



# Nelson Cycling Club

Master Plan  
2019 – 2021

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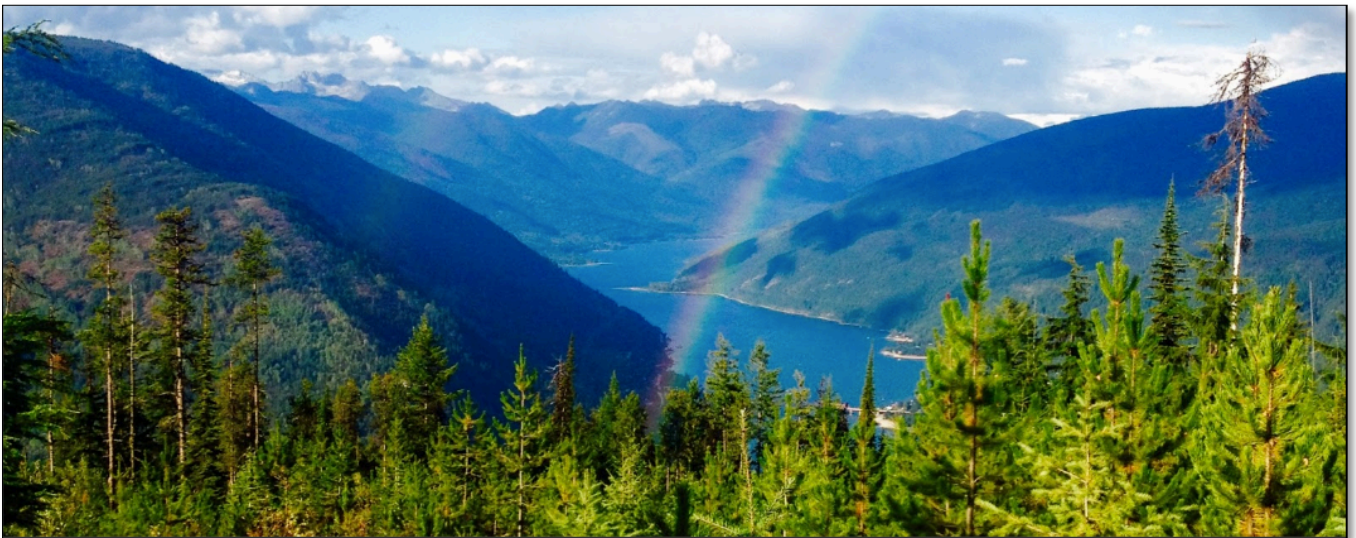
## Executive Summary

The Nelson Cycling Club's (NCC) Master Plan (the Plan) provides strategic direction to the NCC and defines key priorities, vision, goals, objectives and subsequent actions for the next three years. This document has been developed with input from the NCC Board of Directors and reflects current understanding of trail network priorities based on engagement with local users, government and key stakeholders. It is intended that this Plan be reviewed annually.

The NCC is Nelson and surrounding area's trail network Asset Manager. The current trail network developed over the last 31 years has already been a significant success. The network promotes healthy outdoor pursuits and has been the basis for development of a robust outdoor and mountain biking community. Outdoor recreational infrastructure is a key priority for this community because 'mountain culture' is central to the local area's identity.

Being a small community, there are fewer recreational facilities than what is found in a major centre and fewer resources available to service the facilities that do exist. Community volunteer investment in the development, maintenance and management of our trails is driven by deep appreciation of what this community asset offers to the quality of life of area residents. The collaborative efforts that led to the network's development built a trail experience and highly valued community asset with something to offer many user groups. This region would not attract and hold the population that it does without this trail network.

The trail network is appreciated for its uniqueness and varied terrain. The remarkable community and unique culture that Nelson and surrounding area offer increases the distinctiveness of this experience. Nonetheless, the network requires additional development and upgrades to increase its accessibility by the widest array of user groups of all abilities and to provide the highest quality user experience possible. The NCC is looking to work collaboratively over the coming years to fulfill its current and future trail user's potential, expand and enhance the trail network, and further foster a vibrant outdoor recreation community. Near term plans will focus on capital upgrades to existing assets, new trail development and increasing accessibility of more remote areas of the trail network.



*View of Kootenay Lake from the NCC Trail Network*

## The Nelson Cycling Club

The NCC is the Nelson and area's recognized trail network Asset Manager. The NCC works to build, upgrade and maintain Nelson's 270 km and 182+ trail network for both local and visiting riders with the goal of promoting and developing off road cycling opportunities and non-motorized trail use in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.

The NCC is a non-profit organization managed by a volunteer Board of Directors who oversee the NCC's annual construction of non-motorized trails, including new builds, upgrades, and maintenance, as well as fundraising, community outreach, and event planning. It is guided by the NCC Master Plan to manage the NCC's legally tenured, government sanctioned trail network in Parks and on Crown lands, and to work with private land owners to manage trails in Private Managed Forest Lands and on fee simple lands. Although focused on mountain biking, the NCC frequently works on multi-use trails that also accommodate hikers, walkers or other users.

The NCC seasonally contracts four trail crew leads, eight part-time crew and two students to undertake typical maintenance and special projects on an annual basis.

