

STMS MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES COMPLETED IN PRIOR YEARS

AZURE LAKE



2019

- The newly designated trail to Azure Lake (Buster Lake) will see a major upgrade this summer thanks to Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) and a grant from Columbia Basin Trust. STMS will start work on the trail mid-July. At present a trail exists to the lakes however creek crossing may be hazardous until the construction is finished.

BREWER CREEK



2014

- June 2014 Exploratory Trip and clearing of 1.5 Km of access road of alders
- Aug 2014 Brushed 2.5 Km of access road

2016

- On August 16th, 2016, an STMS-organized work party completed maintenance and upgrading work related to the Brewer Creek trail and road. The work party comprised Glen Casey, Peter Tresher and Dale Johnson. Cody Fuller of CF X-Cavating Ltd. joined us with his excavator for five hours, and Jim King of RSTBC joined us for 3 ½ hours to assist with the installation of a sign kiosk and toilet. Projects for the day included:
Improve road drainage for the last 2.5 km, improve road at wash-out, road brushing, increase parking lot area, install sign kiosk, install toilet

2017

- two avalanche debris fields were cleared by STMS members. One was on the road and the other 10 minutes from the trailhead where the trail has been changed slightly.
- Brewer is a very popular area and these improvements will certainly be taken advantage of. A reminder that the Brewer creek road that accesses the trailhead is now in a newly created AMA (Access Management Area) closure zone and is only open to motorized vehicles between June 15 and October 15. Unfortunately that means no late fall hikes into Brewer after October 15th. Another change in the road status allows for hunters to use the road during hunting season. FYI: Brewer Creek AMA restricts motorized vehicles to the main road to the Brewer Creek trailhead once past Thorald Creek.

2018

- On July 4th, 2018, an STMS work party completed maintenance work on the Brewer Creek trail and access road. A very limited snow slide had pushed a few small trees into the roadway. Slide debris was cleared. Brushing was completed where alder had grown into the roadway. the roadway. Alder grows quickly, making this an annual maintenance activity. Several of the water bars were manually cleaned to limit water flow down the road. A few of the water bars are quite deep due to erosion, making passage difficult with lower clearance vehicles. Although the last few km of the road (after crossing the bridge) are rough, it is quite passable for four-wheel-drive vehicles. The previously washed out section of the upper access road that was repaired in 2016 remains in good shape. It was noted that some water flow continued on the trail since the repairs in 2017, so a significant effort was made to clear the stream channel such that water flow on the trail would be completely avoided. Additionally, a new and more robust log footbridge was installed at the creek crossing. The trail head facilities, including the expanded parking area and the toilet, were in good shape. The non-motorized-use sign, which had again been removed from the sign kiosk, was found in the bush nearby and was re-installed. Volunteers walked the trail, clearing approximately a dozen small windfalls along the way. Some brushing was completed on the lower section of the trail. Apart from the snow slide area, the trail remained in good shape. Thanks again to our volunteers, you are all greatly appreciated!
- On August 29th, 2018, additional maintenance work was undertaken on the upper access road for the Brewer Creek trail. We extensively repaired or built 23 water bars and leveled the roadway in several locations along the final 6 km to the trail head. This included removing brush and trees to allow ditching from the water bars well of the roadway. Additionally, a very large boulder encroaching on the roadway at 4 km from the trail head was removed. We expect the efficacy of the water bars to alleviate erosion caused by spring runoff to be significantly improved. We will assess this next year following the spring run-off. While the upper access road still has rough sections due to stones, it is now much more navigable, especially for those with limited clearance vehicles.

2019

- On June 20th, 2019, an STMS-organized work party completed maintenance work on the Brewer Creek trail and upper access road. A highlight of the work bee excursion was an encounter with a very large grizzly bear and her two cubs. Occupants of the lead vehicle first noted a cub crossing the upper access road. Subsequently, the mother bear presented herself in a clearly agitated state, rearing on her hind legs and waving her front legs aggressively at a distance of about 15 m from the vehicle. She then moved off into the bush, leaving work party members grateful for the protection provided by vehicles. Grizzly encounters are not uncommon at this time of year, so being cautious and aware is very important. The road (from the bridge to the trailhead) had been compromised by extensive erosion and puddling resulting from water running down the roadway. In two prior years, an excavator and operator were engaged to repair several old water bars, add some new ones, repair the road at a washout and fill the trenches created by erosion. The access road is now in the best shape that it has been in over a span of two decades. Work was continued from previous years to completely restore the proper creek channel as well as improve the re-routed trail and short log bridge spanning the creek. Approximately a dozen windfalls were cleared from the upper trail. A new sign indicating that motorized use of the trail is prohibited was installed at the trail fork located 0.7 km from the trailhead. The previous sign had been vandalized. Brushing of alder along the upper roadway is an annual component of the maintenance program. The 3-km road section terminating at the

