

BURNS LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST AND RECREATION

1999 Mission Statement Objective:

“...The corporation’s activities will provide the following benefits to the community on a sustainable basis:

... **Outdoor recreational activities.....”**

RECREATION SUPPORT:

- 1) Recreation Sites and Trails
- 2) Recreation Events
- 3) Cross-country skiing
- 4) Snowmobiling
- 5) Mountain Biking

1) RECREATION SITES AND TRAILS:

- Initiated the establishment of the Lakes Outdoor Recreation Society (LORS)
- LORS Mandate to keep local recreation sites and trails open and maintained
- Donated \$25,000+ annually to this end

Recreation sites and trails program

- LORS is a not-for-profit society
- LORS holds Directors and Officers Liability insurance
- Recreation sites and trails liability covered under government policy (registered trails and recreation sites)
- Partner with Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Challenges

- Funding, funding, funding
- Government stopped funding program in 2001 (provides some support – project-based, infrastructure)
- Funding, funding, funding

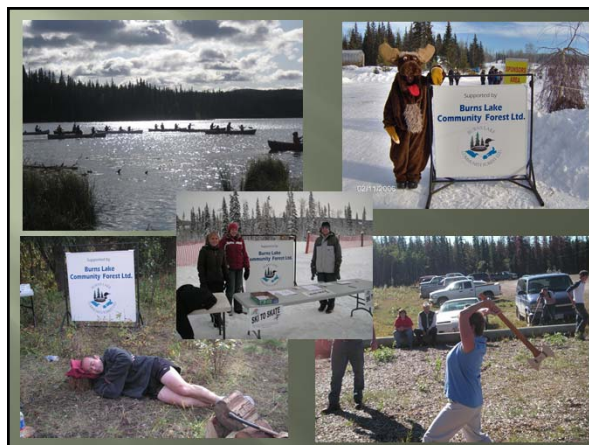
Successes

- Awesome support from Recreation Sites and Trails Branch (Kevin Eskelin)
- Some of the `best maintained` recreation sites in the north
- Social and economic benefit to our community



2) RECREATION EVENTS:

- Sponsor a variety of recreation events (cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, adventure challenges, logger's sports, etc.)
- Each group organizes own event and holds insurance – we just provide funding!



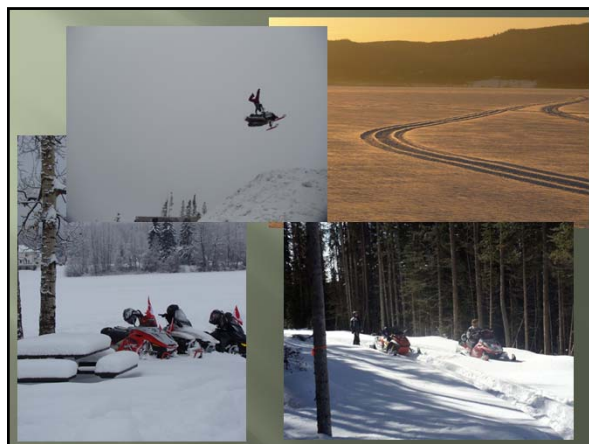
2) CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING:

- Worked with local ski club to construct trail, re-routed trails to accommodate salvage activities
- Provided in-kind mapping services
- Developed biathlon range



4) SNOWMOBILING:

- Worked with local snowmobile club to construct 30 km new trail north of Burns Lake
- Provided in-kind mapping services and project supervision
- Provided funding for annual events



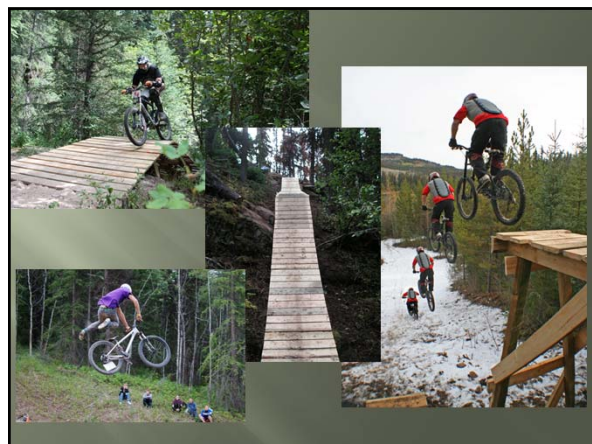
5) MOUNTAIN BIKING:

- Purchased 160 acres of private land for Bike Park development
- Purchased mini-excavator for trail construction (provided free of charge)
- Donated \$100,000 seed money to mountain bike club

- Burns Lake Mountain Bike Club has built world-class trails, now hosts annual events such as the *Big Pig*, hosts bike camps and workshops, and has received international attention
- 8-page spread in the international *BIKE* Magazine

- Kevin Eskelin, of Recreation Sites and Trails BC was recently chosen to receive a Premier's Award for innovation for his work with BLMBA and other bike clubs





WHY SUCCESSFUL?

- Dollars from BLCF to get “product” on the ground (maintenance, new trails, etc.) – \$1.1 million+ to date to recreation
- Dedicated group of volunteers (LORS, BLMBA, BLSC, OSC)
- All trails registered/approved and built to *Whistler Trail Standards* according to the agreement with the government
- Awesome support from government staff

VERY REWARDING!

- “Tangible” benefits from community forest
- Social benefit
- Economic benefit
- Fulfills mandate and follows policy!