### Board of Directors

The Board of Directors and Non-Board support positions are responsible for coordination and guidance of the NCC's initiatives. Key responsibilities include:

- Maintaining and developing trail use agreements with various land managers
- Setting priorities for trail maintenance, trail building and upgrades
- Communication with community, area visitors, local government, stakeholders, landowners and land managers, businesses
- Environmental Stewardship
- Safety
- Signage and mapping
- Coordinating activities with logging and other resource industries
- Fundraising
- Coordination of community events and group rides
- Grant applications and financial management
- Maintaining third party liability insurance for use of trails on private lands under agreement with land owner/manager
- Fun!!

The Board of Directors includes the following positions:

- President: Deb MacKillop
- Director: Tucker Braund
- Director: Megan Chadwick
- Director: Marg Craig
- Director: Jeremy Major
- Director: Mike Kinrade
- Director: Nicole Walker (Secretary)

Non-Board positions include the following:

- Treasurer: Adam Ekvall
- Fat Tire Fest: Travis Hauk
- Senior Trail Crew: Mark Holt
- Project Manager: Joel McBurney
- Trail Crew: Chris George

# Nelson Cycling Club History

Nelson’s mountain bike trail network has historically been a volunteer driven initiative. Dedicated riders have fueled the evolution of bike trails in this area and across most of British Columbia. As the sport has grown in popularity, so too has the need for organized stewardship of these valuable recreational assets.

Mountain biking began in the Nelson area in the late 1980s when the original trails were built. The first Nelson based organized mountain bike group began in 1995 to create the Fat Tire Festival. It became “official” in 1998 with the creation of the non-profit Kootenay Fat Tire Society. Most of the early activities revolved around the festivities, but as the need for organized land management and trail stewardship became evident, the Kootenay Fat Tire Society evolved into the Nelson Cycling Club Society in 2002.

NCC activities continue to promote mountain biking. The NCC is still the parent organization for the Fat Tire Festival, but much of the work has turned toward the trails. Volunteers and the paid trail crew clear over 1000 fallen trees from the trails every year. They rebuild and repair trail features, remove large rocks from the trails, beat the bush back from the edges, and add new trail features to make trails more fun. The NCC typically has close to 500 paid members each year.

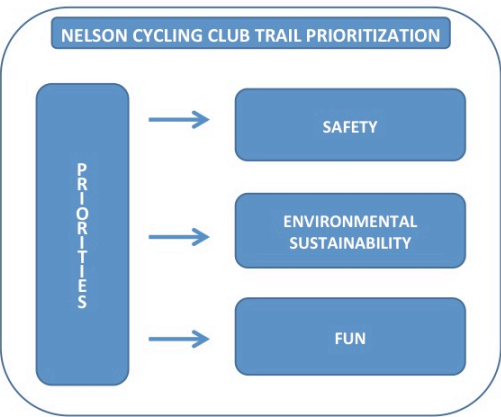
The NCC maintains a website: [www.nelsoncyclingclub.org](http://www.nelsoncyclingclub.org). The NCC also has two Public Group Facebook pages to communicate out and receive information and feedback from trail users: ‘Nelson Cycling Club’ and ‘Nelson Fat Tire Festival’. These pages have over 2200 subscribers combined.

# Plan Development

The NCC Board developed this Plan with input from NCC members, local government (primarily Regional District of the Central Kootenay), stakeholders, local communities and other trail user types. Through ongoing engagement, the NCC evaluated expressed local and user group near and long term priorities for the trail system including: asset development; management plans; and evolving demands on the trail facilities. These priorities were assessed for feasibility by the NCC’s Board of Directors and captured, where appropriate, as Actions under this Plan. The Annual Work Plans provide a more detailed description of the activities to be completed each year in support of the key Actions identified.

Ongoing decisions concerning the trail system are made through collaborative efforts to manage, grow and improve the network for the enjoyment of residents and local cyclists, as well as those that travel to our region to appreciate the outdoor recreation Nelson and area is known for.

Three overarching responsibilities were identified as key priorities in the NCC’s management of the trail network:



## Vision, Goals and Objectives

The Nelson area has a long standing reputation as mountain biking community and destination renowned for its technical trails, unique and steep descents, as well as beautiful setting above Kootenay Lake. The area has produced some notable professional riders and outstanding mountain bike racers over the years, which continues to be a source of pride for the community.

The NCC's Vision for the future is to see the trails' unique style and bike community's culture preserved, while continuing to increase trail network appeal and diversity. The intent is to support the local community's passion for outdoor adventure, while also increasing trail use accessibility and trail variety to further appeal to the widest variety of user abilities and age groups. It is the interest of the NCC to provide quality recreational opportunities, through the development of a provincially recognized trail network.

Less experienced riders and/or less aggressive riders make up a new, but large demographic of the trail users, although the majority of the area's trail network caters to the expert rider. The NCC has recognized that this issue makes it difficult for people to start out and learn without injury or expensive equipment repairs. It also deters some visitors from coming to the area. Over the past 5 years, the NCC has focused the vast majority of its efforts and fundraising on the development of a beginner trail network. As a result of these efforts, more people are entering the sport and more people are using the local trails than ever before.

