

Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy - Summary Document

Purpose

The purpose of the [Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy](#) is to protect, enhance and recognize trails as an integral part of the Shuswap lifestyle, culture and economy. This strategy will ensure trails are appropriately authorized, mapped, developed, maintained, and promoted. It will also protect and promote First Nations interests, reduce/repair ecological damage from all trail use, and manage land access appropriately. The strategy's process will also serve to demonstrate collaborative management between all orders of government, industry sectors and stewardship groups. It will provide stability and security to all user groups, businesses, and the orders of government who invest in them.

Geographic Area

The strategy covers the entire Shuswap watershed, involving many jurisdictions including Secwepemc, provincial, and the Columbia Shuswap, Thompson-Nicola, and North Okanagan regional districts and some of their member municipalities.

Funding

It is important to note that the concepts and ideas contained in this strategy do not necessarily have funding in place; support or endorsement of this strategy by any organization does not imply that they have the funds to implement it.

Proposed Outcomes and Deliverables

It's anticipated that there will be a suite of benefits achieved through collaboration by trail user groups, industry groups and orders of government:

- Greater recognition, protection and enhancement of trails
- Clarity on priority planning areas
- Improved communication and protocols
- Increased value and security, and more effective marketing of trail system assets, through consistent trail design and sign standards
- Optimization of limited shared resources

The four primary deliverables of this strategy are:

- Establishment of a regional Shuswap Trails Roundtable
- A formal commitment to work together (evidenced by signed Letter of Understanding)
- A strategy document and an implementation plan
- Maps of priority planning areas that can be used by all parties

The Shuswap Trails Roundtable

The role of the Shuswap Trails Roundtable is to implement the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy, through direction to a Working Group. The Shuswap Trails Roundtable provides an annual forum for collaboration, communication, and forms an agreement to work together; however it is recognized that it is non-regulatory and has no authority for decision making regarding land use, permitting or authorizations. The roundtable is open and inclusive and will be comprised of anyone with an interest in or responsibility to manage or promote trails, recreation, tourism and economic development in the Shuswap, including local, First Nations and provincial governments, motorized and non-motorized trail user groups, industry sectors that overlap with trail use on Crown land, interest groups and others.

Status and Next Steps

At a public workshop on June 17, 2015, several key chapters were approved; the Shuswap Trails Roundtable and Working Group structures were established. The Shuswap Trails Roundtable is planned for December 2, 2015.

See www.shuswaptrailalliance.com for more info and links to the Trail Strategy and Planning Map.

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