

Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy

27 November 2014
Pierre's Point, Salmon Arm, BC



Meeting Summary as at 4 December 2014

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Introduction

Since 2001, there have been a number of planning initiatives and community projects upon which a Shuswap region-wide strategy for non-motorized trails has evolved; these include the Shuswap Tourism Opportunity Study (2002), the Shuswap Trails Concept Study (2006), the Shuswap Trails Strategy (2007), the Shuswap Tourism Strategy (2010), and the Shuswap Trails Protocol (2011). Additional conversations amongst Secwepemc leaders and trail user groups confirmed the need for a region-wide strategy to involve all trail user groups (motorized and non-motorized), and make connections to land use, existing land use plans, Secwepemc values, environmental and community health, tourism, and economic development.

It was agreed that the time was right to develop a Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy.

To date, development of the proposed regional trails strategy has been led by a steering committee consisting of representation from the Secwepemc Nation, the Shuswap Trail Alliance, the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Shuswap Tourism, and Recreation Sites and Trails BC. The Fraser Basin Council is facilitating the process.

Purpose of the workshop

The purpose of the workshop is therefore to bring together all interests to talk about trails, tourism and economic development in the Shuswap. Specific feedback was sought on three initiatives:

- the development of the aforementioned *regional trails strategy*, including mapping zones for different suitability of trail uses, backcountry tourism and coordination with other industry sectors, and access management planning
- coordination between orders of government (includes first nations, local, and provincial) *authorization processes* for trail building, use and objectives
- creating a *governance structure* and outlining an annual planning process

Prior to the workshop, a discussion paper was circulated to all participants. The workshop served as the venue for seeking input and recommendations on the draft concepts and recommendations presented in the discussion paper.

Accompanying Documents

Please refer to the following two documents being circulated with this meeting summary:

1. *Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy Discussion Paper – 17nov14.pdf*
2. *Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy presentation slides - 27nov14.pdf*

Welcoming Comments

Mike Simpson, Senior Regional Manager, Fraser Basin Council welcomed all participants to the workshop. Adams Lake Indian Band Elder Joseph Johnny gave an opening prayer, and Councillor Gina Johnny gave a welcome. A brief history of initiatives and accomplishments was provided by Phil McIntyre-Paul, and Sunny LeBourdais explained the historical context (i.e. Secwepemc title and rights, affirmed through the Canada Constitution Section 35 and UN Article 27) upon which the strategy is created.

Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy: proposed components and small group feedback

Mike Simpson presented an overview of all proposed components of the regional trails strategy. He presented them in sections, and then participants discussed the components in small groups and provided feedback. A summary of feedback collected through the workshop is below.¹

Vision, values, underlying principles

Workshop participants were very agreeable to the vision, values, and underlying principles as presented, with the following feedback for consideration:

Vision	Values	Principles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration is foundational to success; must include industry players in addition to those listed • Change “Secwepemc are reinstated” to “Secwepemc are affirmed” • Include ‘safety’ and ‘environment’ • Reference or acknowledge Secwepemc’ulecw 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More clarity/explanation needed • Recognize conflict • State First Nations title and rights up front, but not repetitively throughout strategy • Add value re: benefits to personal health and connecting with nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add reduce/repair/prevent ecological damage • Provide definition of ‘trail’ • Add importance of supporting existing plans and strategies • Add importance of education about communities/regions etc. • Add recognition of cumulative effects

¹ For the purpose of being brief, the components are not described here. Please refer to the Discussion Paper for details on draft components of a vision statement, values, underlying principles, governance, annual planning cycle, priority planning areas, and authorization processes.

Governance and annual planning cycle

Workshop participants were very agreeable to the governance and annual planning cycle as presented, with the following feedback for consideration:

- (4a) Clarify or explain, “mandated”. Regional council will work best with balanced representation, including from orders of government; a mandate/requirement to participate will be critical.
- (4a) Broad representation on regional council will increase access to leveraging funds
- (4a) “Inclusive” – have a strategy to welcome new participants
- (4c) Add ‘municipal’ and ‘first nations’ efforts
- (4d) Recognition of Secwepemc Nation as decision makers of Secwepemc’ulecw (land and resources) (this should be captured in vision statement)
- (4h) Clarify or explain “resourced” – i.e. financial or human resources
- (4i) Include mechanism for conflict resolution in the Terms of Reference
- (4 – new) Consider striking smaller sub-committees where appropriate
- (4 – new) More clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the Shuswap Trail Alliance vs. a Regional Trails Council
- (4 – new) Align planning cycle with local governments’ OCP review
- (5 – new) Include monitoring and evaluation in planning cycle
- (5 – new) Include public engagement and communications throughout cycle

Priority planning areas and zones

Workshop participants were agreeable to the area-based priorities as proposed. Plenty of mark-up input was provided via colour-coded stickers and post-it notes onto seven maps (summarized below in the tables). It was noted where there are known to be conflicts between users, land uses, Secwepemc values or culturally sensitive sites, or environmentally sites.

