



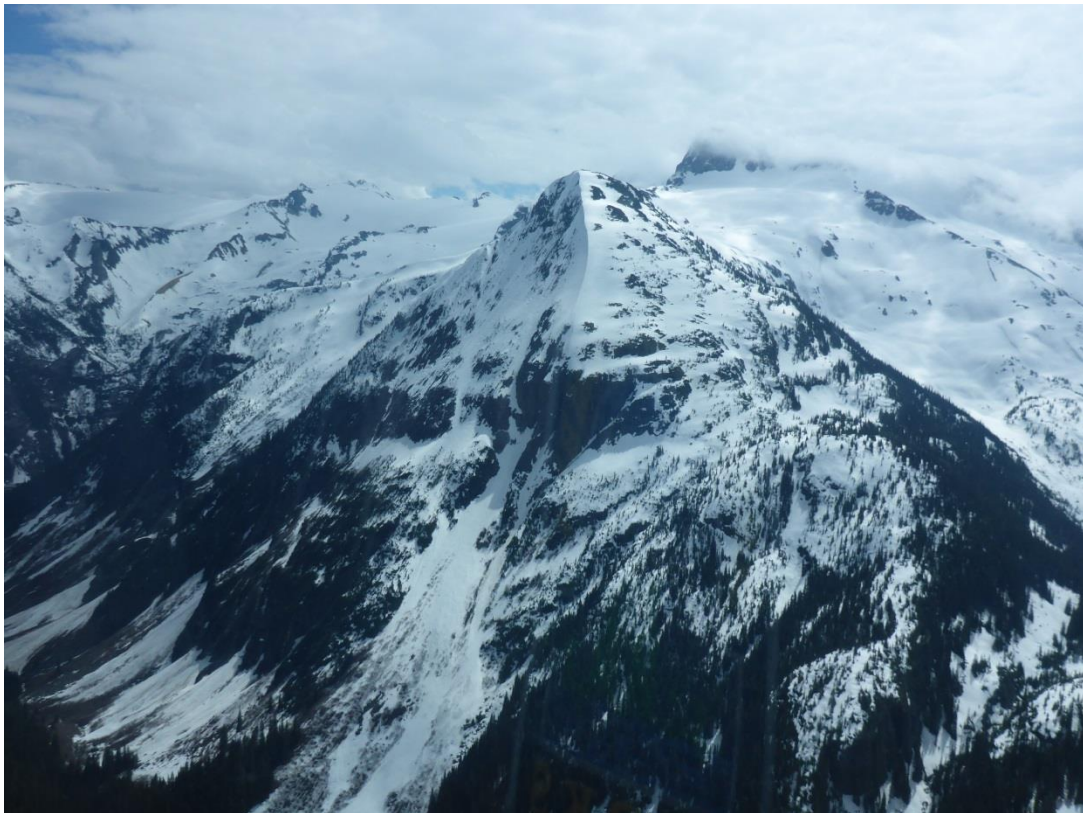
Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park

- Trail Information Update and Winter Advisory - November 2019 – April 2020

Welcome to 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. **

The Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is a wilderness park with a combination of lower valley, mid-valley, and high valley (alpine) terrain.



Stein - 2016

In the winter months expect snow and freezing temperatures –

TRAVEL IS NOT RECOMMENDED on all mid- and high-valley portions of the trail.



ACCESS – 2 MAIN ROUTES AND 2 ALTERNATE ROUTES

The Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is a wilderness park with a combination of lower valley, mid-valley, and high valley (alpine) terrain.

The park has a few main points of access/egress – they are as follows:

MAIN ROUTES (at Eastern and Western Boundaries):

1) Lytton Trailhead (main access at Eastern Boundary):

To get to the main trailhead, take the ferry from Lytton, BC across the Fraser River.

For ferry schedules and high water information go to the Drive BC website (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/passenger-travel/water-travel/inland-ferries/lytton-reaction-ferry>).

