

Kaslo Mountain Bike Initiative



Prepared for:

The Working Group, Columbia Basin Trust, The Village
of Kaslo



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Section A:

Background Information

Kaslo has a unique topography making it a natural destination to explore trail use recreation. While it has a fabulous walking trail system that benefits both walker and runners it is lacking in adequate mountain bike trails.

The benefits of expanding on our current trail system are many; including offering a healthy recreation opportunity to our community thereby increasing our health, furthering children in sport by providing an area specific for beginner trail users to expand their skills and have fun, it will help facilitate community participation as the vision of the Mount Buchanan area gets defined and developing a mountain bike trail network will help facilitate summer tourism.

It should be noted that a well designed current mountain bike trail system makes for excellent hiking trails in the summer and snow shoe routes in the winter, the emphasis is on non-motorized recreation opportunity for Kaslo and area citizens.

A working group has been formed consisting of invested citizens and various stakeholders to participate in a visioning workshop to start to define a project description to release to the public for input.

The **working group** consists of but is not exclusive to:

- Doug Roberts, Bike Repair and Volunteer
- John Addison, Chamber of Commerce
- Glen McRae, Trail Builder and Volunteer
- Chris Webster, Community Forest Volunteer
- Steve Doucet, Trail Builder and Volunteer
- Tim Clegg, Trail Builder and Volunteer
- Jeramy Behn, Volunteer
- Shaun Begg, RCMP and Volunteer
- Tom Duchastel, KORS and Trail Blazers
- Kellie Knoll, Village Council and Volunteer
- Karma Halleran, Volunteer
- Ange Qualizza, Volunteer consultant and Part time resident of Mirror Lake
- Greg Lay, Volunteer

Section B:

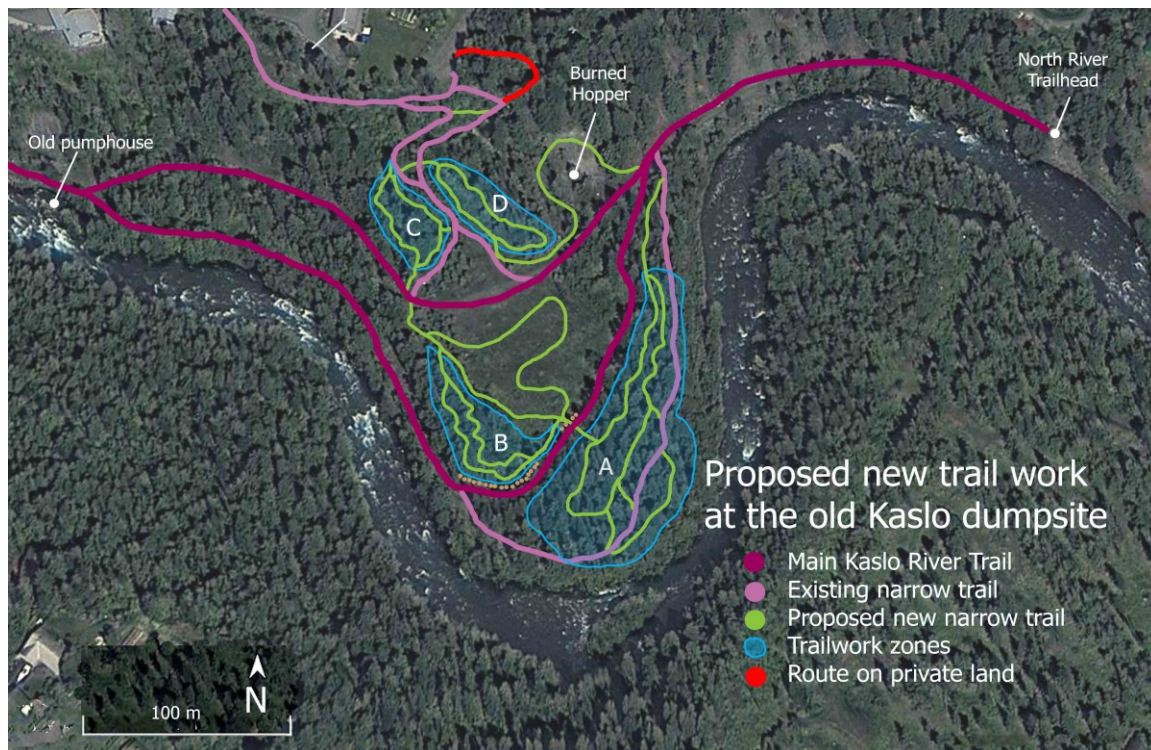
Project Scope

The project scope as discussed during the Working Group Session was a several phase project with **Phase One** including two separate projects. In fact, this working group was established so the mountain bike initiative in Kaslo could be fostered strategically and in concert with one another.

Phase One A: Reclamation of Paint Ball Area 2015:

In the summer of 2015 and 2016 the Kaslo Trail Blazers and local volunteers will start to transition the Paint Ball area and the old dump site on Railway Avenue, part of the Kaslo River Trail System, to a beginner skill development mountain bike area targeting youth specifically, but available to all recreation users.

Beginner/ Intermediate Trail Area: Kaslo River Trail System, paint ball area and former Kaslo dump site.



The new trails will be routed in a way that will connect with existing trails forming a continuous network, as well as directing bike activity to specific areas. There will be some intersections where the new trail work will cross the main River Trail. These crossings will be located in high visibility areas and designed in such a way as to make it safe for pedestrians and bicycles. This includes adequate and best practice signage.

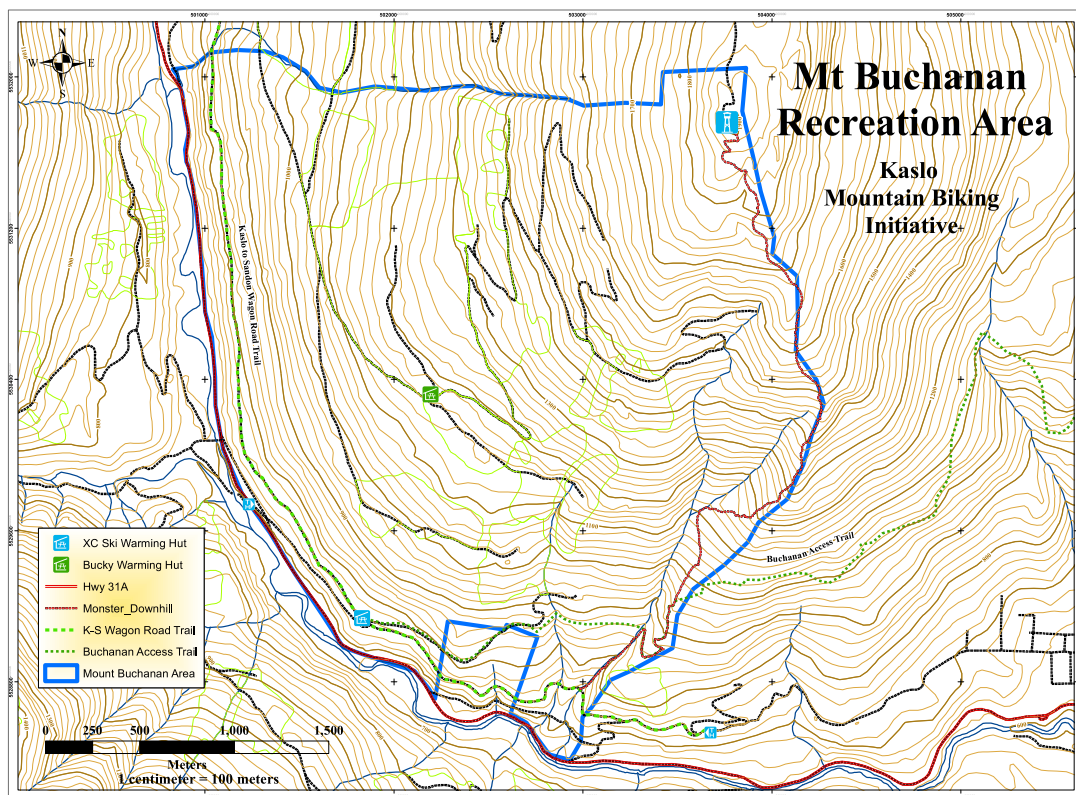
Phase One B: Mount Buchanan Development 2015:

Start to develop the Mount Buchanan area for mountain bike trails using best practices as described in “Trail Systems: IMBA’s Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack”.

The summer of 2015 will hopefully see public input and a rough trail system master plan, hoping to build three trails in the summer of 2015.

This includes adequate and best practice signage.

Mount Buchanan Trail Area:



Phase Two 2016:

Expand on the initiatives started in 2015 for both the Mount Buchanan area and the Kaslo River Trail System/ Paint Ball Reclamation Area.

Phase Three 2017:

Continue to enhance and maintain the base trail infrastructure, and realize the goal of having an IMBA recognized 'Epic Ride' which would be a summit trail system challenging riders.

Having the 'Epic Ride' status has been extremely helpful to attract mountain bike destination in Rossland. "The Seven Summits trail, completed in 2004 by the KCTS, is a spectacular point to point singletrack traverse of the Rossland range. Widely acclaimed by mountain bikers, acknowledged by IMBA as an official 'Epic' and awarded 'Trail of the Year' by Bike magazine (2007), it is the crown jewel of the Rossland trail network. Challenging, adventurous, sustained and breathtaking in scope, the Seven Summits is a truly monumental ride."¹

Section C/ Section D:

Building and Maintaining

It is the goal of the working group to have volunteers build the trail system and maintain the system through community involvement.

One of the costs of having trail systems come from the cost of wood to bridge wet areas and protect sensitive areas. The working group will try actively to find community partners to help mill wood and donate wood they can turn into bridging material.

The working group is aware of the cost of signage, and once a standardized sign template has been created with all of the requisite liability information the local school is a potential community partner to help create the signs.

In fact, other communities have seen and experienced fantastic community partnership to help manage their trail system. Kaslo being one of them!

¹ Rosslandtrails.ca

Section E:

Public Engagement Strategy

The success of trail systems come from the community which is building them, and a critical part of developing a new trail area will be to engage the public in a public forum to help increase support/awareness and ask for input.

The working group will be looking specifically for input on the trail concept as discussed in this document.

The information received during the public consultations will provide a framework in several strategic areas:

- Input will be used to shape and define this project
- Input will help manage community commitment
- Input will manage ongoing collaboration criteria, and how that will be managed
- Input will include evaluation and continuous improvement.

Section F:

Why should we do this?

The goal of this initiative is to further enhance the lives of Kaslo locals, offering another recreation opportunity and a healthy opportunity to enjoy the topography Kaslo has to offer.

Other communities that have focused on a legitimate trail system have experienced real benefits to their local economy.

For instance, Fruita Colorado tried to invigorate their community by investing in their trail infrastructure after mining started to shut down in the hopes of fostering some local tourism.

“Today Fruita is known worldwide as a mountain biking mecca. Fruita’s leaders teamed with the local mountain bike community and the Bureau of Land Management to develop two outstanding trail networks: the Kokopelli and the Book Cliffs Trail Systems. In less than five years, Fruita went from being one of Colorado’s most economically depressed towns to being one of its more prosperous. Fruita’s revival is commonly attributed to the development of these trails.” ²

² Trail Solutions: IMBA’s Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack, 2004. P 51