West Shuswap		
Potential development	Hot-spot pilot projects	Existing trail infrastructure (not authorized and/or mapped)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flume Trail maintenance • Rock climbing access and safety at Gleneden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly Hills recreation area • South Skimikin 	

Inner Shuswap		
Potential development	Hot-spot pilot projects	Existing trail infrastructure (not authorized and/or mapped)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connector trail from Blind Bay to Sunnybrae • Connector trail from White Lake to Herman Lake • Parallel trail from Ford Road to Carlin School • Parallel trail from Tappen to the Co-op • Parallel trail at Reedman Point • White Lake bike park (stacked loop trails) • Access to Balmoral trails from Sherry Road • Baldy Trail extensions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Lake circumference trail • Reinecker Creek trail, motorized and non-motorized users, and forestry conflicts • White Lake winter use conflicts btw motorized and non-motorized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinecker Creek Trail • Trails on north side of Little White Lake and White Lake • Trail from White Lake Lookout to Reinecker Creek trail

North Shuswap		
Potential development	Hot-spot pilot projects	Existing trail infrastructure (not authorized and/or mapped)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat access at Celistia/Magna Bay/Anglemont • Canoe/kayak launches from Celistia to Ruckell Point • Paddling route on Upper Adams River • Paddling route at Humamilt Lake, and campsite/trail development • Trail connecting North Anstey Arm to Seymour Arm (past Wright Lake) • Connector trail from Farrell's Field to Celistia 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail along Upper Seymour River • Paddling route along upper Seymour River • Trail to Pukeashun Peak • Cayenne Falls is placed incorrectly on map • Grizzly Cabin

East Shuswap		
Potential development	Hot-spot pilot projects	Existing trail infrastructure (not authorized and/or mapped)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Gorge Creek trail (crossing Hwy #1 from parking lot is dangerous) • Hwy #1 bridge at Sicamous Narrows • Connect existing trails to Sicamous core • Trail from Silver Sands to Old Town Bay • Upper Perry River alpine trail • English Mountain access and trail (at Victor Lake) • English Lake Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eagle Pass Mountain and alpine area • Joss Mountain • Bourne Glacier and Pettipiece Pass multi-season • Owlhead/Mara 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eagle Pass trail from lakes to hut • Eagle River paddling access points • Owlhead/Kingfisher trail and shelter • Mount McPherson access from the north side • Owlhead noted incorrectly on maps (should not be "Owlshead")

Shuswap River		
Potential development	Hot-spot pilot projects	Existing trail infrastructure (not authorized and/or mapped)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parallel trails along Enderby-Mabel Lake Road • Trail to Isobel Falls (collaborate with Shuswap River Watershed Sustainability Plan) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enderby Cliffs • Shuswap River paddling/boating routes • Salmon Arm Bay shoreline trails and bird sanctuary 	

Salmon Arm Bay		
Potential development	Hot-spot pilot projects	Existing trail infrastructure (not authorized and/or mapped)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails from Bastion, Jackson, and SAS Schools to Salmon Arm Bay • Parallel trails from West Bay into Salmon Arm • CP Rail Trail South (?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Canoe (multi-use in sensitive watershed) • Rubberhead • Kela7scen/Mt. Ida sacred circle • Haines Creek/south slopes area of Mt. Ida 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail from SE Salmon Arm into north slopes area of Mt. Ida • Trail to lake at Rubberhead

Falkland		
Potential development	Hot-spot pilot projects	Existing trail infrastructure (not authorized and/or mapped)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yankee Flats multi-use trails • Controlled access to pillar at Pillar Lake 		

Workshop participants were asked to provide suggestions for how the steering committee should prioritize trail planning activities. The following were offered:

- By area of population density
- By area of most use
- By areas of mis-use or damage, or by areas where public safety and environmental impact is most at risk
- By areas that already have planning momentum or initiatives underway
- By maintaining geographic representation (i.e. across the entire Shuswap)

Some participants suggested that the steering committee should decide amongst themselves how to prioritize.