To achieve the NCC's Vision, the following Goals and Objectives have been identified. Of key importance is the:

- *Continued respect and stewardship* of the natural environment, resources and land that supports the trail network;
- *Construction of new trails* in a manner that continues to mindfully enhance the connectivity of the existing network;
- *Capital Upgrades to enhance existing assets* and allow the system to remain at the forefront of regional trail systems;
- *Diversify the trail network* to further service all rider skill levels, types and ages to better promote a healthy outdoor lifestyle in the local community;
- *Create more opportunities for skill progression* and learning for all skill levels within the trail network and Bike Skills Park;
- *Continued development, maintenance, and enhancement of advanced trails* that maintain the historical flavor of Nelson mountain biking and promote progression of riders at the upper end of the skills spectrum;
- *Help promote safe, shared trail use and outdoor activity* in other trail user groups;
- *Enhance long term sustainability* of existing and new infrastructure and ensure all development is fully sustainable - socially, culturally, environmentally and economically;
- *Provide a safe rider experience* by enforcing building standards across the trail network and upgrading heritage trails as new building standards are recommended; and
- *Foster a vibrant outdoor community* and widely enjoyed community asset by promoting a trail system and user experience that encourages outdoor recreation participation.

## Asset Management

The NCC holds trail stewardship and use agreements with provincial governments and several corporate and private landowners. Trails in the area cross over several different types of land tenures - Crown, private managed forest, private, provincial park, Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK), and municipal land. With over 182 trails on the map, covering more than 270 km of ground and over 50,000 meters of elevation change, there is a lot of work to do.

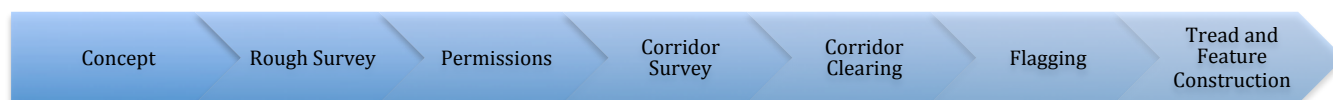
## Trail Planning

Nelson and the immediate area offer potential for further trail development when the appropriate permits and agreements are attained. The rocky and rugged terrain, variable dirt consistency, wet areas, resource industry operations, and landowner permission can provide some limitations. Proper long term planning ensures development of the network is not 'ad hoc' and appropriately manages these potential limitations so that they do not create barriers. Trail development is also influenced by available funding.

Development of an integrated trail system includes consideration of trail connectivity, terrain, and difficulty level desired by the network's user groups. Planning and construction priorities focus on:

- the current trail network areas NCC manages;
- options for connectivity within our own network;
- options to increase the number of trails that are sanctioned and managed under trail stewardship agreements;
- providing a progression of skill level; and
- leveraging areas available for trail construction that will broaden the user experience.

Any new trail progresses through several stages: concept, rough survey, permissions, corridor survey, corridor clearing, flagging and finally tread construction. This process can take several years depending on the challenges involved in development.



New trail development is a small component of the NCC's activities. Nelson has been an active mountain biking community for over 30 years. The trail network suffers less from a shortage of trails than from a need for capital upgrades on heritage trails built to lower standards. These trails require modernization as do trails that have experienced usage that has taxed the asset's infrastructure and pushed it beyond its anticipated lifespan, despite ongoing 'general maintenance'.

## Facility Network Summary

NCC is the recognized Nelson and local area trail network Asset Manager. Core trail network areas that the NCC manages include the: Morning Mountain Complex; Giveout Creek; North Shore; Nelson Bike Skills Park; Mountain Station; Svoboda; 49 Creek; Baldface; and Smallwood. These areas are located between Blewett to the south west of Nelson, off of highway 3A to the west and east of Nelson and south of the Nelson city limits. These areas together offer a wide array of terrain, catering to many types of riding preferences.

The close proximity to the communities in and around Nelson means that the trails are quickly and easily accessed by the local population. The mountain bike season begins on the lower elevation trails as the snow melts in the spring and ends, first at high elevations, as the snow slowly drops down into the valley in the Fall. Fat Biking is also an increasingly popular winter sport for those that use special bikes designed for travel on the trails in the winter time.

See **Appendix A** for an overview map of the NCC management area.

The NCC tracks the status of all trails and prioritizes trails for upgrades and maintenance, based on regular visual inspection of the network. See **Appendix B** for a spreadsheet with the existing trail list and status of each trail

within the NCC's managed network. In the trail 'status' section of this overview notes are provided on which assets within the network require capital upgrades and the type of upgrades required.



*New trail construction.*

### **Ridership and User Groups**

Who is our trail system for? The trail system is open to the public, all rider abilities and genres from cross country to downhill, as well as non biking trail users. The NCC have a paid membership option with the money going to support costs associated with trail network management, but there is no requirement for trail users to become members or to pay any fees for trail use.

The trail system offers opportunity for a community to connect in the outdoors. Each weekday evening in the summer, a different local bike shop hosts a group ride and the NCC coordinates a series of fun races and events that are held periodically through the summer. The NCC looks to the local business community to sponsor these events and all participants must become NCC members and pay their membership dues to participate. The local high school runs their mountain bike program on the trail network. Opportunities for tourism have been created, with shuttle and tour companies utilizing the network to operate their businesses. Bike race operators utilize the network to hold formal bike race events.

The trail system is host to:

- mountain bike riders of all abilities and ages;
- the full and part time residents of Nelson and RDCK, many of whom are currently users of the trail system;
- tour operators, shuttle companies, skill development camp providers;
- LV Rogers high school mountain bike program in Nelson;
- community events and group rides;
- skill development clinics and programs targeted at multiple age groups;
- visitors to the area that come from all over the province and beyond, for whom the trail system can be a unique and positive part of their travel experience; and
- while perhaps not direct users of the trail system, local and regional businesses benefit indirectly from the increased traffic to the area that the trail system attracts.



