shuswap Regional Trails Roundtable



A photograph of a person from the side, wearing a grey baseball cap and a red jacket, looking out over a vast mountain range. The mountains are covered in patches of snow and green vegetation. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds.

Weytk. . .

You are in Secwepemc Territory. . .



14 years ago. . .

- Isolated local priorities
- 2002 Shuswap Tourism Opportunity Strategy
- CSRD Parks planning
- Pre-Olympic priorities
- 2005 round table discussion re: trails
- 2006 feasibility study & community consult
- BC Trails Strategy



Research. . .

Values ~ Method ~ Relationships

Lessons from a review of other recreation access management plans suggested the need for:

- **Clear vision**
- **Government level commitment, and capacity and funding**
- **Clarity of roles**
- **Strong community engagement, and champions (leadership)**

. . .(continue next slide). . .

- **Technical capacity**
- **Adaptability and shorter planning time frames**
- **Predictable ongoing funding**
- **Consensus model is consistently preferred**
- **Community based model preferred; inclusive**

(Jeremy Ayotte for the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy, 2012)



Joss Mountain, East Shuswap



Shuswap Regional Trails Roundtable planning session, Splatsin Community Centre

Our Approach . . .

. . . to use a participatory, relationship-based,
community-development model



Salmon River nature trail, Switzmalph Cultural Centre

The Shuswap Trail **Vision** . . .

Establish the entire Shuswap Watershed as a
united destination trail centre known for its active
lifestyle, vibrant culture, natural beauty, and
commitment to sustainable ecology



