

# Stein Valley Nlaka’pamux Heritage Park

## - Trail Information Update -

**May 2017 – December 2017**

**Welcome to the beautiful Stein Valley Nlaka’pamux Heritage Park!**

This trail update is to inform park users of the most currently known information – please visit the BC Parks website often for updates. Any warnings of a serious nature will also be posted directly on the website.

The Stein Valley Nlaka’pamux Heritage Park is a wilderness park with a combination of lower valley and alpine terrain.

Be aware that in alpine areas, even in non-winter months, **winter conditions may occur at any time in higher elevations.**



## **ACCESS – 2 MAIN ROUTES AND 2 ALTERNATE ROUTES**

### **MAIN ROUTES (at Eastern and Western Boundaries):**

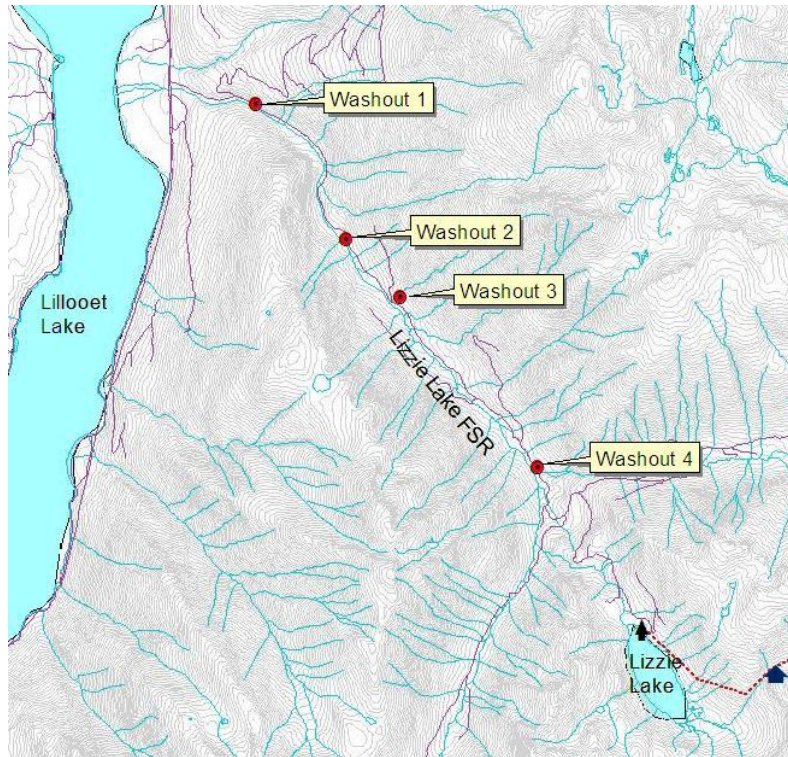
#### **Lytton Trailhead (main access at Eastern Boundary):**

To get to the main trailhead, take the ferry from Lytton across the Fraser River. The Ferry is closed for periods in the spring due to high water (also occasionally due to extreme weather).

**For ferry schedules and high water information go to the Drive BC website.**

A gravel road leads to the trailhead approximately 8 kilometers (kms) from the ferry. There is an alternative access from Lillooet via Texas Creek / N. Spencer Roads – caution: this road is very narrow in places.

## Lizzie Lake (secondary access at Western Boundary):



For the western park boundary of the Stein, the main E-W traverse is accessed via the Lizzie Creek Trail – this trail meets with the park boundary just west of Tundra Lake.

### TO GET TO THE LIZZE CREEK TRAIL:

Starting off of the Duffey Lake Road (Highway 99 – south of Pemberton, BC) the Lizzie Creek Trail is accessed from the In-Shuck-In Forest Service Road (FSR). There are several washouts and creek crossings between the Lizzie Lake and the trail head. Be cautious of high streamflow conditions particularly at wetter times of the year. The trail head is located at the sixth (6) switchback corner which is approximately 2.6 Km from the In-Shuck-In FSR. It is approximately 11 km to Lizzie Lake and a 12 km hike from Lizzie Lake to the park boundary (during normal mid to late summer conditions). It is approximately a 700 meter net elevation gain from the parking area at Lizzie Lake to the park boundary. A new section of trail traverses the side of the valley and joins the old trail, shortening the hike and reducing the elevation gain.

The entire trail has been brushed and cleared to the sub-alpine in the summer of 2016.



