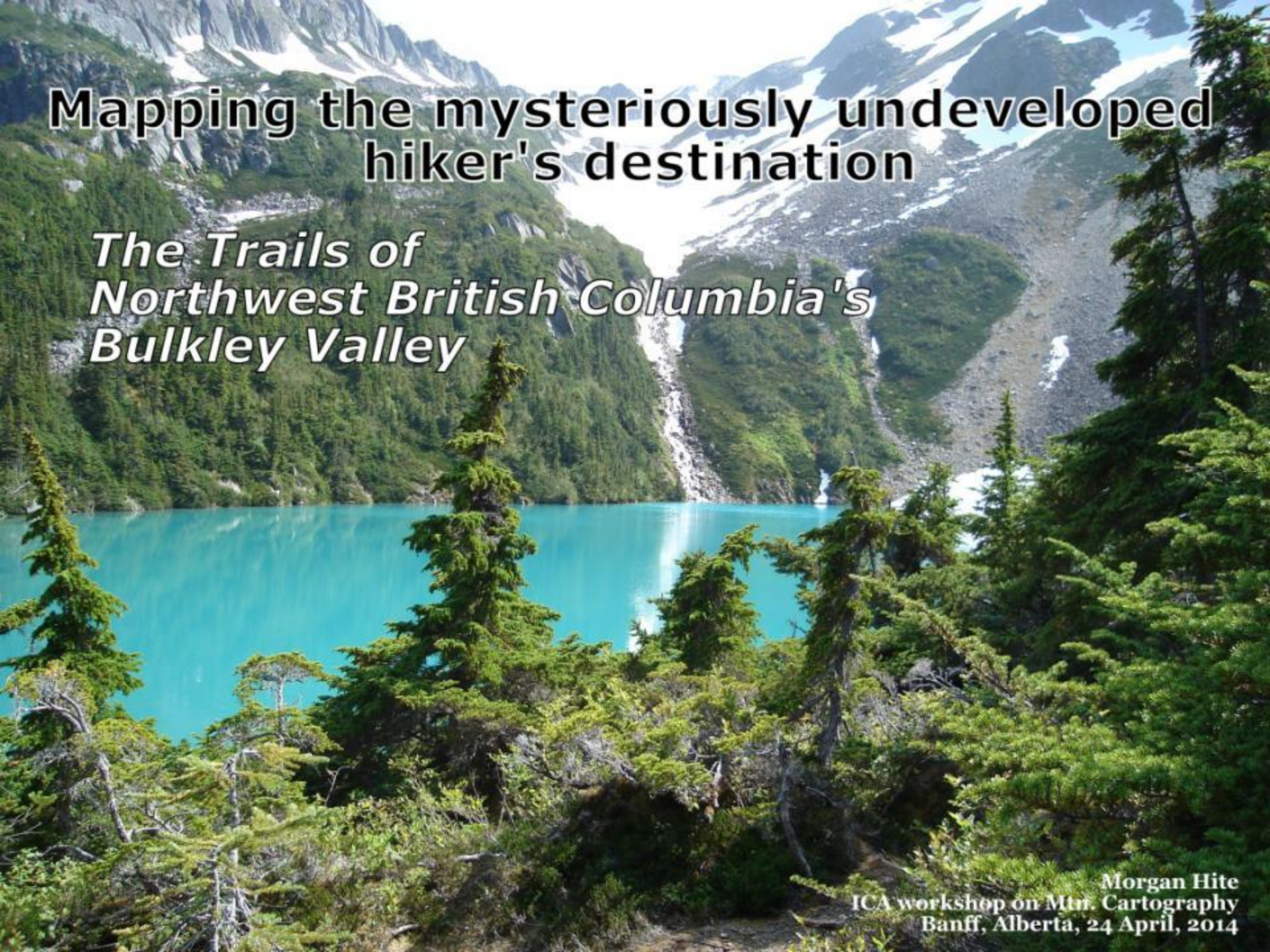
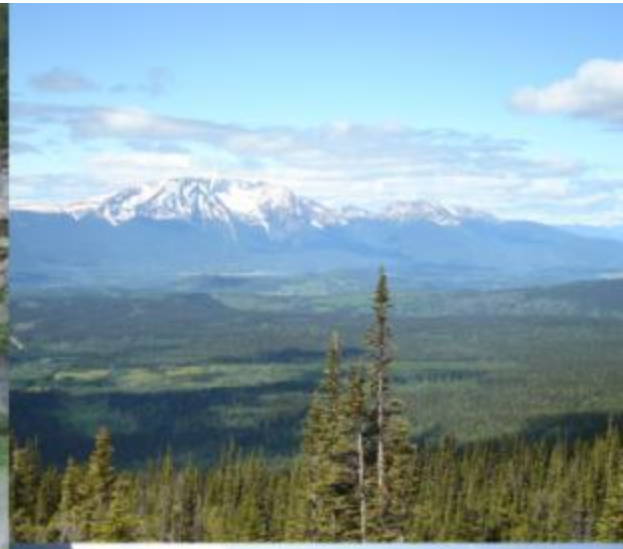
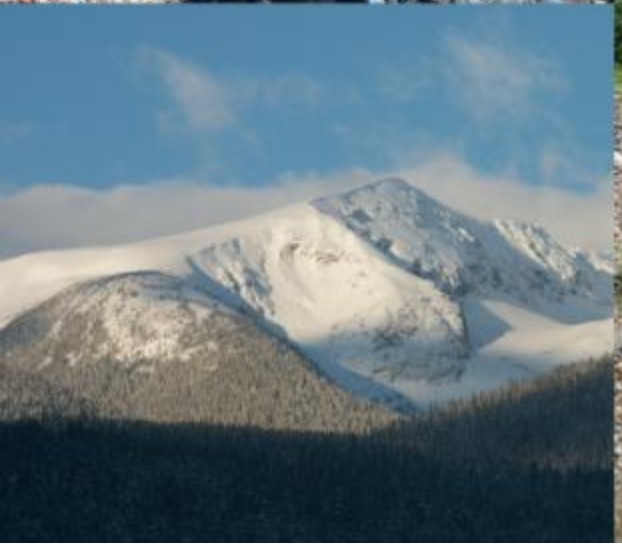


