

## Salmo Ski Hill 2016 Operating Season

### SVTS Annual Work Plan

#### 2015 Review

Our main goal for 2015 had been to complete construction of the “lower loop” and “summit trail”. With funding from CBT, MEC, SVF, RDCK and significant volunteer hours this was achieved. The is now a 3km lower loop call the Sunset loop, after the main creek, and a 1.5km extension from the Sunset loop that goes to near the top of the ski hill called the Sunrise trail (Figure 1).

We had hoped to also possibly achieve the layout and construction of a hand built intermediate trail. Layout of about 60% of this trail is complete and the remaining 40% has been scoped and rough route lay out done (Figure 1). No construction was undertaken on the intermediate trail.

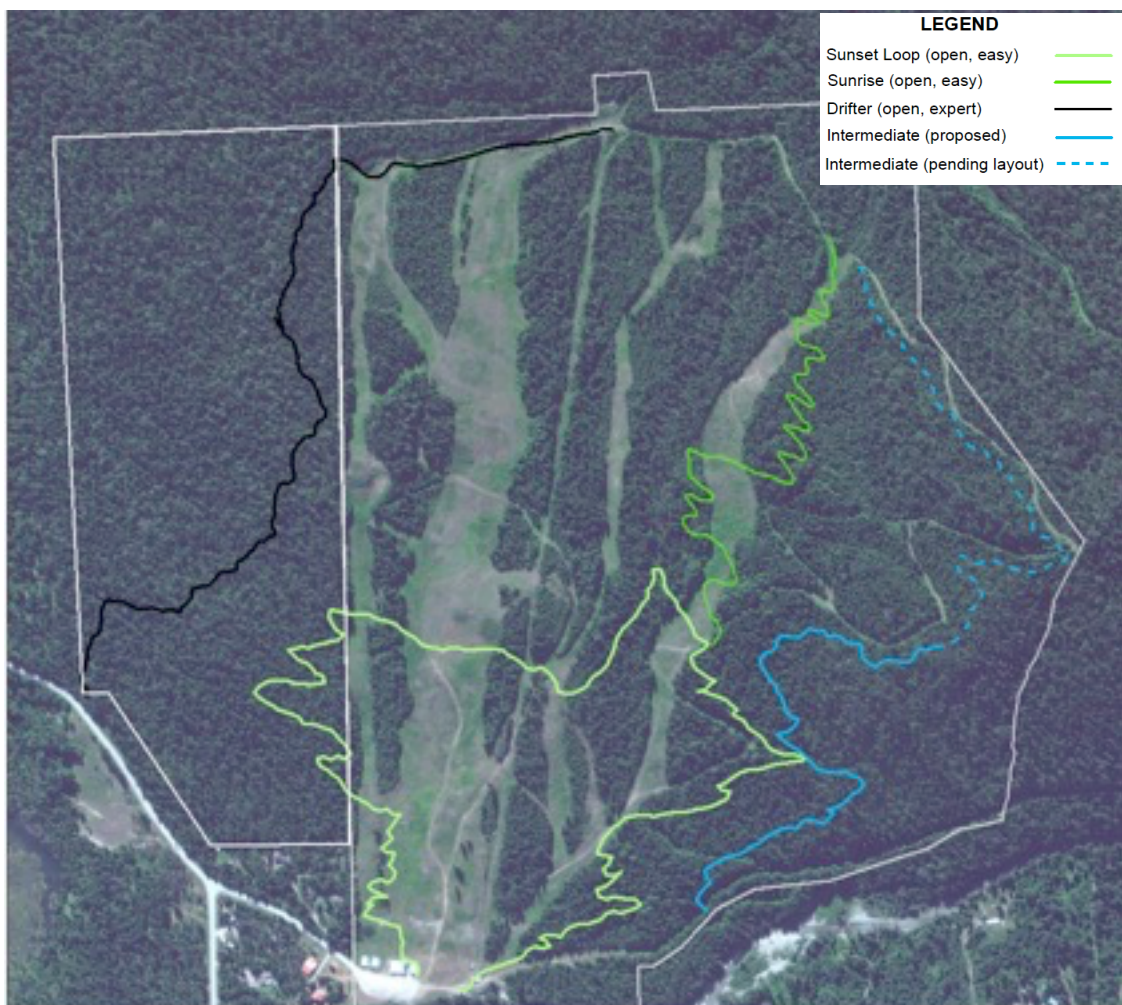


Figure 1. Final trail map as of October 2015 showing completed and proposed trails.