## **ALTERNATE ROUTES (along Northern Boundary):**

### **Blowdown Pass**

Access to this portion of the Stein Valley is via the Blowdown Forest Service Road (FSR) off of Highway 99 (in proximity to Duffey Lake Provincial Park). The first 10 kms of the Blowdown Creek FSR is also rough in places – including a few cross ditches in the first 3 kms (approximately). The final 5 kms, starting at the “Branch 6” turn, is a very rough 4WD road. This is where most visitors park their vehicles (which is at the 10 km mark along the Blowdown Creek FSR).

### **Van Horlick Creek Road**

Access to this portion of the Stein Valley is similar to the Blowdown Pass – the Van Horlick Creek FSR is approximately 6 kms west of the Blowdown Pass FSR. This route is not maintained – it is narrow and brushy.

## TRAIL CONDITIONS

The trail is in year 2 of a Capital project – upgrading the trail and facilities primarily along the E-W Traverse (main trailhead – Lytton side – to the western boundary between Tundra and Lizzie Lakes).

As part of this upgrade, the official campsites are being improved – please see table below for specific information:

### CAMPGROUNDS

E-W Traverse (Main Trailhead to Tundra Lake)					
#	Campground	# of Tent Pads	Maximum # of People (for Entire Campsite)	Approximate GPS Location	Other Information
1	Loop	See 'Other'	16	50° 16' 11.82"; 121° 39' 21.78"	Improvement scheduled for 2017
2	Devil's Staircase	See 'Other'	16	50° 15' 54.48"; 121° 40' 58.20"	Improvement scheduled for 2017
3	Teepee	See 'Other'	16	50° 16' 16.02"; 121° 43' 46.14"	Improvement scheduled for 2017
4	Earl's Campground	See 'Other'	16	50° 16' 53.04"; 121° 45' 11.82"	Improvement scheduled for 2017
5	Suspension Bridge	4	16	50° 17' 25.92"; 121° 46' 54.24"	Improved in 2016
6	Lean-To	3	8	50° 18' 20.88"; 121° 49' 30.00"	Improved in 2016
7	Ponderosa	3	8	50° 18' 39.18"; 121° 52' 12.12"	Improved in 2016
8	Cottonwood	3	12	50° 18' 21.42"; 50° 18' 21.42"	Improved in 2016
9	Logjam	3	8	50° 15' 54.00"; 122° 0' 34.26"	Improved in 2016
10	Avalanche	3	8	50° 12' 34.18"; 122° 4' 38.94"	Improved in 2016
11	Stein Lake	3	8	50° 10' 1.92"; 122° 10' 4.8"	Improved in 2016
12	Puppet	2	6	50° 9' 52.57"; 122° 13' 1.87"	Campsite as of 2016
13	Tundra	3	8	50° 9' 12.28"; 122° 15' 22.09"	Moved to this location as of 2016

## .....TRAIL AND FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS.....

**\* A MULTI-YEAR major trail improvement project (including improvement of trail tread, clearing of vegetation off the trail, improvements to bridges (with handrails), etc.) was started in 2016. The project was focused from the Suspension Bridge to the western boundary of the park.**

**Keep to the trail and follow the trail markers – the trail will be thoroughly marked in this portion of the park in August 2017. Please camp only at the designated campsites.**

***- see campground table on PAGE 4 for updated campground information -***

**Expect recurring windfall in areas – particularly through the areas that have previously experienced wildfires – particularly the Cottonwood area.**

**In 2017, the trail project will continue with improvements focusing on:**

- trail work from the main trailhead (Lytton side) to the Suspension Bridge**
- installing facilities including new food caches, signage, etc.\***
- Cottonwood Campground - north along the Blowdown Pass – minimal work (will revert to a ‘route’ rather than a trail**

Water suitable for consumption is available only along the Stein River and at Puppet and Tundra Lakes (it is still recommended to use devices to filter collected water).

## - Breakdown of Trail Network by the Following Trail Sections -

### 1. Trailhead to Suspension Bridge:

During the non-winter months, this section of trail is regularly maintained by Stein Wardens and Park Rangers from the main trailhead to the Suspension Bridge. This 13 kms section of trail has 5 campsite locations along it. Each campsite includes a steel food cache and a user-maintained pit toilet.