**Well designed,
Well signed,
Well maintained,
Well promoted**



Park Hill West Trails, Salmon Arm

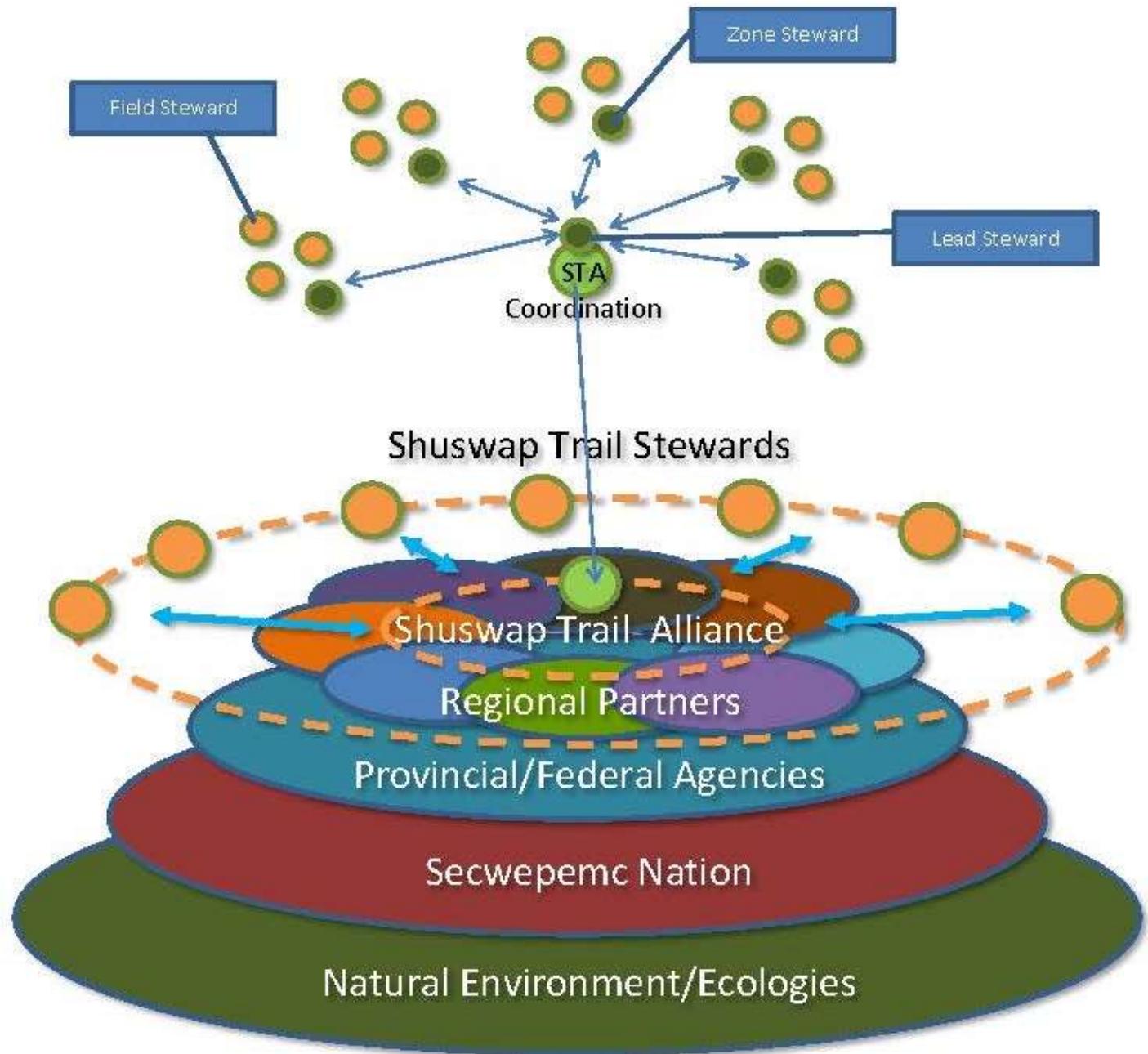


2016 Fall Trail Stewards Review

The Shuswap Trail **Alliance**. . .

the organizational body (formed in 2005)
through which local and regional leadership
work together to develop and implement the
Shuswap Trails Strategy. . .

. . .as First Nations, stewardship, government,
industry, business, and community stewardship
organizations and individuals.



5 Core Pillars . . .

1. Regional Collaboration
2. Trail Stewardship
3. Environmental Adaptive Planning
4. Experience Development
5. Capital projects/technical trail services

White Lake trail stewards clean up Cedar Creek spawning trail





Shared tools . . .

- Regional trail strategy
- Shuswap Trail Protocol
- Design standards
- Sign standards
- Environmental adaptive plan
- Trail development team & tool room
- Trail stewardship program
- Experience programs
- Shuswap trail guide & website
- www.shuswaptrails.com
- trailreport@shuswaptrails.com

Shuswap Trail Strategy and Roundtable

The purpose of the strategy is to protect, enhance and recognize trails as an integral part of the Shuswap lifestyle, culture and economy.

- ensure trails are appropriately authorized, mapped, developed, maintained, and promoted,
- protect and promote First Nations interests,
- reduce/repair ecological damage from all trail use,
- manage land access appropriately
- demonstrate collaborative management
- provide stability and security to all who invest in them.



Working Together. . .



December 2015 Regional Trail Strategy and Roundtable

. . . Y'icwetsutce (taking care of the land)

The Shuswap Trail Protocol

- Weaving it Green for Generations in a spirit of respect, cooperation, and stewardship

Planning Mt Tuam Bike Trails, South Shuswap





A few core values. . .

- Reverence
- Humility
- Respect
- Balance
- Enough
- Gratitude

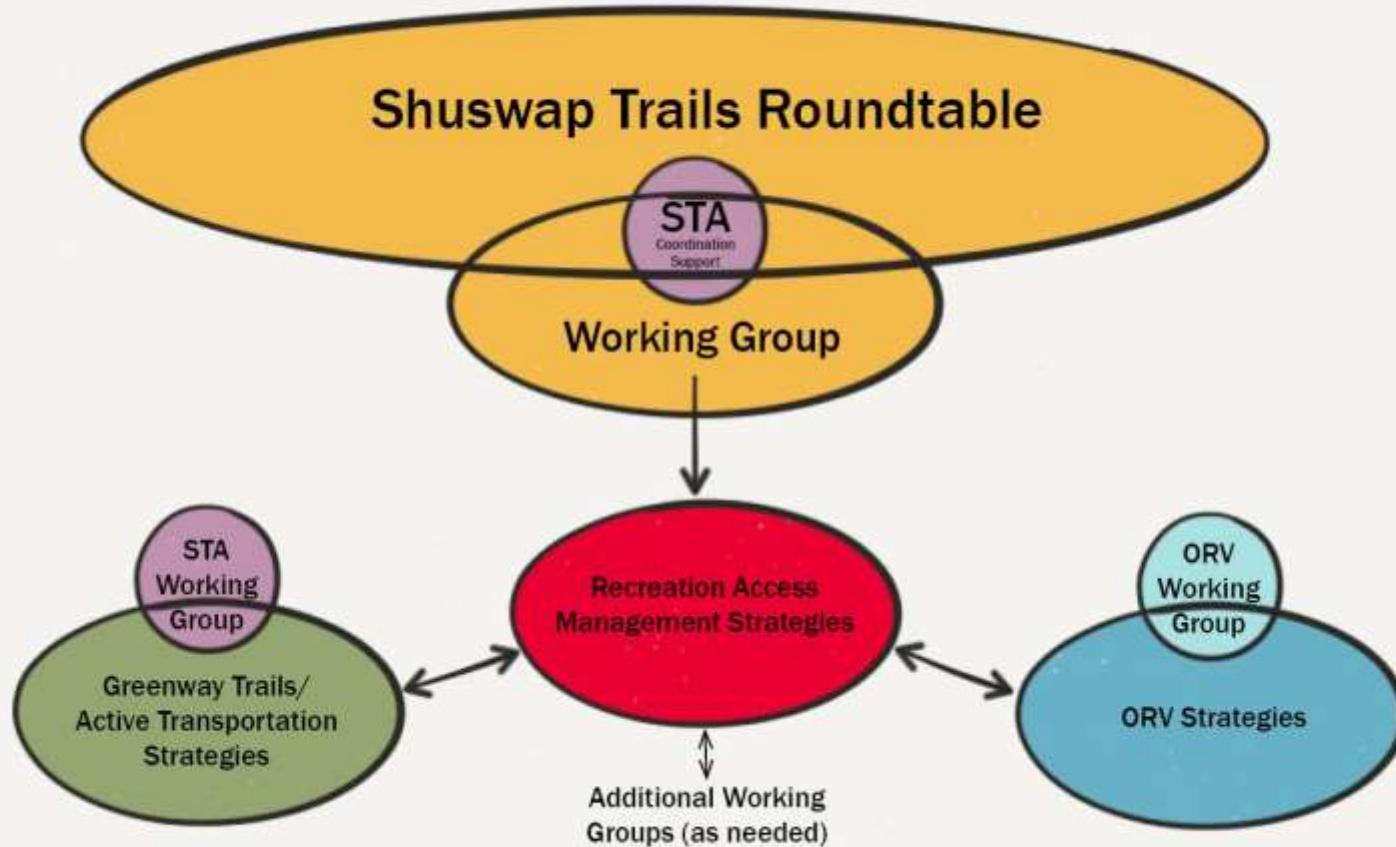
Y'icwetsutce. . .

A photograph of a man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a grey and black zip-up jacket over a t-shirt, sitting at a white table. He is holding a pen and signing a document. A woman in a dark top stands behind him. The background shows a room with wooden chairs and a white brick wall.

Letter of Understanding

- Work together
- Y'icwetsutce
(Stewardship)
- Recognize First
Nations Title & Rights
- Collaboration
- Respect

Shuswap Trail Strategy and Roundtable



Pre-Authorization Process

④ FCBC: Review Process (NRS)

Client Fills out Application
Application Fee

- Check for completion
- Back to Client if incomplete
 - Resubmission

③ FCBC: Receive Process (CSA)

Application Complete
Checking Acceptability

- Ensure content of application meets requirements
 - Maps, feasibility, obvious conflicts
- Back to Client for alteration
 - Resubmission

FLNRORD: Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations

FCBC: Front Counter BC

RSTBC: Recreation Sites & Trails BC

CSA: Client Service Assistant

NRS: Natural Resource Specialist

DRO: District Recreation Officer

26-Oct-17

⑤ FCBC: Referral Process (CSA)

Application Acceptable
Land Referral

- Status performed
- E-Referral/Consultation/Advertising package developed
- Action DRO to confirm, proceed
- Land Referral initiated

② RSTBC: Facilitation / Coordination (DRO)

Recreation Sites & Trails Branch
District Recreation Officer (DRO)

With Front Counter BC (CSA):

- Initiating with REC#, tenure database, maps, project files, CRIF
- Identifying any additional stakeholders for referral (as required)
- Cover letter to recipients

⑥ Adjudication/ Administration

- Adjudication, decision
- Authorization, agreements
- Site/Trail designations

Ministry: FLNRORD

With Proponent:

