

Area Report – Jevan Hanchard

There are a number of highlights to mention related to the area that occurred during the 2014/15 season. Starting last summer we saw the long-discussed Hudson Bay Mtn Rd underpass constructed and added to our facility.

A new access trail was built connecting the underpass to the lower parking lot and on the pine creek side a new approach to the Pine Creek trails. The project turned out fantastically and now provides safe and more convenient (ski on) transit between the lower parking lot and pine creek. Connection to Pine creek from the lodge can also now be completed safely via the lit trail to the lower parking lot and depending on ski conditions and skis, across the lodge road.

Replacement of two of the aging Pine creek trail bridges that were found to be unsafe last summer was also completed prior to the season allowing the Pine Creek trails to remain open.

Replanting of the Pine Creek beetle salvage harvest areas was completed during the summer of 2014, and the club benefited from profit sharing provided from the Wetzinkwa community forest. This profit sharing enabled two additions to our equipment infrastructure with a new (used) rescue sled that is staged at the lodge, and a new utility sled for back up and supplementary track setting along with general purpose use.

Also last summer, preparations were made to mitigate trail and skier disruptions from the 2015 Wetzinkwa community forest beetle harvest on Seymour ridge. A trail running parallel to the Lower logging road was prepared and a new junction linking the logging roads to the demonstration forest was put in. These additions provided for the continued use of the logging roads and demonstration forest during the term of the spring logging.

During the early ski season, several opportunities were taken to trackset the newly built Seymour ridge road. Now built and with the logging complete, this will provide club members with an excellent addition to our trail network, providing fantastic views of the valley and opportunities for future trail expansion. The original trail plans for the Chris Dahlie network contemplated the possibility to connect through to Seymour ridge which if now pursued, would allow for a new loop starting and ending at the lodge.

Several areas of the trail network still have significant patches of standing beetle killed pine. At this time, there are no further harvest plans adjacent to our trails other than the possibility of some small danger tree orientated strips along several trail sections in Pine Creek. It is likely that some danger trees will have to be addressed on the Chris Dahlie trails, where possible these can be utilized for firewood for the lodge and buildings