



BC Parks

November 25, 2021

File: 98700-50/Gowlland Y

Club Tread

Via Email: president@clubtread.org

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re: Cycling trails in Gowlland Tod Provincial Park (Partridge Hills)

BC Parks is reviewing a proposal to authorize cycling on additional existing trails in Gowlland Tod Provincial Park. The intent of this letter is to Club Tread to gather any feedback you might have on this change to the existing park trail system.

Background

With the establishment of Gowlland Tod Provincial Park in 1995, a management plan for the park was developed in consultation with First Nations and the local community. The park management plan authorizes cycling in limited areas and includes a commitment by BC Parks to undertake further assessments to determine if additional cycling trails can be added to the trail network. Any potential additions to the trail network will be managed to protect the park's natural and cultural values.

Since the establishment of Gowlland Tod Provincial Park, the popularity of mountain biking has grown exponentially in the capital region with more calls from the community for places for cyclists to recreate. With trail enhancements in Partridge Hills, BC Parks may assist in meeting this increased demand while also enhancing conservation initiatives in that area of the park.

Assessment Process

With the assistance of professional biologists and trail specialists, BC Parks completed an impact assessment to thoroughly map and evaluate the existing trail network in Partridge Hills and evaluate the potential impacts of cycling on the park's natural, recreational, and cultural values. Through this assessment, BC Parks concluded that with some trail improvements, opening select Partridge Hills trails to cycling could be done in a way that maintains the long-term sustainability of the trails and the park's natural environment. Some of those improvements include:

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- Decommissioning some trails that are redundant or lead to sensitive habitats, while maintaining circuitous trail options that still reach the main summit;
- Installing fencing in open areas to limit trail braiding;
- Posting maps and interpretive signage to promote responsible trail use; and
- Establishing a small parking lot for direct access into the park.

Public Engagement Process

BC Parks, in partnership with the South Island Mountain Bike Society (SIMBS), is hosting an open house information session and opportunity for community feedback. We value any comments you may have on these proposed improvements to the Partridge Hills trails. There are three ways you can connect with us:

- Email Peter at Peter.Woods@gov.bc.ca;
- Attend an information session held at Gowlland Tod Provincial Park starting on Saturday December 11, 2020 at 11:00 am and ending at 3:00 pm. There will be a public information tent located at the proposed new parking lot site (map attached) BC Parks is hosting this information session in partnership with the Southern Island Mountain Bike Association; and/or
- Send a letter to Peter Woods, Area Supervisor, to the address below.

We look forward to receiving your feedback by December 22, 2021. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of parks and protected areas, outdoor recreation, and our environment.

Yours truly,



Peter Woods
Cowichan Area Supervisor

Attachments: Gowlland Tod Map
Gowlland Tod – Partridge Hills Parking lot Map