- Collaborative review, refinements, contact other Provincial decision makers as required, issue and gap identification, field reviews

① Pre-Application

- Environmental screening, issue identification/ early resolutions
- Stakeholder information sharing
- Mapping & Application development
- Support documents from key stakeholders
- Field visits, communication with DRO

Proponent Group
SCREENING PROTOCOL

Proponent & Key Stakeholder Community

FRPA Recreation Authorizations:
RSTBC → FCBC → RSTBC



Ministry of
Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations
and Rural Development

FrontCounterBC
Recreation Sites
and Trails BC



Pre-Authorization Process

1. Get Connected
2. Do your homework; Know the Layers
3. Get permission to explore
4. Find the Lines (GPS/mapping)
5. Conduct Environmental Screening
6. Write up a draft plan
7. Bring plan to the local Stewardship Advisory or Lead Trail Steward
8. Submit for review – First Nation, Govt, Stewardship, Stakeholders
9. Revise lines and plan (as required), and resubmit for review
10. Apply for Authorization
11. Upon authorization –
Build, Monitor, Maintain, Adapt

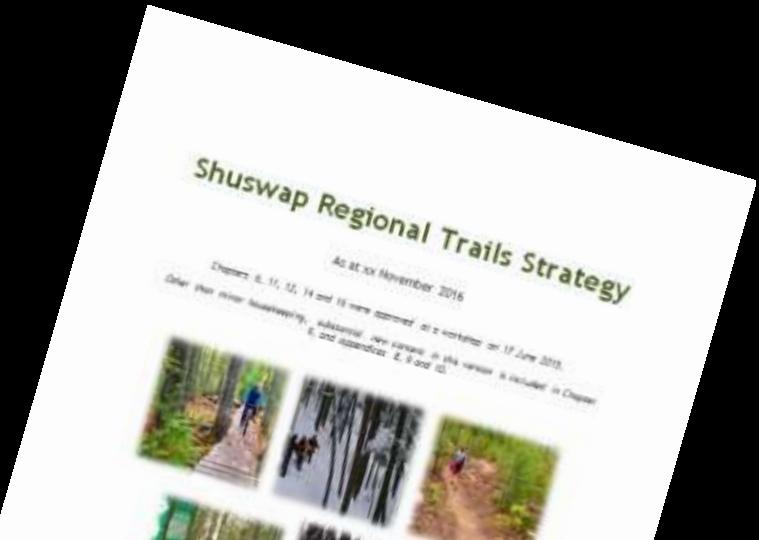
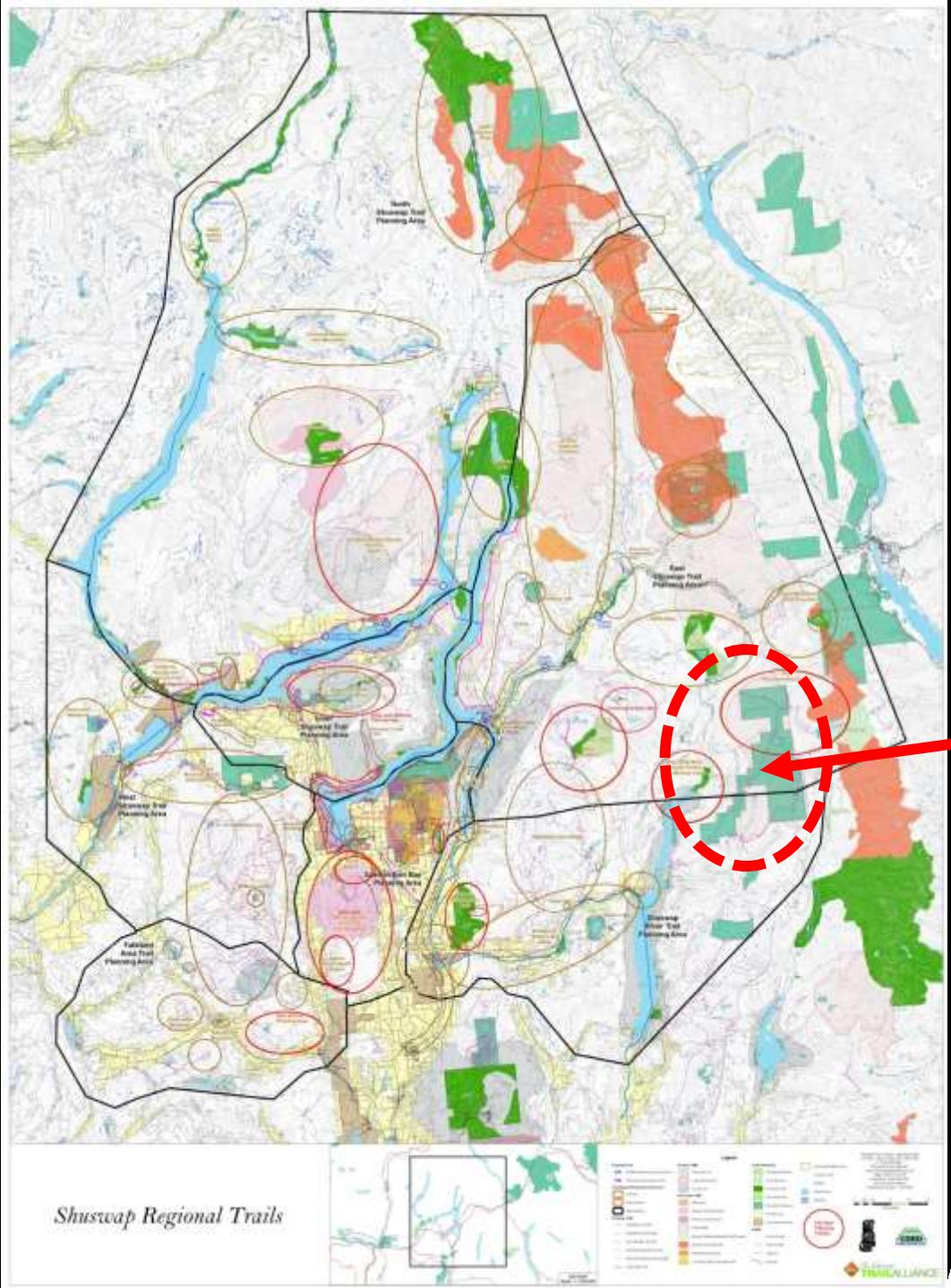
Shuswap Regional Trails Roundtable 2017



November 2017 Regional Trail Strategy and Roundtable at Chase Community Hall

Shuswap Regional Trail Strategy Planning Priorities

Joss-Tsuius-Mabel Access Planning Area

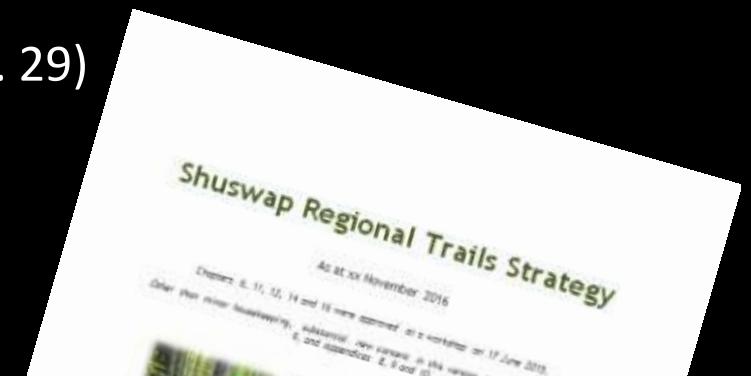


ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Access management plans should:

- Guide with objectives for specific areas
- Determine acceptable activities and developments
- Determine the limits of acceptable change
- Monitor area conditions and recreation experience opportunities
- Coordinate with adjacent areas and uses

(Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy 2016, p. 29)



Process for Access Planning:

1. Create a local planning **advisory** group
2. Study historic and current **situation**
3. **Inventory** every trail (in-field review)
4. Develop foundational stewardship **values/priorities**
5. Draft environmental & recreational **quality** measures
6. Identify key land management & recreational **issues**
7. Assess & designate trails for appropriate long-term use
8. Project future trail & land management needs
9. Develop strategic planning **recommendations**
10. Develop ongoing trail advisory **terms of reference**

(Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy 2016, p. 29)

Structured Decision-Making:

1

Clarify problem and context

– history, current use, laws, policies, preferences

2

Articulate values, objectives, & measures – what are the desired results (outcomes) and measures?

3

Develop options – what are the alternative management recommendations or scenarios?