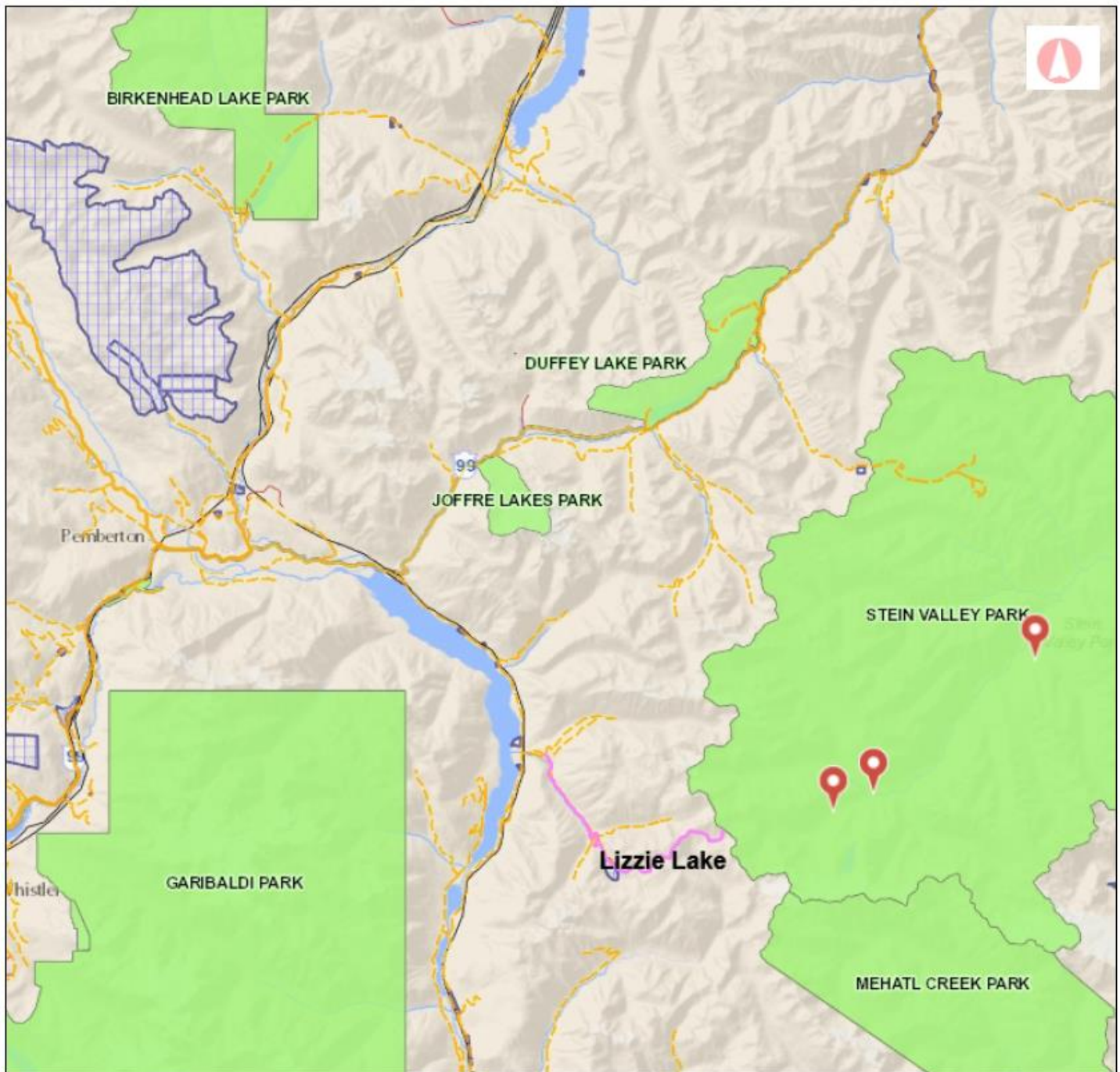
A gravel road leads to the trailhead approximately 8 kilometers (kms) from the ferry landing on the west side of the Fraser River.



Main trailhead at Lytton (east side) – September 2018



2) **Lizzie Lake Area (secondary access at Western Boundary):**
(VIA CROWN LAND OUTSIDE OF PROVINCIAL PARK)