## 2016 Objectives

Our objectives and proposed timelines for 2016 are:

- Complete maintenance of existing trail (as early as feasible)
- Begin volunteer construction of intermediate trail starting at the lower most section first and working up (May to Nov)
- Finalize layout of upper section of intermediate trail (May/June)
- Complete repairs and upgrades to Sunset loop and Sunrise as required (June)
- Begin route finding and layout for 2<sup>nd</sup> intermediate route and upper hill hiker only loop (as time and volunteer resources permit)

## Maintenance

Maintenance of the existing 4.5km of trail will be completed immediately upon approval of the annual work plan and suitable conditions. Volunteers will complete required maintenance activities, which consist of:

- Ensuring signage is secure and in place
- Clearing blow down and brush from winter
- Repairing drainage features
- Repairing bridges if required
- Bringing in surfacing material if necessary

To help address potential risks associated with trail maintenance, construction and non-motorized recreation during periods of high fire hazard, two backpack water cans will be located at the Sunset Creek bridge crossing for use in event of a fire start.

## Sunset Loop and Sunrise Repairs

There are a few locations on the Sunset and Sunrise trails that either require or would benefit from upgrades that will require machine work.

Only one area was identified as an issue during winter ski hill operations. Where the Sunset loop enters the East Run from the Section 57 trees, the bench cut was steep and became exposed during grooming operations (Figure 2). This will be the first priority for repairs. The cut will be graded to reduce the slope and edge.

Other areas in order of priority are (Figure 2):

- Drainage along the trail to the west of Sunset Creek
- Constructing the connector from the lower 500m to the second section to get users off the road and increase the radius of the turns in the loose rock
- Widening and increasing the radius of the first corner on the west side of Sunset loop
- Adding a corner to reduce the grade of one pitch in the lower section of the Sunrise trail

Given the small amount of the contract required for the above mentioned works we will be direct awarding the work to Marshall Homes, the successful company in 2015. The



same machine and operator will be used. If there is minor clearing required for any of the repairs the contractor will be used, however volunteers will provide support if necessary to manage costs or there is particular interest from volunteers.

