

k'yuwaatl'aagee / k'yuwaatl'aagaay

The Haida Gwaii Trails Strategy

Misty Isles Economic Development Society

Report on the Public and Stakeholder Consultation Process

for Stage 1:

Parameters and Results

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1. Executive Summary

Island residents and stakeholders who contributed their input to the consultation process provided a total 32 completed questionnaires. This is considered a high number of responses for this type of consultation. The questionnaires contained an average of 13 questions each, and some of the questions required considerable time to complete.

The questionnaires focused on issues that were identified through review of existing documents, including a previous attempt at an islands-wide trails strategy¹, Conversations with stakeholders and the public helped to clarify the issues needing to be addressed through public consultation at this stage.

In addition to the questionnaires, individuals were interviewed on specific issues by telephone and e-mail, and field trips took place with stakeholders to help to identify what role the Haida Gwaii Trails Strategy project can play in affecting an integrated trails strategy for the islands.

39 trails were identified as being used regularly. The thoughtful and professional responses provided by both public and stakeholders indicate a deep interest in trail hiking and bicycling, and this demonstrates that trails and bicycling are an integral aspect of the local lifestyle.

Very specific comments and proposals have been provided in the questionnaire responses, and related e-mails and telephone conversations, and these cannot be summarized. Therefore the responses themselves are the heart of this document and further analysis of these responses is provided in section 6, *Interpretation and Recommendations*. In order to continue to actively engage these invested individuals and groups, the development of an Islands-wide trail strategy should be transparent and public consultation should be an essential component of trail system management going forward.

Stakeholders have plans in place to maintain and promote trails in their jurisdictions, but sufficient funds to maintain these trails is a challenge that they all face. Various jurisdictions have various trails standards, but all are interested in what an islands-wide approach could mean to trail system improvement, tourism marketing, and economic development.

During the consultation process some people wanted to know more about the professional background of the Researcher and Coordinator of this project and therefore a short

¹ see Bibliography 1

biography is provided at the end of this report.

Public Questionnaire Summary

All Public Questionnaires, including Bicyclists, ATV Users, Horse Riders and Educators: 25

Number of Respondents per community:

QC: 8

Tlell: 1

Tow Hill Road Community: 4

Sandspit: 0

Port Clements: 3

Masset: 7

Old Massett: 1

Skidegate: 0

Chiinukundl / Miller Creek: 1

Schools that responded to e-call for completed educators' questionnaires:

George Mercer Dawson High School, Masset: 2

Queen Charlotte secondary school: 1 – Bicycling Questionnaire

Living and Learning School, Queen Charlotte: 1

Stakeholder Questionnaire Summary

The following Stakeholders completed the stakeholder questionnaire:

Recreational Sites and Trails British Columbia, a Branch of the Ministry of Natural Resource Management

Old Massett Village Council, via the Old Massett Economic Development Office

Over the Hill Hikers Group, Queen Charlotte

Outfitter 1

Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve

Tlell Watershed Society

2. Parameters for the Consultation Process

The Public and Stakeholder Consultation Process is an essential part of Stage 1 of k'yuwaatl'aagee, / k'yuwaatl'aagaay, the Haida Gwaii Trails Strategy (HGTS). Consultation with the Islands' stakeholders had taken place in the past² and provided a base for moving forward

² *Mount Moresby Adventure Camp Society Trail Inventory Initiative (Island Trail Classification and Marketing Initiative). An Initiative to Create the All-Islands Trail Alliance. Working towards*

with a more focused consultation process. Stakeholders are defined as governments within whose jurisdiction public trails exist, non-governmental organizations with trail interests, individuals with demonstrated interest and investment in public trails, and outfitters. For the purposes of this process the word 'Outfitter' has been used to represent various Tourism Operators and Guide Outfitters

Transparency of the consultation process was addressed through advertising of the process in all available media and through making all reports public. Following is a list of media used for the project and consultation process:

- ✓ Posters were put up in all of the islands' post offices advertising the public consultation period and methods for obtaining a questionnaire
- ✓ 1/3rd page advertisement was placed in the local islands-based weekly newspaper for 2 weeks, with one week separating insertions. During the week separating the advertisement weeks, an article was submitted to same newspaper describing the HGTS, and providing another advertisement of the consultation period.
- ✓ 1/8 page advertisement was placed in the Northern View, a North West regional, weekly newspaper for 2 weeks. This newspaper is inserted to most islands' post office boxes (except for those residents who do not accept flyers) and is free.
- ✓ Notice of the public consultation period was placed in the Coming Events Sections of both newspapers noted in previous 2 points, for duration of the consultation period
- ✓ A webpage was set-up for the HGTS on the Misty Isles Economic Development Society website. It briefly described the Project and questionnaires were made available for download.
- ✓ A *Basecamp* (on-line Collaboration Software) was developed for information sharing with the MIEDS Board Members and the Haida Gwaii Trail Advisory Committee. All documents produced by the HGTS Project are posted to this site.

The Bibliography at the end of this report provides a list of documents that were referenced in the development of the questionnaires used in this consultation process.

3 a.) Public Consultation Questionnaire Responses

Under each question are all of the responses received for that question. ***Spelling and grammar has not been changed from original responses.*** The responses are organized so that each individual is represented sequentially. For example, the 3rd bulleted response under question 2

A unified Trail Strategy funded by, The South Moresby Forest Replacement Account (SMFRA), Ebbs, J. 2007. On file with the Gwaii Forest Charitable Trust and the Mount Moresby Adventure Camp Society.

was provided by the same responder are the 3rd bulleted response under question 1.

Questionnaires included under this heading are the Public, Bicyclists', Horse Riders', ATV Riders', and Educators' Questionnaires.

It should be noted that the last 3 responses to the questions below were completed by 3 individuals who submitted their responses as a group, and used "ditto" to indicate same response as their colleagues.

Public Consultation Questionnaire Responses

1. How often do you use trails?

- At least once a week
- 6 times per year on average.
- about 3 times a week, if you also count the deer/bear trails in the forest, else about once every couple weeks because there are almost no trails available where I go
- Often in the summer, (several times a week), less often in the winter (weather dependent). As a tourist accommodation we refer most of our guests to trails on a daily basis.
- A few times a year.
- Every day on North Beach by ops and probably at least every month our family tries to get out an access Tlell or other trails on island.
- Frequently ... 2-3 times per week as part of a hiking group and as an individual.
- once every week or two
- Daily
- Periodically, more so in the spring and summer months, mostly on weekends
- Not very often
- once per week
- frequently
- frequently
- weekly

2. What activities do you engage in, in association with trails (e.g. camping, hunting, mountain biking, etc.) ?

- Mostly hiking and beachcombing
- Taking visitors on tours, wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, outing experience, etc.
- going for a walk, camping, hunting
- Hiking, dog walking, picnics, family time, refer our guests (tourists) as part of their island experience, camping, fishing
- Hiking for the day.
- Camping, surfing, and fishing mainly
- Hiking and geocaching with some camping.
- hiking, occasional biking. Would go swimming if the trail went to a lake
- Hiking, dog-walking, hunting, berry picking, mushroom picking, picking? exploring the forest, etc..

- Dirt Biking, Quadding, offloading, camping, hiking, fishing, hunting
- Camping, hunting & fishing.
- ...use trails for mountain-climbing, camping, hunting, pleasure, health, food-gathering. Their son – mountain-biking when he's here.
- mountain-climbing, camping, hunting, pleasure, health, food-gathering, discovery with, peace of mind, in the past have used for environmental education workshops/field trips
- "ditto" above: mountain-climbing, camping, hunting, pleasure, health, food-gathering, discovery with, peace of mind, in the past have used for environmental education workshops/field trips
- walking

3. Please provide a list of the trails that you use most often.

- Tarundel/Lina narrows loop, Tlell River both sides, Dunes and Pesuta, Rennell Sound, Riley Creek and Bonanza Beach, Agate Beach, Tow Hill
- Sunset Trail, Golden Spruce Trail, Kumdis Divide Trail, Camera Case trail, Lower Yakoun Trail
- bear/deer trails in Naikoon old growth, dune trails/ roads along the beach/ old homestead roads, Tow Hill
- Spirit Lake Trail, 2 trails into Lena Narrows, Honna River, Sleeping Beauty, Spirit Lake Connector, Haden Turner Park, Look Out Point, Pseuda, Tlell River, Gore Brook, Cape Fife, White Creek, pontoons, Riley Creek, Bonanza Beach, Gregory Beach, Yakoun Lake, Secret Cove, Port Clements campground trails,
- Towhill trail, White Creek trail.
- Anvil trail-Tlell, Pzuta, Ops trails on the beach, Tow Hill trail, Cape Fife, Riley Creek trail, Bonaza Creek, pontoons, Mosquito Mountain trail, Pallent Creek trail, Sleeping Beauty
- no answer
- North Beach. Tow Hill. Cape Fife. Tlell River Mouth/Pesuta Shipwreck. Spirit Lake.
- None of the "trails" that I use are publically advertised.
- Yakoun Lake for fishing & camping, the wagon/settler trails in Miller Creek/Lawn Hill for offroading/dirtbiking/quading, the connector trail behind Charlotte for Hiking, Slatechuck trail for offroading/dirtbiking/quading, Sleeping beauty for hiking – all de-activate forest service roads
- Sunset Trails Port Clements & Golden Spruce Trail.
- Delkatla Sanctuary forest trail, forest trails near Masset cemetery*, Cape Fife, Sleeping Beauty*, Tow Hill trails*, White Creek, Four Corners, Spirit Lake, Pure Lake, Anvil Trail, Tlell River- Pesuta trail, To mouth of Tlell River, Mayer Lake, East Coast, Drizzle lake, Skonun Lake, Dover Trail, Cumshewa Trails – 2, Kiusta Trail
- Tow Hill*, White Creek*, Delkatla Sanctuary*, Not often, but one of my favourites was Pretty John Falls
- mostly walk to the beach, Tow Hill, White Creek, Tlell R.
- Port Clements shoreline park trail & Golden Spruce trail

4. Which trails should be a priority for maintenance/upgrade?

- Tarundel Lina Narrows, Gore Brook, Backyard Trail Queen Charlotte, White Creek, Yakoun Lake, All the Grey Bay area trails, Secret cove
- Sleeping Beauty Trail, Golden Spruce Trail, Sunset Trail, Kumdis Divide Trail.