*Nelson and area is host to riders of all abilities, ages and skill levels.*

The basis for the 2019 – 2021 Master Plan is built on current understanding of our existing and potential future trail user profile and network requirements drawn from review of:

- Public Facebook forums
- NCC Annual General Meeting
- Engagement with local bike shops and other outdoor adventure companies
- Communications with the Nelson and area Chamber of Commerce and other tourist resources
- Rider surveys and engagement with local residents – both members and non-NCC members
- Other data and communicated experiences from adjacent community organizations and stakeholders

The NCC has an annually paid membership of approximately 500 local members each year and estimate that there is double the amount of non-members actively using the trails for mountain biking, plus non mountain biking trail users. This means approximately 10-12% of the Nelson and area population actively mountain bike. Membership to the NCC has continued to grow each year, with the largest age group categories being aged 10 and under, as well as 30-39 years and 40-49 years old.



*Young riders enjoying the festivities at Nelson's iconic Fat Tire Fest.*

## **Morning Mountain Complex**

The Complex includes old gems like Placenta-Decenta and Oil Can, as well as new investments such as Upper Bottom and Turnstyles. This area services a variety of skill levels and user types, offering some of the most 'family friendly' and beginner to intermediate trail choices that the NCC network offers. This area is also used by dog walkers and runners, as well as other trail user types. In the winter the Complex hosts snow shoers and other winter sports enthusiasts.

The development of the 'Bottoms Up to Upper Bottoms' multi-use recreation trail and the 'Lefty' and 'Turnstyles' downhill trails were major recent investments in this riding area. These new developments have been extremely well supported by the community and visitors to Nelson. A trail counter on 'Bottoms Up' recorded 11,842 bicycles in the 2016 riding season. In a town of ~ 10,000 people, that represents an extraordinary degree of popularity for this riding area.

Access to the Complex trailheads is most typically via the 'Bottoms Up' and 'Upper Bottoms' trails, secondarily via car shuttle up Giveout Creek Forest Service Road (FSR). There is a parking lot for cars located at the base of Morning Mountain, accessed via a short dirt access road from Granite Road in Blewett.

The Morning Mountain Complex occurs within a mix of Crown Lands managed by the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) and Crown Lands managed as a Regional Park through the Regional District of the Central Kootenay (RDCK) under a lease agreement with the Province (FLNRORD). NCC has stewardship responsibility for all trails in the Complex, including those in the

RDCK Regional Park (e.g., Unit Crewzer, Lefty, Bottoms Up, Little Lefty, etc.). The NCC has a FRPA Section 57 agreement with Recreation, Sites, and Trails (RS&T) of FLNRORD. Insurance for these trails is provided by RS&T.



*Rider enjoying a big berm at the Morning Mountain Complex.*

### **Giveout Creek**

This riding area sits directly above the Morning Mountain Complex. This area caters to downhill and enduro mountain biking thrill seekers and is known for steep and technical downhill oriented trails.

The development of 'Fairly High' and plans to complete 'Barely High' are diversifying the rider skill level serviced by this area through these 'family friendly trail' options. These two trails also provide further access to the network for riders that wish to pedal to the area from the City of Nelson. Access to this area is also by peddling up the 'Bottoms Up/ Upper Bottoms' in the Morning Mountain Complex that brings the rider up to the Giveout Creek FSR and on from this point, or via vehicle up this same FSR. Additional trails occur on the Gold Creek FSR, a spur off of Giveout Creek FSR. These trails include: Goldmember, Lucky Charms, and Party Wife.

To complete the trail network in this area, additional work is required, particularly for developing the segments that will link The Great Trail (formerly called the Trans Canada Trail) to the RDCK park at Cottonwood Lake on the side closest to the City of Nelson. An addition to 'Fairly High' is also planned that will connect this trail to the upper trails including the Powerslave and Highballer downhill trail areas. The addition of this new extension to 'Fairly High' will decrease reliance on vehicles for trail access by providing an option for riders to pedal to the top of the trail network on trails not roads.

The NCC manages the Recreation Polygon at Giveout under an agreement with RS&T. This includes all trails within the Polygon, such as Bear's Den, Mr. Slave, Illuminati, Placenta-Decenta, Bedframe, Upper Highballer, Highballer, Lowballer Turnstyles, Lefty. Insurance is provided by RS&T for all trails under agreement. A short section of Fairly High (~1.5 km) crosses private lands; NCC carries third party liability insurance that names the NCC and the private landowner for this section of trail. Signage indicates the separation between Crown and private lands.

The Goldmember trails at Gold Creek are tenured under historic (currently unused) commercial tenure (previously held by Baldface Lodge). NCC has been managing and maintaining these trails for close to 10 years. An application to assign official stewardship responsibility to NCC through a FRPA Section 57 agreement is in progress and expected to be completed before the biking season begins. FRPA Section 57 agreements are also in progress for Lucky Charms and Party Wife (trails are newer than the commercial tenure).

## **North Shore**

The sunny North Shore trails are some of the first to be snow free in the spring and the last to continue to be rideable in the fall before the snow comes in winter. The North Shore is comprised of Kokanee Creek, Sitkum Creek and a few trails in between. These areas are known for their long descents, with many of the trails in Kokanee Creek featuring some of the best technical rock slab riding the area has to offer, in addition to those found in Svoboda riding area. The trails are generally very technical and service intermediate to advanced riders.

Access to these areas is predominantly via the logging roads, with riders either pedaling or shuttling their bikes to the top of the trails. The newest trail at Kokanee Creek, 'Goosebumps', can be ridden in both directions and caters to beginner riders, but still includes a few sections that are challenging for new riders. This trail is used by 1/3 to half the riders to pedal up and access the lower Kokanee Creek trails. Slabalanche on the edge of the Kokanee Creek area is only accessibly by peddling up Sitkum Creek is predominantly shuttle up to the trailheads.

Most of the Kokanee Creek trails begin in the West Arm Demonstration Forest (Crown Lands) and quickly descend into Kokanee Creek Provincial Park (BC Parks). These trails are managed by the NCC through a trail stewardship agreement with BC Parks (BC Ministry of Environment). Insurance is provided by BC Parks. A FRPA Section 57 trail use agreement is in progress to officially include the trail heads (a historic oversight between BC Parks and RS&T that is being rectified). The Newtsac trail occurs adjacent to the Kokanee Park trails and is currently tenured through a commercial agreement held by Retallack Lodge. An application to assign official stewardship responsibility to NCC through a FRPA Section 57 agreement is in progress and expected to be completed before the biking season begins.

The Sitkum area includes two main trails: Downhill Jam (generally known as 'Sitkum') and Upper Sitkum, although the NCC has a FRPA Section 57 agreement with RS&T to potentially build more trails in the area. Plans for this development have been placed on hold.

## **Mountain Station**

This area sits on the edge of Nelson and many riders who live in Nelson's 'Uphill' residential area ride from their homes to this trail network. The area offers trails for beginner, intermediate and advanced riders. The trails offer some steep and technical descents, but also a handful of less technical 'loamy' trails such as Espresso, Badger and Raccoon for emerging riders. This area is also heavily used by dog walkers, hikers and runners.

The NCC has arranged for access to the area with the Private Managed Forest Land owner, which includes NCC's purchase of Third Party Liability insurance to secure continued access for users to the trail network. This agreement has been ongoing since 2001.

This area can only be accessed by peddling or pushing your bike up to the trailheads. There is no vehicle access for this area.

## **Nelson Urban Bike Skills Park**

The Bike Park sits within the Nelson city limits in the Art Gibbon City Park in the area of Nelson known as Rosemont. The Bike Park offers the opportunity for intermediate to advanced bike skills development through jumps, rollers, and wooden technical features of varying sizes. The skill development features have been built by dedicated trail and stunt building professionals to provide the best user experience possible.

Further work is required in the Bike Park to provide better progression in the difficulty level of the features built in the Park. The Park currently favours more intermediate to advanced riders and the intent is to undertake further building to introduce a beginner/kids area.

Permission to build and maintain the Bike Park was granted by the City in 2006. Insurance is provided by the City of Nelson through the Municipal Insurance Association.



*Lots to enjoy at the Bike Skills Park.*

## **Svoboda**

The area offers both downhill and cross country trail types, servicing riders from beginner up to advanced. This area is also used by dog walkers, hikers, and runners.

Almost all of the Svoboda trails occur within the West Arm Provincial Park. These trails are managed by the NCC through a trail stewardship agreement with BC Parks (BC Ministry of Environment). Insurance is provided by BC Parks.

The trail area is connected to Mountain Station via the 'Rails to Trails'. Access to trailheads is by peddling or pushing your bike to the trailhead via a combination of FSR road climbing and uphill biking trails. The main access road to the area is gated part way up.

## **Smallwood**

The Smallwood area offers the only truly cross country trail network in the Nelson area. The focus of this area is to offer the rider longer distances rides, interspersed with the opportunity for beautiful views down to Kootenay Lake. The area is used by riders of all abilities, including families. This area is also used by dog walkers, hikers and runners. In the winter the trail area is used for snow shoeing and cross country skiing.

The area includes a Recreation Polygon that encompasses all trails. The trails and polygon are managed by the NCC under Agreement with RS&T (FLNRORD). Insurance is provided by RS&T for all trails under agreement.

## **49 Creek**

This small trail area in Blewett outside of Nelson offers a gentle logging road climb followed by less technical beginner to intermediate level descents.

Access to this area is most typically by peddling up the infrequently driven FSR, but some riders do choose to drive to the trailheads.

Most of the trails in the area are managed under Agreement with RS&T (FLNRORD). Insurance is provided by RS&T for all trails under agreement. An application for a FRPA Section 57 trail agreement is in progress for the new 'Bottomfeeder' trail. The newer 'Jackleg' and 'Moose Knuckle' trails end in private lands; a private land agreement has been initiated for the small private land areas. Once completed, NCC will include the land owner in the third party liability insurance and a FRPA Section 57 agreement will be pursued for these trails.

## **Baldface**

This riding area is known for its long technical descents and amazing mountain views. The area services advanced riders looking for a unique riding experience and longer, high elevation trail riding adventure.

The trails in this area overlap with Baldface Cat Skiing Tenure, with the trails starting above the lodge and dropping down to Highway 3A on the north shore of Kootenay Lake. Access is via the Marsden Rd FSR. Due to the 23km distance to the lodge, most users accessing this area choose to drive or be shuttled by a tour company to the trailheads.

The area is tenured under a historic commercial tenure, held by Baldface Lodge. NCC has been managing and maintaining these trails for the past 5 years in partnership with Baldface Lodge. An application to assign official stewardship responsibility to NCC through a FRPA Section 57 agreement is in progress and are expected to be completed before the biking season begins in 2019.

## **Identified Actions and Strategy**

The areas and trails under the management of the NCC were further reviewed and analyzed in the effort to draft the Master Plan. When prioritizing ongoing trail network management activities, NCC key responsibilities, as well as the Vision, Goals and Objectives outlined in this Plan guided the process.

The following six core Actions have been identified.

### **Action 1: Ongoing Maintenance**

Ongoing routine maintenance is required to ensure trail assets are kept in appropriate condition for the best possible user experience and that trail infrastructure meets or exceeds its anticipated lifespan. Monitoring and evaluation of trail condition at the beginning of the season and on an ongoing basis is necessary so issues are managed in a timely fashion across the network as a whole.

The NCC Board of Directors relies on feedback from trail crews and trail users when undertaking maintenance planning. This feedback comes through direct conversations with members, staff and other users as well as through reports posted on the NCC's Facebook pages. Specific maintenance plans are generated annually.

Key activities associated with routine maintenance include:

- clearing deadfall of trails;
- raking trails for loose rocks;
- brushing vegetation;
- drainage management;
- remediation of decommissioned trails or secondary trail 'lines';
- ensuring trenching is minimized or dug over when necessary; and
- managing erosion from rain storms.

NCC fundraises for the expenses associated with these activities and uses a combination of volunteer and paid help to undertake the required tasks. Key fundraising efforts include:

- 'Toonie' races and social rides
- Nelson Fat Tire Fest

- Sale of trail area maps
- Bike swap proceeds
- Private donations from fans of the trail network

Each year volunteers donate approximately 1000-1200 hours of time. Paid crews put in approximately 800 hours man hours of maintenance per season.

Core to the NCC's objective of fostering trail stewardship practices, is the further development of the volunteer trail maintenance and building community. Further effort is being put into building capacity within this portion of the NCC member community. The NCC is looking at ways to provide trail building workshops that utilize the local trail building expertise to further educate users on the current wisdom, principles, and standard practices for trail building and maintenance. By increasing capacity in the community, volunteer support will become more effective during trail maintenance days, more individuals can be attracted to volunteering and the NCC can maintain more trails at a lower cost.

Further establishing the connection between the NCC and the LV Rogers High School mountain bike program has two main benefits. 1) The importance of trail stewardship and the technical skills such as trail building and maintenance are well established in the next generation of up and coming trail users and NCC members. 2) The mountain bike program can work under the NCC's direction to maintain and upgrade trails, free of charge.

## **Action 2: Infrastructure/ Asset Development**

Priorities under this Action are to connect and provide better access to the existing trails and networks, as well as making them more accessible to the widest variety of user groups. Trail network planning ensures that the network is not developed in an ad hoc manner so that new building supports the long term vision for the network.

Examples of priority projects include:

- Connection of Fairly High with Powerslave ('Really High')
- Complete Valhalalluja Downhill trail
- Finish building 'Barely High' that will connect the Trans Canada Trail to the Cottonwood Regional Park
- Update the Bike Skills Park to provide better skill level progression within the Park, including addition of beginner/ kid friendly skill features



*Trail building and upgrades require, skills, materials and funding to be completed.*

## **Action 3: Asset Enhancement**

Capital Upgrades are required to improve and enhance existing assets beyond their initial built capacity. These upgrades will allow for the existing asset to be grown in a manner that better services trail user groups and to provision the trails for extended term use.

Existing facility enhancement of trails will be completed through:

- technical trail features (TTF) that challenge a variety of skill types and levels – jumps, wooden stunts, rollers, rock slabs, etc.;
- marked multiple trail options to cater a single trail to a wider variety of skill levels or provide options around more challenging TTFs;
- transition heritage trails to be reflective of provincially accepted trail building models and the accepted 'Whistler Building Standard' and anticipated changes to these standards
- remodel existing trails to increase sustainability by buffering against the harsher environment that the region is increasingly experiencing;
- buffer against or provide reclamation due to catastrophic environmental or third party impacts;
- review and revise, as required, trail signage (both interpretive and directional) to ensure each trail's technical difficulty is properly assessed and reflected in trail markings, as well as intended trail use properly marked (bike primary, multi-use; right-of-way process for hikers and bikers; directional restrictions for e-bikes)

#### Action 4: Administration

The NCC is reliant on volunteers to direct, manage and have oversight for the Annual Work Plans within the Master Plan, aside from trail building and some maintenance activities. Available funding to increase administrative capacity for this oversight will focus on the following responsibility areas:

1. Accounting/ financial management
2. Volunteer coordination and training
3. Grant funding application and administration; fundraising
4. Trail maintenance, building and ongoing trail evaluation
5. NCC member, local partner and stakeholder engagement
6. Management of special projects and initiatives

Having more paid positions that hold key responsibility areas will help the NCC to manage core administrative and coordination requirements consistently. Volunteer support can be assigned to core administrative areas, as required. By increasing capacity for outreach and connectivity within the biking and local community, the NCC will leverage additional resources for management of the trail network, through volunteer help, deepening established strategic partnerships and creating new ones.



*The newly finished 'Fairly High' trail is open to multiple user types.*

#### Action 5: Funding

Grant funding for the trail system has primarily come through Columbia Basin Trust, RDCK, Rural Dividends (through a RDCK partnership), RS&T (FLNRORD), and Trans Canada Trail. Regardless of current funding

sources, significant resources continue to be required to implement this Plan – both for planned upgrades to the network and to implement new network management strategies.

To enhance the capacity of the NCC to leverage the necessary funding and get best value for money on each dollar spent, the following administrative activities have been identified as central to ongoing operations:

- Yearly update of this Master Plan.
- Increase 'in-house' capacity to track and apply for all funding streams available, including larger multiyear grants.
- Continue to develop the comprehensive list of trails under NCC management and track their status.
- Develop a more comprehensive and interactive asset management tool.
- Methodically prioritize trail network needs and ensure NCC internal agreement on financial prioritization of funding to address these.
- Recruit further volunteer resources and communicate out to members on what skills and tasks the NCC needs assistance with.
- Increased community engagement and feedback tools.

### **Action 6: Tenure Agreements**

The NCC holds trail stewardship and use agreements with provincial governments and several corporate and private landowners. Trails in the area cross over several different types of land tenures - Crown land, private managed forestland, private land, provincial park land, Regional District of Central Kootenay land, and municipal land.

Options to increase the number of trails that are sanctioned and managed under trail stewardship agreements are a key priority. Completion of outstanding tenure agreements will help with completion of feasibility studies and ability to apply for additional multiyear funding sources for new and ongoing development within areas of the NCC network.



*Fostering a vibrant outdoor community is a key objective of the NCC.*

## Implementation

The NCC currently relies on dedicated volunteers to manage the NCC and have oversight of the projects being completed, in addition to providing direction to paid trail crews. Volunteers are crucial to trail maintenance projects being completed.

The paid Trail Crew work as contractors to the NCC to build and maintain trails, as per direction of the NCC Board of Directors. The Directors set the Annual Work Plan and Priorities with input from members. Work is completed under Agreement signed by the Contractor and the Board.

All Contractors must meet the NCC's safety requirements.

## Project Team and Qualifications

The NCC's project team is a combination of paid and unpaid positions.

- NCC Board of Directors (volunteer)
- NCC Coordination Team (volunteer)
- Mark Holt – Senior Trail Crew (paid)
- Joel McBurney - Project manager/crew boss for Trans Canada Trail (paid)
- Chris George – Trail Crew Coordinator (paid)
- Rick Schnieder - Machine built trails (paid)
- Kris McMechan – Downhill trail coordinator (volunteer)
- Junior Trail builder – TBD (paid)
- Junior Trail builder – TBD (paid)
- Junior Trail builder – TBD (paid)
- Junior Trail builder – TBD (paid)
- Junior Trail builder – TBD (paid)

## Annual Plan Overview

Each year's projects are fully scalable to adjust for any budget increases or shortfalls. Trails identified as a priority in one calendar year can be pushed to a later date, should it be advantageous to manage time, resources and environmental factors in this manner. This decision is made by the NCC Board in conjunction with the trail crew and other public and private stakeholders.

### 2019

#### Yearly Activities

- Continue maintenance activities on all trails (clearing, brushing, drainage)
- Continue group events, including Fat Tire Festival, Fivers, Group Rides
- Increase the number of Volunteer Trail Days

#### Infrastructure/ Asset Development (new trails)

- Build 'Barely High' trail in the Giveout Creek area to complete the Trans Canada Trail network from Morning Mountain to Cottonwood Lake
- Build 'Really High' to connect the two-way climbing/descending trails (Fairly High and Upper Bottom) to the trails at upper Giveout Creek (Powerslave and Upper Highballer)
- Complete new 'Valhallaluja' downhill trail

## **Asset Enhancement**

1. Implement capital upgrades (as per *Action 3*) on specific downhill trails that require upgrade to infrastructure that is beyond general maintenance
  - 49 Creek and Area: 49er, Tasters' Choice
  - North Shore: Upper Sitkum, Newt Sac, Upper Hitman (fire recovery)
  - Morning Mountain: Placenta Decenta, Upper Bedframe,
  - Give Out Creek: Bear's Den (especially the exit), Powerslave, Upper Goldmember
  - Morning Mountain: Smiling Buddha, Eli Sim, Upper Skirt
2. Bike Skills Park: complete substantial capital upgrades and an addition of a beginner/kids pump track
3. Develop maintenance, upgrades, and long-term planning/infrastructure for Turnstyles and Lefty in the Morning Mountain Complex
4. Develop easier options for "pinch points" in blue/green trails to expand rideability for more users (Highballer, Goosebumps, Espresso, Badger)
5. Across the network: upgrade and modernize TTFs, particularly those that have exceeded or are exceeding their expected lifespan

## **Tenure Agreements**

1. Complete Section 57 tenure agreements with FLNRORD for trails under historic commercial tenures (Baldface and Retallack)
2. Complete Section 57 tenure agreements with FLNRORD for historic trails that should be included in the tenured system
3. Complete Private Land Agreements for 49 Creek area, Mountain Station trails, Middle Earth

## **2020**

### **Yearly Activities**

1. Continue maintenance activities on all trails (clearing, brushing, drainage)
2. Continue group events, including Fat Tire Festival, Fivers, Group Rides
3. Continue with Volunteer Trail Days

