

The Rossland Range Recreation Site



Recreation Sites
and Trails BC



MARCH 2016 NEWS

The Rossland Range Recreation Site is approximately 4,450 hectares of the Rossland Range high country, designated for public recreation by the Ministry of Forests and managed by the community under an agreement between the Ministry's Recreation Sites and Trails Branch and the Friends of the Rossland Range Society (FORRS).

This winter, the Rec Site has been filled with people from far and wide, enjoying skiing, alpine touring, snowshoeing, fat biking, and our unique "lunch cabins" experience. Our three new cabins - Mosquito, Lepsoe Basin and Viewpoint - have been much appreciated. They are often filled with children. Fun!

A Plea: Being at a popular crossroads, Mosquito Cabin has been running short of firewood. If you would like the benefit of some weight-bearing exercise, please consider carrying in a few pieces of firewood for Mosquito. Thanks!

Parking:

People say this is their number one priority at present. FORRS has been working with the Ministry of Transport and other stakeholders on possible projects to create more parking:

- a. a new, large lot at the Crowe FSR entrance;
- b. doubling the size of the existing lot at Strawberry Pass;
- c. a parking strip near the Murphy Creek FSR entrance;
- d. utilizing the existing pull-out a kilometer north of Strawberry Pass, with new trails accessing the Mt. Crowe area.

Parking lots that cannot be easily cleared by the Ministry of Transportation's contractor as part of general road ploughing would likely have to be cleared by the community at considerable cost, so we are focusing on options that can be maintained with a fast sweep by a passing plough truck.

FORRS BOARD

Chair:

Kim Deane
kim@rosslandrange.org
250.362.5648

Directors:

Les Carter
les@rosslandrange.org
250.362.5677

Stewart Spooner
stewart@rosslandrange.org
250.362.5905

Bob Bechaud
bob@rosslandrange.org
250.362.7419

Jenny Coleshill
trax4tracks@rosslandrange.org
250.362.7474

Rejean Paquin
rejean@rosslandrange.org
250.362.6809

Troy Colautti
troy@rosslandrange.org
250.362.3329

Colin Adamson
colin@rosslandrange.org
250.362.9126

Max Bankes
max@rosslandrange.org
250.362.9190

Laura Mackav
laura@rosslandrange.org
250.368.1582

Support:

Sheree Sonfield
sheree@rosslandrange.org
Website and Newsletters
250.362.7419



Ploughing of the Strawberry Pass lot has been much improved this winter, as has public awareness of the need to park with later arrivals in mind. Good work all round!



Three-year Work Plan (2015 - 2017):

FORRS has raised \$260,000 for the 2015 - 2017 Rec Site work plan. Based on our experience in 2015, we expect the value of volunteer time and donated materials amounts to about that much again. A big thank you to the Rec Sites and Trails Branch, Columbia Basin Trust, Canada 150, the Lower Columbia Community-Directed Funds program, the Kootenay Mountaineering Club, and the many other donors and volunteers who have made generous contributions!

In 2015, with a budget of about \$30,000, including a generous donation of \$10,700 from the Kootenay Mountaineering Club, our volunteers completed 3 new cabins: Lepsoe Basin, Mosquito, and Viewpoint.

In 2016, we are proposing projects totaling about \$125,000 worth of work:

- Restoration of the Old Glory Fire Lookout (jointly with the Rec Sites and Trails Branch)
- Four new cabins – Sunspot, Surprise, Rock & Roll, and Not So Secret
- New parking (see above)
- Spacing overly-dense forest and creating access corridors and trails (several possible projects, e.g. from Strawberry Pass to the Mosquito Cabin flats, likely in stages; slopes below Lepsoe Basin Cabin)
- Cleanup of old hut sites and other debris
- Signs about things like safety, the Rec Site and what it means, proper use, routes, and more.

We expect the 2017 project list to be similar, totaling about \$105,000, with two more cabins developed.

Please feel free to contact a FORRS director if you have any ideas or concerns about the Rec Site work plan for the next two years. We appreciate your input.

(For a list of FORRS directors and their contact information, see www.rosslandrange.org.)

New Director:

The FORRS Board has appointed Laura Mackay as our eleventh director. Welcome Laura!

New Maps:

We now have 3 new maps on www.rosslandrange.org:

- a. A map of the heavily-used area north of the Strawberry Pass parking lot, with current cabins, Forest Service roads and popular informal routes, designed to print well in black and white on 8 ½ x 11 inch paper. Nice and clear!
- b. A similar map of the area south of the Strawberry Pass parking lot.
- c. A revised version of the “big” map showing the entire Rec Site, with changes to match the information on the new 8 ½ x 11 maps.

Bonanza Creek Recreation Site:

The Bonanza Creek area (in the Highway 3 high country towards Christina Lake) is an existing provincial Recreation Site of many years' standing.

A group, based mostly in Christina Lake and Castlegar, has formed to revitalize the Rec Site, starting with the restoration of the Gordon Kier cabin. In consultation with the District Recreation Officer, the FORRS directors have agreed to make our status as a registered society available to the Bonanza group for the purpose of applying for cabin funding. This is a one-time situation, but we hope it will inspire a new organization similar to FORRS to carry the Bonanza Rec Site forward.

Memberships:

FORRS memberships are now a mere \$5/person for a lifetime. Your membership counts! The more FORRS members there are, the more weight we have with governments and funders. If you are not yet a member, you can go to www.rosslandrange.org, and click on “Join Now.”

Thanks!

See more information, become a member of FORR, donate and/or sign up to receive newsletters:
www.rosslandrange.org

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

[Click here](#) to forward this email to a friend

Rossland, BC V0G 1Y0
Canada

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

