



Recreation Sites and Trails BC

The Recreation Sites and Trails Program



Joss Lakes view to Tsuisus

Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) manages more than 1350 recreation sites and over 800 trails in all regions of the province. This extensive site and trail network is unique to British Columbia, and provides safe and enjoyable public recreation opportunities for local citizens and visitors from around the world.



Recreation sites and trails are a vital component of the provincial tourism infrastructure and play a significant role in the domestic tourism sector by providing economic opportunities for rural communities. They also help increase public awareness of environmental values and promote an active lifestyle for a healthier population.



Generally located in remote areas and accessed by gravel forestry roads, most recreation sites provide basic facilities, such as toilets, fire rings and picnic tables.



Mount Cheam Trail

RSTBC delivers the site and trail program through a headquarters in Victoria, four regional offices, and 19 districts located throughout the province. A large component of the program is delivered through partnership agreements with recreation groups, community organizations, First Nations, private citizens, local governments or forest companies.



Arlington Lakes Recreation Site



RSTBC Staff - Nov 2014



Gray Lake Campbell River

Recreation Sites

Recreation sites provide an affordable, rustic camping experience that is different from that offered at provincial parks or commercial campgrounds, particularly for those who really like to get back to nature.

Generally located in remote areas and accessed by gravel forestry roads, most recreation sites provide basic facilities, such as toilets, fire rings and picnic tables. No electricity or potable water is provided.



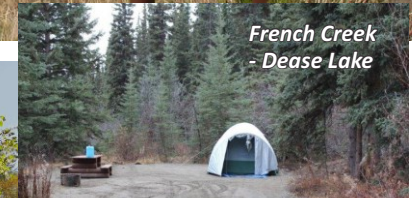
Typical to all recreation site's is the "3 Blade" entrance sign.



Palmer Lake - Atlin



Tamihi Creek - Chilliwack



French Creek - Dease Lake

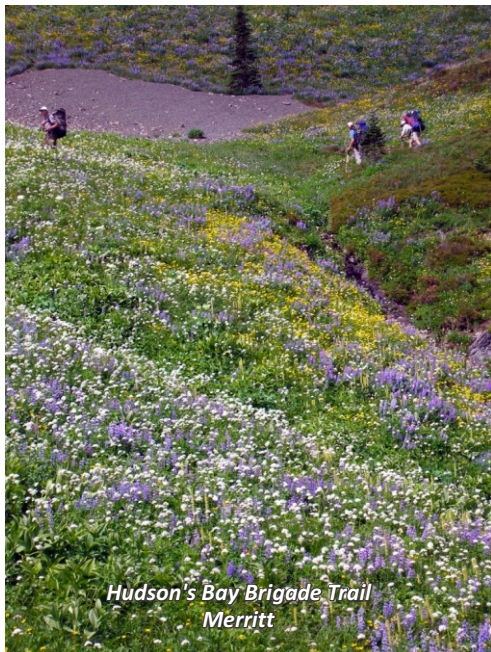


Kyuquot Sound

Recreation Trails

BC's recreation trails are world famous and range from basic, single-track paths through dense forest to wide-tracked rail trails with high quality tread surfaces.

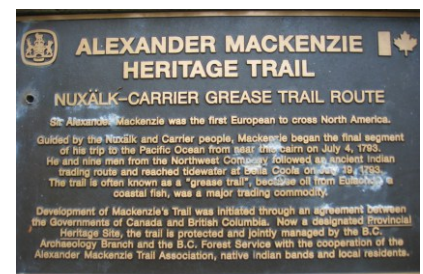
There are also many heritage trails that trace the footsteps of early pioneers and provide an important historical and cultural perspective to outdoor recreation.



Hudson's Bay Brigade Trail Merritt



Kettle River 2010 Spirit Trail



A plaque commemorating the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail at the 0 km mark near the Fraser River.

The BC Trails Strategy

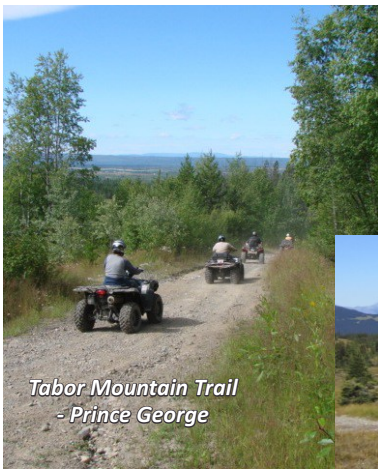
To effectively coordinate the development and management of BC's extensive network of recreation trails, the Province has developed the *Trails Strategy for BC*. This strategy was developed with input from stakeholders from all sides of the recreation community and resulted in a collaborative approach to trail management in British Columbia.

"The Trails Strategy has been endorsed by government and will be implemented in phases as funding becomes available."



Equestrian Tabor Mtn Recreation Trails

Summer Motorized Trail Use



Tabor Mountain Trail - Prince George

In addition to developing trails for primarily non-motorized use, RSTBC recognizes and appreciates the valuable social and economic contributions of motorized recreation and is working hard to develop more high quality trail opportunities for motorized users.