- Access to ridge behind Tow Hill road for short notice Tsunami evacuation/ Tsunami evacuation of Tow Hill Road members that are not motorized, best would be if there were several access points
- Trails that already see heavy use should be maintained and upgraded if necessary. Other trails that are easily accessible should be upgraded as they have the potential to be well used and a benefit locals or visitors. Trails in Naikoon Park receive heavy use and need to be maintained by the province. Sleeping Beauty, Spirit Lake, Spirit Lake Connector, Gore Brook, Riley Creek, Bonanza Beach, Gregory Beach, Hayden Turner Park, Honna River, Yakoun Lake
- Trails close to access roads and advertised.
- Riley Creek, Mosquito Mnt, Cumshewa trail, Mnt Moresby, pontoons
- Queen Charlotte Backyard trail. Tow Hill inland [White Creek/ 4 corners] trails.
- "Four Corners" (- from Hiellen River), "White Creek - Herald Lakes", "Kumdis Slough", "Yakoun Lake" (names taken from Fern Henderson's book on trails)
- A plan needs to be set up to determine usage rates, and potential usage rates. We should also determine a set of goals, objectives, and standards for different trail types. All current and proposed trails should be walked and assessed for maintenance / upgrades.
- The trails already established and advertised on websites such as queencharlotteislandseh.com. If they're being advertised then visitors will expect them to be maintained to some extent., - I would really like to see a trail put in behind Charlotte that runs it's whole length so that uninsured off-road vehicle have access to the back roads without having to use the beach.
- Golden Spruce Trail
- Cape Fife, Sleeping Beauty, Tow Hill trails, Spirit Lake, Pure Lake, Tlell River, Cumshewa trails
- "ditto"- Cape Fife, Sleeping Beauty, Tow Hill trails, Spirit Lake, Pure Lake, Tlell River, Cumshewa trails + Pettigrew Falls – I'm not sure if the entrance was cleared., Four Corners – wet areas
- "ditto"- Cape Fife, Sleeping Beauty, Tow Hill trails, Spirit Lake, Pure Lake, Tlell River, Cumshewa trails + Pretty John Falls – I'm not sure if the entrance was cleared., Four Corners – wet areas
- Golden Spruce Trail

5. Which trails would you suggest promoting to tourists and local people?

- Tarundel/Lina Narrows, Pesuta/ Dunes at Tlell, White Creek, Grey Bay Trails, Rennell Sound trails, Yakoun Lake(Road needs brushed), Would include the Anvil trail if work is done on it
- Sleeping Beauty Trail, Sunset Trail, Tow Hill Trail, Upper Tlell River Trail.
- Trail up and down white creek, Cape Fife(but only if drinking water was made available there by eg hand-pumped well), trail leading from Tow Hill Road / Alaska view Lodge to Sangan River, best would be a loop, it would be awesome to discover more inland territory unknown to me through flagged trails, Tourists and locals would appreciate trails to fishing spots, mushroom picking spots, food gathering sites, Trails for multi day hikes
- All listed in #4.
- Towhill trail, Pesuta trail, Spirit Lake trail.
- All trails have their unique beauty however, my favorites are Anvil trail, Mosquito Mnt, Riley Creek, Cumshewa, and the pontoons.
- All trails ... as long as there are clear markers; and degree of difficulty is listed. Using trails keeps them open, maintained and supported.
- Pesuta Wreck, Cape Fife, Spirit Lake, Tow Hill
- See Florence Henderson's book. It is available at the Qaay Centre
- The ones that are properly marked and advertised – the anvil trail, sleeping beauty, spirit lake,

the Pesuta, Tow Hill & Blowhole, wagon trails, etc.

- Golden Spruce trail, Spirit Lake Trail, Cape Fife.
- Cape Fife, Sleeping Beauty, Tow hill trails, Spirit lake, Pure Lake, to the mouth of Tlell, Four Corners up past Tow Hill, Dover Trail, Cumshewa trails, Four Corners
- “ditto”- Cape Fife, Sleeping Beauty, Tow hill trails, Spirit lake, Pure Lake, to the mouth of Tlell, Four Corners up past Tow Hill, Dover Trail, Cumshewa trails, Four Corners
- “ditto”- Cape Fife, Sleeping Beauty, Tow hill trails, Spirit lake, Pure Lake, to the mouth of Tlell, Four Corners up past Tow Hill, Dover Trail, Cumshewa trails, Four Corners + the canoe walk near Juskatla, Golden Spruce Trail
- Golden Spruce Trail, Port Clements Shoreline park

6. What kind of interpretive opportunities would you like to see for interest/educational purposes?

- Interpretation of old trees, fish bearing streams, forest ecology (enclosures are great)
Bog areas
The old railway beds on Moresby should be used for trails, interest and education.
- Training and support for local Tour Guides to operate interpretive tours that focus on historical uses, natural attributes, etc.
- Canopy walk
- Well marked trails, interpretive signage about the flora, fauna and ecology. Prince Rupert’s (forgot the name of the trail system along the ocean?) a good example. Local plants, cultural significance, and remote island ecology(what makes us different).
Would like to see brochures developed for retail with plant/bird/animal identification that’s either specific to different ecological areas ie forest, bog, dune or intertidal or for specific trails that visitors can use to self guide.
- I would like to see talks about the vegetation, animals, trees, Haida history.
- I would love to see cultural relevant re: the area, plants, fish, and animals along the trails. The history behind the trails.
- Every single trail has this opportunity where, historical, natural and cultural information can and should be shared...
- Historical and Natural History Plaques
- A new trails booklet to replace the one by Florence Henderson (The Little Red Book). It is getting dated.
- Getting the school kids involved is always a great idea – there could be trails that educated the important of CMT’s or midden, or have indigenous flora marked, points of interest, etc.
- no answer
- Identify (grade) trails – a stroll or a hike, - time estimate, - seasoned hiker? map of trail posted at trail entrance., Clear identification of beginning of trail, bog interpretation boardwalk just south of Masset
- Clear identification of beginning of trail, Identify (grade) trails – a stroll or a hike, My pet wish – a bog interpretation board walk just south of Masset – historical/plant id/ecosyst Alpine plant id in a small patch of Sleeping Beauty?, Map of trail posted at trail entrance., There are mini-trails within Masset – GMD’s planted forest has thrived- signage support? to GMD to post a sign – history of project, the natural diversity, compared to mowed lawn.
- “ditto” - Clear identification of beginning of trail, Identify (grade) trails – a stroll or a hike, My pet wish – a bog interpretation board walk just south of Masset – historical/plant id/ecosyst

Alpine plant id in a small patch of Sleeping Beauty?, Map of trail posted at trail entrance., There are mini-trails within Masset – GMD’s planted forest has thrived- signage support? to GMD to post a sign – history of project, the natural diversity, compared to mowed lawn. + the bog walk could be like the Pacific rim bog walk – it’s very wide, on pilings, with a bench half way – ½ km. circles round – so parts of it aren’t immediately visible, interpretive/plant signs on Golden Spruce trail

- foliage identification / Photos, bird identification Photos

7. What new local employment possibilities (jobs) and businesses do you envision as a result of a strategic approach to trail management?

- Trail maintenance seasonal work for locals
- 1) Tour Business that supply total service i.e. Transportation, interpretive guiding, liaison with land managers, 2) Full time trail management and maintenance team.
- Tree climbing business, availability of safe, flagged and published trail system would attract more tourists and would keep them busy here longer! The whole tourism industry would benefit
- Trail maintenance crews; guides for walks; non personal interpretation development ie signage, brochures, maps; trail development for special use ie quads, trail bikes, bicycles, some wheel chair accessible trails.
- Promote through existing business. Encourage people in the area of interest who have hands on information create a summer time schedule for tourist and local interest.
- I see the tourism industry growing with opportunities in guiding, trail development and interpretation, and cultural and art exposure for people on islands to sell their works.
- If funding becomes available there would be trail building jobs and business could develop trail guiding. I wouldn’t want the “commercial aspect” to divert the essential necessity for locals to have these recreational opportunities.
- Building and Maintaining trails, increased tourism. If bike trails were built and promoted, then more B&B business along the route eg at Tlell and Port. Probably more bike rental business as many would fly in and bike if possible.
- The sky is the limit.
- Planning opportunities, locally harvested and milled wood and construction materials, local workers to do the groundwork, signage, advertising & promotion
- Trails Supervisor or groundskeeper.\
- ongoing maintenance jobs, signage and maintenance of signs, opportunity to sell hiking equipment.
- locally – improved health and appreciation
- “ditto” - ongoing maintenance jobs, signage and maintenance of signs, opportunity to sell hiking equipment. + At Masset graveyard beach – road into dunes needs a sign: 4 wheel drive past this point.
- no answer

8. Do you foresee any problems with promotion of trails as a tourism activity on Haida Gwaii?

- If they are not maintained, or have poor access it is hard to promote.
- The usual political mindset that prevails whereby each community wants it all for themselves! There will also be some locals that will oppose trails near them because of the perceived negative impacts like garbage, noise, increased traffic, etc.

- no
- Not as long as the trails are upgraded first and then maintained. Our trails become creeks or suffer heavy erosion and tree root damage without upgrading or surfacing before use. Safety requirements (i.e. tides, logging roads) and level of difficulty should be clearly posted.
- Yes, if the trails are not maintained and not well signed or marked.
- Well like any resource is it is important to monitor usage and soil impaction. I see bear problems like Sooke and Port Renfrew on Victoria Island could be a potential challenge. Further, with the opening up of trails the leave what you find is harder to manage. As I have noticed with Riley Creek trail now that it is exposed with flagging tape it is hard to find abalone shells and other shells. (I have also noticed this with other countries I have travelled too as their beaches are barren of the once loaded with beautiful shells. Management and signage should be in place to share with future generations the uniqueness of our lands.
- No problems as long as educational materials[how we want hikers to behave] are clear and widely distributed ... no one should get lost ... if over use becomes a problem then, the trail was not built well enough or it should be monitored and closed for periods for recovery. Trails location is one of the most asked questions of Visitors [confirm at Queen Charlotte Visitor Centre]
- No
- Trails may require CHN, Lands, Communities, private land owners approval, or buy in. Some people may not want trails in areas they traditionally pick in, or regard their own. All plans for trails, upgrades and maintenance should be brought to the public for input.
- Not at all – I would encourage it as a sustainable tourism opportunity that encourages physical fitness and an appreciation of the outdoors & natural environment. – I would encourage different trails for different uses – hikers don’t want to share trails with motorized off-road vehicles, there should be designated trails for all types of users.
- None
- Without some clear rules, there could be harm. ie. Don’t pick layslippers., rule on archaeological finds, endangered plants/animals, hiking etiquette, Visitors should understand tidal waters and rivers.
- “ditto” - Without some clear rules, there could be harm. ie. Don’t pick layslippers., rule on archaeological finds, endangered plants/animals, hiking etiquette, Visitors should understand tidal waters and rivers. , And why. ie. Kiusta trail is heavily used by camp/ gets muddy. This isn’t really a trail, but hiking from Masset Island to 7 Mile – it’s really bear country and I don’t think it could handle a lot of hikers. Also, the Anvil? bears. Impact on animal/plant life should be an important factor.
- No, because the opposite is ATVs and other less environmentally friendly activities
- not as long as these trails are maintained to avoid liability

9. Can you tell us about any current specific issues you may have with specific trails? For example: ‘It is too easy to get lost on “x” trail because there are not enough directional signs.

