

Cape Scott North Coast Trail - Progress Report

To:	Northern Vancouver Island Trails Society
From:	Shaun Korman Strategic Forest Management Inc.
Date:	1 August 2007

Reporting Period

Start:	11 July 2007	End:	1 August 2007
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Summary

This reporting period covers work items completed for the Northern Vancouver Island Trails Society (NVITS) between July 11 and August 1. Although this reporting period is shorter than usual, SFMI trail building crews accomplished a significant amount of work during this time. Work completed includes trailbuilding, administration/project management, in-town infrastructure construction and communications.

Trail building:

- Completed construction of boardwalk, retaining wall and stairs at Nahwitti Cone work area (approximately 1 km).
- Started construction of log bridges along Nahwitti Cone.
- Relocated base camp from Laura Creek campsite to Skinner Creek.
- Built approximately 4.5 km of trail including boardwalk, stairs and footbridges, starting at Skinner Creek (35km mark) heading towards Shushartie Bay.
- Outhouse and bear cache installed at Skinner Creek.
- Assessed and removed danger trees at the Laura Creek campsite (by certified danger tree assessor/faller).

Administration/Project Management:

- Added a third JCP participant to the NCT crews.
- Complete invoicing system was discussed and agreed upon by SFMI and the NVITS. SFMI to develop.
- Cable cars were officially inspected by PGH consulting and deemed safe. Report to follow.

- Options for a reroute of the trail section immediately west of Shushartie Bay discussed by SFMI, NVITS and BC Parks:
 - Al H agreed to contact private land owner and discuss options.
 - Linda Philipp from BC Parks suggested that her staff boat to Shushartie to recce the site.
 - SFMI agreed to complete a full site recce once the trail destination is decided upon by NVITS and BC Parks.

Infrastructure Built in-town:

- Planning and building “Nahwitti Stairs” halfway between Cape Sutil and Nahwitti River:
 - Lumber purchased from Black Bear Enterprises, Port Hardy.
 - Stair designs developed and diagramed.
 - Stair treads and risers fabricated in town by SFMI staff.

Communications:

- Phil Stone of Wild Isle Publications (hiking guidebooks) followed up by sending a draft version of his North Coast Trail write up....

“Such are the opportunities, stunning scenery, wilderness character and physical challenges of the North Coast ‘Nahwitti’ Trail that the trek from Shushartie Bay to San Josef Bay, despite a reluctance to pick favorites, has to be considered among the best coastal hikes anywhere in the world.”

Work Completed During This Period

Safety Items

- Inspected all safety gear and replaced as necessary.
- All new employees trained in-office and on-site.

Environmental Considerations & Quality Control

- Base camps managed for avoidance of wildlife conflicts and use of suitable grey water and waste disposal.
- Work in sensitive areas tightly controlled and monitored.

Trail Progress

- Built approximately 68 meters of retaining wall and 21 meters of stairs on the Nahwitti Cone (drop zone NC 6).



Long sections of stairs along the Nahwitti Cone were a challenge during rainy camp shifts.

- Built approximately 460 meters of boardwalk and 46 meters of stairs on the Shushartie overland crossing (drop zones SS 1- SS7).



Trail crews hard at work in the upland bogs along the Shushartie overland crossing.

- Log bridge sites identified and planning started.



Dakota Creek crossing along the Nahwitti Cone

- Cable cars at the Nahwitti and Stranby rivers inspected on July 26 by Paul Henderson of PGH Consulting and Murray Johnson of MMJ Engineering.
 - Earl Johnson, Shaun Korman (SFMI) and Linda Philipp (BC Parks) attended inspection.
 - Adjustments were necessary, including tightening of the pull ropes and main cable.
 - MMJ agreed to provide a new bracket system to reduce wear on pull ropes.
 - Engineers stated that cable cars were safe and functional and they will be providing a formal report in the future documenting their measurements and conclusions.
 - Linda Philipp requested that SFMI provide a report to BC Parks after receiving PGH inspection report.

Project Challenges

- The proposed trail route traverses through a parcel of private land on the west side of Shushartie Bay. The proposed route has been in place since the winter of 2005 and follows one of the originally suggested trail routes in the Westland Report. The trail is proposed through this area due to the difficult terrain of the area and because of the potential for a docking facility in the area. BC Parks now wants the trail rerouted around the private property.
 - Must overcome this challenge by deciding on a reroute option that will work for both trail layout and boat docking facilities while not infringing on private property.
 - SFMI will explore trail reroute options once the NVITS and BC Parks have decided where the trail should enter Shushartie Bay.
 - Timely resolution of this issue will be paramount in keeping the project on schedule and within budget.
- Maintaining the timeline for trail completion continues to be this project's greatest challenge.

Contributions

- West Coast Helicopters – rate reduction.
- K's North Trucking (John Thompson) – continued free storage of lumber since October, 2005.

Projection for Next Period

Safety Items

- No safety items outstanding.

Environmental Considerations & Quality Control

- Camp maintenance to avoid wildlife conflicts

Trail Progress

- Flip camp to Nahwitti Stair section.
- Completion of Nahwitti Stairs.
- Flip camp to Shushartie Overland bog.
- Build 2 kilometers of trail along Shushartie overland crossing.
- Establish new trail route near Shushartie Bay.

Project Challenges

- Soil characteristics and drainage issues could create unforeseen challenges for trail builders.
- Nahwitti stairs will be the most technical construction along the route and could create delays.
- Project deadlines.