4

Evaluate consequences – what are the potential results/risks of each option? Asking:

- What do we already know?
- What do we still need to know?
- How will we get this knowledge? (and is it feasible?)

5

Evaluate trade-offs and choose – Are the trade-offs/risks acceptable? What are the limits to monitor?

6

Take action – implement, monitor, review, and adapt

Cumulative Effects
Data &
Modelling

Key concepts. . .

- Adaptive management planning
- Acceptable limits of change
- Cumulative effects
- Habitat disturbance & compensation
- Precautionary principle



ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

- a structured process to guide land management decision-making where the outcome of an action or actions on an ecosystem is uncertain. It includes setting **limits** of change, ongoing **monitoring** and **adaptive** responses over time.



The adaptive management plan uses
the logic and language of the
provincial *Wildlife Guidelines for
Backcountry Tourism/Commercial
Recreation in BC* (2006)



Adaptive Management Plan

- Results – What the adaptive management plan is attempting to achieve
- Desired Behaviours – Actions by users that are most likely to achieve the specified results
- Indicators – What should be measured to determine if the results are being achieved
- Limits – Acceptable bounds related to the measured indicator
- Mitigation Measures – how to achieve desired behaviour
- Monitoring Plan & Schedule – Frequency and timing of monitoring indicators
- Corrective Actions – Actions triggered if monitoring suggests that indicators have exceeded limits

A photograph of a man with grey hair, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt, dark trousers, and a black backpack. He is standing in a forest, looking down at a clipboard or document he is holding in his hands. The background shows tall evergreen trees and some fallen branches.

Environmental Stewardship

Action #1:

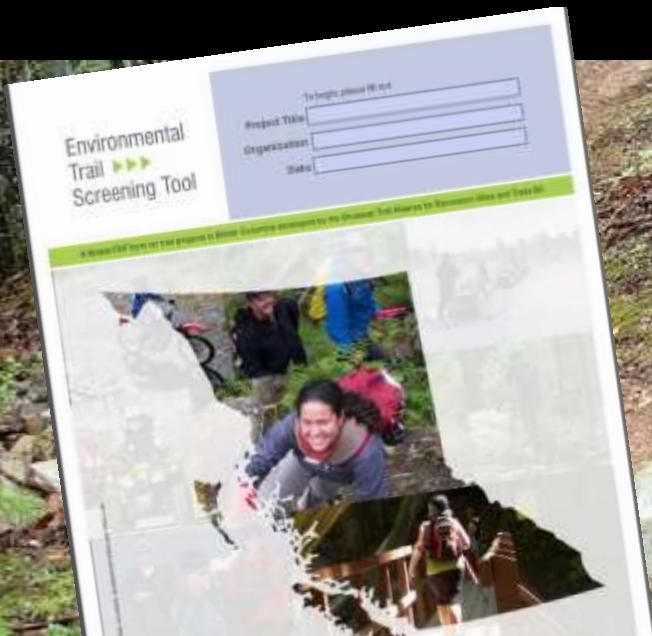
Integrate a framework of environmental consideration, actions and standards into planning, construction and management of the provincial trail network.

(Trails Strategy for British Columbia, 2013, p. 12)



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING

- A series of templates and checklists **gathers web-information** on environmental conditions, current and historic land use.
- Decision guidelines **help answer** the question “What level of environmental review is required?”