- Access such as Yakoun Lake the road in needs to be brushed out regularly, Anvil trail too long without maintenance or upgraded trail markers,
- 1) There are not enough short, low gradient, nature trails for older people and those that don’t have all day to spend hiking. 2) Quality maps of specific trails are few. 3) The longer trails need to be marked for low light and or night time navigation. 4) All trails should be managed & maintained by a single public entity with a stable source of funds to cover all facets required.

5) Need to develop an “experience rating” for trails so that hikers are forewarned what to expect and if they meet the criteria.

- n/a

- no answer

- Yes some of the trails in Tlell are not maintained and are too dangerous to hike because of some of the large trees that have fallen which can take you off the main path, could get lost.

- The Anvil trail in Tlell could use a bit of an upgrade on signage instead of the color coded trail scheme. However, it is way better than it was.

Cumshewa needs a complete overhaul. Mosquito Mountain trail needs signage and maintenance. Riley needs upgrades to its trail and signage. Riley needs a bridge to cross the river. Pontoons needs walkways built because of the sheer wetness of that trail. Mnt. Moresby needs signage as it is hard to find.

- All island trails should be clearly marked, gps-ed, and degree of difficulty listed and advertised. I do not believe that trails should be secret knowledge that should be hidden ... users need to be guardians and educators. I personally have had trouble following the “popular guide book” I understand there are 2 projects involved in a possible new booklet.

- All the trails I listed for improvement are in sad shape, and it’s easy to get off the track.

- What Haida Gwaii needs is a Trails Champion, someone willing and dedicated to work together with Communities, Parks, etc., to ensure that trails are being effectively maintained, promoted, and are economically sustainable.

- I would like to see the extensions of the Spirit Lake trails brought up to the same standard as the rest of them.

- The Golden Spruce Trail is a horrible mess. Who is responsible for the upkeep of this trail?

- Great job on Tow Hill trails.

- Good job!

- Recently a “trail” was cut between Harrison Ave and Northwest Drive in Masset. Big machine instead of more local workers on foot. Trees cut, branches piled, trees chewed up, blocked off the trail to the CMT. Now a road not a trail.

- no answer

10. What educational programs would you like to see that include use or study of trails?

- Signage indicating historical or ecological interest of each trail.

The enclosure idea is very good and good signage around those

- 1) Orienteering using maps, compasses, & GPS.

2) First Aid including how to avoid and/or treat hypothermia.

3) Trail use Protocol.(respecting the land & people)

- I'd like to see the schools take kids on walks in the forest and when old enough on hikes

- Web of Life, cultural, forest ecology

- I took the course last year that the Colleague put together and would highly recommend it! (BC Natural History Interpretation course through NWCC)

- History, Biology, Ecology, Ornithology, Marine biology, Forestry, Archaeology, Ethno-botany, Anthropology, Physical education, Social Studies, Math. I love trail interpretative signage. For example names of plants and their cultural relevance. There are so many educational opportunities in nature.

- I believe self guided interpretive information is needed for all trails [signage/brochures/?] ... emphasizing safe use and self maintenance of trails. Other opportunities are too great to name. Specifically I do appreciate one of the Yakoun Lake Trails which passes the enclosures [great

educational experience]

- I would think that school could use trails for Science/Biology teaching.
- The sky is the limit.
- I would like to see some kind of publication of trails on Haida Gwaii – including detailed maps with suggestions on what to wear, what to take, how hard the trail is, how long it takes, etc.
- ?
- School field trips, SFU university students on-island
- no answer
- no answer
- Guided tours like M&B use to do for tourists

11. Would you be interested in hosting a public event that highlights a trail?

- Yes could possibly host a hike into an area
- Maybe.
- no answer
- no answer
- No not enough experience.
- NO
- We already do this within our group. In the past I've certainly enjoyed the Sierra Club hikes and the initial hike celebrating the Heritage Tourism Strategy [a foundation document].
- No
- If I were asked
- Personally, no
- no, not personally, perhaps a village group i.e. Tourism Comm.
- no
- no
- no
- no answer

12. Orienteering (off trails) allows the participant to experience nature in a specific way. What is your experience with orienteering? Do you have any comments on how to manage orienteering?

- I have only geocached but it is a fun way to explore an area. I always go with someone who knows how to use a GPS as I don't. It might be nice to offer a map reading one day session for folks to learn how to do this.
- *I have over 45 years of experience orienteering as a commercial guide and surveyor. For on trail orienteering an accurate 1:10,000 water resistant contour map with an good quality compass and well marked trail should suffice. For off trail hiking the afore mentioned equipment plus a GPS receiver that can operate in the bush. Note: These recommendations assume the individual hiker is trained in the use of this equipment.*
- I guess though education, by parents, at Rediscovery, MMAC. I'd love to see those skills taught at school
- Very little experience with orienteering, a little with Geo-caching. Not enough for input.
- I have not done any of that.

- I think this should just be left to the mushroom pickers and people who want this experience. In re: to trails to minimize impact it is better in high use areas to stay on trails.
- Don't manage it ... I don't orienteer but I geocache ... similar but different ... one of the fastest growing new sports around.
- No Experience
- I have taken several classes in Trail Maintenance and Design. I have taken numerous courses in Outdoor Education and Interpretation. Some of those classes and courses including the development of wilderness activity infrastructure. The first step would be determine what "Outdoor Adventure" needs we have or would like to foster, and then find suitable lands and access points. We had several areas for orienteering in the Thunder Bay area, each with its own set of challenges.
- Information at the trailhead should be sufficient – a kiosk or info board showing the trail route and points of interest along the way, perhaps even with coordinates included.
- None
- Orienteering: Rangers do a lot of orienteering. One girl who has been in Rangers for several years, was accepted directly into a university course because she had experience.
- no
- no answer
- no answer

13. Have we missed anything? Please provide any input that the preceding questions have not addressed.

- no answer
- There are numerous short and long trail opportunities such as Sheldon's Lagoon, Grey Bay East & west, Stanley Lake, Yakoun/Florence Loop, Dinan Alpine Trail, Yan to Kiuista beach trail, Great North Road, Big Bend trail, Dinan Falls, Yakoun Lake, etc.
- When establishing trails for overnight hikes, please keep in mind that a fresh water source needs to be available, Please promote installation of a hand pumped well at the Cape Fife cabin. Every year we run into several desperately dehydrated hikers. I'm very concerned that one day someone will die out there!
- Input for the development of new trails, like a trail from Charlotte to Skidegate Landing/Kaay Centre or a trail behind the Village of Queen Charlotte connecting with Gore Brook or a loop trail from Hayden Turner Park to Kagan Bay and back. Trails could be developed in stages but following a master plan.
- no answer
- What would you like to see happen with this study? For me I think there should be a comprehensive strategic planning process where all the groups interested get together and cherish and maintain our trails. There is so much heritage here and trails that have overgrown that it would be amazing to show then off to the local community and the world. (Old Home steads, trapper trails- (i.e. Aero camp trails where there are old tressles.... Simply amazing history and a story with each trail.
- Some locals spent years as part of the All Island Trails alliance ... that information was pulled together. I am very interested in this project ... is there a committee which is reported to; how can we be involved. Be very careful trying to meld everyone into one mold ... sometimes people need to be supported to do their "own" we are not all the same ... different energies arise in different places at different times ... we want to be able to harness those positive energies at the right moment.

- no answer
- I would be willing to come and discuss what experience I have with the Thunder Bay Trails Association, and the Voyageur Hiking Trail. I would also be willing to discuss some of my experiences and education regarding this matter. Give me a call and I we can set up a time for me to drop by the office.
- I would like to see more trails created that have focal points that will attract tourists-for example- I have heard that one of Canada's largest spruce trees exists near the road by the Yakoun Bridge, but I don't know exactly where. There is a lake behind Charlotte that I tried hiking to in the summer – with no success. I think there is great potential for Downhill Mountain biking- starting anywhere along the Chinnikcundle Road behind Charlotte going downhill to the back of town. This is an educational opportunity for trail building:
<http://www2.capilanou.ca/programs/mountain-bike.html>
- no answer
- no answer
- no answer
- Who will be paying & maintaining trails. Where will the funding be coming from ...?

Bicyclists' Questionnaire Responses

MOUNTAIN BIKING

1. How often do you use mountain bike trails, which trails do you use, and where are they located?

- once a month – west end of charlotte at the west end of 2nd Ave into the forest, the Gore Brook trails
- I don't mountain bike but I do bike on the road (see below).
- I live in Masset and I don't know of any mountain bike trails but would be interested in finding out about them and using them. My husband once biked the Cape Fife/Rose spit/North beach loop (it took him ten hours) but the Fife trail wasn't really ridable.
- I don't use mtn bike trails.

2. How are the mountain bike trails that you use, maintained?

- by a few users who cut trees out of the way, gore brook trails... (I don't know about them, but they are better maintained)
- no answer (not mountain bike trail user)
- no answer
- N/A

3. Which mountain bike trails should be a priority for maintenance/upgrade towards promotion for local cyclists and tourists?

- I only know of those two... and both of them should be.
- no answer (not mountain bike trail user)
- no answer
- N/A

4. Do you foresee any problems with promotion of mountain bike trails as a tourism activity on Haida Gwaii?

- I have no issues with it.
- no answer (not mountain bike trail user)
- Trails would need regular maintenance to keep them from getting grown over.
- While I really only use my mtn bike for short commutes, I do know many who use logging roads (open or disused) for cycling and am aware that some use Trails on Moresby Island (I think Dennis and Cathy Baran know about them) and I have seen several mtn bikers using Spirit Lake trails. Telephone hill in Masset is a good hill climb for a mountain biker Although only a km. I'm also aware that the potential for Mtn biking tourism could be remarkable if promoted. The disused logging roads (if not completely 'defunctioned' can be great. Mtn bike trails must be well maintained.

