

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park

Trail Information Update

April 25, 2012

Access Routes

Lytton Trail Head: Take the ferry from Lytton across the Fraser River. The Ferry is closed for periods in the spring due to high water. A gravel road leads to the trailhead north of the ferry. Alternative access from Lillooet via Texas Creek / N. Spencer Roads. This road is very narrow in places.

Blowdown Pass: *Winter conditions.* The first 3 km has a few new cross ditches that may be difficult to access for vehicles without adequate clearance. The first 10 km of the Blowdown Creek FSR is also rough in places but 2WD.

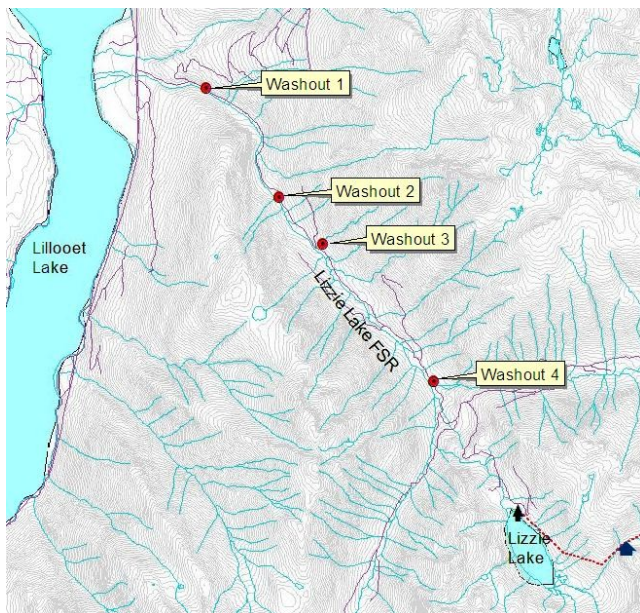
Currently the road 1km below the branch 6 turnoff is blocked by a recent avalanche and not vehicle passable at this time. You must now park and hike 7 km along the road to the park boundary.

If the road is cleared of the avalanche, the final 5 km, starting at the "Branch 6" turn, is a very rough 4WD road. Most visitors park their vehicles at the 10 km mark along the Blowdown Creek FSR.



Debris left on Blowdown Creek FSR from avalanche in fall 2011.

Lizzie Lake: *Winter conditions.* Lizzie Lake Forest Service Road blocked by 4 slides, the first of which is approx. 1 km from Lillooet Lake. The road and bridges are damaged in numerous locations; no vehicle access is possible. Lizzie Lake is approximately 10 km from the first washout. About a 12 km hike from Lizzie Lake to the park boundary during normal mid to late summer conditions (approx. 700 meters net elevation gain from parking lot at Lizzie Lake to park boundary). The road is becoming overgrown. Route finding may be difficult.



Trail Conditions

Trailhead to Suspension Bridge: Generally good condition, no snow left. Trail was brushed and cleared to Suspension Bridge in 2011. This 13 km section of trail has 5 campsite locations along it. Each location contains a steel bear-proof food cache and a user-maintained pit toilet.

Suspension Bridge to Stein Lake: *Expect snow above Cottonwood.* Trail clearing was completed between Suspension Bridge and Ponderosa Camp in 2011. Low-lying areas between Suspension Bridge and Ponderosa may still be brushy. Fire-damaged sections of the trail have been cleared. Trail clearing was completed between Raven Flats and Relief Creek in fall 2009. There was a new cable car installed to replace the old Rutledge Crossing in 2010. The new crossing is located about 300m upstream of the old crossing. Please follow the new trail upstream to access the new cable car. The trail between Rutledge crossing and Stein Lake was cleared of deadfall in 2010.

Stein Lake to Tundra Lake: *Winter conditions.* The trail from Stein Lake up to the tree line on Stein Ridge was last cleared of deadfall and re-marked in 2006. Expect to encounter many deadfalls and erosion along this very steep and difficult section of trail. Use caution and allow lots of travel time. Expect to cross snow and encounter snowfalls even during late summer. The route around Tundra Lake is very rough and takes about 2 - 4 hours during normal late summer/early fall conditions. A backcountry toilet and food cache have been installed on a knoll in the north east corner of the lake where there is a good water source. Net elevation gain of about 1100 meters (3600 feet) from Stein Lake to the park boundary near Tundra Lake, and a net loss of about 700 meters (2200 feet) from there to the old Lizzie Lake parking lot. Very strenuous travelling in either direction. Water is available at Tundra Lake, Puppet Lake and the Stein River only. There are unreliable snowmelt streams at some points along the ridge. **Do not underestimate the length of time and effort required to traverse this section of trail. This route should be considered only by experienced backpackers. Route finding skills are a necessity as many of the rock cairns marking the trail have fallen. White-out conditions can occur even during mid-summer.**

Cottonwood Creek Campsite to Blowdown Pass: *Winter conditions.* The trail from Cottonwood Forks camp to Blowdown Pass was cleared of deadfall and remarked in September

2010. Currently sections of this trail are very brushy. Route finding skills may be required. The fire-damaged section from Stein River to Cottonwood Forks was cleared in 2011. The section from the Stein River to Cattle Valley Creek is difficult. Be prepared for steep ascents and descents and side sloping. Very steep ascent to Unnecessary Knob just north of Cottonwood Creek campsite and trail may be difficult to follow in sections. There are bridge crossings over the north fork of Cottonwood Creek and Cattle Valley Creek. This 29 km section of trail has 1 developed campsite along it (North Fork Cottonwood Creek) with a steel bear-proof food cache and pit toilet. The final ascent (5.5km) from the Silver Queen Mine turn off to Blowdown Pass is along an old road and easy to manage.

Stryen Creek Trail *Winter conditions in upper section:* Trailed cleared up to Creek crossing on East Fork of trail (approx.6km), past this trail becomes very overgrown.

Problem Bears, Cougars: No reports of problem bears at this time. Be sure to use bear-proof food caches and proper food handling techniques.

Note: Open Fires are not permitted in the Stein from May 1 to September 30. Visitors must use camp stoves only.

Dogs are not recommended due to concerns with wildlife and other users. All dogs in the Park must be on a leash at all times.