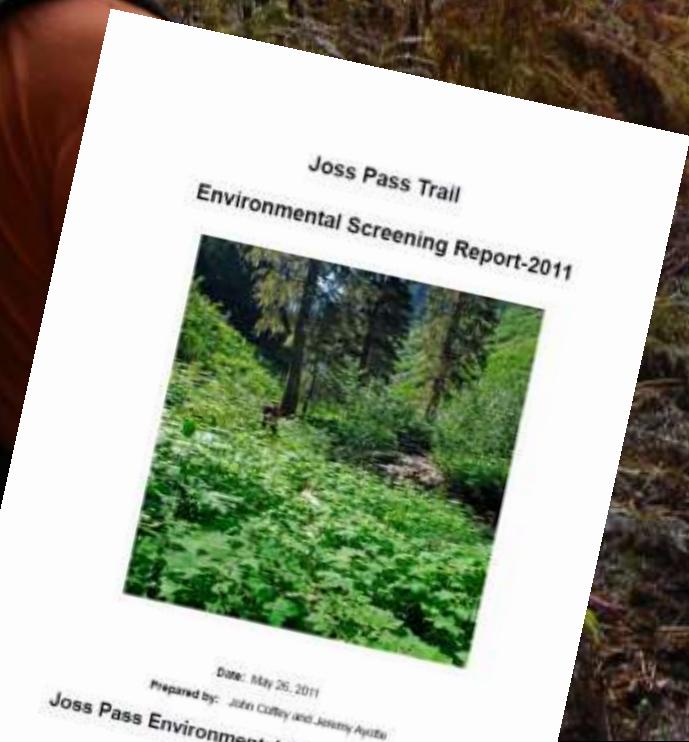
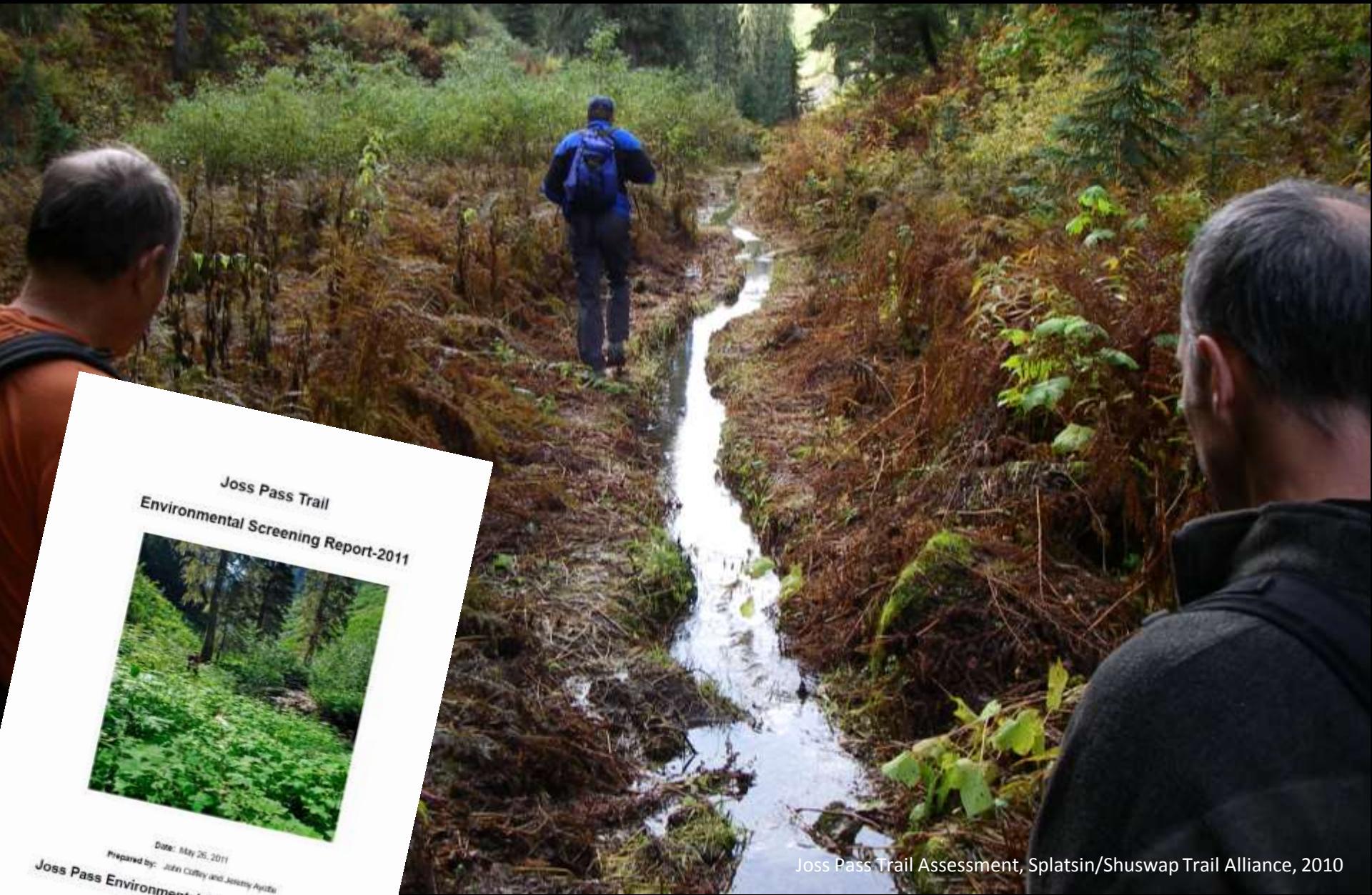




A process to:

- Assess potential environmental impacts of proposed activities during early planning stages
- Ensure that federal and provincial legislation/standards are consistently followed
- Inform decision making (maps of trail network in relation to ecological information)
- Apply science-based understanding of species and habitats in a practical adaptive management approach

Joss Pass Trail. . .