5. Would you be interested in hosting a public event that highlights a mountain bike trail?

- no... I am too busy working to do that, although I do take my students on the trails for outdoor excursions
- no answer (not mountain bike trail user)
- Sure, but someone would have to point out to me where there are mountain bike trails! I am one of the family docs in Masset and think cycling could be a great tool for people/youth to get in shape. We live part-time up here and part-time in Pemberton – in Pemberton/Whistler, they have “toonie” races, where people get together for a friendly race and everyone puts a loonie or toonie in. I don't know if winner takes the pot, or if they use it as a way to raise a bit of cash for the trails association, but it's one way of promoting cycling and the trails.
- Not personally.

CYCLING

6. If you cycle along the highway, have you had any safety problems associated with vehicular traffic? If so, please provide a description of the problem, location, etc.

- cleaning... when the trucks go out to clean the highways, they should make sure that they also clean the area on the other side of the white line to ensure a safe area for cyclists. As for area, it is most of the highway through and between queen charlotte and skidegate
- I find vehicles to be careful and courteous when I am biking.
- I bike daily on the highway in Masset – sometimes have visibility problems if I am biking at the end of the day or in the dark/rain. I wear a reflective vest. Usually drivers give we a wide berth, especially when I am pulling a bike trailer with my kids inside.
- VERY occasional drivers failing to cross the centre line to give adequate space to cyclists. BC Drivers' manual states that you must leave at MINIMUM a meter but windy conditions usually mean that more space is needed. Most Haida Gwaii drivers treat cyclists (as they should) as they would any slow moving (15-40kmh) vehicle and wait until safe to pass before doing so. Haida Gwaii is, I feel 'cycling heaven' as far as traffic and the VAST majority of drivers are concerned. I live, mainly, in Queen Charlotte but spend a few months per year in Masset. Most of the problems I HAVE experienced have been in the area near QC and Skidegate. Masset drivers seem to be more considerate..... but I STRESS that drivers on island are FAR better than

in most of BC.

7. Do you think that bicycle lanes should be a priority for environmental and tourism infrastructure development on Haida Gwaii and, is there other infrastructure that should be added to, or created, to facilitate cycling tourism?

- Yes, they should be... if that brings about better cleaning, and more consideration from vehicles that are moving and that are parked.
- Rather than bicycle lanes I prefer paved shoulders as in Alberta. This would allow for added safety when biking from Masset out to Tow Hill Community.
- no answer
- Bicycle lanes, per se, are not needed for cycle tourism as bicycles do belong on the road when ridden properly and at reasonable (at least 10-15 kph) speed. I've spoken with a number of cyclists who have 'toured' here with panniers and camping gear and they LOVE it. There is some need for more "Share the Road" signs (there are, currently signs leaving Skidegate (northbound), Port (north and southbound), and Masset (southbound) but there could well be more between Skidegate and QC, Masset eastbound, Tlell north and southbound. Some drivers need educating as to the rights of cyclists to use the roadways. (though no more / not as much as the mainland)

There is certainly, however a need for a cycle paths for people riding with young children etc. There is CERTAINLY a need for a cycle/pedestrian path between "new town" and Masset, similar to that between Old Massett and Masset. One caution regarding bike-lanes. The one in QC sometimes encourages cyclists to ride FACING the traffic, which is VERY unsafe. Drivers pulling out of sidestreets and driveways are always looking for traffic LEFT and will not see a cyclist approaching in time to yield to it and avoid collisions. In addition the 'closing speed' of a cyclist FACING traffic is greatly increased.

8. Would you support bicycle lanes being added to the shoulder of the highway where possible, or rather as separate paved trails some distance to the side, similar to a sidewalk? Provide any reasons you may have for your answer.

- I would support both of those ideas, I think that adding them to the side of the highway would be more cost effective, and I already like riding by the highway for convenience sake. It also might make it easier to keep them free from debris. Also... the drainage system for the highways is already developed, and therefore would be less of an environmental impact.
- The idea about a separate paved trail is safer, but more expensive. It would also be harder to clean, and there is the possibility of there being increased cost due to more road allowance being used up, or permission to go through people's property. Also, if the trail leaves the highway, there is less light for traveling at night, and it may be less safe because of that.
- As stated above I prefer a lane being added to the highway, whether or not it is designated as a bike lane. I prefer when the bike lane is not separate as it allows more room when I'm biking with my bike trailer or biking with other people or if you pass someone coming the other way. Even when there is a separate paved trail, such as between Masset and Old Masset, I still use the road.
- I would like hard gravel paths at a distance from the road/highway as this would be safer and more scenic. It could be multi-use – ie. Used for pedestrians and runners too.
- I would support them in urban areas for kids and local commuters but: Road cyclists travelling more than 10 km or so, would need a surface as good as the highway surface or they would not

use the cycle paths. Paths such as that would be prohibitively expensive to avoid breakup from frost, roots, etc. I do not think that cycle paths would be used by cycle tourers or the current road-cyclists who ride between 30 and 100 km per ride.

9. Have we missed anything? Please provide any input that the preceding questions have not addressed.

- If we were to have bicycle lanes all the way up and down the islands (from Masset to Queen Charlotte and Sandspit), I think it would be a big tourist draw. Knowing that there is a safe biking route is big for that, can't think of anything else.

- Adding a bike lane (either attached to the road or separate) between Masset and Tow Hill Rd. Community would benefit both people who are biking and those who are walking. Specifically, my family would use a bike/walking path through Tow Hill Rd. Community (Eagle Rd. to Sangan Dr.) on a regular (daily) basis.

- Once again, I am not aware of ANY mountain bike (single track) trails on Haida Gwaii. I am one of the family doctors in Masset, and I think that having a more developed system of walking/biking trails would provide an important tool to help community members develop healthier lifestyles through exercise. People like to walk on the beach, but they would get a better workout if they walked (or ran/biked!) uphill. When I am not living here, I live in Pemberton/Whistler, which is highly developed for recreational single track mountain biking. It is an AMAZING form of exercise and I would be most interested in promoting it as such. My husband and I have fantasized about making some guerilla mountain bike trails on our own, but would be interested in contributing to a larger effort through this trails association. My husband has a lot of experience from Pemberton in building new mountain bike trails. I think the ridge across from where we live ("Bluejacket", off of the highway, south of Masset proper) would provide good terrain for some downhill single track riding.

If there is anyone in your trails association who would be interested in developing mountain bike trails in Masset, I would be willing to be on a contact list.

- First, I heartily approve of this initiative and well-structured questions. Cycle tourism is a growing activity and our islands are ideal for it but, so far, relatively undiscovered. One comment I've heard from many cycle tourers is that they underestimated the distances involved and lack of 'services' (restaurants, shops for food, B+B's etc for long stretches on our islands. I suggest working with the B+B's, Bakery, Grocery shops etc to establish and publish their hours (and phone numbers for cyclists to contact for trip planning) and production of a small guide (paper and on-line) dedicated to cycle tourism (possibly in conjunction with Observer publishing) which would list and map out (with distances) the campgrounds, B+B's, Grocery Stores with HOURS, restaurants/bakeries/snack shops etc.

Horse Riders' Questionnaire Responses

1. How often do you use trails for riding?

- Mostly Beach – not many trails available.

2. Please provide a list of the riding trails that you use most often.

- Golden Spruce / Sunset Park, Misty Meadows

3. What activities do you engage in, in association with trail riding? (e.g. camping, hunting, instructing riders, etc.)

- Pleasure riding. Moving cows.

4. Which trails would you suggest promoting for riding, to local people and visitors?

- High Road on North Beach. Pesuta trail, Cape Fife

5. Where on Haida Gwaii would you like to see opportunities for horse back riding on trails? What is your vision for riding on these islands, on inland trails and the beach?

- mouth of Yakoun to swimming hole

6. Which trails should be a priority for maintenance/upgrade?

- Pesuta trail and golden Spruce

7. Do you foresee any negative impact to the environment from riding on trails? If so, how do we minimize or eliminate these impacts?

- No

8. Have we missed anything? Please provide any input that the preceding questions have not addressed.

- Most of our trails are within Naikoon Park. We have use Agreements, as far as sticking to our trails & etiquette

ATV Riders' Questionnaire Responses

1. How often do you ride your ATV for recreational purposes?

- Two – three time per week in the winter less in the summer (work)

2. What activities do you engage in, in association with ATV riding? (e.g. camping, hunting deer, gathering sea food, etc.) ?

- Hunting, seafood gathering and just plain crusin.

3. Please provide a list of the places where you ride your ATV.

- Riding on the north beach, hunting on old logging roads

4. Where would you like to see designated ATV trails for local and visitor use?

- Reactivate old settler trails for atv use.

5. Would you be interested in developing ATV trails that access de-activated logging roads? If so, which roads or in what areas?

- No already use them.

6. Do you foresee any problems with promotion of ATV trails on de-activated logging roads, or elsewhere, as a tourism activity on Haida Gwaii?

- Safety, there will be those who like to race, thriller seekers.

7. ATVs may not be permitted on some multiple user-group trails. For example, the Trans-Canada Trail (TCT) does not encourage ATV users. Notably, the TCT has a relatively high volume of users, however, how would you manage multiple users groups on trails that are suitable for ATVs; where mountain bikers and hikers also use the trail?

- Signage for trails eg. Trail for hikers and no atv access, trail for atvs and no hikers or use at own risk, trail for bikers.

8. Have we missed anything? Please provide any input that the preceding questions have not addressed.

-no answer

Comments on ATVs added to other questionnaires:

- We also use ATV's but would like to see them restricted to Beach below tide line & logging Rds. We've seen far too much damage i.e. dune erosion.

Educators' Questionnaire Responses

1. On an annual basis, how often do you use trails for educational purposes?

- Once or twice

- 2-3

- We use trails about 1-2 times a month, so about 10-20 times throughout the school year.

2. What activities do you and your students engage in, in association with trails (e.g. camping, hunting, mountain biking, etc.) ?

- Camping and kayaking

- camping, hunting, interpretive tour

- We engage in physical activity (walking), plant identification, habitat studies, water sampling, and wilderness survival lessons.

3. Please provide a list of the trails that you use most often.

- Tow Hill, Cape Fife, White Creek, Haida Canoe, Vertical Point
- Cape Fife, bird sanctuary
- Spirit Lake Trail and Charlie Harty with the school. Spirit Lake Trail, Charlie Harty, Gore Brook, Kagan Bay, Anvil Trail on my own time

4. Which trails should be a priority for maintenance/upgrade?

- Peel Inlet, Cumshewa Head, Yan- Seven Mile/Kung?
- Don't know
- The Gore Brook trail might be used more often by community members and by teachers with their students if it was better maintained or upgraded. It's downtown location and it being so close to the High School might make it a popular trail if it was more user friendly.

5. Can you tell us about any current specific issues you may have with specific trails? For example: 'It is too easy to get lost on "x" trail because there are not enough directional signs.'

- Peel Inlet road is quad only now- can't get in with kayak trailer
- No issues...
- I can't think of any except the Gore Brook trail. There are flagged paths along the way that make it difficult to know which one to stay on.

6. Would interpretive signage, brochures, etc. be helpful to your outdoor programs?

- yes
- Depends on signage
- A sign at the trail-head of the Charlie Harty would help people find it easier. Then perhaps a sign at the branch off to the Gore Brook would also be helpful.

7. What careers or jobs do you promote to students with reference to trail hiking and other outdoor educational activities?

- Gwaii Haanas Watchmen, Parks Warden, Conservation Officer, Fisheries Officer, Recreational Guiding, Marine Biology, Archaeology/ Anthropology
- Job in building the walkways, tour guide
- I promote mostly science based research, like taking samples and restoring and cleaning up areas.

8. What can the MIEDS do to enhance educational and job training opportunities related to trails? What do you need to enhance your programs?

- Mentoring program, Job shadowing, Summer youth employment, Trail shelters, We always need help with funding and transportation.
- Show us examples of the jobs available (demonstrate what students could be doing in the future)
- They could offer to do talks in schools or provide posters to schools.

9. Are you conducting any research in association with the islands' trails that you would like

to tell us about?

- No
- No
- No

10. Have we missed anything? Please provide any input that the preceding questions have not addressed.

- The Outdoor Pursuits Program at GMD is volunteer driven and provides extra-curricular opportunities. The potential is huge and there are opportunities for locally developed courses and more engagement of the schools and outdoor education but we're in a period of restraint where resources have been cut back to programs like the Moresby Adventure Camp and Laskeet Bay (Limestone Island)
- no answer
- No

3 b.) Stakeholder Questionnaire Responses

Outfitters' and Vendors' Questionnaires

Note: One Outfitter filled out a Stakeholder Questionnaire instead of the Outfitter version, and they're response is shown under the Stakeholder questions. They are counted in the outfitter responses here.

Queen Charlotte-based Outfitter: 1
Rose Harbour-based Outfitter: 1
Tow Hill Road Community-based Vendor: 1

- Outfitter 1: Hi Karen, Just to put in my own preamble. We are a tour company that mainly operates in Gwaii Haanas. Although we do encourage, our guests to visit the northern part of HG. So most of my answers aren't from direct experience but rather from discussions with our guests either looking for information about trails for after our tour or their tails of trails before the tour.

1. How many of your clients are interested in accessing Haida Gwaii's trails? (%)

- 30%

2. What activities do your clients engage in, in association with trails (e.g. camping, canopy climbing, etc.) ?

- Almost exclusively day hikes.

3. Please provide a list of the trails that you use most often.

- Spirit Lake, Tow Hill, Golden Spruce, Pesuta, Sleeping Beauty, Rennell Sd, Cape Fife, Port Clements Sunset trail, Dover trail.

4. Which trails should be a priority for maintenance/upgrade ?

- Those most readily accessed from local communities

5. Which trails do you currently promote to your clients ?

- The above mentioned

6. Are there areas where you would like to see new trails established? Where, and why?

- At some point I would like to see a “West Coast” style trail established from Peril Bay to Lepas Bay. I am familiar with this area and the West Coast Trail, Bamfield to Port Renfrew and see the similarities and the potential for the same “world class” sort of destination trail. I think this would be more feasible now that the area is protected. Closer to home, I would like to see a trail from the west end of QC along the ridge that would link up with the Spirit Lake. It should have links down to the highway to give people options of distance. There is quite a variety of forest types on this route. I think that these sort of day hike trails are of greatest benefit to the HG community, healthy walks for locals and readily available for visitors with a limited time (or no car) to get out and enjoy the forest.

7. What kind of interpretive opportunities would you like to see for interest / educational / enhancement purposes?

- I think there are many interpretive opportunities in these; flora, fauna, history, booklets and brochures.

8. What new local employment possibilities (jobs) / businesses do you envision as a result of a strategic approach to trail system development and management?

- I think that one of the down sides of forest trails here on HG is the need for constant maintenance; just the annual accumulation of branches, windthrows, etc will provide maintenance employment.

With a reputation for excellent trails should come a willingness by visitors to pay for interpretive walks, especially those with a Haida cultural component.

From discussions with my own guests and visitors at the QC Visitor Centre, trails are a big part of the visitor experience of the current demographic. Having more trails to spend more time on will keep visitors here longer; and all that brings, more accommodation nights, more restaurant meals, etc.

9. Do you foresee any problems with increased promotion of trails as a tourism activity on Haida Gwaii? If so, how can these effects be minimized or eliminated?

- Increased trail use will result in deterioration of the trails, ie turning to mud unless they are hardened in vulnerable areas. This is only a problem if there is no money for maintenance.

People don't usually pay to use trails so there will need to be some creative fundraising.

10. Can you tell us about any current specific issues you may have with specific trails? For example: 'It is too easy to get lost on "x" trail because there are not enough directional signs'.

- I think that we need a good trail guidebook.
Warnings about tides when hiking to the Pesuta or the East Beach.

11. Is your service a day activity only, or do you envision offering overnight activities? If so, please describe.

- We don't do trail guiding.

12. Would you be interested in hosting a public event that highlights a trail?

- No.

13. Orienteering (off trails) allows the participant to experience nature in a specific way. What is your experience with orienteering? Do you have any comments on how to manage orienteering?

- Most of our hiking experiences in Gwaii Haanas are off trail (as there are no trails there). Generally people are quickly lose there enthusiasm when confronted with the sort of bushwhacking that is involved off-trail here and so hikes are of short duration. I think that we need to have information available as to some of the challenges of orienteering here in the coastal rainforest and muskeg that may not be familiar to people from other eco-systems.

14. Have we missed anything? Please provide any input that the preceding questions have not addressed.

- no answer

Vendor Questionnaire: Canopy Climbing

- This questionnaire was developed to address a specific activity and vendor.

1. How often do you use Haida Gwaii trails as part of your business activities? If yes, please describe how you use trails.

- groups > 10 rarely use trails. stick to road accessible sites and facilities
groups < 10 50% of trips on trails for site access and interpretive walks.
Solo – 75 % on trails to find climbing sites

2. Do you now or expect in future, to use orienteering to access specific areas to provide your service?

- soon remote site with high potential may be GPS marked if no available trail access

3. *Which trails should be a priority for maintenance/upgrade?*

- those with highest usage and those with sites of cultural/ecological interest

4. *Which trails would you suggest promoting to tourists and local people?*

- as above

CANOPY CLIMBING

5. *Do you use trails to access areas for this service? If yes, which trails do you use?*

- Yes. Usually trails already maintained with moderate to high usage generally in Masset area and North Beach 20% elsewhere on island

6. *What services / activities do you offer now, and expect to offer in future, that would incorporate trail access or hiking on trails?*

- tree climbing packages for small groups (<6 people) will require trail access and packages with an interpretive/ecological element depend on trails within a healthy forest

7. *What kind of interpretive opportunities would you like to see developed for interest / educational / enhancement purposes?*

- There is a potential for a handbook highlighting local flora/fauna, forest classifications and natural history/-archaeology. Elementree expects to provide educational opportunities for groups and youth in a variety of forest landscapes.

8. *There are no known issues regarding sustainable canopy climbing. With regards to ecological sustainability, what issues do you foresee if canopy climbing and other activities that you may be planning to offer in future, become more popular with local people and tourists? How can these issues be minimized or managed for?*

- Within the climbing community there are some issues we hope to address sufficiently to be supported. The biggest issues seem to be around site impact from high usage, but there is also waste management in remote sites, removing "souvenirs" and the disturbance of excessive noise.

9. *Are there areas where you would like to see new trails established to accommodate this service? Where?*

- I don't have enough information on potential sites to answer yet.

10. *Is your service a day activity only, or do you envision offering overnight activities? If so, please describe.*

- Currently we have only a capacity for single day activities. But one of the programs I'd like to develop includes overnight camping in the canopy with specialized hammocks call tree boats.

11. Have we missed anything? Please provide any input that the preceding questions have not addressed.

Additional Responses

- part of Elementree's mandate is to care for our sites with long term usage in mind. In place is a self evaluation process that hopefully addresses any concern around operating in Haida Gwaii Forest. Sites are all documented and will be evaluated over time. There is currently no maximum usage guideline but we hope to develop this through our process. In the meantime know sites will have periods of usage and rest to allow natural recovery. The climbing leaders endeavor to climb carefully and pass their knowledge on. Large groups will use maintained and highly impacted sites which are less sensitive to traffic (ecotourism guidelines). Protocols for waste management will be put in place. Most of the issues can be addressed at the outset. those that cannot must be part of this ongoing process.

Stakeholder Questionnaire Responses

Stakeholders who Chose to Participate; Colour-coded Responses:

- Recreational Sites and Trails British Columbia, a Branch of the Ministry of Natural Resource Management
- Old Massett Village Council, via the Old Massett Economic Development Office
- Over the Hill Hikers Group, Queen Charlotte
- Outfitter 1
- Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve
- Tlell Watershed Society

1. What are your plans to create and manage trails in your jurisdiction?

- RSTBC: Our plans are to ensure that firstly, all authorized and legally established trails are safe for people to use and are environmentally secure. If any new trails are to be considered, a proponent must be able to commit to a long term maintenance agreement. A commitment and the ability for long term sustainability is very important.

- OMVC Economic Development Office: Implementing stepping off point for the Old Massett Trail system along the N. end of Graham Is. by developing infrastructure at Hiellen-IR #2. Hiking into Old Massett would be a free introductory leg, leading to fully guided 'paying' leg from W. side of Masset Sound to Naden Harbor and points west.

- Over the Hill Hikers Group: Our trails are mostly user maintained and local volunteer built. Liberal use of groups has been enjoyed [forestry students, school students, etc] As soon as marked and documented these trails will be ready for marketing [a term we are using for ready to be opened to the general public], - 7 identified trails in our local area are frequently used

Use is what keeps trails open. - We have reported to Village Council the need to have plans on the shelf for the larger projects available for any future funding opportunities.

- Outfitter 1: None. I believe Gwaii Haanas National Park and Haida Heritage Site has a minimum trail policy

- Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve: The Gwaii Haanas Management Plan commits us to the minimum amount of infrastructure and facilities, with the focus being on ensuring that visitors to Gwaii Haanas can share a sensation of being the first person to set foot in a place. Built trails are not a part of our plans at present. Where trails have been created or evolved through undirected use, efforts will be made to manage the impacts.

- Tlell Watershed Society: Currently the TWS would like to oversee the maintenance of the trails it has developed in recent years. In particular – The Anvil, Old Growth Alley, The Pontoon, and Pretty John’s. However, we require funding and have been able to access none. It is also somewhat unclear how the new conservancy affects the ability of the TWS to move forward with trail management.

2. Which trails does your organization see as priority trails for maintenance?

- As above but in particular, we should be first focusing our efforts and resources on existing high use trails that require ongoing maintenance or upgrading. For example, Spirit Lake, Onward Point and Sleeping Beauty trails.

- We maintain the Tow Hill trail system and Peszuta Trail and plan to work with BCP to complete the upgrade of Cape Fife Trail and then move on to White Ck. and S. along Hiellen R. trails & others within Naikoon Prov. Pk.

- our presently active trails are user maintained, - the recent Trail report to the Village suggested that discussions and work be focussed on recovering 3 old trails, 1] Backyard Trail [runs along northern boundary of the Village], 2] The Connector Trail between Queen Charlotte and Skidegate

- N/A

- N/A

- The Anvil, Old Growth Alley, The Pontoon, and Pretty John’s. All of these routes are well established, well marked, and already have interpretive signage/booklets that are specific to each.

3. What user groups are you focusing on with your trail initiatives (e.g, hikers, bird watchers, ATV riders, etc.) ?

- All recreation user groups.

- Hikers and strollers. Aim to make as many trails as possible accessible to all.

- We are focussing primarily on Trails accessed on foot ... for whatever reasons people may have; from nature viewing, exercise, game playing. We also recognize the potential for sharing with mountain bikers [as was previously happening on Crabapple Creek] as long as the trails can support additional activities. We do not see sharing with any motorized vehicles on the currently used trails. Two trails do have a conflict [Haydn Turner Park and Tarundl Loops] ... there are miles of de-activated resource roads available to them.

- Hikers

- Gwaii Haanas has no trail initiative

- Any foot traffic – essentially hikers.

4. Do you regularly maintain trails in your jurisdiction? Would an islands-wide trail maintenance plan be helpful?

- Yes, alongside partners, Yes.

- In conjunction with BCP we maintain Tow Hill, Peszuta and will do Cape Fife and others as they are upgraded. No harm in maintenance plan-maintenance budget will be tricky without implementing fees. However, this flies in the face of traditional/local trail use. Newly constructed trails in remote locations might be the exception-along lines of WCVI trail.

- It does seem to happen as the trails are quite established and need “repairs” [fallen trees mostly] which are worked on by individuals. Would an Island-wide maintenance plan be helpful yes for those trails not falling within a “jurisdiction” .

- On my property. Yes

- No

- The TWS has historically maintained the Anvil Trail. However, with the addition of other trails (over 30 km of trails in total under the umbrella of the TWS) the maintenance load has been too much for the TWS to carry as a volunteer organization. An island-wide maintenance plan might be helpful in some regards, but from my perspective it would also complicate TWS trail management unnecessarily.

5. Do you foresee any problems with promotion of trails as a tourism activity on Haida Gwaii?

- It is a great opportunity and there is community will to promote trails. However, one problem is that trails that are a liability should not be promoted.

- Keep in mind that the more one promotes the more one must maintain and upgrade. There will be a cost to promotion, which should be calculated and allowed for.

- as long as they are safe [not getting lost rather than condition] People need to have an honest assessment before going on a trail. It would be nice to have a standardized system across the Islands about what levels might be. Queen Charlotte area trails have begun their signing plans.

Trails are an excellent way of educating people and having a way of reporting problems. I believe the Visitor Centre is working on such a program.

- The cost of building and maintaining trails in this environment will be difficult to justify in light of current visitation, as I understand that the majority of current visitors do not view Haida Gwaii as a hiking destination. With competition from other more established and recognized hiking or trail use destinations, it will be challenging to attract sufficient numbers of trail users to justify the costs involved.

- There seems to be a huge demand for trails, but no plan to maintain them properly. Lack of maintenance is the biggest barrier I see at this point. If we cannot maintain the trails, which is now the case, then we cannot promote the trails for use by the greater public.

6. What kinds of jobs do you foresee being created by additional trail use?

- Added value to a visitor's experience will encourage more visitors and the subsequent spin-off jobs in the service industry.

- Guiding, maintenance.

- possibly jobs in trail recovery for the 3 listed previously. Hopefully when trails are well used and respected they become self-maintaining. More trails with significant views, destinations etc. will help foster the growing tourism industry.

- NO. May I point out that the highway is a trail for bicycles. I think this would be an amazing asset to have a bicycle trail from Skidegate to old masset.

- If marketing and promotion efforts were successful in attracting visitors with an interest in using trails, there could be a small number of additional jobs in guided hikes, rental of trail bikes or ATVs, and some associated hospitality services.

- Trail Maintenance and Development Crews (including archaeology), Nature-based tourism guiding opportunities, other local business will benefit to some extent from tourist traffic interested in Haida Gwaii trails.

7. ATVs are often driven recreationally on the beaches of Haida Gwaii and from time to time, cause erosion and damage to protected ecosystems on the dunes. Do you think that providing an inland trail system for ATVs on de-activated logging roads can sustainably relieve the pressure on the dunes? Can mountain bikes and ATVs use the same trail?

- With increasing pressure on the land base and as conflicts between user groups increase, separate riding areas will have to be determined.

- Not a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Each instance will be site specific and should be planned out extremely carefully. Potential for wildlife/environmental disturbance if you move ATV's off beaches on to inland roads. Not all ATV use is the same. Hunters don't approach the experience with same agenda as recreational/sport riders. Same goes for beach riders-different users operate ATV's in different manner. Mountain bikes are an entirely different issue.

- we do have 3 local trails that are affected by indiscriminate ATV/4x4 traffic ... they do appear to do damage not just to the ecosystem but also to enjoyment of others travelling the trails. These are not dune issues but mud/shale beaches and the access points. We have many trails/de-activates roads ... which are available to multi-use [bikers, hikers and ATV/4x4]. Many routes can be multi-use but all users must be called on to maintain, and repair their damage.

- Yes

- I would expect people that prefer to ride ATVs on the beach would continue to do so, as this experience is significantly different from riding on de-activated logging roads. Please note, Parks Canada does not permit the use of motorized equipment on trails, and therefore does not have a stance on the shared use of trails for bicycles and ATVs.

- It is important to point out here that ATVs impact ecosystems other than beach and dune – bogs and existing trails (North Road and pontoons, for example) have been significantly damaged by inappropriate ATV use. On the other hand, ATVs can be used appropriately to maintain trails. – It seems to me that ATV users are more focused on riding “where no one has ridden before”, and therefore seek out undeveloped areas to ride; which is to say, no, I don’t think an inland ATV trail system will reduce the impact on sensitive natural areas. Somehow we need to encourage appropriate ATV riding, and discourage inappropriate habits. – In regard to ATV and mountain bikes sharing the same trails, this is a difficult question to answer. I think it is both a yes and no question.

8. If you have mountain bike trails in your area, which mountain bike trails should be a priority for maintenance / upgrade towards promotion for local cyclists and tourists?

- Sorry, unknown.

- Don’t have enough info to comment.

- We have had an area on one of our Town Trails which was used for Mountain biking ... it fell into dis-use [apparently an accident] and has since been disassembled. Suggestion that mountain biking be encouraged on the de-activated logging roads and the old rail-beds [Moresby] as longer routes seem to be appropriate for this activity.

- N/A

- We do not promote mountain biking in Gwaii Haanas, and have no trails suitable for this use.

- None of the TWS routes are suited to mountain bike use. In fact, mountain bikes can significantly damage some sections of TWS routes.

9. Would you be interested in working together with the Haida Gwaii Trails Strategy in hosting a public event that highlights a trail?

- Yes.

- Time is at a premium-maybe!?

- Sure ... are already planning one for MOVE DAY.

- NO

- No

- I would be interested in hearing more details about such an event.

10. Archaeological and historic sites, culturally significant plants, streams and other significant sites near trails must be accommodated in trail development initiatives as per the draft Haida Gwaii Strategic Land Use Agreement, the draft Conservancy Management Plans, and the Heritage Conservation Act of BC. Environmental / ethnographic / archaeological studies may be required prior to designating and promoting a trail. What are your ideas for how these studies might be funded?

- Unknown.

- The studies are mandatory/essential-funding sources are changing constantly. OM will be managing this issue within the Provincial Parks on HG in collaboration with BCP-elsewhere funding will have to be sought wherever possible in competition with all other user groups.

- [those lists don't matter too much on our trails as established, we would also include 'historical'] ... We can see this as becoming a barrier ... for those trails already being used Post the sites for interest and protection and make sure we as locals understand the importance of a Trail Guardian program. Funding suggestions ... none

- Haida Nation gets lots of funding, let them do it.

- N/A

- Good question, but I have no real answer. A recon hike with trail group/archaeologist team could assess potential impacts, and I believe in many cases rule out the need for further study. The less development the trails require (for example, the TWS trails are all developed with a minimum impact), the less likely they are to affect cultural and historic sites.

11. Providing a map of campsites accessible by water provides assurance to travelers while protecting sensitive areas from inappropriate uses. On Vancouver Island, marine access camps sites are being identified, and maps are being created for small boat campers, and this process has been supported by the Recreational Sites and Trails BC Branch of the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations. Would you support a similar identification and mapping process for Haida Gwaii?

- Yes but within staff limits and resources.

- After much discussion-potentially.

- does this not already exist in a commercial form

- YES although there is already a very good book about it already. Why duplicate the work already done?

- Yes. Gwaii Haanas does not designate campsites, instead supporting random camping in order to disperse impacts and maintain the sense of wilderness. While Gwaii Haanas would not support the mapping of campsites within the National Park Reserve, this service could be useful in other areas of Haida Gwaii.

- Yes. This would increase the appeal of kayak/canoe/small boat camping, and also increase boating safety.

12. Studies show that trails with appropriate and sufficient signage are used more than poorly marked trails. If hikers think there is a possibility of getting lost they are less likely to use a trail. Therefore, do you support the development of islands-wide trail signage standards?

- There are trail signage standards for trails on crown lands. We are willing to participate in related discussions.

- Potentially.

- Queen Charlotte has plans to begin a signage program ... while not yet installed the suggestions are for: consistent designations; degree of difficulty, cautions, length, etc. The Village may want to have their logo on the trailhead posts. The trails, which are not under small regional jurisdiction, definitely should have a standardization... perhaps levels of "branding" ... if ownership/dedication is attached, more care and concern will be taken.

- YES, but keep it low key.

- Yes

- To me it makes more sense to first get an effective maintenance strategy in place. There's no point putting effort and funds into signs for trails that can't be maintained. Once the maintenance plan is in place, then I think focusing on some standardized signage makes some sense, but is not critical. Well maintained and well marked (as in blazed, with plastic arrows on the TWS trails) trails will increase appeal more than standardized signs.

13. With regards to liability, what standard have you used in trail development / trail bed maintenance / classification of trails?

- Sites and Trails BC standards.

<http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca/about/site-and-trail-maintenance.aspx>

- Are you talking GL?

- Trails will be posted with "use at own risk" designation and must be well marked. Basically bush standards have been used and upgrades happen when possible.

- Don't understand the question

- Gwaii Haanas does not have a standard, as we do not have a trail development or maintenance program. Parks Canada has spent time significant considering trail construction and maintenance in other locations, including Pacific Rim and its well-known West Coast Trail and the extensive backcountry trail network throughout the mountain parks.

- The TWS has chosen to call their trails "routes", in hopes that this gives people the impression that they are less developed and that users need to be prepared to deal with wilderness conditions. – The TWS has taken a "path of least resistance" approach, clearing as little bush as possible to allow safe and easy access. Also, we have avoided installing upgrades, such as stairs or bridges, as we understand this limits liability.

14. How can this project assist you in forwarding your trail and recreational site initiatives?

- To ensure that interested people work together to a common goal of improving trail infrastructure to promote healthy lifestyles and economic activity

- Working this strategy into an island wide trail/tourism plan which builds on the original HG Heritage Tourism Strategy would be a positive move. OM would buy into that process.

- probably not too much in the short term [we don't want to delay over present flow to wait future developments; in the long term hopefully in many ways yet to be established.

- Promoting tourism of any form is good for my business.

- NA

- The TWS needs a reliable source of annual funding to properly maintain it's trails. Approximately \$5000 - \$10 000 per year would go far, to start. In recent years there's been a lot of talking, and no cash. It would be wise to get some cash on the table first, then continue the talks.

15. A new on-line "Basecamp" has been created for a Haida Gwaii Trails Advisory committee. Basecamp allows for on-line committee interaction, e-mail updates to members, joint drafting of documents, and posting of our extensive Bibliography. Documents may be posted for review and there are opportunities for open dialogue. Are you interested in participating in the on-line committee?

- I will discuss this with (local RSTBC rep).

- Potentially a member of the OM Ec Dev staff could be interested in this.

- Sure, information sharing is most important.

- Yes, tentatively

- Yes. Once again, however, we (the TWS) need action on the ground more than we need discussion.

16. Have we missed anything? Please provide any input that the preceding questions have not addressed.

- no answer

- Developing trails is tricky and fraught with risk. Construction and maintenance can be costly which leads to user fees etc. One can walk in many places on HG for free but guided and well-posted trails would also be a draw. Will visitors and locals pay? To make all this work they'd have to unless a funding source that would cover the operating cost could be found-that would be difficult. Lots to discuss and research here.

- I think stakeholders need to be contacted directly ... suggest Duncan White of the Running Group who very frequently use the de-activated roads and create their own running trails. Our groups is also concerned about trails outside of our area:

1] Railroad trails on Moresby

2] De-activated logging roads outside of QC

3] Homestead trails above Miller Creek the Inside Road [corduroy]

- YES, make a bike trail along the highway.

- It is vitally important to consider the long-term maintenance and operating costs of a trail network, which will be significant. Poorly maintained trails rapidly become a significant safety hazard, and current Haida Gwaii search and rescue capabilities may not be able to provide the service necessary to deal with the types of incidents likely to occur on a trail network. Gwaii Haanas may be able to offer some assistance in connecting this working group to trail construction and maintenance experts at other Parks Canada locations.

- I think liability precedents should be researched. If there has been no litigation in BC related to hiking trails, then perhaps liability is less an issue than it's made out to be, and we don't need to shackle our efforts with overly cautious concerns about liability. I doubt, however, that government organizations would share this view.

4. Field Trips

Four Field Trips have taken place to date. These excursions assist in obtaining an understanding of the state of trails in the field and the potential breadth of experience available throughout the islands. These trips allowed for a better understanding of the standards of the trails under the purview of the various trail organizations. They have also provided invaluable consultation in the field with 2 trail organizations. The Field trips were in the following jurisdictions: Village of Queen Charlotte, Mount Moresby Adventure Camp, and Naikoon Provincial Park.

5. Stakeholder and Public Consultation via e-mail, telephone and meetings

Most Responses are paraphrased

1. Response – telephone discussion:

- A resident of Skidegate related that her family uses the Spirit lake trails almost daily and has done significant volunteer work to maintain it. She wants to see ongoing opportunities for trail maintenance jobs for young people so they can come home to work in the summer.

2. Response – telephone discussion:

- Tlell Watershed Society member: Extreme frustration with past process towards an All-islands trail alliance that would facilitate maintenance monies being obtained on behalf all trail organizations on Haida Gwaii. TWS spent significant time and energy on meetings for the last attempt at a Trails strategy and, with some skepticism, the TWS supports this similar project and has provided maps and inventory information that will inform the final report.

3. Response – telephone Discussion:

The past Administrator of the SMFRA confirmed that the idea of the All Islands trail Alliance project 2006-2007 was indeed to address the identified need for a central Islands trail organization and funding conduit through which to establish a dedicated annual funding program through the SMFRA for trail maintenance and development. This study was meant to address the need to centralize trail issues, mediation and funding.

4. E-mail discussion – current administrator, GTS

On 7-Feb-11, at 2:22 PM, Errol Winter wrote:

“Karen;

Thanks for the information, it is also timely and appropriate. The GFCT is always looking to truly understand the islanders priorities for both the Trust and the GFCT. I think the trail maintenance, organization, and marketing is an integral part of future Island tourism initiatives, and a sustainable component of youth economic development.

The hard part is pulling it all together, many funders are skeptical of any study or plan, particularly in light of all the monies that have been spent on previous studies, plans, and upgrades. In the last five years I tracked over a million dollars spent of different trail initiatives.

I think what is necessary is an overarching plan that

- a) Identifies all the trails
- b) Sets a standard for what the community expects a trail to look like
- c) Outlines plans for the development of any new trails (5 year plan)
- d) Clearly identifies the costs to do all this
- e) Has annual markers to ensure that deliverables have been met....”

5. Letter of Support, BC parks and Conservancies³

6. e-mail, November 30, 2010: Daryl Fedji, Parks Canada Archaeologist.

In his e-mail reply, Daryl Fedji offers to assist in the project as a reviewer of proposals and interpretive work.

7. Ministry of Environment has stated that they cannot consider participation in the HGTS in terms of Stakeholder consultation at least until the Joint Management Committee is in place to guide works related to BC Parks and Conservancies. The committee is expected to be in place Spring 2011. In lieu of stakeholder dialogue with this group, the HGTS has reviewed in detail the Management Plans for the new conservancies and the Naikoon Park management Plan.

8. Links to Trail Standards have been emailed to the HGTS by RSTBC and MOE. An analysis of possibility of amalgamating these standards may be discussed in the final report on Stage 1 of the HGTS.

9. The Moresby Island Management Committee provided access to all Research documents and job creation initiatives related to trails for their jurisdiction.

10. The Village of Port Clements provided information on their significant goals for trail maintenance and development within their municipal area.

11. In e-mail: The idea of a Facebook page for North West BC trails, including Haida Gwaii has

³ Appendix 1, BC Parks Letter of Support for the HGTS

received enthusiastic response from a Terrace-based trail user and archaeologist.

12. A local xaadaa clan has started to work with the HGTS on an interpretive project for high school students, related to trails, archaeology, and traditional land use and lifestyle, in their village.

13. The next chief of the kunlaanaas clan met informally with HGTS and said he is interested in economic development related to trails in his ancestral territory.

14. in e-mail: The Tow Hill Road Advisory Committee requested a Consultation Questionnaire, for the purposes of discussion at the next Tow Hill Road Advisory Standing Committee meeting, and for information to inform the Area D Official Community Plan.

15: E-mail: A local Outfitter provided the following response regarding boat camping site identification process:

“Hi Karen, I think that is another good idea. I did see that on the email but lost it in my response. I would be happy to help out with this in any way. I have done kayak camping as well as boat camping tours in the past. I am currently working on a booklet of day kayak paddles that are “road accessible”. Although campsites are not a part of this particular work, I am always assessing likely campsites. Just because there are so few in many places on HG. Cheers,”

16. Discussion with one community member from Old Massett regarding possibilities for opening up old settler roads and trails that are still in relatively good condition, for ATV use. He felt this idea was something worth pursuing, and made note that the routes can still be identified on Google Earth satellite imagery.

17. Terms of reference requirement for the project was stressed by Over the Hill Hikers representatives. They stated that this was one of the reasons that the SMFRA funded All Islands trail Alliance Project fell short in delivering the required conduit for trail maintenance and

development funding. In response, the HGTS project created a draft terms of reference⁴.

18. in e-mail, Duncan White of Queen Charlotte, an educator and avid trail user, has expressed high interest in this project, but he is on holiday and would not be able to complete a questionnaire until later. We look forward to his contribution at a later date.

19. The questionnaires were long and take about 1 hour to complete. This is a significant amount of time and may have deterred some people from completing them.

20. Additional Information was provided by a Masset resident in a telephone conversation that made note of the need for town trails in Masset, so that it is not always necessary to walk along the roads. The town trails could be promoted, and an educational opportunity is possible in the High School's planted forest trails.

6. Interpretation and Recommendations

The responses received indicate that trails are an important aspect of daily life on Haida Gwaii. Residents have identified a total of 38 trails that they personally use on a regular basis. There is a commitment to interacting with the landscape through trails that is in harmony with existing and draft management plans for BC Parks and Conservancies. Local people and certain stakeholders are interested in the kind of new employment that a managed trail system can provide.

