

# memo

**To:** Northern Vancouver Island Trails Society  
BC Parks

**From:** Jonathan Lok, RFT  
Strategic Forest Management Inc.

**Date:** 31 December 2004

**Re:** **North Coast Trail Progress Report**

## Reporting Period

**Start:** 1 December 2004      **End:** 31 December 2004

## Summary

In the month of December, one field shift was completed, as well as various training exercises with the JCP members. While weather was a significant factor, shifts were not scheduled for the end of December because of alternate training projects along the Trail approach and because of holiday conflicts.

A passable trail right-of-way route now extends from Nissen Bight to Irony Creek, an overall distance of approximately 19km.

Bridge site surveys have been completed for 3 crossings on the Nawhitti Cone (between Nissen Bight and Laura Creek).

Cable car / suspension bridge crossing sites have been surveyed and drawings are in the process of being completed as of January 1, 2005.

## **Work Completed During Previous Period**

### ***Safety Items***

Satellite phone reception	Addressed – alternate phone used
Establish check-in procedure	Addressed – daily check-in established
Move basket stretcher with crew	Addressed – FA Attendant to monitor
Keep caulks in good condition	Addressed – caulks available

### ***Environmental Considerations & Quality Control***

- Property boundary management
- Disposal of compost and grey water
- Water management

### ***Trail Progress***

- Right of way completed from East side of Strandby River to beach trail East of Laura Creek
- Survey of Stranby River Crossing Completed (December 7)
- Irony Creek Camp Site brushed out

### ***JCP Particulars***

- Trail placement to avoid wildlife or property conflicts
- Equipment maintenance and monitoring
- Field troubleshooting
- Identification of human use impacts on sites

### ***Project Challenges***

- Unpredictable/Inclement weather making boat access and landings difficult or impossible
- Severe rainfall
- Long hikes to work areas
- Loss of daylight hours
- Water management
- Winter temperatures

### ***Contributions***

- Catala Charters (small boat use)
- Vancouver Island Helicopters (fee reduction)
- Strandby Lodge (accommodation use)
- Strategic Forest Management Inc. (administration fee reduction)

## Work Completed During This Period

### *Safety Items*

New Straps for Spineboard

On order, C.A.B.

### *Environmental Considerations & Quality Control*

- Trail placement to avoid wildlife conflicts
- Drainage
- Beach route suitability at high tide

### *Trail Progress*

- ROW cleared on trail approaches
- Survey completed for Nahwitti River
- Crossings surveyed in the Nahwitti cone (3 sites)



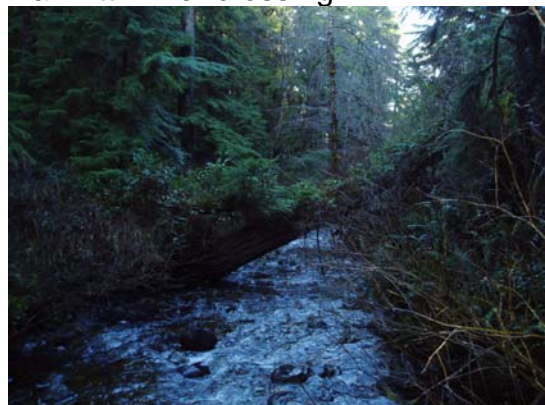
Nahwitti River estuary



Nahwitti River crossing



Tributary of Dakota Creek



Dakota Creek Crossing

***JCP Particulars***

- Level 1 First Aid & Transport Endorsement December 16 & 17, 2004
- Forest Industry Training
- Surveying, Mapping and Data Entry exercises

***Project Challenges***

- Unpredictable/Inclement weather making boat access and landings difficult or impossible
- Severe rainfall
- Long hikes to work areas
- Water management

***Contributions***

- Catala Charters – small boat use
- Strandby Lodge – accommodations use
- Strategic Forest Management Inc. – administrative contributions

## **Projection for Next Period**

### ***Safety Items***

### ***Environmental Considerations & Quality Control***

- Trail placement to avoid archaeological & wildlife conflicts
- Participate in Archaeological Impact Assessment
- Drainage issues along Nawhitti floodplain
- Beach route suitability at high tide

### ***Trail Progress***

- Trail clearing to Cape Sutil
- Establish field camp at Shushartie or Nahwitti (weather and transportation dependant)
- Establish and flag route from Nawhitti to Shushartie and begin trail clearing in that location

### ***JCP Particulars***

- Determine if JCP will be extended – if so, who and how long.

### ***Project Challenges***

- Unpredictable/Inclement weather making boat access and landings difficult or impossible.
- Cold weather / arctic fronts may limit field camp options
- Long hikes to work areas
- Water management

### ***Contributions***

- West Coast Helicopters rate reduction.