trailhead was brushed again this year to create ample width for vehicle travel without contacting branches. The trailhead toilet was serviced. The sign mounted in the kiosk indicating that motorized use of the trail is prohibited was somewhat damaged but still quite functional, so it was not replaced. Thanks to the crew comprised of Trail Captains Dale and Glen with volunteers Pat, Paul P, Adrian, Marc, Irek, Georges and Bernie.

CHALICE CREEK



2014

- June 2014 Brushed 1 Km of access road July 22/14? Brushed 3 Km of access Road

2017

- Chalice Creek access road and trail were cleared of overgrown vegetation and avalanche debris on August 23rd by a volunteer work party of 7 members. The group split into 2 teams; a special thanks to CMH for flying up a team of 4 with their chainsaws to an avalanche site to clear the debris on the trail, the second team continued the never ending battle with the alder on the access road. Most vehicles can now easily navigate the road without worrying about scratching the paint. There are a couple of rocks to maneuver around and a couple of deep water-bars where a high clearance vehicle is recommended.

2018

- On August 8th, 2018, an STMS work party completed maintenance work on the Chalice Creek access road and trail. Brushing of alder was completed along the entrance road as well as portions of the trail. Logs were cut and placed in some swampy areas so that hikers do not have to slog through the mud. The Bugaboo road was quite rough although very passable with a high clearance vehicle. There was no forestry work taking place in the area. Many thanks to our hard working volunteers Georges, Doug, Al, Tracy, Eric, Brian, Colin and Myron!

JUMBO PASS



2014

- Sept 23, 2014 Cleared and trimmed vegetation around trail-head signage and secured signage that was loose. Cleared parking area of ingrown vegetation.

2017

- Five avalanche debris fields were cleared on the road to Jumbo at the start of the hiking season in July. A reminder that a high clearance 2W/4W vehicle is recommended to travel the access road to the Jumbo trailhead.

2018

- An STMS Jumbo work bee was done on August 1, 2018. Over 25 trees were cut and cleared from the trail and water bars were dug up higher on the trail to divert water away and back in the creek. Thanks to our volunteers Myron, Doug and Brian for the chainsaw work, Bernie, Kim and Cal for the brushing and cleaning the trail and Sylvie who did the digging for the water bars.

2019

- On Monday, June 3, 2019, we drove up the Jumbo FSR to check out the conditions. The road is in good condition up to 6.5 km where there are remains of a small avalanche. It was easy to cross with only a minimal amount of avalanche debris. At km 9 the remains of a larger avalanche was easy to cross and again minimal avalanche debris. There is a small washout at km 10.5. We

crossed the larger creek at km 11. This creek is fast moving and about a foot deep; we crossed it in 4 x 4 low without much trouble.

There are patches of snow at the trailhead and less than 1 km up the snow cover increases. We stopped after about an hour hike up. It'll need a few more weeks of hot weather before the trail is snow free.

- On June 29, 2019 a work bee went up to Jumbo and found the trail to be all clear except for snow 2/3 of the way up. A high clearance vehicle is required as the road has been washed away in places.

LAKE OF THE HANGING GLACIER



2014

- June 18, 2014 Exploratory trip to assess trail conditions – avalanche noted before bridge. Minor clearing completed to bridge. – 2 volunteers
- July 2, 2014 Minor clearing and brushing of alders and deadfall. Cleared 50 m wide avalanche debris over trail. Installed Bridge over Hell Roaring Creek. It was noted that a guy wire on the big bridge had pulled loose from the rock it had been fastened to. Waiting for response from Rec Sites and Trails on how to repair.
- July 9, 2014 The far side bridge footing was repositioned to properly accommodate the bridge (it had slid down over the winter). Some work was done on the trail to reroute the water off the trail on the far side of Hell Roaring Creek
- October 8/2014 Removed bridge over Hell Roaring Creek

2017

- Hikers should be aware that there is an annual activity of placing a bridge over Hellroaring Creek in the spring, and removing it in the fall. There is no set date for this to happen. This means for early and late season hikes, this bridge may not be there making the crossing impossible or very hazardous. The bridge is a very interesting design with a simple manual installation procedure.

The bridge was engineered and built by the Recreational Trails BC and then flown into the bridge site. Each year it has to be removed and stored in the forest. The bridge is locked and

cannot be installed by just any early season hiker. The reason for this annual STMS activity is that the creek channels avalanches and has high spring runoff creating a significant risk of the bridge being swept away or washed out.

2018

- July, 2018: the road is in rough shape approximately a 1/2 km from the trail head due to an avalanche, there are places where a high clearance vehicle is recommended.
- September 27, 2018: A group of 10 people worked on clearing over 150 fallen trees from the trail at the Lake of the Hanging Glacier. We are happy to report that the trail is clear for anyone to hike without having to climb, duck or go around fallen trees. All of the trail crew got to fly in to the lake by a Coldstream Helicopter supplied by Forestry and joined by three Pioneer work crew and three first attack fire crew and an expert tree faller. Thanks again to the "A Team" for a wonderful job making Lake of the Hanging Glacier hike safe again and easier to walk. This would not have happened without all your help.

2019

- On June 27, 2019 a group of volunteers completed the installation of the bridge on the trail. The trail was cleared to the second bridge and cutting of the overgrown alders down to the trailhead was also done. Thank you to our volunteers Gary, Myron, Doug, Chris, Paul Y, Georges, Paul P and Charmaine for volunteering for the work bee and getting all the work done right in time for the long weekend!

MCLEAN LAKE



2014

- June 9, 2014 Exploratory trip to assess trail conditions – upper level of trail snowbound and McLean creek crossing under water.
- July 24, 2014 Clipped brush and cleared windfall. Repaired log bridge over McLean Creek. Removed minor rock slide on trail.

2016

- McLean Lake trail is now greatly improved thanks to STMS's maintenance crew Sylvie, Bernie, Norm, Margaret and David. The crew worked 4 hours brushing, clipping and sawing. From the trailhead to the second log crossing along the creek and metal bridge they cleared overgrown alders, widened the trail through the meadow and removed deadfall.

2017

- One of the hiking groups hiked Maclean Lake trail this week and reports as follows. The road is fine no special problems. The lower portion of the trail in the meadows is a bit overgrown again after the clean up last year, it is still easy to follow and the group cleared some of the low branches and brush. The upper portion of the trail about 1.5 km's below the lake has three avalanches, see photos, which are completely blocking the trail. It is possible with some effort to navigate the debris which has about one to two meters of snow underneath and pick up the trail on the other side. The first two avalanches are about 30 meters wide the third is smaller. We are

not sure at present when we can get a crew into clean it up. We will post as soon as we have it organized.

2018

- On July 13, 2018 a crew consisting of Trail Captains Sylvie and Doug with volunteers Paul and Gael were happy to find the trail in good shape. They cleared and hand cut everything that was removable to make the trail clear of trees and branches. The road to McLean Lake is in good condition with no logging activity.

PEDLEY PASS



2014

- June 22, 2014 Minor trail clearing and brushing. Explored and marked alternative route options to avoid steep section on North trail. – 5 volunteers
- October 2014 Further exploration and marking of alternative route options.

2016

- Eight Participants met August 18th to work on the Pedley Pass trail. A crew of 5 brushed the access road and cleared overhanging branches/small trees. Three workers did minor clearing along the path to the tarn and installed directional markers supplied by Rec Sites and Trails at two of the ridge/tarn intersections. The weather was perfect, with cooler working temperatures, and the rain held off until the group was nearly completed.

2017

- March 22, 2017: Exciting news! STMS was advised last week that we have received a \$17,500 Columbia Basin Trust infrastructure grant for the The Pedley ridge and Pedley tarn trail construction. We intend to establish a sustainable hiking trail from the parking lot to the north ridge that will then connect to the existing trail creating a fantastic loop hike in a nearby Alpine environment. We will also create a more sustainable route to the tarn. The planning will start right away and the actual construction will begin in the spring once we have access.