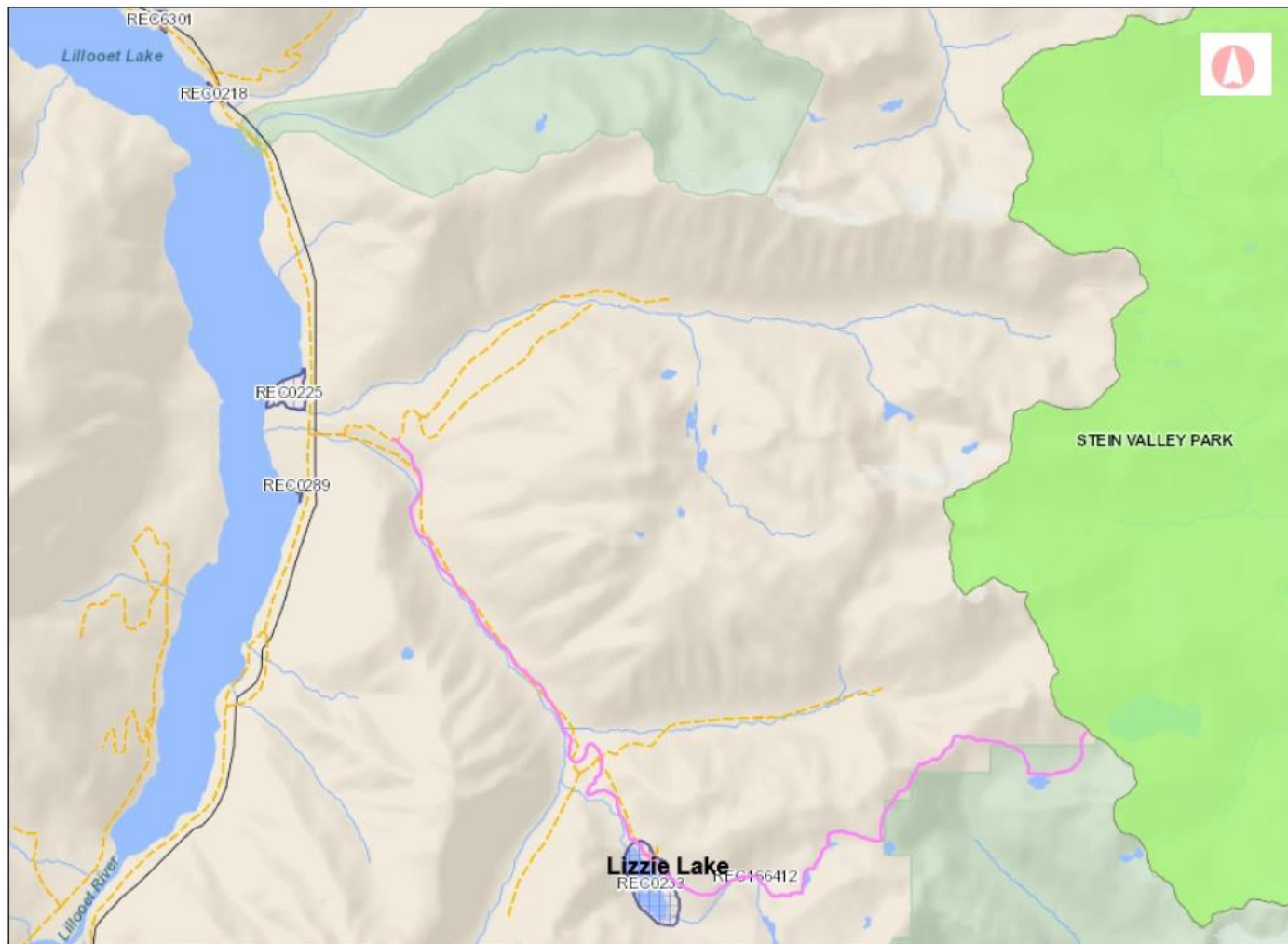


The western access/egress to the Stein E-W traverse is via the In-Shuck-In Forest Service Road (FSR) off Highway 99 (and close to Pemberton, BC) – see *general overview map (above)*.

The Stein E-W traverse (Lytton – Lizzie Lake area and vice versa) equals approximately 140 kms – of which approx. 80 kms is within the provincial park.



The portion of trail on Crown land (west of the Stein Valley) is along the **Lizzie Creek Trail** (which essentially connects the FSR to the park boundary). This trail starts/ends on one side with the park boundary, just west of Tundra Lake, and starts/ends on the other side with the In-Shuck-In Forest Service Road (FSR) – which runs along Lillooet Lake (see map below).



The Lizzie Lake trailhead is located approx. 2.6 kms from the FSR. Lizzie Lake is approximately 11 kms from the trailhead and it is approx. another 12 kms to the Stein Valley park boundary - there is roughly a 700-metre net elevation gain from the parking areas at Lizzie Lake to the boundary. Hikers have been known to be either dropped off near Lizzie Lake and/or find a spot to park along the road and leave his/her vehicle (at your own risk) – there is NO SHUTTLE SERVICE.

Management of the area west of the park boundary is with the **Recreation Sites and Trails BC** program (with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development) - out of the Squamish office. **If you have any questions about this section of the trail, please see their website, for details and staff contacts, at the following link:**

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/camping-hiking/sites-trails>

ALTERNATE ROUTES (along Northern Boundary):

(VIA CROWN LAND OUTSIDE OF PROVINCIAL PARK)

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 along this route (which is at the 10 km mark along the Blowdown Creek FSR). This route is not maintained.

Van Horlick Creek Road

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

CAMPGROUNDS



Trail users must camp at an official campground – please see the table below for specifics:

E-W Traverse (Main Trailhead to Tundra Lake)					
#	Campground	# of Tent Pads	Maximum # of People (for Entire Campground)	Approximate GPS Location	Other Information
1	Loop	See 'Other Information'	16	50° 16' 11.82"; -121° 39' 21.78"	can accommodate at least 6 (single) tents
2	Devil's Staircase	See 'Other Information'	16	50° 15' 54.48"; -121° 40' 58.20"	can accommodate at least 6 (single) tents
3	Teepee	See 'Other Information'	16	50° 16' 16.02"; -121° 43' 46.14"	can accommodate at least 6 (single) tents
4	Earl's Campground	See 'Other Information'	16	50° 16' 53.04"; -121° 45' 11.82"	can accommodate at least 6 (single) tents
5	Suspension Bridge	See 'Other Information'	20 (approx.)	50° 17' 25.92"; -121° 46' 54.24"	largest campground in the park; please stay in open areas of campground
6	Lean-To	3	8	50° 18' 20.88"; -121° 49' 30.00"	
7	Ponderosa	3	8	50° 18' 39.18"; -121° 52' 12.12"	
8	Cottonwood	3	12	50° 18' 21.42"; -121° 52' 12.12"	
9	Logjam	3	8	50° 15' 54.00"; -122° 0' 34.26"	
10	Avalanche	3	8	50° 12' 34.18"; -122° 4' 38.94"	
11	Stein Lake	3	8	50° 10' 1.92"; -122° 10' 4.8"	
12	Puppet	2	6	50° 9' 52.57"; -122° 13' 1.87"	New campground as of 2016
13	Tundra	3	8	50° 9' 12.28"; -122° 15' 22.09"	Moved to this location as of 2016

TRAIL CONDITIONS

* **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. As of August 2017, the entire traverse has been improved – with more work to follow.

Caution

Keep to the trail and follow the trail markers (3M orange reflective markers) – trail markers are continuously being replaced and/or improved.

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

Signage

The signs on the trail network have been upgraded as of 2017 to a Carsonite utility post standard.

This is an example of what you will see:



Storage:

The food cache storage bins have been upgraded to a Freedom food locker model.



This is an example of what you will see:



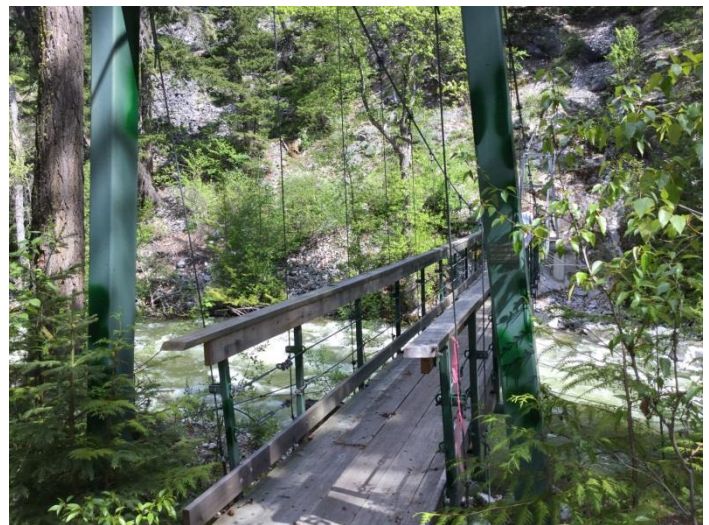
1. Trailhead to Suspension Bridge (on the Main E-W Traverse):
TRAVEL DURING THE WINTER MONTHS MAY BE POSSIBLE.

During the non-winter months, this section of trail is regularly maintained by both the Stein Wardens and BC Parks Park Rangers from the main trailhead to the Suspension Bridge. This section of trail has 5 campground locations along it. Each campground includes a steel food cache and a user-maintained pit toilet. **CAMPING IS NOT ALLOWED AT THE TRAILHEAD.**



Arbor at trailhead – October 2017

Suspension Bridge – April 2016



2. Suspension Bridge to Cottonwood Campground (on the Main E-W Traverse):



In July 2018, this section of trail was completely cleared and brushed and more trail markers were installed.

The cable car near Cottonwood Campground was removed in summer of 2017. Crossing of the river in this area will be via foot until an official walking bridge is installed.

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 (on the Main E-W Traverse):

As of July 2018, this section of trail was cleared (of downed trees) excluding an area between the Stein Lake and Avalanche Campgrounds (park rangers ran out of time/resources) – area is still passable. 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 (on the Main E-W Traverse):

As of July 2018, this section of trail was cleared, brushed, and marked with cairns/trail markers (where appropriate).

This section of trail has some particularly significant elevation gains/losses:

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.

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.

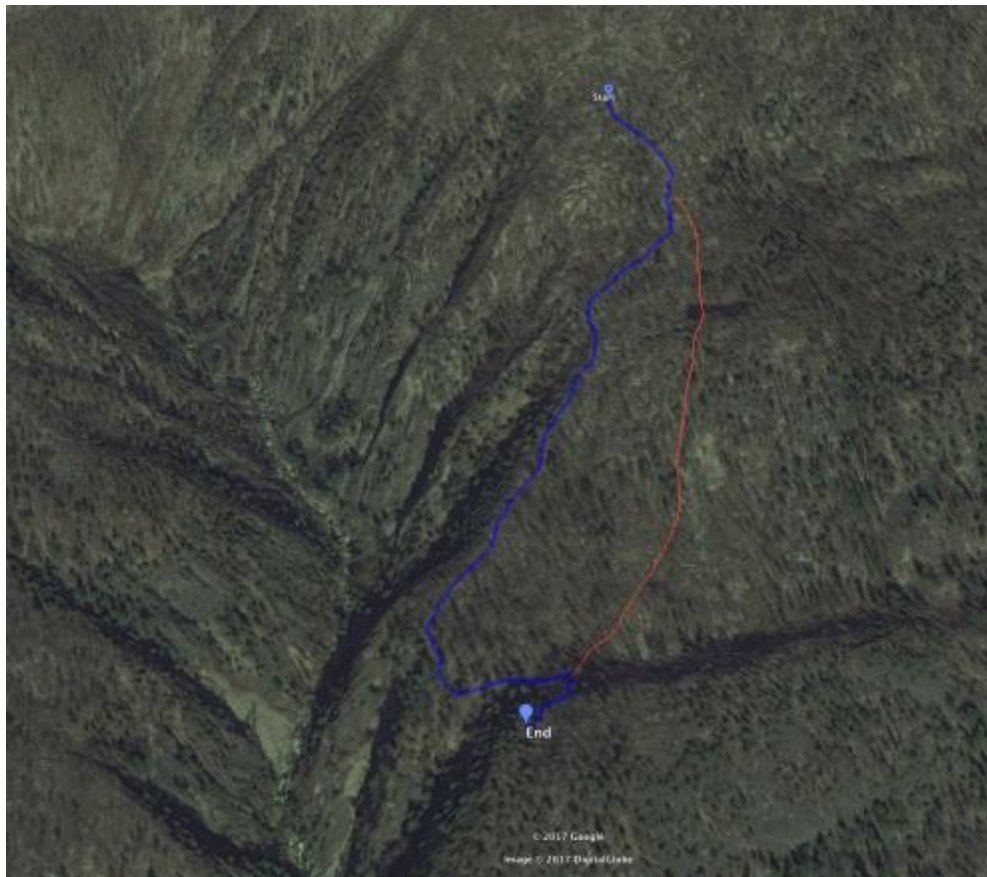
Tundra Lake Campground – RELOCATED TO THE RIDGE (EAST SIDE OF THE LAKE) AS OF AUGUST 2016

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).

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.

[illegible]

As of August 2017, the route was changed to the following: from the top of Unnecessary Knob to approximately the 1150 meter level (where trail heads up the Blowdown Pass valley) – this approximate 1000 meter re-route follows along a defined ridge.



Red – original route



NO CAMPFIRES

As of July 2017: Campfires have been banned in the valley (year-round) due to consistent illegal campfires and reducing wildfire risks within the park and integrated communities. The Stein Management Board will continue to monitor this issue and work with all interest groups including the BC Wildfire Service to determine best management practices.



Visitors will need to use camp stoves for cooking purposes.

NO KAYAKING

As of July 2017: No kayaking is allowed in the park. The Stein Management Board is determining best management practices for this activity. Please stay tuned.





OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE:

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).

CAMPING IS NOT ALLOWED AT THE TRAILHEAD.

Drinking Water:

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).

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.

ENJOY YOUR VISIT TO THE BEAUTIFUL STEIN VALLEY!