Educators are using trails extensively on Haida Gwaii. As per one teacher in Masset, "The potential is huge and there are opportunities for locally developed courses and more engagement of the schools and outdoor education but we're in a period of restraint where resources have been cut back..." Teachers use trails extensively in association with outdoor survival training and animal habitat studies. In cooperation with local trail organizations, the HGTS Project should organize trail walks for residents, students, and tourists. We could also focus energy on creating an annual presentation for the schools on career options for wilderness

⁴ Appendix 2, k'yuwaatl'aagee Terms of Reference, Draft 2

and outdoor employment for the schools.

Bicyclists have provided several well-considered responses. The quality of these responses helps in developing recommendations on how to best proceed with bicycle tourism infrastructure development. Positive comments were made on the relative safety of our highways for cyclists, and simple solutions to other safety issues, including cleaning of the entire road surface including outside of the white line, as well as “share the road” signage are helpful in terms of low cost / high value improvements. As per respondents, there is little emphasis on Mountain Bike trails at this time on Haida Gwaii. The final Haida Gwaii Trails Strategy will provide options and strategy for bicycle trails, lanes, respecting cyclists who share the highway with automobiles, and bicycling tourism development.

An ATV User sent in a response indicating that he would like to see some old settler trails identified for ATV use. Generally hikers and stakeholders recommend that no ATV use be allowed on trails that are also used by hikers, except for maintenance purposes. It is of interest that recently the Trans Canada Trail organization stopped funding ATV trail development. The idea of promoting, and in time marketing, ATV use of old logging roads was met with some skepticism. There was only one ATV user questionnaire received, which may indicate that this idea should not be explored at this time, or it may mean that a more focused approach to consultation of this user group is required. ATVs are gaining popularity and are negatively affecting the shorelines, dunes, and traditional harvest areas. Though signs are in place to inform ATV Users of their limitations, this issue seems to go largely unaddressed by environmental and federal law enforcement agencies.

Horse Riders were represented by one completed questionnaire. The response indicates no issues with horse riding on trails and provides a list of trails used. This particular Rider has a use and etiquette agreement with Naikoon Park.

Few Outfitters or Vendors were contacted directly for engagement in the Stakeholder Consultation Process. Of those who provided input, trails and tourism development is supported as well as the identification of marine access campsites islands-wide. Niel Frazer’s book, *Boat camping Haida Gwaii: A small-vessel guide to the Queen Charlotte Islands*, was noted by several respondents as an excellent existing document for identification of marine access camp sites. More consultation on use of these sites, some of which are within specific jurisdictions may be required before adopting them as marketable. It may be useful to create a GPS program that has point identification for the approved sites that can be used in the field.

More direct consultation with Haida Gwaii Outfitters may be helpful to obtain additional input towards tourism demographics and user group needs as relate to Haida Gwaii trails.

Thoughtful and professional responses by public and stakeholders indicate that any Islands-wide strategy should continue to be a transparent. Public consultation should continue to be part of trails system management going forward.

The ongoing issue of having no central trail organization for the islands has been frustrating for Islands' Trail groups, individuals, and the Gwaii Trust Charitable Trust (GFCT). A previous study was done to address the need for a central trails management system or strategy, and was sponsored by the GFCT (then South Moresby Forest Replacement Account (SMFRA), Ebbs, J., 2007). This study and report fell short as it did not provide a path forward that could be implemented. The broad range of stakeholders who participated in this study included The Tlell Watershed Society, Mount Moresby Adventure Camp Society, Hecate Strait Streamkeepers, Over the Hill Hikers Group, Old Massett Village Council - Economic Development Office, Secretariat of the Haida Nation – Mapping Department, BC Parks and Conservancies (Ministry of Environment), and the Moresby Island Management Committee.

If acceptable, MIEDS, through the HGTS Project could reasonably take on the role of the centralized Islands trail-funding conduit, should another organization not be identified. The islands-wide, democratically elected representation on the MIEDS Board allows for this project to be taken islands-wide effectively. An important addition to the MIEDS, the Haida Gwaii Trail Advisory Committee on *Basecamp* can provide an on-line opportunity for information sharing. It can be used for editing purposes and dialogue, and most Stakeholders have expressed interest in using it for this purpose. The established MIEDS focus on Haida Gwaii tourism infrastructure and marketing can facilitate marketing of trails.

In order to accomplish this, a Trails Coordinator position could be maintained at MIEDS as a part-time position if funding could be found to facilitate it. In concert with all local organizations involved in trails, a Trails Coordinator (TC) could develop a maintenance schedule for all trails on Haida Gwaii. This includes securing ongoing funding sources for this purpose, on behalf of all trail organizations on Haida Gwaii, through the Gwaii Forest Charitable Trust (GFCT) and other partners. A TC could continue dialogue with trail organizations locally, regionally, and Canada-wide towards a strong marketing plan for Haida Gwaii trails. This planning will include fundraising as required, on behalf of all of the island trails organizations and managers.

Opportunities to assist the Islands trails organizations as per their specific needs could

be determined and regularly re-visited through regular meetings of a group like the Haida Gwaii Trails Advisory Committee and / or ongoing engagement through Basecamp, on-line. A Terms of Reference will be required for this committee. The Heritage Tourism Strategy will be among the guiding documents for this work. The TC could effectively administrate Human Resource Development Canada summer job creation, and partnering opportunities related to sustainable summer jobs related to trails. This was the main issue brought to this process from a regular trail user out of Skidegate, that is the creation of summer job positions so that when children go away to school they may be able to find work for the summer months at home. Currently there are very few summer jobs available, and since federal and provincial governments are not eligible for this program this position should be maintained under a non-governmental organization, municipality, or band council, or a perhaps a partnership of the above.

All those who participated in the questionnaire process should be engaged in ongoing information gathering and sharing. This can be done by regularly updating the HGTS page on the MIEDS website, advertising milestones in local and regional newspapers, through use of an e-mail list, and dialogue via the *Basecamp* on-line application. Stakeholders have basically said that they are not willing to begin participating in this way until there is money on the table and an approved Terms of Reference.

The final report of Stage 1 of this project will assess comments made through the consultation process in terms of a draft list of trails requiring maintenance. Jurisdictional issues around trail maintenance and development will be discussed and addressed. Regular maintenance was a key issue for Stakeholders, and therefore planning for it will be a central focus. A the most complete inventory to date of islands' trails will help to define how to consider maintenance and development funds, in terms of interpretive signage and the other trail infrastructure priorities of stakeholders and the public. The rationale for the creation of a new position, the Trails Coordinator for Haida Gwaii will be detailed in this report, and an Implementation Plan will be created. *The Haida Gwaii Trails Strategy* will be available in draft for the review, comment, and editing of stakeholders and the public prior to ratification.

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About the Author of this report.

Karen Church is a Mother, Archaeologist, and Naturalist. She has conducted archaeological studies throughout the operable forest lands of Haida Gwaii, mainly in response to logging plans in Old growth forests. From 1994 – 2005 she was a full-time culturally modified tree (CMT) Surveyor, Coordinator, and Project Manager, as an employee of the Secretariat of the Haida Nation. As an ethnographer, she contributed to the *Archaeological Overview Assessment of Northern Haida Gwaii*, Stafford J., Christensen, T., draft 2001, by transcribing and mapping information from ethnographic interviews of Old Massett knowledge holder and elders. She studied Archaeology from the “cedar roots” up on Haida Gwaii, and later, completed a Bachelor’s degree that recognized her with an Honours designation in the Archaeology Field

School from Simon Fraser University, Kamloops. In 2010, she was honoured again with the "Certificate in First Nations Language Proficiency" from Simon Fraser University. This Certification recognizes 6 years of ongoing, dedicated studies in First Nations' Language and Linguistics, with a focus on the Old Massett "dialect" of the Haida language, xaad kil. Most recently, Karen received the "Council of the Haida Nation Cultural Feature Identification Certification" (2011). She continues to pursue research goals, which include the development of a more refined archaeological potential model for inland regions of Haida Gwaii, and Canada-wide archaeological policy development.



File: 84500/Haida Gwaii

Re: Support for the Islands Trails Strategy

Trails are a key aspect of recreation within BC Parks. Within the Haida Gwaii protected areas, there are many existing trails and great potential for new trail infrastructure. To assess trail development feasibility, guiding principals must be identified to guide the evaluation of the development, maintenance and interpretation/signage requirements. A Strategy for addressing trail usage and development will be necessary in the future as BC Parks and the Haida Nation embark on the implementation of the newly designated Heritage Sites/Conservancies.

We welcome the effort MIEDS is making through starting up the Island Trails Strategy and look forward to working with them to create opportunities for trails and partnerships.

Sincerely,

Lucy Stefanyk
Haida Gwaii Area Supervisor
Protected Areas Division



k'yuwaatl'aagee / k'yuwaatl'aagaay

The Haida Gwaii Trails Strategy

Terms of Reference

As an Islands Community we are stronger than separate communities. Developing a shared vision of the different aspects of our social and economic needs create strong bonds between our communities and residents and enable us to more effectively move to action.

Through k'yuwaatl'aagee (OM) / k'yuwaatl'aagaay (S) – “the path out of the woods” / the Haida Gwaii Trails Strategy (“Strategy”), we will create certainty for sustainable recreational trail usage and management.

The objectives of this Strategy are to:

1. Complete a comprehensive review of previous strategic trail discussions and engagement processes undertaken by various groups and organizations over the last 10 years so as to incorporate as much of this work as possible and identify any gaps.
2. Undertake a public and stakeholder consultation process, along with in-depth documentary research on trails and trail-related land use on Haida Gwaii that will provide a broad and inclusive base for the development of the Strategy.
3. Discuss and propose a common vision for recreational trail management and usage on Haida Gwaii under the principles of the Heritage Tourism Strategy and Strategic Land Use Agreement.
4. Discuss and propose common trail standards (including signage and trail difficulty ratings) amongst the various jurisdictions, for branding and accessibility benefits.
5. Provide a single detailed inventory of recreational trails on Haida Gwaii.
6. Identify priority lists for maintenance and upgrades to existing trails (both Islands-wide and community-specific), along with known and potential funding sources for long term maintenance planning.
7. Collate all the above into a concise strategy document, which will be available to final public input and submitted to the local governing bodies and CHN for adoption.
8. Provide an opportunity for dialogue on future trail planning considerations that is within the parameters of the Haida Gwaii Strategic Land Use Agreement, Land Use Orders, and the Haida Protected Areas/Conservancy Management Plans.

The Strategy will benefit islanders and visitors in terms of health, recreation, education, research, cultural connection, job creation, and sustainable economic development.

A balanced approach to trail management and usage is fundamental to sustainability.

TIMELINE: November 15th, 2010 to March 31st, 2011