Joss Pass Trail Assessment, Splatsin/Shuswap Trail Alliance, 2010

A few examples. . .

- Blind Bay Bluffs Trail
- White Lake Trail Stewards
- Larch Hills Non-Winter Plan
- South Canoe Trails
- Owlhead/Cummings Lake
- Foreshore Raven Trail Monitoring
- North Fork Wild Conservation Park
- Joss Pass & Mountain
- Glenemma & Kelly Mtn
- Haines Creek Bluffs
- Kela7scen (Mt. Ida) Sacred Circle
- Secwepemc Landmarks



New plans for North Fork Wild

Blind Bay Bluffs Trail. . .



White Lake Trail Stewards. . .



Larch Hills Non-Winter Trails. . .



South Canoe Trails Advisory . . .



Foresore Trail Monitoring. . .




Salmon Arm

Foresore Trail Dog Walking Monitoring Plan

Working Group Update. . .

On December 1st, 2013, the City of Salmon Arm Council responded to the concern that dogs on trails within the Salmon Arm Bay Wildlife Sanctuary places considerable pressure on the area's natural habitat and species. This was influenced by the desire to allow dog walking on the trail. Foresore Trail. As a result, the Council voted to amend the existing bylaws to:

- restrict mesh heights to 2.0 metres on the Foresore Trail;
- restrict plastic dog waste bag dispensers;
- install signs indicating dogs are permitted on leash on the Foresore Trail;
- have staff work with SAWT to install signs stating dogs are not permitted on the two horseheads and Churnas Island trail leading onto the Nature Reserve;
- limit that all dogs be prohibited on the Foresore Trail during the critical nesting period between April 15 and June 15 each year;
- limit that all dogs be brought back to review in January 2013.

As well, City of Salmon Arm Council moved to establish a working group to:

- facilitate a pilot and longer term committee between stakeholders on Dogs on the Foresore Trail and Horses on the trails or 2013;
- report back to Council, as soon as practicable, an approximate date (including year) for a one year trial including next practice for the review of that trial;
- at the end of the trial, summarize the data monitoring and provide longer term management proposals.

A working group has been assembled and is actively preparing a monitoring plan for the one year trial starting this spring, as well as developing longer term management proposals. The working group is made up of representation from: The City of Salmon Arm, The Nature Trust, Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations, SAWT, the Salmon Arm Greenways Liaison Committee, and the Dog Walking Community, with facilitation and consulting budget support through the Shuswap Trail Alliance.

Please join with the many dedicated community volunteers and leaders working to protect and preserve this important wetland sanctuary and greenway corridor for the health and well-being of us all.

For further information or to report trail issues please email:
trailreport@shuswaptrails.com
Please Report Bylaw Infractions to Animal Control, 250-835-8392

Owlhead/Cummings Lake. . .



North Fork Wild...



Lessons. . .

- You are never alone on the land
- The table is round, and it is big
- Eco-systems and ecologies speak, but quietly
- You are always in **First Nations territory**
- Respect does not need to wait for policy
- Locally, relationships count, trust takes time
- Together solutions are possible, and stronger



Challenges. . .

- Capacity
- Facilitation
- (im)Patience
- Assumptions
- Complexity
- Influence & Authority
- Hard Work
- Bad Work
- Isolation
- Time





Discussion?

- Are there consistent best-practices to build collaboration?
- What is working in your context?
- Is collaboration something that can become more embedded in policy and governance, or does it have to remain a community value-added?
- How do we support/resource long-term commitment for facilitated collaborative planning/management?



The Shuswap
TRAIL ALLIANCE

Trailhead opening ceremony on Mt Baldy Trail with CSRD Parks

Kukwstsétselp ~ Thank you!

Please visit. . .

ShuswapTrails.com