

# Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club - Board Meeting

April 12, 2017 – Biathlon Hut, BV Nordic Centre

## Board members

Present: Daryl Wilson, Jill Krause, Steve Osborn

Absent: James Cuell, Kara Przeczek, Sara Belanger

**Guests:** Kevin Kriese, Irene Ronalds, Andrea Dunbar

Meeting started at approximately 7:07 pm

Voting and further discussion completed via responses to attached April 20<sup>th</sup> email sent to directors by the secretary.

## 1) Minutes of last regular meeting

**MOTION** by Daryl, second by Jill that the March 9 meeting minutes be accepted as drafted and posted on bvnordic.ca. Motion passed.

## 2) Directors reports

### a) President and Nordic Centre – Daryl (emailed April 12, 2017)

I would like to thank everyone for a great year and all the hard work that has been put in this year. With a smaller board people have taken on few jobs at once.

- I have been dealing with some rentals for the summer so i will bring those forward at meeting
- Steve and I have had a meeting regarding funding options, and wish list for money received.
- Track setting has stopped as of March 31, i was away last week have we shut down the trails officially yet?
- Flooring for the lodge, biathlon hut and locker rooms is here
- Received suggestions for next Chris Dahlie Award.

Discussed at meeting. **Decision:** next Chris Dahlie award will be presented at next marathon.

### b) Membership – Jill (stats emailed Apr 12, 2017)

2015-16 membership 597

Ticket booth \$8,379.70

2016-17 membership 534

Ticket booth \$10,015.40

- Irene suggested sending email to those who had members last year but not this, asking for feedback. **Action:** Jill to send email after Liz provides lists of members.
- Store sales still need to be deposited and added report.

### c) NSDP – James (absent)

### d) Secretary – Steve

- Posted minutes and other notices onto the website.
- Worked with project leaders on project plans

*Draft prepared May 1, 2017*

*Please refer to the minutes of the subsequent board meeting for approval or revisions.*

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e) **Treasurer/Financial** – Kara (absent)

Financials to March 31 emailed to directors April 11

f) **Communications** – Sara (absent)

### 3) Other Business

a) Logging Plans

- Club is responsible for danger trees within 1.5 tree lengths of trails.
- **DECISION:** The board appoints Kevin Kriese as the club's representative to work with Wetzin'Kwa and the Community Forest Society on logging plans with the objective of treating danger trees along our trails.
- **ACTION:** Daryl and Kevin will develop a message to members about current work to assess danger trees and how to treat and invite comments. There will be further communication to members after Wetzin'Kwa finalizes logging plans. Any logging will be either summer or early winter.

b) Wolves

- Daryl confirmed that the Conservations Officers are managing the situation and we are keeping in contact and cooperating.

c) Trail Plan

- Kevin discussed trail maintenances & improvement plan with Community Forest Society
- **MOTION:** Steve moves that the Board approve and implement the attached trail plan, subject to funding. Motion #1 in April 20<sup>th</sup> email approved unanimously.
- Discussed trail maintenance funding needs. Several sources of funding are being sought for trail project which could reduce/eliminate the need for funding from trail maintenance budget. Until these sources are confirmed, we will need to plan on spending club funds for basic maintenance. Currently \$4400 remaining unspent in 2016-17 budget out of \$6000 total. \$6000 should be budgeted for 2017-18.

d) Gas Tax Grant / Roofing Project status

- We now have the signed funding contract from the Regional District so Steve told Wally and Brant that they are OK to go ahead with the roofing project and the ceiling project.

e) Restricted Funds

- Our financial records are still being worked on but it looks like we have enough surplus to allocate money to our track setter and buildings restricted funds as planned. We can revise these allocations later if warranted by new information before the end of our fiscal year (June 30).
- **MOTION:** Steve moves that, consistent with the BVCCSC Restricted Fund Plan approved October 6, 2016, the Board allocate \$15,000 into our Track setter Restricted Fund (making a

*Draft prepared May 1, 2017*

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total of \$55,000) and allocate \$10,000 into an Infrastructure [Buildings] Restricted Fund (previously empty). Motion #2 in April 20<sup>th</sup> email approved unanimously.