### **Infrastructure/ Asset Development (new trails)**

1. Convert 'Born Again' trail in the Morning Mountain Complex to an adaptive mountain biking trail (aMTB) that will serve a dual purpose as a beginner downhill trail
2. Re-contour and re-develop 'Sweet Sally' trail in Smallwood riding area to a climbing trail. This is predominantly a new build with the inclusion of switchbacks and substantial new sections to lower the slope grade to an appropriate climbing angle
3. Develop new, ride-able uphill sections for 'Toadslave' in the upper part of Giveout Creek to connect Toad Peak to the 'Powerslave' trail

## **Asset Enhancement**

1. Implement capital upgrades (as per *Action 3*) on specific trails that have exceeded or are exceeding their expected lifespan:
  - Morning Mountain: Unit Crewzer, Plunger, Mister Slave
  - Mountain Station: Legalize it
  - Giveout Creek: Party Wife
2. Climate change mitigation:
  - Complete substantial reclamation and rehabilitation of Svoboda trails following planned Wildland-Urban Interface Fuel Treatments to be completed by the BC Parks Land Managers in this area
  - Address erosion issues caused by increasing dry conditions
  - Buffer all south facing trails (North Shore) against damage due to ever increasingly dry summer conditions

- Rehabilitation of areas impacted by forest fires

## 2021

### Yearly Activities

1. Continue maintenance activities on all trails (clearing, brushing, drainage)
2. Continue group events, including Fat Tire Festival, Fivers, Group Rides
3. Continue with Volunteer Trail Days

### Infrastructure/ Asset Development (new trails)

1. Build a new 'True Blue' trail at Giveout Creek /Morning Mountain Complex to increase accessibility of the riding area for beginner and intermediate riders
2. Build a new connector trail from 'Really High' to 'Goldmember' trail in the Giveout Creek area

### Asset Enhancement

1. Implement capital upgrades (as per *Action 3*) on specific trails that have exceeded or are exceeding their expected lifespan:
  - North Shore: Hitman
  - Giveout Creek: Upper Highballer
  - Baldface: Cherry Tops, Meadow, Swamp Donkey

Note that, additional trails will be assessed at the end of 2019 and 2020 as weather, logging, and trail popularity influence trail needs.

## Plan Measures and Outcomes

The success of implementation of Actions within this Master Plan will be measured using the following metrics:

- trail user engagement with the network;
- trail user satisfaction with new or upgraded infrastructure; and
- attraction of further users to the network.

Outcomes will be assessed through user feedback using the following methods:

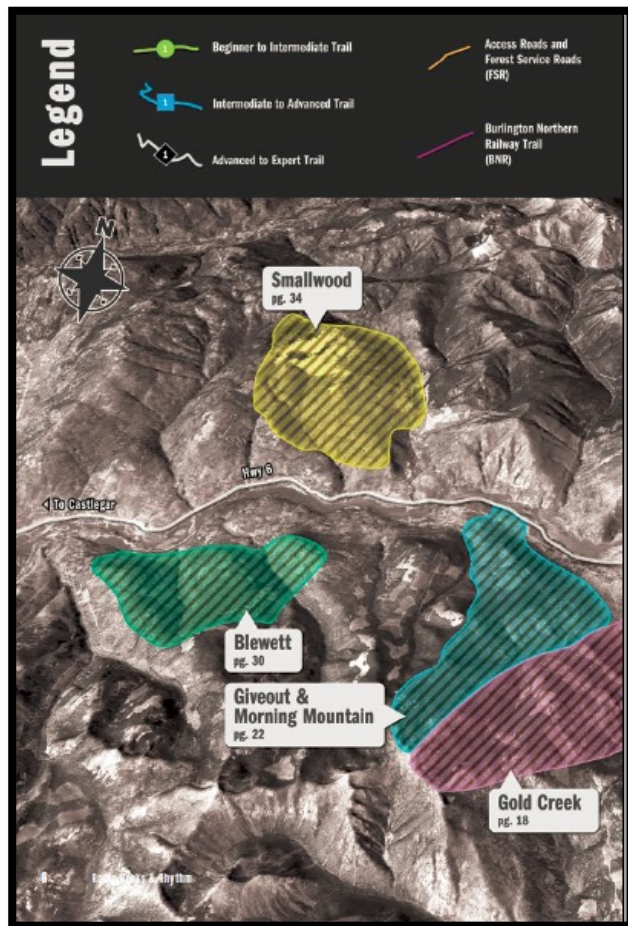
- annual member survey sent to all individuals on the NCC member mailing list via email;
- feedback forms at the NCC Annual General Meeting;
- trailside surveys and bike counts at key locations in peak season;
- engagement with local government, stakeholder groups and key community influencers;
- engagement with local bike shops and other outdoor enterprises on experiences and perspectives related to trail use;
- feedback received through the NCC Facebook page;
- feedback from race event organizers that use the trails under agreement with the NCC – examples include: TransBC, BC Bike Race.
- feedback from local tourism office and other tourist amenities and resource outfits; and
- feedback received through the NCC Trail Crew Facebook page.

Every winter the Board of Directors will prepare a report with a summary of the feedback received and evaluates this in relation to the identified measurable outcome metrics. Using this information, the following year's Annual Plan may be adjusted to ensure that this Plan's priorities and objectives are being successfully met.



*Enjoying the new construction and success of the recently finished 'Fairly High' trail.*

## Appendix A – Overview Map of Trail Areas



## **Appendix B – Existing Trail Network**