**This portion of trail will be undergoing upgrades in summer 2017 – The BC Parks website and main trailhead information kiosk (Lytton side) will include information as to specific dates and locations – keep posted.**

### 2. Suspension Bridge to Cottonwood Campground:

As of August 2016, this section of trail was completely cleared and brushed. The trail is in good condition and easy to follow.

Closer to Cottonwood Campground (Ponderosa area): approximately 50 metres of trail has been re-routed away from the eroding riverbank. Cairns have been built through the section of talus slope between Snake Bluffs and Ponderosa area.

### 3. Cottonwood Campground to Stein Lake Campground:

As of August 2016, this section of trail was completely cleared and brushed. Expect recurring windfall particularly through the burn areas.

There are two cable cars in this section to cross the Stein River – at Scudamore and Rutledge Creeks.

### 4. Stein Lake Campground to Tundra Lake Campground:

Elevation Gains/Losses from Stein Lake to western park boundary (near Tundra Lake):

Gain: (approx.) 1100 metres (3600 feet)

Loss: (approx.) 700 metres (2200 feet) – from boundary to “old” Lizzie Lake parking lot

**This section of trail is particularly strenuous. 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 (at any time of year).**

There is one cable car in this section to cross the Stein River – in direct proximity to the Stein Lake campground.

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**Puppet Lake Campground – NEW AS OF AUGUST 2016:**

A campground has been added at Puppet Lake with two tent pads and a pit toilet ('Zeebest Garden Throne').

There are unreliable snowmelt streams at some points along the ridge in this area. 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.

**Expect a strenuous hike along this very steep and difficult section of trail.**

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**Use caution** and allow a lot of time for travel. The route around Tundra Lake is very rough and takes approximately 2-4 hours to traverse during late summer/early fall conditions.

**Tundra Lake Campground – RELOCATED TO THE RIDGE (EAST SIDE OF THE LAKE) AS OF AUGUST 2016:**

Starting from a large cairn on the main trail, follow the trail south along the ridge for approximately 400 metres to a small tarn - this is where the official campground is located. There are three tent pads and a pit toilet ('Zeebest Garden Throne'). Also, there is a trail that continues from the campground to the outlet of Tundra Lake (a hike that is approx. a 5 minute walk from the campground).



**5. Cottonwood Campground North Up Along the Blowdown Pass:**

This section is classified as a route as of August 2016 – route-finding skills is essential in this area due to the brushy terrain. There were substantial forest fires in this area in 2009 – it has been determined the best course of action is to let the area regenerate naturally – this route will be re-assessed in due time.

The section from the Stein River to Cattle Valley Creek is difficult. Be prepared for steep ascents and descents and side-sloping. There is a very steep ascent to Unnecessary Knob just north of Cottonwood Campground and the trail is undefined, unmarked, and difficult to follow in sections. This 29 km section of trail has one developed campsite along it (North Fork Cottonwood Creek) with a food cache and pit toilet ('Zeebest Garden Throne'). The final ascent (5.5km) from the Silver Queen Mine turn off to Blowdown Pass is along an old road and easy to manoeuver.





## 6. Stryen Creek Trail:

**As of the summer of 2017, this trail is being officially closed to the public for management purposes. We apologize for any inconvenience.**

There is private property located in this area – we ask the public to stay out of this area. Use at your own risk.

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### **OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE:**

#### **Open Fires (Campfires):**

**Not permitted in the Stein from May 1 to September 30.**

Visitors must use camp stoves only for cooking purposes.

#### **Wildlife:**

##### **Bears and Cougars:**

No reports of human/bear conflicts at this time. Be sure to use the provided food caches and carry out proper food-handling techniques.

##### **Dogs:**

Bringing dogs in to the Stein is **STRONGLY DISCOURAGED** due to concerns with encountering wildlife, other trail users, and potential damage to natural/cultural values. If there is a justified reason to bring a dog in to the park, the dog must be under control and on a leash at all times.

#### **Parking at main trailhead (Lytton side):**

Please make sure to park your vehicle responsibly – along the edge of the parking lot **ACROSS** from the information kiosk. Also park in a manner where other vehicles are able to easily park alongside your vehicle – including large vehicles. **THERE IS TO BE NO PARKING IN THE AREA WHERE BOULDERS HAVE BEEN PLACED** (between the information kiosk and arbor).

**ENJOY YOUR VISIT TO THE BEAUTIFUL STEIN VALLEY!**