Authorization/tenure/permitting processes and the Shuswap Trail Protocol

Workshop participants were supportive of the Shuswap Trail Protocol as presented and generally found it to be consistent with the process outlined by Recreation Sites and Trails BC (provincial authorization process). The following comments were provided:

- Divided input/support for re-ordering the steps of the Shuswap Trail Protocol
- Establish a 'one-shop stop' for guiding proponents through the permitting processes – perhaps Shuswap Trail Alliance is suitable for this role
- Create a step-by-step tool or template on a webpage would be helpful, including access/links to title holders including first nations, and stakeholders
- Create opportunities for mentoring or cross-training proponents

One workshop participant – Louis Thomas – offered an analogy about the efficiencies that can be gained by working together to build something: “If you build your winter house alone, it will take weeks... but if the community works together, building the winter house might only take a couple days.”

Steering Committee

Workshop participants suggested the following organizations/agencies for participation on the steering committee²:

- District of Sicamous
- Village of Chase
- School District #83, Shuswap Outdoor Learning Foundation
- BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Motorized user group – e.g., Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club
- Industry group(s), i.e., forestry
- Personal health perspective, i.e., Healthy Built Environment representative

It was emphasized that the steering committee should have balanced representation from users, agencies, and orders of government yet be kept to a small, manageable number of people. It was also suggested that sub-committees with additional representatives be struck for working on specific issues.

Workshop Evaluation

Participants were invited to fill out and submit an evaluation form and final opportunity to provide input to the proposed regional trail strategy. A brief summary of workshop evaluation is provided here:

- Motorized user groups were noticeably silent and/or under-represented at the meeting (e.g., ATV and ORV, heli-skiing, cat skiing and guide/tour operations)
- A very interesting meeting with a variety of areas and user groups; great opportunity for networking and learning
- Need to reach out to rural residents, i.e., Lumby, Cherryville, Falkland to get their input
- Very well facilitated

² At the time of the workshop, the Steering Committee membership included Sexqelkemoc Lakes Division, Shuswap Trail Alliance, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Shuswap Tourism, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, and the City of Salmon Arm

Appendix 1: Workshop Participants

Name:	Organization	E-mail address
Larry Morgan	Columbia Shuswap Regional District	lmorgan@csrd.bc.ca
Brent Moffat	Work BC Employment Service Ctr	brent.moffat@workbc-salmonarm.com
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Appendix 2: Agenda

Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy Meeting

9:30AM to 3:30PM, November 27, 2014

Pierre's Point Log Building, Adams Lake Indian Band, Switsemalph Reserve #6

FINAL Agenda as at Nov 25, 2014

What is the purpose of the meeting? To bring together all interests to talk about trails, tourism and economic development in the Shuswap. Specific feedback is sought on three initiatives:

- the development of a *regional trail strategy*, including mapping of zones for different suitability of trail uses, backcountry tourism and coordination with other industry sectors, and access management planning
- coordination between First Nations, local and provincial government *authorization processes* for trail building, use and objectives
- a *governance structure* and an outline of an annual planning process

Time	Topic	Who and/or format
9:30	Doors open, coffee available, peruse maps, network	
10:00	Welcome to territory, review objectives and agenda, introductions around room	Adams Lake Indian Band representative, Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council
10:15	History, context, connections to existing initiatives	Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance, Sunny LeBourdais, BlackBear Development Consulting, and Robyn Cyr, Shuswap Tourism
10:30	Purpose of proposed Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy and overview of components	Mike Simpson
10:45	Vision, values, underlying principles	Mike Simpson Small group feedback
11:15	Governance and annual planning cycle	Mike Simpson Small group feedback
11:45	Maps, priority planning areas and zoning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ presentation of draft maps, with existing plan zones, and proposed area-based priorities ▪ explanation of feedback sought over lunch 	Phil McIntyre-Paul Mike Simpson
12:00	Lunch (provided) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ networking time, review and input to maps 	
1:00	Maps, priority planning areas and zoning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ continued input on draft maps ▪ review of input received, priority setting 	Mike Simpson
2:00	Authorization/tenure/permitting process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ how it currently works; identification of gaps, challenges, inconsistencies, bottlenecks ▪ Shuswap Trail Protocol 	Jack Andrew, Splatsin First Nation Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance TBD, Front Counter BC Small group feedback
3:00	Steering Committee – are there any perspectives missing, or people who want to be involved?	Mike Simpson Large group feedback
3:15	Next steps, closing comments	Mike Simpson
3:30	Adjourn, safe travels	