### f) Allocation of BC Grant

- The \$26,000 grant received recently from the BC Government has no restrictions on it but the roofing project and the need to support volunteers were priorities in discussions with Minister Barnett leading up to this grant and prior to receiving the Gas Tax Funds grant that will pay for most of the roofing project..
- **MOTION:** Steve moves that the board allocate the \$26,000 BC Grant as follows:
  - \$15,000 for purchase and installation of new flooring plus interior painting
  - \$5,000 for a small commercial dishwasher plus couches etc. to improve interior lodge comfort
  - \$4,000 contingency for necessary expenses related to roofing, ceiling, flooring or lodge furnishings.
  - \$2,000 for information technology improvements (weather power, webcam, Google apps, website software update/backup, internet for timing, possible automated grooming reports)

Motion #3 in April 20<sup>th</sup> email approved unanimously.

### g) Deferred Income

- NSDP started the year with \$25,000 to facilitate start-up prior to receiving program fees and grants. Now that all program funding has been received, at least \$25,000 should be made available for next year's start-up by deferring the surplus to next year. Regarding the BC Grant money, approximately \$20,000 of the allocation approved above will be spent in early fall, during our next fiscal year.
- **MOTION:** Steve moves that the board defer to next year \$25,000 within the NSDP Support program and \$20,000 from the BC Grant which will be used in the Nordic Centre program for next fiscal.
- Motion #4 in April 20<sup>th</sup> email approved unanimously.

## 4) Dates for next meetings

- May 4 at the Forestry Building
- 

Meeting adjourned approximately 8:45 pm

*Draft prepared May 1, 2017*

*Please refer to the minutes of the subsequent board meeting for approval or revisions.*

**From:** secretary@bvnordic.ca  
**Sent:** April 20, 2017 2:54 PM  
**To:** 6bels.sb@gmail.com; Daryl Wilson (chair@bvnordic.ca); info@mcbike.bc.ca; jwcuell@gmail.com; Kara Przeczek (magellan\_08@yahoo.com)  
**Cc:** 'Kevin Kriese (billeterridge@gmail.com)'; 'Irene Ronalds'  
**Subject:** BVCCSC - April board meeting follow-up #1  
**Attachments:** BV Nordic Trail Plan April 2017.pdf  
  
**Importance:** High

Hi Directors,

We did not have a quorum at our April 12 board meeting, so we went ahead with discussions but deferred motions to votes by email. I was away until today so I am sending this out now. (more to come later in another email.) Please vote on the following motions by email. Give me a call if you need clarification on any of this. If you want to make a comment before voting, email the comment to everyone. You can change your vote if you are swayed by someone else's comments.

Trail Plan: We appointed Kevin as the club's representative for working with Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest and the Smithers Community Forest Society about the treatment of danger trees. Kevin and Daryl will develop messaging to our club members about the significance of the dead trees (trail closures if not treated) and that the club is working to find solutions. There will be further communication to members after Wetzin'Kwa finalizes logging plans.

Kevin presented his trail plan of proposed repairs and improvements. Work for this summer will be subject to funding proposals in addition to (or instead of) our trail maintenance budget. The attached plan includes changes discussed at the meeting.

**MOTION #1:** Steve moves that the Board approve and implement the attached trail plan, subject to funding.

Restricted Funds: Our financial records are still being worked on but it looks like we have enough surplus to allocate money to our track setter and infrastructure restricted funds as planned. We can revise these allocations later if warrant by new information before the end of our fiscal year (June 30).

**MOTION #2:** Steve moves that, consistent with the BVCCSC Restricted Fund Plan approved October 6, 2016, the Board allocate \$15,000 into our Track setter Restricted Fund (making a total of \$55,000) and allocate \$10,000 into an Infrastructure Restricted Fund (previously empty).