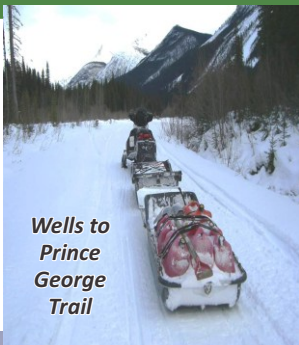
Yanks Peak Trail - Barkerville



Camping combined with motorized use is becoming increasingly popular.

Extensive motorized riding areas have been established at; Bear Creek near Kelowna, Munroe Creek near Summerland, Tabor Mtn near Prince George, West Harrison in the Fraser Valley, Duffy Lake - Greenstone Mountain, and Tunkwa Lake near Kamloops.

Winter Motorized Trail Use



Wells to Prince George Trail

Responding to recommendations from the BC Coroner's Service, RSTBC, in collaboration with the Canadian Avalanche Centre (CAC) and GeoBC, has improved avalanche awareness in BC to ensure that winter recreationists are provided with the safety information they need to make informed decisions. Avalanche awareness signs have been posted at 23 key highway locations and standardized warning signs have been installed at all 91 public snowmobile trails currently managed by the Province.



Sledding in the Yanks Peak Area



Brohm Ridge

On-site "Avaluator" signage has been developed and posted at public snowmobile trailheads to assist recreationists in assessing local avalanche dangers before they head out into the backcountry. Terrain guides for more popular snowmobile trails have also been produced to further educate recreationists on the importance of planning for and minimizing the risk associated with travel in avalanche prone terrain.



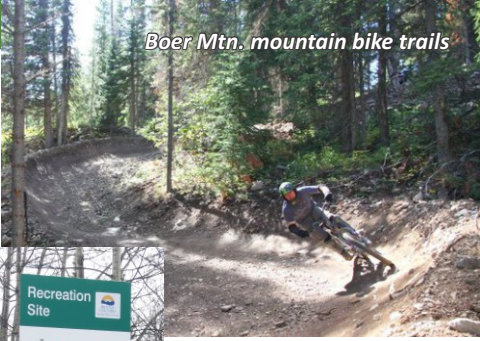
Mt. Fee



Alpha Lake Trails

Mountain Bike Trails

Boer Mtn. mountain bike trails



In response to the growing demand for mountain biking riding areas, RSTBC developed procedures for authorizing and managing mountain bike trails on Crown land. These procedures have been field tested in several pilot projects across the province.

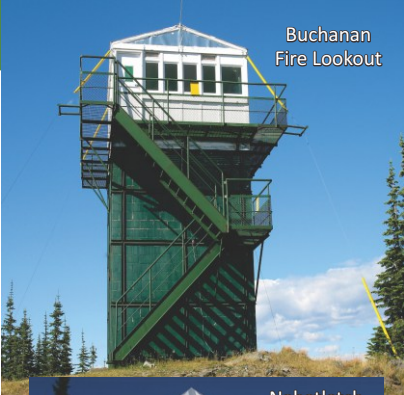
The result has been the development of a number of world-class mountain biking trail systems in collaboration with mountain bike associations and local communities. Communities like Burns Lake and Smithers in northwestern BC have developed significant mountain bike trail systems. These trail systems are now firmly established as international mountain bike destinations of choice.

Ptarmigan Recreation Trails - Smithers



Fire Lookout Restorations

Buchanan Fire Lookout



Nahatlatch Fire Lookout



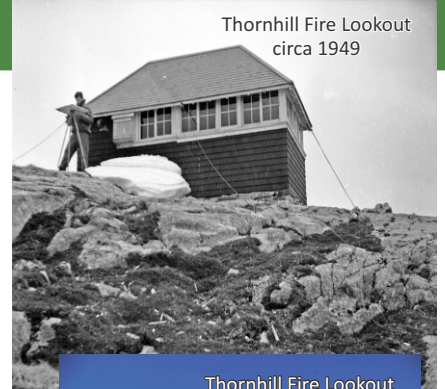
RSTBC has recently undertaken a project to restore abandoned fire lookouts and establish them as recreation sites to preserve the historical, cultural and heritage values of these spectacular areas and provide unique public recreation opportunities.

During the field season of 2012, a number of formerly abandoned lookouts were restored to their original structures and celebrated as part of the 100th anniversary of the BC Forest Service.



BC FOREST SERVICE
CENTENARY
1912-2012

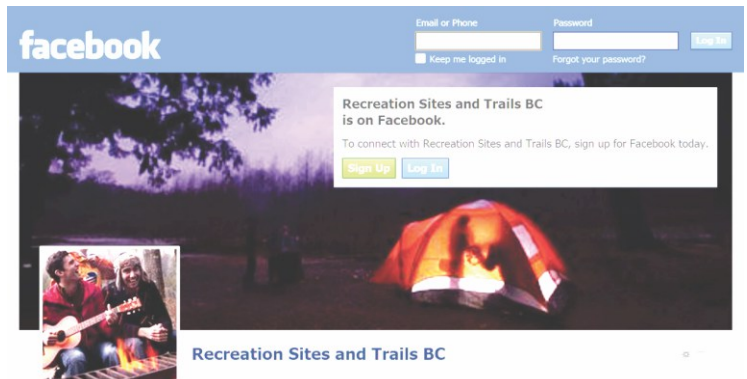
Thornhill Fire Lookout circa 1949



Thornhill Fire Lookout refurbishment in 2012



For More Information



We're on the Web at

www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca

or Facebook at

www.facebook.com/BCRecSitesandTrails