- Friday July 30, 2017 two volunteers from STMS, Wayne and Sue along with an archeologist, Brett Watson from Core Heritage Consulting surveyed the Pedley Ridge trail for heritage cultural sites. There are a couple of sites but only one is impacted by the trail alignment. We put a few wands out to set the alignment so as not to disturb this site. In the next week or so we will organize a work crew to replace these wands with stone cairns, more of a wilderness look. I want to encourage hikers to use the new alignment protecting these cultural sites. Thanks in advance. Big thanks to Brett who volunteered his time to do this for us!
- October 8, 2017: If you are looking for a hike this weekend go up and try the new Pedley Ridge Trail, just completed. A new alignment up through the forest, very pleasant and family friendly. Then traverse the ridge and descend the the original Pedley Pass trail. You might even consider going over to the Tarn for lunch. The new trail starts on the left side of the parking lot. It has been marked with a couple of pieces of tape. We will put a proper post marker in next spring. Have a great Thanksgiving.

2018

- July 28, 2018: Successful Work bee at Pedley including trail improvements on the Ridge trail, cutting deadfall on the Pass trail, new footbridge and signage at the trailhead of the Ridge trail. Big thanks to the volunteers; Harold, Paul, Doug, Colin, Steve, Shelley, Pat and Wayne.

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2019

- We had a few STMS volunteers check out the Pedley Pass and Ridge Trails on Monday, June 17, 2019 and put up some new signage. The 7 km road in from the forks after the mine has been very recently graded all the way to 1.2 km from the trailhead. Beware though, the grading has brought up some sharp rocks and we met with a group who had a blow out on the way in. There's still a bit of snow up top and on the trail to the tarn, but otherwise, it's in great shape and the spring flowers are in bloom, what a treat!

PINTO



2018

- The Pinto mountain Trail is now completed thanks to our volunteers and Starr Trail Solutions with funding from the Columbia Basin Trust, Recreational Sites and Trails BC and STMS. Directional road signs have been installed on the access road junctions. A trail head sign was installed and cairns were built along the scree section near the top of the ridge. This is a new trail for STMS to maintain and has been re-routed and greatly improved.

2019

- JUNE 2019: The road is clear, although a high clearance vehicle is recommended to get over some of the washouts. There are a few trees down near the beginning of the trail up into the avalanche path, but the new trail is easy to follow and makes the hike much less steep with the switch backs through the meadows and forest. There are some snow patches that cover the trail, but please try to stay on the trail so it gets compacted and more obvious.

- June 24, 2019 Road Advisory: about 3 km after taking the left turn off the main mine road, the road becomes very rough. A bulldozer has ripped up the road in preparation for a grader. For the next two weeks a 4-wheel drive vehicles with good clearance is highly recommended. As well they will be logging in that area for about a month later this summer.

MOUNT SWANSEA



2014

- July 15, 2014 Work Completed: brush of South Ridge Trail from top to bottom (to the road), four trail improvements flagged. Improvements are designed to bypass steep fall-line trails with sustainable switchbacks. The Principles for Sustainable Trail Making were employed in the placement of the flagged trail improvement.

The UTM locations of the flagged improvements are:

MS-1 0573782 5594629 on the north side trail leading down from the radio towers

MS-2 0574556 5595630 on the South Ridge trail between the parking lot and the summit

MS-3 0574981 5594939 on the South Ridge trail between the summit and the road at the bottom

MS-4 0575011 5593822 on the South Ridge trail between the summit and closer to the road at the bottom

MS-5 0574937 5593730 on the South Ridge trail between the summit and just a little further south from MS-4.

- October 2014 added arrow stickers to the fibreglass posts, pounded in several posts which had come out or were loose and added a new post at a Y junction. In addition, we put blocking material on at least a dozen of more "shortcuts" that people have been using to bypass the switchbacks. Some of these bypasses are the original trail and others are newly created.

2016

- JUNE 23 2016: Brian Wesley and a group of STMS volunteers completed two major trail projects, adding a connector between the Uptrack and Hula Girl, and a new improved trail on the

backside of the Radio Tower. The hiking trail to bypass the industrial area of the tower and solar panels has been completed. This path will allow hikers to go directly to a viewpoint and picnic table. Along with the re-work of the northern hill slope trail, the bypass will be part of the Tower Loop hiking trail starting from the 2km parking area.

- On September 12, 2016, Brian Wesley and David Pacey implemented new fibre-glass posts and sticker signage (to new and existing posts). The signage identifies the Tower Loop hiking trail starting from the 2km parking lot. The Tower Loop trail provides a short hike from the parking area to the top of the Radio Tower hill outcrop on Mt. Swansea. The trail includes the new bypass at the top of the outcrop which leads to a newly installed picnic table and a wonderful viewpoint. In cooperation with RSTBC, the trail and table are part of the continued improvement of Mt. Swansea as a local recreational resource for both hikers and cyclists.

