

# STMS MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES COMPLETED IN PRIOR YEARS

## ASSINIBOINE LAKE



### 2019

- Assiniboine Lake is one of our most recently contracted trails with RSTBC. On August 14, 2019 Trail Captain Paul and volunteers Myron and Doug hiked into Assiniboine Lake. They lopped branches, reconstructed 3 creek crossing bridges and cleared dead fall off the trail. It is in good hiking condition. Flagging was placed in some spots to negotiate around a few short areas of wetness. The old bridges on the access road have been repaired, so the trail is accessible and ready for use.

### 2020

- On Friday, August 14, 2020 a hard working crew of four did a work bee on the trail to the lake. Twenty-four trees were chain sawed away, restoring the original trail under some of them. Loppers were used from top to bottom to clear the overgrown undergrowth. Many boggy areas were repaired using downed trees and rocks for crossing and one area was re-routed. The trail is being well used by hikers and climbers. Many thanks to our invaluable volunteers who make this happen.

### 2021

- The Assiniboine Lake Work Bee was a super success with a wonderful crew of 7. We cleared all the trees off the Trail, 20+, and built 2 creek crossings at the first and last creeks. Lopped trees on route in and out. A Nipika Tractor was in and repaired a road washout, cleaned some brush along the road between the first bridge and the Trailhead. They also erected a wooden sign

(Assiniboine Lake). A great work party, everyone constantly lopping, or cutting or moving objects to clear the trail. A “Hot Day”. Grizzly Tracks were on the trail but no encounters today. Open for Business.

## 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.
- AZURE LAKE UPDATE: On July 18, 2019 a dedicated volunteer work party of 9 headed to the Azure Lake Trail head to restore the first 2.3 km of this track to the 2nd creek crossing. The brush saw cleared the 100 metre approach to the trail head and about the first 600 metres of the trail. Hand brushwork continued the remaining distance up to the second creek crossing area. The 2 chainsaw crews cleared the trail of all the fallen timber with some trail widening on a 30 metre long section of a sandy slide. Rain gave way to glimpses of sunshine as the crew returned to the trail head and installed a trail head identification post before heading back down the FSRs and safely home. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who give their days to trail maintenance and restorations that provide us those awesome hiking trips!
- Trail captains Wayne and Harold did an assessment of the trail on Monday, August 19, 2019. The current phase of Azure Lake trail construction will be finished on Friday. The new trail alignment is built out all the way to the camping spot at the end of the Lake. The new bridge is in at the second creek crossing. There is still some work left to be done by volunteers probably in September, including cutting a small amount of deadfall on section 2 of the trail, doing more brushing and clearing on the entire trail alignment and a trailhead sign to be installed. Also, some work still to be done on a few wet spots on section 2. GPS tracking of the trail indicates it is 6.5 km from the parking lot to the camping spot at the lake, the elevation gain is 683 meters.

The lake is not Azure anymore, but an interesting colour of green, the smaller lake is now more of an azure blue.

## **2020**

- On July 28, 2020 a group of seven STMS volunteers did a work bee and completed maintenance work on the Azure Lake trail and on the Frances Creek Forest Service Road. On the Frances Creek FSR they flattened down a big bump that was on the road for a few years made of dirt and rock debris. They also pulled some big rocks off the road with pry bars and the strength of an enthusiastic team. They all went up to the second part of the trail after the second bridge crossing, where the trail needed the most attention. Seventeen trees were cleared on this part of the trail, some engineering was done to re-route the trail and loppers were used to cut all the growing vegetation along different parts of the trail. Thanks to our volunteers for working to keep the trails maintained.

