

Allison/Borgeson Lake Park Project

August 30, 2012

Vision

The Allison Borgeson Ratepayers Association has been working over the past five years on developing a vision for a future regional park in the Allison and Borgeson Lake valleys. The park would encompass the visible forests on both sides of Highway 5A and would stretch from Borgeson Lake to Gulliford Lake. It would involve maintaining historic trails to two watershed lakes as well as developing low impact trails around the valley to attract travellers to stay in the campsite and recreate in the valley. In our vision the Allison Lake campground would also be home to a fire hall/community centre and would serve as a central location for community activities.

Allison Lake would continue to accommodate locals and visitors in recreating (swimming, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, water skiing and/or wake boarding, etc) while also implementing guidelines to improve the quality of experience for all.

Trails would accommodate walkers, bicyclers and/or horses. Two routes (possibly three) would allow all terrain vehicles from the community access to upper areas.

Purpose

To enhance community spirit by developing a community centre that will serve as a unifying force for Allison Lake and Borgeson Lake residents.

To regulate the type of growth in our communities so that community members feel they can live in a healthy, positive community atmosphere where all members feel they have input into the development of our surroundings.

To encourage business opportunities so that visitors and community members contribute to the economy of area H either by working with already established businesses such as AP Ranch or encouraging new businesses (e.g. canoe rental, bike rental, grocery/supply stores, bed and breakfasts, etc.)

To protect and preserve the watersheds of Allison and Borgeson Lakes by establishing permitted trails and ensuring that other areas are left as is.

To promote healthy recreational outlets for community members and visitors alike.

To encourage tourism opportunities for travelers entering area H from the Merritt area. This park could provide a stopping point for those visitors exploring BC via Highway 5A. The presence of the Douglas lake Ranch and other ranches along the way makes for a scenic route. Having a campsite and trails to walk may give travelers a reason to further explore area H and Princeton.

Description of components

1. Allison Lake Provincial Park transferred to regional park
2. Trail on west side of Allison Lake
3. Stout park with developed mountain biking/ walking trail.
4. Trail on East side of Allison Lake from campsite to Allison creek.
5. On Burns hill development of trails for roadside access to watershed lakes.
6. From Gulliford lake roadside access via historic trails to Kump Lake (45 min) and to Prosser Lake (25 min or round trip of 90 min). While both of these lakes have developed recreational sites that can be accessed by vehicle via logging roads, there still exist corridors that have not been logged that would provide walkers with an old growth forest experience that ends in a breathtaking view.
7. Top of the valley trails that would provide circle routes particularly for horses as many of the lower valley trails are characterized by rocky shale slopes.
8. Development of information regarding the interesting history of the valley including interesting geologic components, First Nations skirmishes at the bottom of Burns Hill, possible routes of Bill Miner (possible location of long sought after and priceless and buried CP bonds), old time homesteaders, dude ranch etc.

9. Development and preservation of rich habitat for over 23 species of birds. Also, continue to provide habitat for animals such as deer, moose, bear, cougar, lynx, bobcat and badgers, etc.

Next steps

1. Apply to provincial government for the transfer of Allison lake Provincial Park to become a regional park (initial discussions have already started and the regional district has correspondence from John Trewitt).
2. Apply to the provincial government to move the highway so that the 'S' turn is not splitting the park. This would greatly enhance the park as well as make it safer for campers to access the lake. A further benefit of this would be to greatly improve highway safety for motorists as there are many accidents on the turn.
3. Obtain grants to build fire hall and community centre.
4. Develop trails and apply for gazetting of trails.
5. Obtain funding to conduct studies of environment, archaeology, business opportunities, geology, etc. to make best possible plan for future park.
6. Complete park concept plan in conjunction with the regional district.