2018

- April 28, 2018: Three days of activities have occurred on Mount Swansea so far this year:
- April 20 – GPS mapping of the Tower Loop Trail and trail inspection. This is required for the new signage for Mount Swansea Trail Kiosks to be completed this summer. Activity completed by Brian Wesley. 4 Hours.
- April 22 – Review with CVCS the proposed changes to the Uptrack/hiking trail. The changes are to reduce the ascent grade of the Uptrack to make the trail consistent with the required level of difficulty. CVCS wanted a hiker's perspective on the changes. Agreement on the proposed changes was achieved. CVCS also reviewed the changes to the Hulu Girl trail lower down the mountain. These changes are to ensure that the new trail from the summit of the South Ridge to the base parking area are consistently "blue" in difficulty rating. Activity completed by Brian Wesley, STMS, TJ Neault, CVCS and AJ Strawson, International Mountain Biking Association, Canada. 4 Hours.
- April 27 – Trail maintenance of the South Ridge hiking path. Trail blockage by a large fallen tree was mitigated along with a removal of a smaller fallen tree. From the 1.2km to the 3.9km distance (from the mountain road), the trail was "brushed" using a lopper. At the 3.9km point, a switch back trail was flagged to provide an alternate path for hikers (as opposed to the very steep existing track). The expectation is for RSTBC, to use their "attack crew" in May, create an alternate track through the steep section. Activity completed by Colin Guild (alternate Captain for Mt. Swansea) and Brian Wesley. 9 Hours.
- At this point, what further action will be completed on Mt. Swansea has yet to be determined. There will likely be more work in cooperation with CVCS and RSTBC (signage, picnic tables, etc.) associated with the Downhill trail build and other actions.
- Mt Swansea Work Party Aug 28 2018: A work party addressed two fallen trees on the uptrack trail about .5km from the upper parking lot. The fallen tree left a large tree wad on the middle of the trail. The wad was trimmed to allow safe passage along the trail. The second tree was a splintered stump which was cut down closer to the ground and leveled off to remove the safety hazard.
- Mt Swansea Work Party Sept 2 2018: Our trail captains Colin and Brian installed a new sign at the upper parking lot of Mt Swansea. The post and sign were provided by RSTBC. The post was painted and installed by STMS. Digging the hole presented its challenges. Under the first layer of soil were several rocks that required excavation and removal. Despite enlarging the hole diameter, the bedrock layer was evident before the desired depth was reached. So, they used their skills and ingenuity to create the necessary support for the post.

WELSH LAKES



2014

- June 25, 2014: Exploratory trip to assess trail conditions. No work required this season

2016

- July 2016: The Welsh Lakes trailhead underwent a major transformation this summer. STMS members John Pitcher and Doug Yukes worked with Phil Ruault (Westside Contracting) and Jim King to install the new outhouse and trailhead kiosk. Phil spent time widening the parking area significantly and improved the access road from the Forester road. Doug and John also repositioned and secured the footbridge with cross-braces.

2017

- We were up at Welsh Lakes yesterday, wanted to report that the road and trail are in good shape. Still require a high clearance vehicle for the access road but someone made it up in a jeep renegade yesterday so it's quite passable. One other important note, someone has heavily flagged at shortcut route to bypass walking around the the first lake. The alternate is just as you come to a boulder field about 200 meters before the lake . The original maintained trail goes to the left the alternate goes steeply up to the right and is heavily flagged. This trail is very rough, loose and poorly defined. I have added a couple of pictures.

2018

- On July 31, 2018 STMS volunteers Doug and John did a work bee at Welsh Lakes. They flagged the location for the road directional sign at the start of the access road which will be installed in late August. They clipped some alders on the access road and expect more extensive clipping will probably be needed next year. They installed the trail head kiosk sign which is the first sign in a series that will be installed at other STMS trails. They cleared the trail of in-grown alders using clippers and a couple of small fallen trees using hand saws. They also flagged and rock-cairned a clearer and easier route around the lower part of the talus slope.

2019

- On July 12, 2019 Trail Captains John and Doug did a work bee at Welsh Lakes. They serviced the outhouse and did a fair bit of preliminary road and trail clearing. We will need to schedule a follow-up work bee to complete the road and trail clearing, including brush-saw work, chain-saw removal of 4 downed trees and diverting the flow of a spring that is running down the trail. We will schedule this for sometime after the August long weekend.