## **2021**

- 2021-06-24: Azure Lake trail is unsafe at this time. There is a log crossing that needs repair and some downed trees and hazardous debris from the winter impede the trail. We strongly discourage using it at this time. Watch our Facebook page. We will post updates and let you know when we have been able to restore the trail and it is safe to resume hiking to Azure. Enjoy the hiking on the other trails!
- On September 16, 2021 a STMS work bee comprised of 5 volunteers completed maintenance on the Azure Lake Trail. The trail was cleared from the trail head to the lakes (Azure/Buster). Between km 47 and 48, the Frances Creek FSR has been eroded by Frances Creek. This road provides access to both Azure Lake and McLean Creek trails and other trails not maintained by STMS. It is still possible to drive a vehicle past this spot, but we can only speculate what will happen to the road during next years' spring runoff. It is quite possible that this road could be made impassible eliminating access to both trails. The log bridge over the first stream crossing is failing and will need replacing for next years' hiking season. Wind events this year led to the downfall of 20 trees over the trail, up trail from the second stream crossing. These trees ranged in size from several inches to significant sized timber. There were a number of challenging cuts and thanks to the guidance of our volunteers, the trail was successfully cleared. Lopping was also carried out on the trail but there was minimal overgrowth. The wet areas two thirds up the trail remain a season long problem and are to be remediated later this month. Thanks to our enthusiastic crew who worked hard to get the job done!



## 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.

## **2020**

- On Saturday June 20th four STMS members did a reconnaissance trip into Brewer Creek. They had to clear trees and one avalanche that had come across the road. At the trail head they checked the toilet and added supplies and then went up the trail diverting the creek back off the trail with grub hoe and shovel. On the way down they repaired some of the water bars and road that had been washed out by the spring runoff. They will go back in early July to the top for fallen trees over the trail, to clear alders from the road and fix water bars and road in places where washed out.
- On July 2, 2020 maintenance work was undertaken on the upper access road and Brewer Creek trail. The bridge on the Brewer Creek access road, located at 24.2 km from the Westside Road, required repair of rotted deck boards. RSTBC provided three replacement boards that the work party transported to the bridge. The rotted boards and corresponding spikes were removed, and the full 30 ft of available replacement boards were installed. Two members of the work party hiked the trail with a chainsaw, cutting away several windfalls and installing a log crossing of a wet and muddy area. Selective brushing of the upper road was undertaken. Three water bars were cleared to allow water flows away from the roadway. A few larger rocks that had tumbled onto the road were also removed. The upper access road has rough sections but is quite navigable for high clearance vehicles.
- On September 11th , 2020, a supplemental work bee on Brewer Creek trail was completed. A mud slide located at 25.3 km from the Westside Road was previously reported by STMS. A large volume of mud flowed a considerable distance down a steep north facing drainage and blocked the roadway, stranding some people using the trail. A machine arranged by others cleared the roadway, resulting in a substantial bank of mud extending about 50 m along the north side of the road. The primary purpose of the work bee was to install a permanent metal sign at each of the trailheads, Mineral Pass and the base of the Mount Brewer ridge as these are boundary points inside of which RSTBC has prohibited mechanized use of the Brewer region during non-winter months. The work involved carrying metal signs, segmented steel signposts, stabilizing frames, sledge hammers and other tools (totalling about 70 lb) to Mineral Pass and the base of Brewer Ridge, where the signs were assembled and securely installed. Thanks again to our volunteers.

## **2021**

- On June 24th, 2021, maintenance work was undertaken on the Brewer Creek trail. On July 13th, 2021, a picnic table was assembled and installed at the trailhead.

Access Road

Brewer Creek access road repairs have been a regular part of STMS' activity in recent years. Other than removal of small fallen trees and larger rocks, no road repair was undertaken this year. Deck repair and water diversion for the bridge on the Brewer Creek access road, located at 24.2 km from the Westside Road, was completed in 2020. The repairs remain satisfactory, and the water diversion has clearly been helpful. Full deck replacement will be required within a few years. Extensive alder brushing in recent years has prevented alder encroachment for this year. However, evergreen trees adjacent the road are growing and, in a few intervals, will need to be trimmed within two or three years to sustain full road opening width. The upper access road has rough sections but is quite navigable for high clearance vehicles.