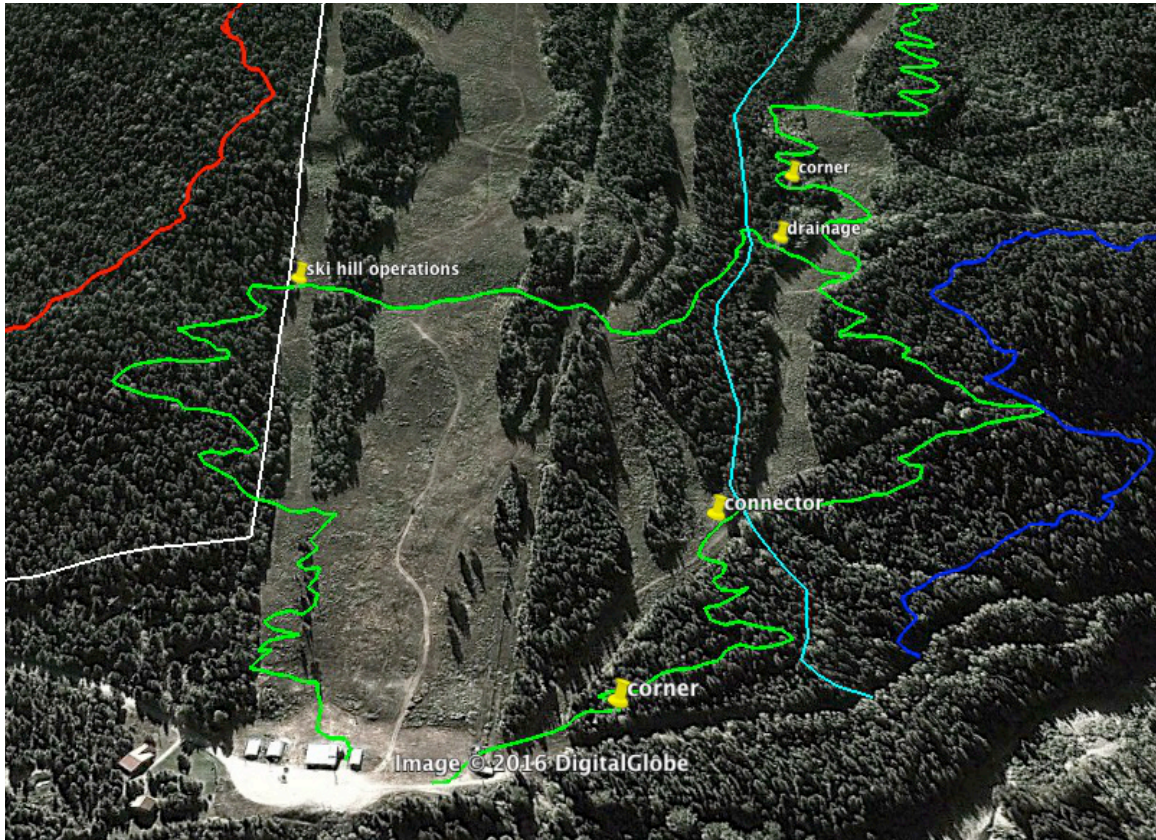


Figure 2. Map of repair and upgrade locations.

### Intermediate Trail

Based on feedback from our long-term ski hill plan survey, 60% of respondents are interested in intermediate level hiking and biking opportunities, with the remaining 40% split evenly between beginner and advanced opportunities. This works out to a ratio of 3 intermediate trails for every one beginner and one advanced. We currently have on offering in each of the beginner and advanced user categories so will be focusing on providing an intermediate trail this year.

In addition to addressing user interest, the intermediate trail will reduce the amount of descending mountain bike traffic on the green rated summit trail improving safety and addressing possible user conflict.

SVTS volunteers (primarily Elliot Russell with support from Tristan Ray) finalized layout for ~60% of the trail layout last year and have done rough layout for the remaining 40%. The finalized portion of trail has been walked by both the SSC and SVTS board and received approval. At our AGM 1-3 trail construction managers will be designated for

the year. Trail construction managers will be supported by the SVTS board and will be responsible for:

- Trail layout and design
- Completing any required layout adjustments based on SVTS Board of Director or SSC feedback
- Maintaining SVTS owned trail building tools, equipment and supplies
- Tracking number of volunteers and hours participated

Intermediate trail construction will be hand construction. SVTS volunteers will clear brush and trees from the designated trail route using chainsaws and brush saws. Efforts will be made to completely remove the root mass for small trees and shrubs to prevent regrowth and “nubbins” that can catch feet and tires. will be cut flush at the base. Larger stems (7cm to 17cm diameter at breast height) will be cut as flush as possible at the base. Only certified operators with required personal protective equipment will be permitted to operate chainsaws and brush saws. SVTS volunteers will clear, construct and finish the trail bed using basic tools such as McLeods, picks, shovels, pulaskis and rakes.

Community volunteer build days will be held weekly on a night to be determined based on member feedback. Weekend community volunteer build days will be held once or twice a month. At least two individuals listed as managers and assistants or on the Board of Directors will be present at any volunteer build event. These individuals will be responsible for ensuring that required signage is in place prior to work starting.

### Signage

Signage consists of under construction safety signage, difficulty and directional signage on completed trails and trailhead signage.

Prior to clearing and construction starting on a section of trail a “trail closed” sign will be installed at each access point.

Safety and directional signage will be installed once a section of trail is completed and before being opened to the public. This will consist of a difficulty sign (e.g. green circle, blue square) and informational sign indicating allowable uses. Where there are trail junctions, signs will be installed with name of trail and arrow indicating direction to go to follow that trail. If trail junction is multi-directional cautionary signage such as “Caution Trails Merge” will be installed.

A trailhead signboard will be installed at the Ski Hill map board in the spring. The trailhead sign will include a large map and legend, user etiquette information, sponsor logos and a space for posting trail reports, wildlife sightings etc.

### Permits

No additional permits (e.g. Water Act, License to Cut) will be required for this years' proposed activities.

### Events

The SVTS is hoping to host at least one even this year. 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 3rd day of April, 2016.

The Salmo Ski Club by its authorized  
Signatory:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Per:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Per:

The Salmo Valley Trail Society  
by its authorized signatory:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Per:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Per: