



- Trailhead
- Moderate Trail
- Ski Trail
- Difficult Trail
- Viewpoint
- Community Forest trail intersection
- Cross-country ski trail intersection
- Northeast Slope trails intersection
- Community Forest Boundary
- Hudson Bay Mountain Recreation Area
- Creek
- Elevation contour (interval 100m)

0 75 150 300
metres

Scale 1:20,000
 Cartography: Hesperus Arts (www.hesperus-wild.org)
 Airphoto mosaic (Summer 2003) courtesy of Skeena-Stikine Forest District
 Copyright ©2006 Smithers Community Forest
 UTM Zone 9N, WGS84, map date: Jan., 2006

Smithers Community Forest

Dahlie Creek Trailhead
880m

Goldeneye Trailhead
920m

Nature Trailhead
890m

Seymour Ridge Trailhead
800m

Seymour Lake Trailhead
570m

Duthie Trailhead
510m

Buchfink Lodge

Bigelow Lake

Seymour Lake

Ski Smithers Controlled Recreation Area

Hudson Bay Mountain Recreation Area

Whistler Road

Hudson Bay Road

Seymour Lake Road

Whistler Road

Whistler Road

SMITHERS COMMUNITY FOREST

The Smithers Community Forest is located in the Provincial Forest on Crown Land on the South facing slopes of Hudson Bay Mountain, about 5 kilometres west of the town of Smithers on the Hudson Bay Mountain Road (HBMR) or "Ski Hill Road."

The Smithers Community Forest was formed in 1991. The Provincial Forest is managed according to the Forest Act and the Forest and Range Practices Act of B.C. under the authority of the Skeena Stikine Forest District Manager. The District Manager approves the Community Forest Plan.

The Smithers Community Forest is a good outdoor classroom that provides an opportunity for the public to see how recreation, timber and wildlife values of a forest are managed. The intensity of harvest activities in the community forest is low. Examples of low intensity activities that are planned within the forest include small-scale logging, planting trees, thinning, brushing and weeding, wildlife enhancement projects, demonstration, nature, hiking, mountain bike and cross-country ski trails.

The Smithers Community Forest covers an area of 4,620 hectares; more than 11 times the size of Stanley Park. Its location was chosen for the following reasons:

- good all-weather road
- close to Smithers
- scenic area
- recreation opportunities
- opportunities for demonstration of harvesting and silviculture
- ecological diversity
- good summer and winter wildlife habitat and viewing opportunities

One of the main objectives of the Community Forest was to get local involvement in preparing forest management plans. Local involvement was achieved by setting up a committee with representatives from various sectors of the community. People were chosen because of their interest in the project and in the completion of a Community Forest Management Plan.

LOGGING HISTORY OF THE AREA

The northern portion of the forest above HBMR was logged in the late 1940s through the 1950s. At that time the loggers practiced "diameter-limit" cutting. Trees had to meet the following minimum size requirements to be cut.

- Balsam & Spruce--35 cm
- Lodgepole pine--30 cm

The average age of the trees harvested was 140 years.

Most of the early logging crews used horses to skid the logs to a centrally-located sawmill site. This gradually changed to "horse and cat" shows (horse and tractor skidding operations). In the early 1950s, especially when logging bigger timber, tractor skidding became more common. During this period, several small sawmills operated in the area, each employing up to four people. Large sawdust piles in the forest still clearly identify the location of these old mill sites.

The mainstay of these mills was lumber production; however, some lodgepole pine was also sawn into railway ties. The rough-cut lumber was hauled from the forest by truck and taken to local planer mills in town, such as operated by Northern Interior Forest Products Ltd. and Hanson Tie and Lumber Company, which was the big local tie buyer. Stumpage fees paid to the Province for these ties ranged from 6¢ each for Grade No. 1 & 2 in 1946, to 18¢ each, by 1954.

Some of the local operators were: Anderson Bros., Maillot Bros., Helmer Larson, J. Osinga, Bob Brouwer, Jim Whalen, Martin Hahre, F. Gardner and B. Zerr.

COMMUNITY FOREST OBJECTIVES:

- Plan and integrate forest uses through public involvement.
- Create and improve recreation opportunities recognizing a diversity of compatible interests.
- Outdoor education opportunities in a safe environment.
- Establish an area where forest management practices and forestry research can be demonstrated.
- Demonstrate integrated forest management recognizing the importance of maintaining a mix of forest habitats.
- Ensure local community watersheds are protected.
- Plan activities that minimize visual impacts on other users.
- Plan activities that minimize impacts on the natural environment of the forest
- Maintain the diversity and abundance of existing species.
- Designate a no-shooting zone



Wildlife Mural at the Nordic Centre

TRAILS

The main trails are noted below and each will give hikers a substantial hike with reasonably steady grades and occasional scenic viewpoints.

Many of these trail directions refer to junctions. Letters indicate trail and road junctions. In the Community Forest, the letters are posted on yellow sign boards with green lettering. In the Northeast Slope Trail System, they are posted on blue sign boards with black lettering. Trails are identified as Easy, Moderate, and Difficult. All time estimations are given for one-way travel, unless noted.

SEYMOUR LAKE TRAILHEAD

...to Seymour Ridge Trailhead (100 min.)

Park across the road from the trailhead sign on HBMR. The Saddle Trail is a gentle climb to junction H. Turn left at H and climb more steeply to the top of the Seymour Ridge at G. The undulating trail follows the ridge and offers glorious views of the Bulkley Valley all along the way. At D, hikers can return to the Seymour Trailhead on the Waterfall Trail, or continue along the ridge to have even more spectacular views. (The Waterfall Trail is a steep, downhill trail beside a spectacular waterfall. Arrive back at HBMR about 200 metres from the trailhead.) At C, take a short 300m detour on the Sackungen Trail. The Sackungen is a must-see: unusual rock formations of 3m deep rock fissures 50cm wide. Further along the trail is an old cabin just before B. Next, the trail winds through quiet meadows with unforgettable views to A. The trails from

Junctions A and B are branches of the Goldeneye Trail, and lead to the Goldeneye Trailhead. The trail then descends gently through relaxing pine forests to the Seymour Ridge Trailhead.

...to Duthie Trailhead (120 minutes)

Park across the road from the trailhead sign on HBMR. The Saddle Trail is a gentle climb to junction H. Continue straight at H and begin to descend. Note: there are several trails that turn to the right but these trails cross private land. At M3, cross Dahlie Creek and enter the Northeast Slope Trail System. Turn left at M3 and follow Dahlie Creek upstream. Dahlie Creek is named for a pioneer ski family in the Bulkley Valley. The trail becomes steeper before turning right at junction M3, and then meanders along a fairly steep sidehill passing M1. At M1 you may notice beautiful views of the Bulkley Valley off to the right. After M1 slowly descend to Q3, where the descent becomes more pronounced. At Q1 join with the Bug Block Road; turn right and proceed to R. Turn right for a short hike along a dry boardwalk through excellent bird-watching wetlands to the Duthie Trailhead.

SEYMOUR RIDGE TRAILHEAD

...to Seymour Lake Trailhead.

Follow HBMR past the switchbacks and the lookout. The lookout offers some of the best views of the beautiful Bulkley Valley if you are unable to hike the trails. Park at hydro pole 85 on HBMR near the Seymour Ridge Trailhead. See Seymour Lake Trailhead to Seymour Ridge Trailhead in reverse for details of this hike.

Harvest Demonstration Trail (90 min.)

Turn right off HBMR at the Harvest Demonstration Trail sign at 10 km. Follow the signs to the Harvest Demonstration Trailhead (keep to the left at all the road intersections). A brochure is available in the mailbox at the trailhead.

NATURE TRAILHEAD

Turn right off HBMR at the Smithers Community Forest Sign near 8 km. Park in the parking lot about 100 metres up the road. Go through the locked gate to the right of the large billboard sign. Follow the cross-country ski trail for about 100 m and turn right at the trail sign. Pick up a trail brochure in the mailbox.

DAHLIE CREEK TRAILHEAD

...to the Duthie Trailhead/Seymour Lake Trailhead

Follow directions to the Demo Forest Trail but turn right onto the Lower Logging Road about 1.5 km from HBMR. Follow the lower logging road for 2 km. Watch for Dahlie Creek Trailhead Sign on the right about 100m before the end of the road.

The Dahlie Creek Trail goes gently downhill for about 1.5 km, crosses Dahlie Creek and goes gently uphill for 2 km until it joins Hahre's Cabin Trail at junction L2 and the Bug Block Road at Junction L in the Northeast Slope Trail System. Notice the junction signs are now blue with black lettering.

GOLDENEYE TRAILHEAD

Hike the Nature Trail to station 8 (see Nature Trailhead). Turn left at bench on the trail. The trail meanders along a rocky ridge through old-growth pine forest. At the junction A1 go right to A or left to B on the Seymour Ridge Trail (see Seymour Ridge Trail for more details).

BULKLEY VALLEY CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS

Turn off HBMR at the Community Forest Sign (Approximately 8 km on HBMR). Ski trail brochures are available at the Buchfink Lodge December–March.



Trails of the Smithers Community Forest

North Portion