#### Trail Maintenance

Two members of the work party hiked the trail with a chainsaw, cutting away several windfalls and diverting water run-off at a few muddy intervals. Three deck planks had come off of the foot bridge near the trailhead. These were re-installed. A post was installed at the trail head and a sign-in box affixed to the top of the post.

#### Trailhead Upgrades

A log-and-plank picnic table was hauled in pieces to the trailhead, assembled and installed on July 13th. Funding for the picnic table was provided by the Rotary Club of Invermere.



## 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!

### 2019

- On July 11, 2019 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. A large tree was put in place across the creek to replace part of the existing bridge,

which was sagging. A cable was then strung between two posts to assist hikers with the crossing. The Bugaboo road was in decent condition with only a few pot holes from the recent rain. There was no forestry work taking place in the area. Many thanks to our hard working volunteers Georges, Doug, Eric, Shelly, Paul, Adrian, Gerhardt, and Myron!

## **2020**

- On Thursday, August 6, 2020 a crew of 6 headed up to Chalice to do a work bee. The team broke into two parties of 3, with one group using brush saws to trim back the alders along the entrance road. They also filled in one of the deep water bars with rock to eliminate vehicles from bottoming out. The other team hiked up as far as the second creek crossing. The trail required some water diversions as well as log placement in the swampy area. There were several blow downs to be removed between the lower and upper creek crossings. It was a successful day thanks again to our volunteers.

## 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.

## 2020

- On July 5, 2020 a work crew went to Jumbo Pass. The road conditions up Jumbo Creek Forest Service Road are fine, if you have a high clearance vehicle. The road is rutted the first couple of km after turning onto JCFSR, but easy to stay on the high side of the ruts. The 3 avalanche sections have melted off the road, no debris, no issue. The bridge over Jumbo Creek at km 6 could use fill at both ends of the bridge deck. Water level has receded considerably, at the 11.5 km creek crossing, not an issue. Alders growth the last 2 km before the trail head, is thick. Slow going through the water bars as always. They hiked up as far as the snow line, 2 km from the trail head, about 2030m elevation, clearing any newly fallen trees across the trail. Another work party will be scheduled to finish clearing the trail once the snow melts onto the hut and build a crossing over the wet boggy areas. The Hut Society has suspended renting out all their huts due to COVID.
- On July 30, 2020 a crew of ten did a work bee on Jumbo Pass. The gravel road starts on Toby Creek Road at km 0 past Panorama resort to Jumbo FSR which is dusty and busy this time of year. The road, bridged creek crossings are all in good shape. On Jumbo FSR the road starts to deteriorate immediately. The road is rutted with the usual pot holes. Vegetation overgrowth gets increasingly bad. The bridge deck at 6m over Jumbo Creek needs fill at each end (ingress & egress). The 2 wet creek crossings, first at km 11.5 is the deepest with water level about 6 inches. The second crossing is fine. Starting at 16 km the road has very deep water bars but negotiable, slowly. The vegetation overgrowth is really closing in for the last 2 km to the trail head, already brushing along vehicle sides. The crew of 10 volunteers started off together, then broke into 3 groups. First group posted the COVID 19 Trail sign at the trail head, then hiked to Jumbo Hut putting up trail marker signs to aid in trail finding during early season snowy conditions when the route is harder to follow. The second group started maintenance at the 1 km mark on 2 wet boggy areas. A trench was handdug and downed dead trees were used to create a path over the wet sections to avoid excess braiding in this area by hikers looking for a drier path and tramping over vegetation. An impressive use of natural resources by the chainsaw operators and trench diggers, improved this section of the trail immensely. The third crew started working at the km 2 mark, just below the first creek crossing where the trail steepens and is a maze of tree roots, rocks and running water. Although the trail has improved over the past week, it is still considered challenging and unsafe. Steep, wet roots and running water, make for very slippery terrain. The crew was able to divert a couple of larger streams away from the trail and trimmed vegetation.

## **2021**

2021-06-24: The Jumbo FSR is washed out at 20km and is completely unpassable. It won't be repaired before the week of June 28th at the earliest and we will post when we know if it has been done.



## 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!

## **2020**

- On June 24, 2020 a crew of seven cleared the lower trail, diverted a creek that was overflowing on the trail, took out a section of avalanche snow and debris but DID NOT INSTALL THE BRIDGE OVER HELL ROARING CREEK. The water was too high and going over the embankment at 11 am and the decision was made not to put it in as the water rises higher in the afternoon and would most likely take the bridge out if it was installed. There are two washouts on the access road; one past the bridge at 26 Km where the washout is very deep and only high clearance vehicles can barely get across, the other is at 200m from the trail head where there's an avalanche and washout that we could not get across. We will keep a watch on the weather and local creeks to see how much they rise and decide when we will be going back. In the interim, this hike should not be attempted and crossing Hell Roaring Creek without the bridge could result in injury or death.
- On July 16, 2020 the bridge was installed and is ready for hiking. A number of trees were cleared along the trail and new water bars to divert water off trail installed. The road at the 26 km has been repaired and the water has been re-routed back into the creek by RSTBC. All is good to drive but possibly a high clearance vehicle is a better choice. A crew of seven people worked all day to get this trail in very good condition. The trail is open and ready to enjoy. Thanks to our volunteers who make this possible.

## 2021

- On July 19, 2021 four volunteers drove to the Lake of Hanging Glacier trailhead for the bridge install. Some repairs were done at the trailhead, some signs installed and found that the bridge out sign was missing. All hiked to the bridge location and installed the bridge. We did not proceed to check higher than the first bridge due to the weather conditions and fire restrictions on mechanized tools. On the way back the trail was cleared with hand held tools cutting alders and various small trees blocking the trail. Back at the trailhead we proceeded to install the bridge in below the trail head sign and on the way back to town also installed the bridge in at the crossroads of Westside Road and Horsethief FSR.
- A work bee party comprised of 7 volunteers started out at 7am on September 24, 2021 and headed out to the trail. Once there, they separated into two parties, one went to the top of the trail and cut and cleared over 25 large trees that had blown down over the trail. The other stayed at the trailhead to repair a section at the beginning of the trail that had become dangerous and then proceeded to cut alders in the parking lot to make it bigger. After that was done, they proceeded up the trail to clean alder on the way up and meet the other workers at the bridge. The team got the bridge removed and then headed back down. With the help of these incredible, top notch workers the day went without any issues and more work than expected got completed in a short time. Thanks to our volunteers for their hard work!

## 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.

## **2019**

- On July 26, 2019 a STMS work party completed maintenance work on the McLean Lake trail. A team of 4 volunteers went with loppers cutting all the growing vegetation along the switchbacks before the rock wall. Two others went with the brush saws to clear all the growing alders along the trail before the switchbacks after the second creek crossing and enlarge the trail which was disappearing in the meadow. Our chainsaw certified volunteers cleared off four trees with the chainsaws at the lower section of the trail and they installed a new log footbridge across the wet section in the lower part of the trail. A piece of art!

## **2020**

- On Monday, July 6, 2020 a crew went into McLean Lake to do some work. There is a rockfall on the access road where there is a steep slope that vehicles can drive around carefully, but the rocks will have to be moved. Another place has some debris that creates a large mound that requires a high clearance vehicle to drive over. The trail has some snow closer to the lake and the lake is still partially frozen.

## **2021**

- On July 12, 2021 a STMS work party completed maintenance work on the McLean Creek trail. On the Frances Creek FSR by Km 48, the creek has worn away a part of the road and there is no room to enlarge the road on the other side. If nothing is done to stabilize the road this year from water erosion, we have the concern of having no road access for next year to our two STMS trails, Azure and McLean Creek. We were using loppers and hand saws on the trail to cut small and fallen logs and branches, trimming growing bushes.
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## 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!

