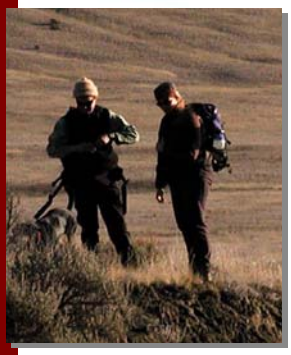
UPDATE #4

Recreation Trails Strategy for British Columbia



Progress Update

June 2008

The Partnership Spirit for BC Trails

British Columbia has undertaken a multi-phase approach to developing a trails strategy for the province. The first phase involved extensive research into successful models from other jurisdictions as well as analysis of the results of a widely-distributed survey of trail users and managers.

In the current phase, a draft Trails Strategy is being developed by the Trails Strategy Committee (TSC) and government. The draft Strategy will be distributed in late summer for First Nations, agency, stakeholder, community and public input.

The Trails Strategy Committee represents a collaborative partnership between trail stakeholders, government and First Nations and is responsible for developing and recommending the Trails Strategy, with the caveat that government has the authority to approve the Strategy given potential implications on legislation, policy, funding, etc.

Extensive background material is available on the Trails Strategy website at:

www.tsa.gov.bc.ca/sites_trails/managing/recreation_trails_strategy.htm

BRITISH COLUMBIA
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Ministry of Tourism, Sport & the Arts

Ministry of Environment

Province of British Columbia

Fourth meeting of the Trails Strategy Committee

The Recreation Trails Strategy is intended to serve as the hub of a wheel connecting a broad range of organizations in a shared vision for British Columbia's world-class trail network

The Trails Strategy Committee met on June 2, 2008 in Richmond, BC with the following goals:

1. To develop agreement on the technical content of a draft Trails Strategy to be distributed for public review and comment.
2. To develop a clear understanding of the next steps in preparing a final Trails Strategy, particularly the upcoming public review phase.

As a result of comprehensive discussions on key components of the Strategy and proposed action steps, the TSC made numerous detailed recommendations to improve the content. Overall recommendations also included:

- Keep this document at a 'high level' to establish the overall framework for an integrated Trail System, thereby setting the future stage for detailed cost-benefit analyses, resource requirements, and action plans.
- Keep in mind the critical role of the *Trails Strategy* in serving as the 'hub of a wheel connecting a broad range of organizations in a shared vision for a world class trail network.'

VISION

A world-renowned network of sustainable trails, accessible to all, which fosters social, cultural, health, economic and environmental benefits for trails users, communities and the province.

Current Status

Based on direction and feedback from TSC, the consulting team and Steering Committee are currently revising the draft Trails Strategy. The plan is to develop a draft Trails Strategy that succinctly addresses the full range of views on key components and outlines proposed actions.

The TSC recognizes that it is important to take a step-by-step approach:

- First, government will prepare a draft Strategy based on technical content provided by the TSC;
- This draft Strategy will be distributed widely for First Nations, agency, stakeholder, community and public input;
- A final strategy will be prepared, incorporating the input received; and,
- Once approved by government, the final stage of the process will involve implementation and monitoring.

Next Steps

Once the draft Trails Strategy has been approved, TSC members will be visiting regional centres in the Autumn 2008 to solicit community input.

Timelines	TSC widely circulates draft report for feedback by December	August - Sept
	TSC launches community meetings starting with UBCM AGM	Sept – Nov
	TSC reviews feedback received on draft report	Dec-Jan, 2009
	TSC prepares final Trails Strategy report	Feb-March