

Springer Creek Restoration and Preservation Alliance

Spring 2015 Update

With the generous assistance of the Mapping Support Program of the Columbia Basin Watershed Network, and in collaboration with the Selkirk College Geospatial Research Center, Springer Creek Restoration and Preservation Alliance (SCRAPA) has recently mapped approximately 30 km of recreation trails in the lower Springer Creek watershed. These trails, easily accessed from Highway 6 and the Village of Slocan, vary from easy walking to extremely challenging hiking; near the Creek some require particular caution.

We encourage everyone, at every level of fitness or ability, to explore this special place of unusual geology, numerous waterfalls, crystal clear pools and a small, but truly impressive Canyon. Those who do visit, often come away spiritually renewed and with a deep and abiding love for this precious Creek and its watershed. Some have experienced that sense of interconnection so necessary for the future survival of our species.



Below the recreation area, Springer Creek then runs directly through the Village of Slocan. Here we find a remarkable confluence of creek, and lake, and river, the location of a First Nations village in the 19th century, probably situated to take advantage of plentiful Pacific Salmon in the Creek and River. Even today, this area has the highest biological productivity found anywhere in Slocan Lake. And most important for community development, here we also have an exceptional opportunity to practice ecological restoration of a former industrial site, converting the tunnel and artificial channel created when a sawmill was built in the 1960's back into a natural stream of restored fish habitat.

SCRAPA believes this unique, intimate relationship between Village and Creek provides an invaluable opportunity to begin creating a new, transformative economy combining environmental stewardship and economic development. We want to collaborate with all who can envision such a radically new convergence. With your help, we hope by Fall of 2015 to release specific proposals for direct public investment in a dramatically new sustainable

development strategy that will benefit the Village, the Slocan Valley and the Region. At the heart of these proposals is a vision: a resilient Village as a place of harmony between diverse interests, interconnected with surrounding communities, committed to healthy outdoor recreation for residents and visitors, and therefore demonstrating a unique brand of economic development.

Because of the Creek's special character and its enormous potential for sustainable development, SCRAPA cannot support a plan by the Village of Slocan Council to generate hydro-power from Springer Creek. Those wishing to comment on the hydro proposal can make submissions until March 18th on the Ministry of FLNRO website at <http://arfd.gov.bc.ca/ApplicationPosting/viewpost.jsp?PostID=48176>.

The public can learn more about our mapping project by attending a SCRAPA presentation at the regular Village of Slocan Council Meeting on March 9th, at 7 PM. Our Trail Map Brochure, printed with financial support from both Nelson and District and Kootenay Savings Credit Unions can be viewed on our website, and copies are available by donation. Please also send any questions and comments to SCRAPA at springer.creek.restoration@gmail.com and visit us on Facebook and the web at www.springercreekrestoration.wordpress.com.