## **2020**

- On July 26, 2020 a group of five volunteers did a work bee at Pedley Pass. First job was to clean the outhouse, not the most fun part, but very necessary. Three members ascended the older, steeper trail towards Bumpy Meadows and the tarn. Just a short distance towards the tarn a tree had fallen across the trail, so it was removed with a chain saw. On the trail towards the ridge, a water bar was cut in to try and divert early season runoff from the main trail which is becoming braided. On the other side of the pass, two members took the newer trail and placed signage to stay on the trail where short cuts are being made. Higher up past the avalanche slopes, the trail was slanted and narrow, so it was leveled out and widened using pulaskis and shovels. It was a busy day at the trail head with a very full parking lot, so the team had opportunities to engage with hikers and promote our Society.

## **2021**

- On July 27, 2021 a work bee of 5 headed up to the trail and installed 6 new "Stay on Trail" signs and worked to block the short cuts being created at numerous locations on the switchbacks on the north side of the loop. The team also levelled and widened the trail along the route to the pass. An area was prepared near the entrance to the trail for a picnic table and some brushing was done around the parking lot. The table was assembled on site and is a welcome amenity to the trail head. Thanks to our volunteers for their hard work!

## 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.
- On July 30, 2019 new directional sign posts were added on the newly graded access road to Pinto. The road is in great shape and the wild flowers on the trail are in full bloom. Watch for the last turn in to the trail head since a new logging road has been built that continues straight ahead at the junction.

## **2020**

- June 23, 2020 The access road is in good shape all the way to the trail head. The lower part of the trail has about half a dozen blown down trees that we will come back and clear in early July. In the meantime, the trail is passable with a couple of small detours. The upper part of the trail is in good shape but there are still snow patches that cover certain sections of the trail. In most cases you can just walk across the snow following the trail alignment. The snow should be gone in a few days.



## 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.

## 2019

- The Swansea Mountain 2 km gate has been closed and locked by Recreation Sites and Trails BC for overall user safety and to avoid further depredation of the road.

## 2020

- Mount Swansea Recreation Site Reclamation Program June 2020

Many of you Mount Swansea hikers may have noticed the proliferation of short cutting of new multi-use Swansea Trail switch backs and braiding of the trail from the base parking lot to the upper parking lot.

Some of the braiding is due to efforts by Columbia Valley Cycling Society (CVCS) to correct shortcomings in the initial uptrack design. This is particularly noticeable in the area north of the Ashby Ascent hiking trail. Several new switchbacks have been introduced to reduce the angle of climb to bring the resulting trail into correct specifications for cyclists. However, this has created a number of intersections along the trail. The confusion as to which trail to take will be addressed with signage designating “user choice” (e.g. easier vs harder). We hope that this new signage will address the feedback raised by hikers with respect to this braiding.

Downhill from the Ashby Ascent trail, some of the braiding is due to the continued use of the old trail rather than following the new multi-use trail. Summit Trail Makers Society (STMS) understands that while many hikers like the grade of the new Swansea trail, there are others who want to continue to use the old trail. Sometimes it’s because it’s not clear to the hiker which is the obvious trail to take at an intersection. Again, in appropriate locations “user choice” signage will be installed.

However, in some locations, the existing old trail and the obvious short cutting of switchbacks represents an erosion problem and denigration of the environment. STMS in cooperation with Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) are implementing an ongoing maintenance reclamation and signage program to address these issues and prevent further degradation of the hiking and cycling experience. Reclamation typically restores the land to what it was before the trail or short cut occurred.

We would hope that hikers will respect the efforts of volunteers and government resources to address these concerns. Should anyone have any comments to make about this program, please advise STMS at [summittrailmakers@gmail.com](mailto:summittrailmakers@gmail.com).

## 2021

On May 14, 2021 a crew of two went to do maintenance. The goals for the day were to remove 2 fallen trees on the uptrack Swansea Trail as well as standard maintenance (clearing of branches, ensuring trail

routing was clear, etc.) on the South Ridge trail. Because the road is gated closed till July 1, the 2 person team hiked to the top of the mountain. On investigation, it was found that someone had already cleared one of the fallen trees. Proceeding further down the trail, the second down tree was found. Because of its large diameter and having only the electric saw, it was decided to clear a pathway around the root wad first. Once this was done, they attempted to cut the tree, but succeeded in only making a small cut before the chain on the saw was dislodged. Lacking the tools to reset the chain, the work on the fallen tree was abandoned for another day. The work party went to the South Ridge trail and proceeded to use lopers to remove offending branches along the trail right of way. They also blocked off a growing pathway that led hikers off the hiking trail onto the South Park downhill biking trail. The expectation is that another work party will be held later in the summer to do some trail reclamation activities. It is expected that a general call for volunteers will be made at that time.

## 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.
- On Friday, August 23rd, 2019, an STMS work crew of six headed to the Welsh Lakes trail to complete the preliminary trail maintenance done by Doug Y and John P in July. Three brush-saw operators (Doug Y, Doug A and Paul P) and two loppers and chucks (John and Sylvie) cleared ingrowing alders and conifers on the upper section of the access road and the first 2 km of trail up to the large talus slope. A chain-saw operator (Paul Y) also cleared several windfallen trees on the section of trail just before the talus slope. A spring beside the trail at about the 1.5 km mark which was running down the trail in July had now dried up. To hopefully divert the spring should it run again next year, John cut a diversion channel into the forest. The work crew was passed by several appreciative hikers and campers on their way to and from the lakes. Thank you - it makes our work all worthwhile!

## **2020**

- On July 15, 2020 a crew went to Welsh Lakes. There's one big tree on the trail around 1-2 km up worthy of a chain saw, but it hasn't been removed yet. The rest of the trail to the second lake is good. The route from the second lake to the third lake is currently blocked by snow which could slide; or upon which a hiker could slide, so they did not venture up to third lake. The COVID-19 signs are up, please follow the protocols. The access road is the same as last year; rough with lots of pot holes, but navigable with a high clearance 4x4. Thanks to our volunteers who do the trail maintenance, we could not keep all the trails open without them. If you'd like to join STMS and participate in a work bee, please visit our website and click the Membership tab
- On July 30, 2020 a three person crew did a work bee at Welsh Lakes. The Forster Creek FSR is in good shape apart from three deeply rutted sections at around km 31, km 33 and km 35. The Trailhead Access Road is rough, as always, especially over the rocky sections. The outhouse was

serviced: floor swept, enzyme added and two rolls of toilet paper left. Three hard-working loppers cut back all encroaching alders on the first 3 km section of the trail. One made short work of a large windblown tree across the trail at the start of the forest section, around km 2.5, with the electric chainsaw. The trail is now in great shape!

## 2021

- UPDATE 2021-07-09

### Forster Creek FSR

The road is in good shape apart from three deeply rutted sections at around km 31, km 33 and km 35.

### Trailhead Access Road

The access road is rough and rocky, as always. Drivers of low-clearance vehicles may prefer to park at the pull-out at the bottom of the access road. It is a 1.5 km hike to the trailhead from there.

### Trailhead and Trail Maintenance

The outhouse was serviced: toilet and walls cleaned, floor swept, enzyme added and three rolls of toilet paper left.

The sign-in box was installed on June 23rd. The sign below the box asking hikers to sign in was added today.

The trail is in good shape. Alders and conifers were lopped back and flagging improved where necessary.

Hikers are reminded that the upper sections of the trail are very rocky. The large granite boulders around the lake are particularly tricky and caution is required when boulder hopping.