

memo

To: Northern Vancouver Island Trails Society
BC Parks

From: Jonathan Lok, RFT
Strategic Forest Management Inc.

Date: 31 January 2005

Re: **North Coast Trail Progress Report**

Reporting Period

Start: 1 January 2005 **End:** 31 January 2005

Summary

In the month of January, three field shifts were completed. First, in the Strandby River area trail clearing was continued, and a new camp was established at Skinner Creek. The work schedule was also upgraded to include a second production shift with trail work now taking place continuously.

A passable trail right-of-way route now extends from Nissen Bight to Irony Creek, an overall distance of approximately 23km. An additional 4km has been located and flagged and cleared from Skinner Creek to the Nawhitti River and located and flagged upland towards Shushartie (3km).

A field survey was performed by Ryan Price and his survey assistant from Nissen Bight to the Strandby River. This survey quantified infrastructure requirements (such as boardwalk, retaining walls and stairs) for the first half of the trail.

Bridge site surveys have been completed for 3 crossings on the Nawhitti Cone (between Nissen Bight and Laura Creek). It is anticipated that a single engineered span will suffice for all 3 sites (saving design costs). This will be finalized in February with BC Parks and the Society.

Cable car / suspension bridge crossing sites have been surveyed and drawings are in the process of being tendered on BC Bid. Preliminary response indicates at least 3 proponents from Vancouver Island are interested in submitting bids.

Arrangements for archaeological studies have been initiated with Sources Archaeology (Vancouver) and is expected to occur at Laura Creek campsite and Cape Sutil in February (provided applications are processed through BC Archaeology Branch as expected).

Bill Barisoff (Minister of Water Land and Air Protection) and Rod Visser (North Island MLA) were in attendance for the official signing for the North Coast Trail document. Mr. Barisoff, his staff, Mayor Harry Mose, Society Chair Bob Zanon and Jonathan Lok (SFMI) toured the trail location by helicopter (West Coast Helicopters) following the signing.

Work Completed During Previous Period

Safety Items

New Straps for Spineboard Addressed (and original straps located)

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 (cable car)



Tributary of Dakota Creek (bridge)



Dakota Creek Crossing (bridge)

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

Work Completed During This Period

Safety Items

Oxygen Regulator & Accessories
Camp conditions

Replacements ordered
Wooden floor constructed

Environmental Considerations & Quality Control

- Trail placement to avoid wildlife conflicts
- Pit toilet placement at Skinner Creek
- Drainage at camp
- Beach route suitability at high tide

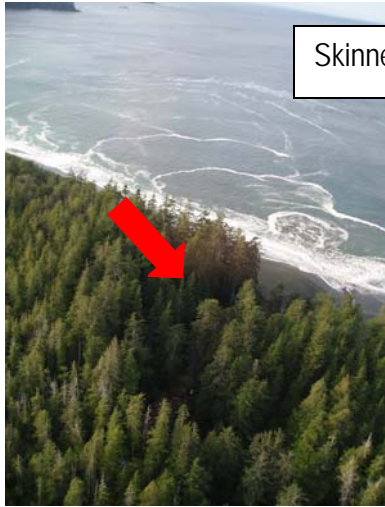
Trail Progress

- ROW Cleared to KP 23
- Camp established at Skinner Creek
- Route flagged from Skinner Creek to Nahwitti River
- Route Flagged from Skinner Creek 3 km East towards Shushartie Bay
- 4 km of trail cleared from Skinner Creek towards the Nahwitti River
- Cable Car packages being tendered on BC Bid



Transporting Gear to Site by Helicopter





Skinner Creek Camp



Camp Location In
Hemlock & Spruce
Forest



Cook Tent and Mess Area



Crew Sleeping Tent with Wooden Floor





JCP Particulars

- Camp Cook experience
- Helicopter safety (including slinging and long-lining)
- Trail reconnaissance & layout experience

Project Challenges

- Unpredictable/Inclement weather making boat access and landings difficult or impossible – switched to helicopter access to allow for safer delivery and avoid significant production delays. Use of 2 shifts has effectively halved the transportation expenditure per person.
- Wet conditions
- Cold conditions
- Long hikes to work areas
- Water management

Contributions

- Dave Trebett: Level 3 First Aid and trail layout for a shift (thanks Dave! 😊)
- Strategic Forest Management Inc. – administrative contributions
- West Coast Helicopters – rate reduction

Projection for Next Period

Safety Items

Environmental Considerations & Quality Control

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

Trail Progress

- Establish field camp at Shushartie
- Establish and flag route from Skinner Creek to Shushartie Bay
- Clear Trail from Skinner Creek to KP 39
- Resume clearing trail from Shushartie Bay
- Conduct Archaeological Impact Assessment
- Select successful cable car contractor

JCP Particulars

- Continue training

Project Challenges

- Unpredictable & inclement weather making boat access and landings difficult or impossible – boating to Shushartie Bay should be safer and allow for more consistent crew delivery
- Long hikes to work areas
- Water management

Contributions