

Salmo Ski Hill 2014 Operating Season

SVTS Annual Work Plan

Overview

In 2014 our goal is to complete construction of a 2.5km loop trail (Figure 1). The trail will be designed as multi-directional for pedestrian users and single direction for cyclists. If time permits scouting and possibly layout for the remainder of a trail to the top of the ski hill will be completed.



Figure 1. Proposed loop trail for construction in 2014.

Trail Description

The trail will depart from the bottom of the West Run and climb through the forest between West Run and Sunset Creek. It will come out onto the run where Sunset Creek is culverted. It will cross the run and creek at the culvert and then enter back into the forest mirroring the west access road. The trail crosses the West Run using the existing road and gets onto an old road in the forest between the West Run and No Guts No Glory. A creek crossing will be required. The trail again uses existing roadbed to cross over to East Run. The current route descends through the East Run avoiding the unnamed creek. This route may be relocated into adjacent Crown forest outside of ski hill tenure; a Section 57 application for recreation tenure is in progress.

Construction

Trail layout and construction will be completed in partnership with D.I.G. Trail Designs (DIG) from Rossland. DIG has two small machines that will be used, a Kubota U17-HGS and a ditch witch. Trail layout will be completed jointly by DIG and SVTS with input from SSC. Trail layout will avoid removal of merchantable timber wherever possible (commercial species with diameter at breast height (1.3m) greater than 17.5cm). Trail construction will use a combination of machine and hand construction. SVTS volunteers will clear brush and trees from the designated trail route using chainsaws and brushsaws. Brush and trees will be painted (similar to a mark to cut system) to ensure volunteers know what must be removed versus cannot be removed and at what height to cut the material at. Small trees and shrubs will be cut flush at the base. Larger stems (7cm to 17cm diameter at breast height) will be cut at a height of approximately 1m to allow for the small machine to grasp onto them and remove them. Trees larger than 17cm will be marked for retention. Only certified operators with required personal protective equipment will be permitted to operate chainsaws. The small machines will be used to remove stumps and root wads and rough in the trail bed. DIG and SVTS directors and members will finish the trail bed using basic tools such as MacLeods, picks, shovels, pulaskis and rakes.

Community volunteer build days will be held weekly on Tuesday and Wednesday nights starting at 6pm. Bi-monthly weekend community volunteer build days will be held on two Saturdays of every month. SVTS Director Melissa Boardman and her husband Randy are the trail construction managers. Trail construction managers are responsible for ensuring that required signage is in place prior to work starting. SVTS members Elliot Russell and Marco van der Wilk as well as the remaining SVTS board of directors are trail construction assistants. At least one assistant will be present at each build night.

Permits

The loop trail crosses Sunset Creek at a historic roadbed crossing. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Resource Management Division, Nelson, was contacted regarding the crossing. Waypoint for crossing and information on

planned bridge design and dimensions were provided. The Ministry advised that based on the information provided the proposed project appears very low impact and very low risk (Terry Anderson, Habitat Officer, personal communication July 18, 2014). A Water Act notification has been submitted as per regulation requirements with anticipated approval date of early September.

To date no merchantable timber (commercial tree species with a diameter at breast height [1.3m] greater than 17.5cm) has been identified for removal along the trail route. A License to Cut will be required if merchantable timber will be cut anywhere along the trail. The License to Cut needs to be submitted and held by the SSC as the tenure holder but the SVTS will complete the paper work if it is required.

Events

The SVTS would like to hold a grand opening event upon completion of the trail. A BBQ and guided tour or perhaps "tag team" race where pedestrians and cyclists tag off for alternate laps could be organized. Group rides and hikes may also be organized to encourage community use.

Approval

Dated at Salmo, BC on this ____ day of July, 2014

The Salmo Ski Club by its authorized
Signatory:

Per:

Per:

The Salmo Valley Trail Society
by its authorized signatory:

Per:

Per: