

**Purcell Wilderness
Conservancy
Provincial Park**

FRY CREEK CANYON and BIRCHDALE TRAILS



Trail for some time. But he was also unable to make it profitable, and finally gave up on the mine after yielding only 31 grams of gold.

The Fry and Carney Creeks also attracted the Bacuus brothers who trapped throughout these drainages. The Bacuus's were also responsible for stringing telegraph wire and introduced early communication to Birchdale, some of which can still be seen on the trail between this Community and Johnson's Landing.

The Fry Creek Canyon Recreation Area was originally established to protect the Trail and the unique geological features of the Canyon. In 1995 the boundaries of the neighbouring Purcell Wilderness Conservancy were expanded to include the Fry Creek Canyon Recreation Area, and the resulting 202,709ha were designated as a Class 'A' Provincial Park. The Purcell Wilderness Conservancy, along with the adjacent St. Mary's Alpine Park (9,164ha) protects a significant, wild and beautiful region within the Purcell Mountains.

THE FRY CREEK CANYON AND BIRCHDALE TRAILS

The Fry Creek Trail extends some 12km up the Canyon. Visitors travel through stands of cedar, hemlock and the odd Yew tree and are afforded splendid views of the Creek and the Canyon and surrounding peaks from this old miners' trail.

Perched along the steep cliffs of the Canyon, trail conditions vary, and extreme care must be taken. Bears may be encountered anywhere on the trail and hikers must take appropriate precautions. BC Parks does not patrol or maintain the trail beyond the confluence of Fry and Carney Creeks. Use topographic 1:50,000 scale map 82K/2 with a compass to accompany this brochure.

ACCESS – Johnson's Landing

Johnson's Landing is accessible by a secondary road north of Kaslo. Follow the highway north past Lardeau and turn right (east) at the head of Kootenay Lake onto a gravel road. Turn right again onto the Argenta Road and follow it south to Johnson's Landing (18km). The Fry Creek trailhead is about ½km past the Johnson's Landing Community Hall. **The Fry Creek Trailhead and first 500m of trail are located on private property.** In consideration of our hosts, and the environment, we would ask that you try and keep this area as clean as possible.

BACKCOUNTRY ETHICS

Help preserve the natural, undeveloped beauty of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy by minimizing your impact.

Use biodegradable soap for washing and do not dispose of grey water directly in the Creek. Deposit human waste in a 15cm deep hole at least 60m from all water sources. Fill the hole

with earth and replace the sod after use. Pack out all your garbage.

Tread lightly. Stay on the designated trail, as shortcuts can cause erosion. Leave natural features and historical artifacts in place and never approach or feed wildlife. The Purcell Wilderness Conservancy is a Non-Mechanized Area, **bicycles, ATVs and other mechanized forms of transport are not permitted. Horses are also not permitted** on the Fry Creek trail and other areas on the west side of the Conservancy.

Be prepared. When hiking the Fry Creek or Birchdale Trails, you will be in a wilderness where weather and traveling conditions can change quickly. Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to be back.

WARNING

This Trail is very exposed to the Creek, and there are steep drop-offs all along the Canyon. All persons should have proper footwear and children should be accompanied and closely supervised by adults at all times.

For more information visit the website:
<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/purcell.htm>

As many other areas, the Fry Creek Trail has its early beginnings in mining. A placer claim was established on Fry Creek in 1893, but the area remained inactive until the 1920's when a group of prospectors established the Pegleg Mine near the Confluence of Fry and Carney Creeks. They had discovered gold near the mouth of Fry Creek, and speculated that they would find the source here. To move equipment and supplies to the site, a pack horse trail was built from Johnson's Landing to the mine site. Carving a trail out of the steep canyon required extensive drilling and blasting, and one of the workers fell to his death while constructing it. The prospectors eventually lost interest after years of effort produced only marginal returns.

In 1935, another prospector bought out the claim, and he and his family maintained the