

UPDATE #3

Recreation Trails Strategy for British Columbia

Progress Update

April 2008

This brief update presents:

- a) a concise synopsis of the results of the third meeting of the B.C. Trails Strategy Committee (TSC);
- b) the current status of developing the Recreation Trails Strategy for BC; and,
- c) an overview of the next steps.

The Trails Strategy Committee (TSC) 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. TSC may also have an on-going role in helping to ensure an approved Trails Strategy is effectively implemented.

The Trails Steering Committee has overall responsibilities for managing the project. TSC's recommended Recreation Trails Strategy for BC will be reviewed by the Steering Committee and the provincial government for approval.

Trails Strategy Website:

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

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

Synopsis of third meeting of the Trails Strategy Committee (TSC)

The Trails Strategy Committee met on February 29 - March 1, 2008 in Richmond, BC with the following goals:

1. To consider desired outcomes and strategies in view of the issues identified
2. To develop a clear understanding of categories of strategies

As a result of comprehensive discussions on a wide range of issues and over 90 potential strategies, the TSC made numerous detailed recommendations. Overall recommendations concerning the Strategy included:

- The Strategy must present an effective business case and demonstrate what can be gained and what will be lost if not adopted
- The Strategy should be concise and based on the following types of categories: Funding; Legislation; Standards; Education/Marketing; Trail Designation.
- Detailed strategies should provide an all encompassing direction incorporating both short term and long term outcomes.

Current Status

Based on direction and feedback from TSC the consulting team and Steering Committee are currently preparing an initial draft Trails Strategy for TSC review at its next meeting. The draft Strategy will then be revised and distributed for First Nations, agency, stakeholder, community and public input. The plan is to develop a draft Trails Strategy that succinctly addresses key high level strategies with relevant links to supporting documentation.

The following broad considerations are guiding development of the draft Strategy:

1. How to digest and incorporate the wealth of information generated to date into a concise Strategy document;
2. Keeping in mind trail-related initiatives currently underway and the operational jurisdiction and scope of agencies (i.e. some strategies are easily within scope of the current program and might not warrant inclusion in the Strategy).
3. How to ensure the draft Strategy document is appropriately strategic and provincial in scope with the greatest likelihood of providing Province-wide improvements while also supporting operational activities at the local level.

Next Steps

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

Timelines	TSC develops draft strategies for key issues	January to April, 2008
	TSC develops draft Trails Strategy report	May – June
	TSC widely circulates draft report for feedback by November	July-August
	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