Allocation of BC Grant: The \$26,000 grant received recently from the BC Government has no restrictions on it but the roofing project and the need to support volunteers were priorities in discussions with Minister Barnett leading up to the grant. Several ideas have been discussed but the following motion was not reviewed at the April board meeting. Let us know if you want to defer consideration of this motion to the next meeting.

**MOTION #3:** Steve moves that the board allocate the \$26,000 BC Grant as follows:

- \$15,000 for purchase and installation of new flooring plus interior painting
- \$5,000 for a small commercial dishwasher plus couches etc. to improve lodge comfort
- \$4,000 contingency for necessary expenses related to roofing, ceiling, flooring or lodge furnishings.
- \$2,000 for information technology improvements (weather power, webcam, Google apps, website software update/backup, internet for timing, possible automated grooming reports)

Deferred Income: NSDP started the year with \$25,000 to facilitate start-up prior to receiving program fees and grants. Now that all program funding has been received, at least \$25,000 should be made available for next year's start-up by deferring the surplus to next year. If Motion #3 was approved, approximately \$20,000 of it will be spent in early fall, during our next fiscal year.

**MOTION #4:** Steve moves that the board defer to next year \$25,000 within the NSDP Support program and \$20,000 from the BC Grant which is in the membership program.

Steve Osborn

Club Secretary

[Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club](#)

250-877-8595

**Trail Plan**

**Date: April 2017**

This plan is approved by the Board of the BV Cross Country Ski Club and describes our plans to maintain, improve and expand the cross country ski trails.

**Annual Maintenance**

**Current Situation**

Annual maintenance ensures trails are brush free and ski-able. Generally annual maintenance includes; mowing, hand brushing, ensuring signage is maintained, and safety equipment is in place. In general, maintenance has been adequate but especially in low snow years the trails have had more brush than desired and signage has deteriorated. In some years more hand brushing would be desirable. Tractor mowing is the most effective method, and has been limited by the number of people who are trained or interested. There are also several trails where the mower can only access in the very driest seasons (and are not accessible in some years at all). Improvements on these trails (mostly Pine Creek) would make mowing by the tractor much more reliable). There is anecdotal evidence that some members would like to assist with brushing but have not been asked and don't know what to do. The tractor and mower are excellent assets that need regular maintenance but no major replacement or improvements are considered necessary for many years.

**Goals**

- Mow or brush all trails at least every two years
- Close mow a designated network of "early season" trails every year so that they can be skied with a very shallow snow base (map to be developed: Broadway, logging roads, Pooch, Northern Lights)
- Annually inspect and repair all signs and junction markers;
- Annually place safety equipment (1<sup>st</sup> aid buckets) at designated sites.

**Strategies**

- Recruit and train two additional tractor "mowers" by June. Resp: trail coordinator
- Organize a fall brushing plan; Resp: Trail Coordinator
- Carry out annual sign and safety check; Resp: TBD
- Treat Danger Tree hazard; Resp Trail Coordinator
  - Coordinate with Wetzin'Kwa community forest can treat
  - Seek support from Wildfire crews via Recreation, Sites and Trails BC
  - If necessary, hire danger tree faller or feller buncher for untreated areas

**Trail Plan**

**Trail Improvements**

**Current Situation**

The Nordic centre maintains a total network of 45 km including 5.5 km of lit trails. Most trails were constructed at low cost with very little funding to prepare a proper graded or ditched bed. In high snow years, the deep snow cover addresses all rough places including rocks and stumps but in low snow years the rough trail beds make the trails unusable or challenging. A few places on the trails were constructed with minor grading/slope issues where they do not meet accepted cross country ski standards (“homologation”).

Each year for the past decade, the club has undertaken one or two minor improvements and slowly the quality of the network is improving. The major challenge today is the impact of low snow or late snow given the rough quality of the base for most trails. With projected climate change, there is a risk that later and lower snow will negatively impact the season. Better trail preparation will help maintain the season, especially by allowing skiing on a lower snow depth than is currently possible. Traditionally the BV Nordic Centre has had one of the longest cross country ski seasons in BC, with only Sovereign lake as a major center that offers skiing earlier or later on a consistent basis.

In some years, skiing quality is negatively affected where small streams freeze and overflow the trail, creating a sheet of ice. Another challenge with the trails is the inability to access some areas with the tractor; therefore they cannot be mowed and must be hand brushed which is much more labour intensive.

**Goals**

- Improve early season and low snow skiing on designated “Early Season” trail network
- Improve trail access for tractor to allow almost all trails to be mowed by tractor;
- Address areas that experience frequent water “overflow”; and
- Reduce ongoing costs and maintenance effort for lighting by moving to LED lighting

**Strategies:**

- Undertake improvements to the base for “Early Season Trails”. Base will allow skiing on less than 30 cm of snow
  - Map 1 shows designated Early Season Trails.
  - Improvements include installation of culverts, ditching, and grading of a sub-bed.
- Improve mower access and undertake general trail repairs;
  - Map 2 shows the location of proposed repairs.
- Apply for funding in 2017 or 2018.
  - RSTBC has confirmed partial support for this project for 2017
  - Apply for grants to Wetzinkwa Community Forest and potentially other sources for the remainder
- Replace existing lights with LED lighting; depends on funding. Complete an investigation in 2017 or 2018.

**Trail Plan**

**Trail Expansions**

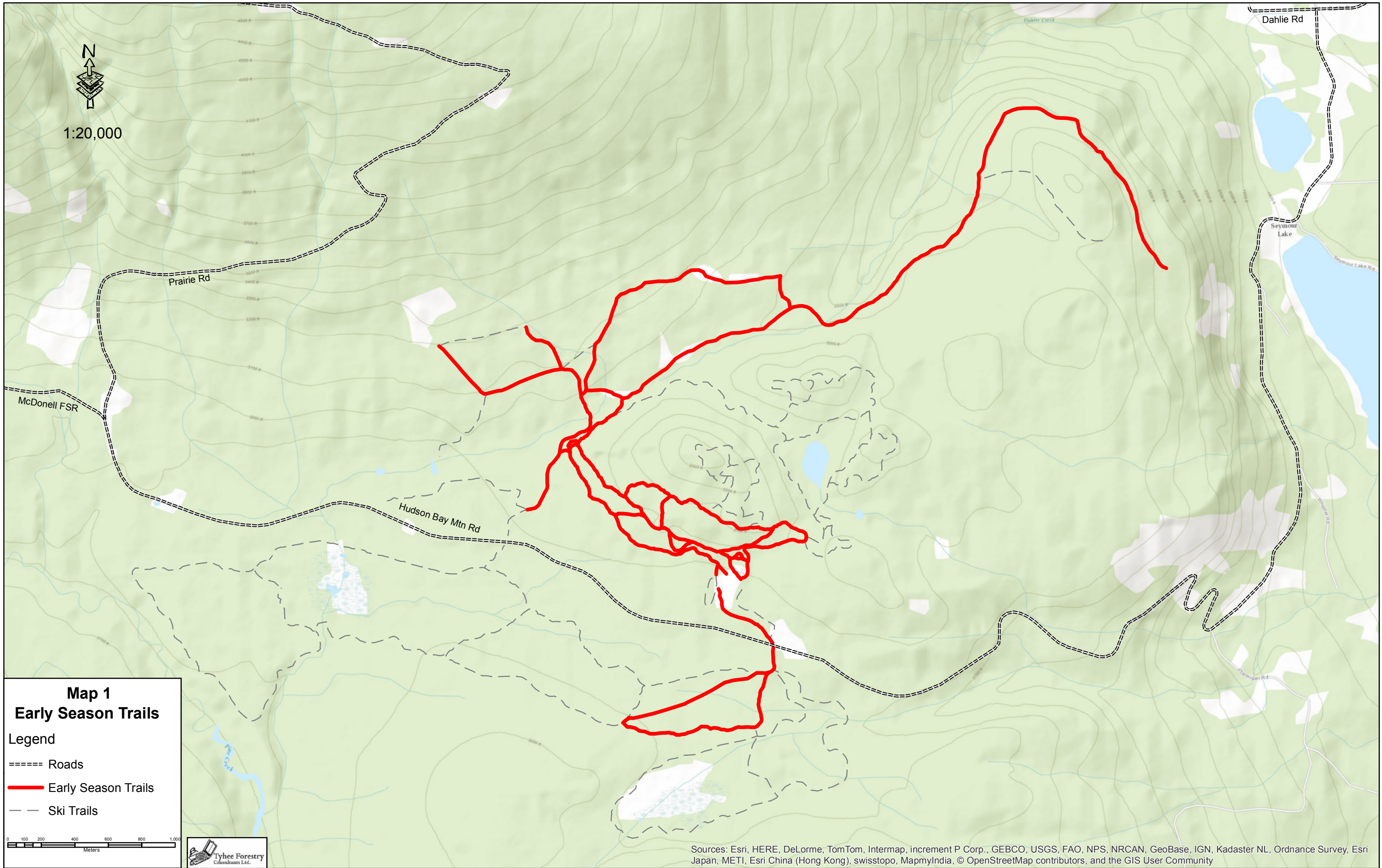
In general, the club believes the size and diversity of trails is adequate. There is always a demand for 'more' trails, but the extra cost of tracksetting and maintenance can exceed the clubs capacity. There is room over the medium term, for a few specific new trails where they would either be easy to maintain (logging road type expansions), would be low cost (done in concert with community forest activities) or would simplify tracksetting by eliminating "out and back" tracksetting today. In addition, there is a desire by some members to have a small cabin as a destination for day use.

**Potential projects:**

This list is preliminary. If funding is received the trails will be located in the field and a formal proposal submitted.

- New Biathlon loop; approximately 200 m trail connecting the tunnel trail to the lower biathlon stadium. This trail will allow skiers to ski uphill into the range and increase the level of difficulty to simulate race conditions;
- Valleyview connector; from end of Valleyview to Perimeter to create a longer "destination" ski;
- Wetzin'Kwa connector; from end of Wetzin'Kwa, north to end demo forest trail (or via "zipper twister"). Would allow current "out and back" tracksetting on the Demonstration forest road and Wetzinkwa to be eliminated;
- Dog trail expansion to southeast of Pooch Paradise. Provide an additional 2 to 4 km "stacked loop" to create a longer dog trail.
- Race loops; potential new steep and curve loops inside the 2.5 km lit trail. Similar to "Northern" lights loop at Otway and targeted at more challenging and varied courses for racers and advanced skiers.
- Day use cabin about 1 km from end of Valleyview trail, or on connector from Valleyview to Perimeter. Would be a "destination" ski.
- Biathlon Target roof; construct a roof for biathlon targets, similar to Omineca ski club. Improves target performance and significantly reduces volunteer effort to shovel and clean targets.





1:20,000



Prairie Rd

McDonell FSR

Hudson Bay Mtn Rd

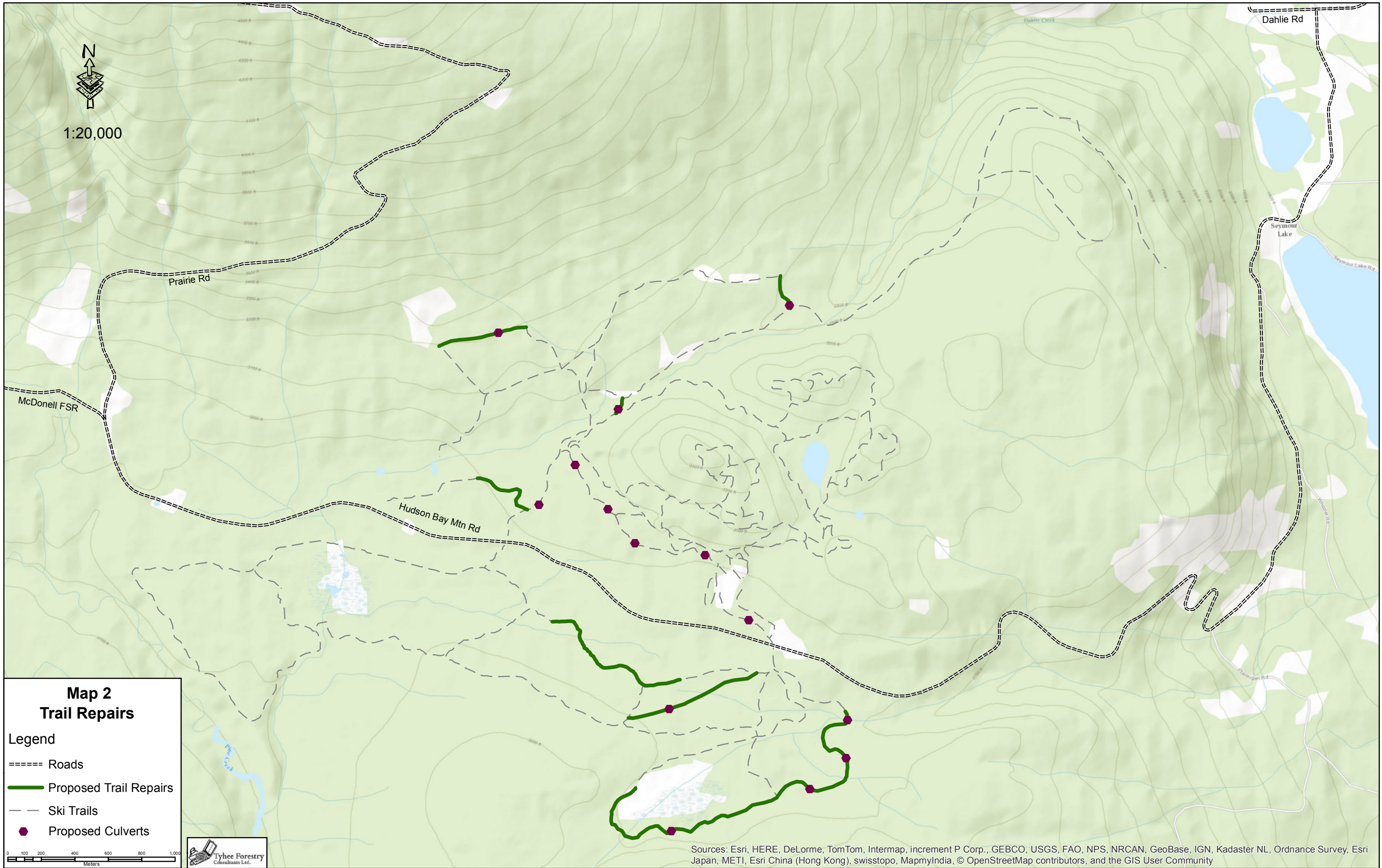
Dahlie Rd

Seymour Lake

Seymour Lake Rd

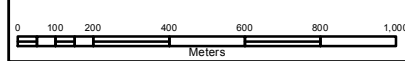
Wynne Rd

Plumage Rd

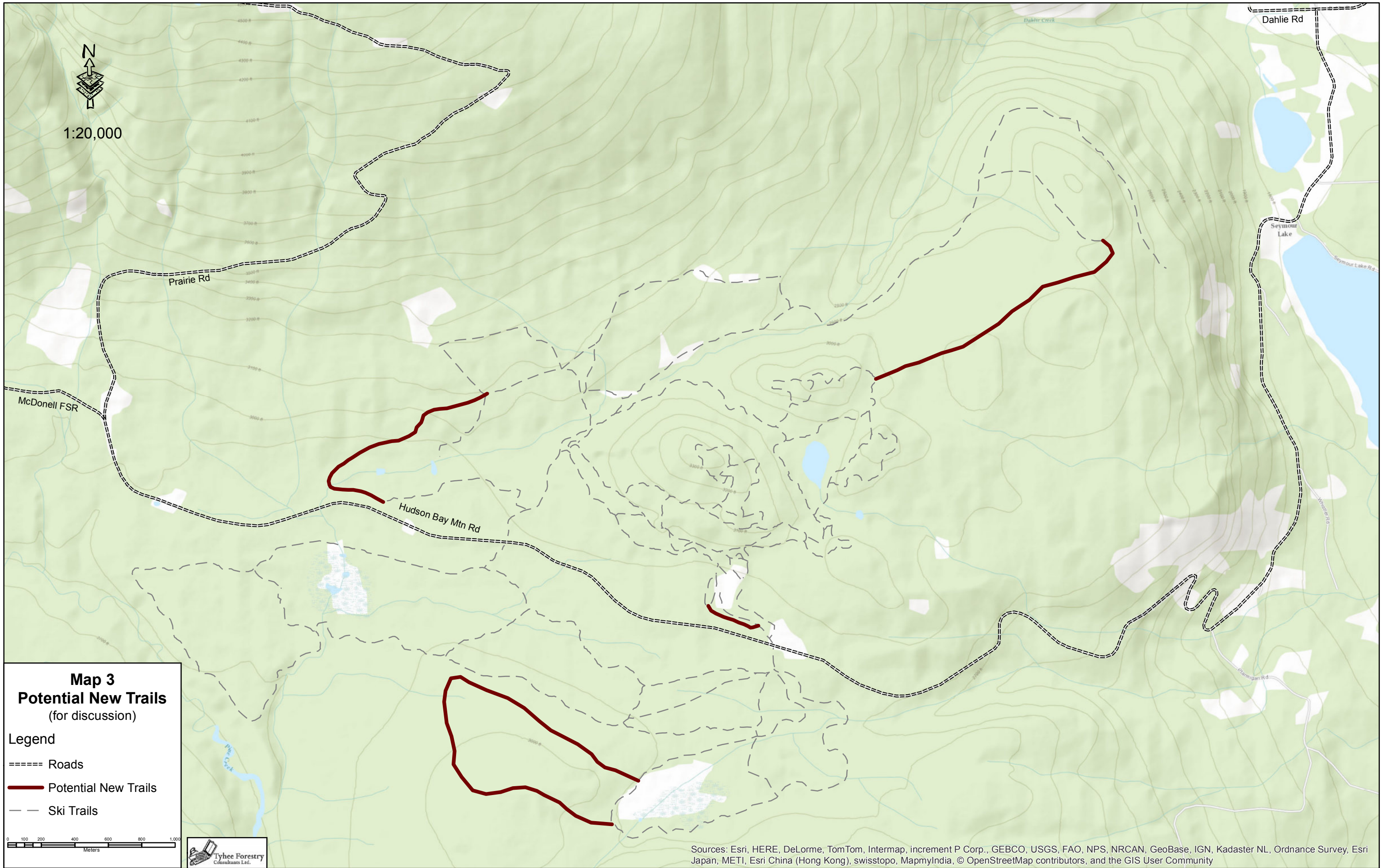


**Map 2  
Trail Repairs**

- Legend**
- ==== Roads
  - Proposed Trail Repairs
  - Ski Trails
  - Proposed Culverts



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



1:20,000

**Map 3**  
**Potential New Trails**  
 (for discussion)

**Legend**

- ==== Roads
- Potential New Trails
- Ski Trails

0 100 200 400 600 800 1,000  
 Meters

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community