Mapping the mysteriously undeveloped hiker's destination

The Trails of Northwest British Columbia's Bulkley Valley

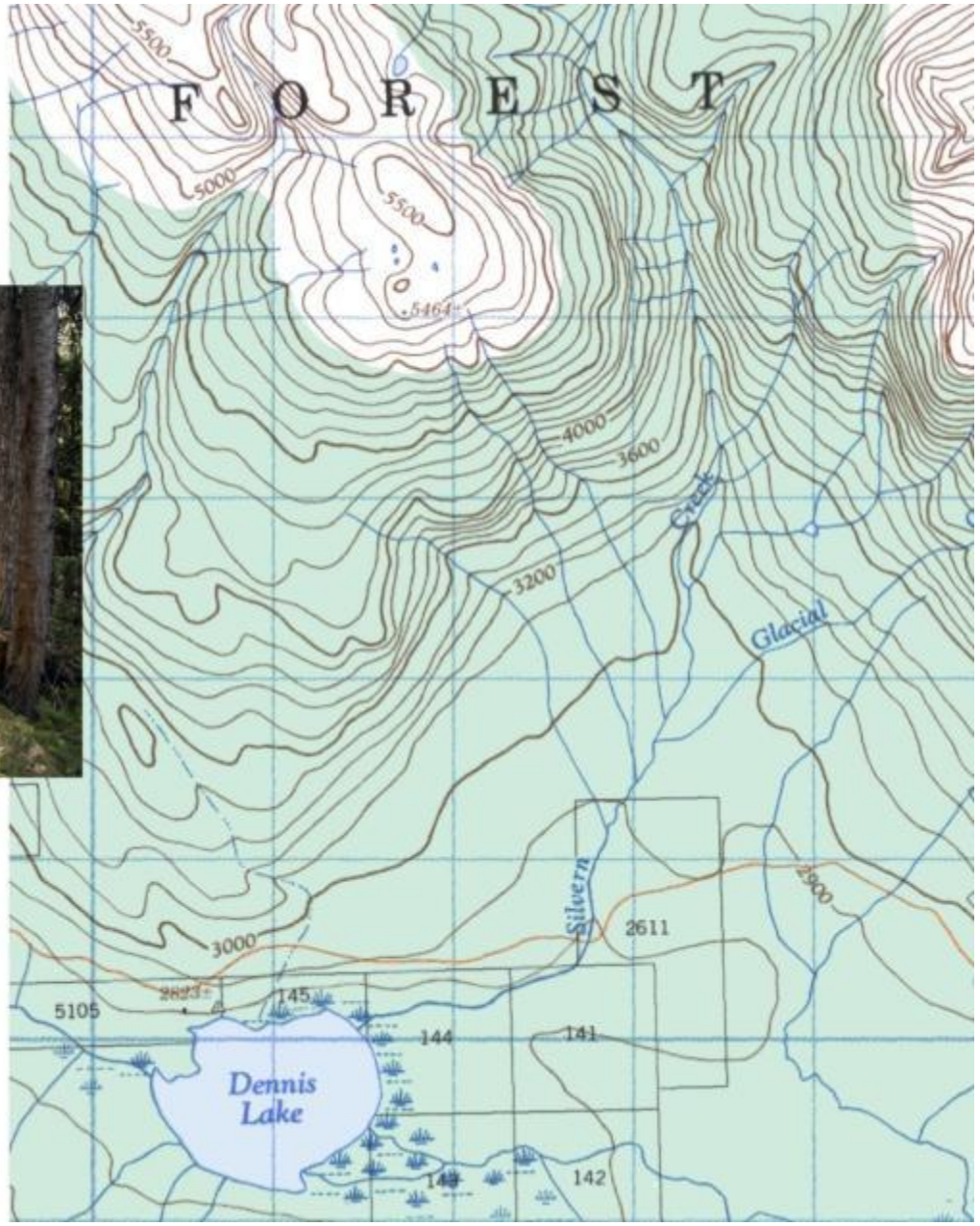
Morgan Hite
ICA workshop on Mtn. Cartography
Banff, Alberta, 24 April, 2014

Image Landsat
© 2014 Cnes/Spot Image
Image © 2014 Province of British Columbia
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Google earth
Imagery Date: 4/9/2013
54°40'56.97" N 127°02'35.49" W elev 545 m
Eye alt 33.01 km

Seymour Ridg
Trailhead
1hr 45 min or 4 km

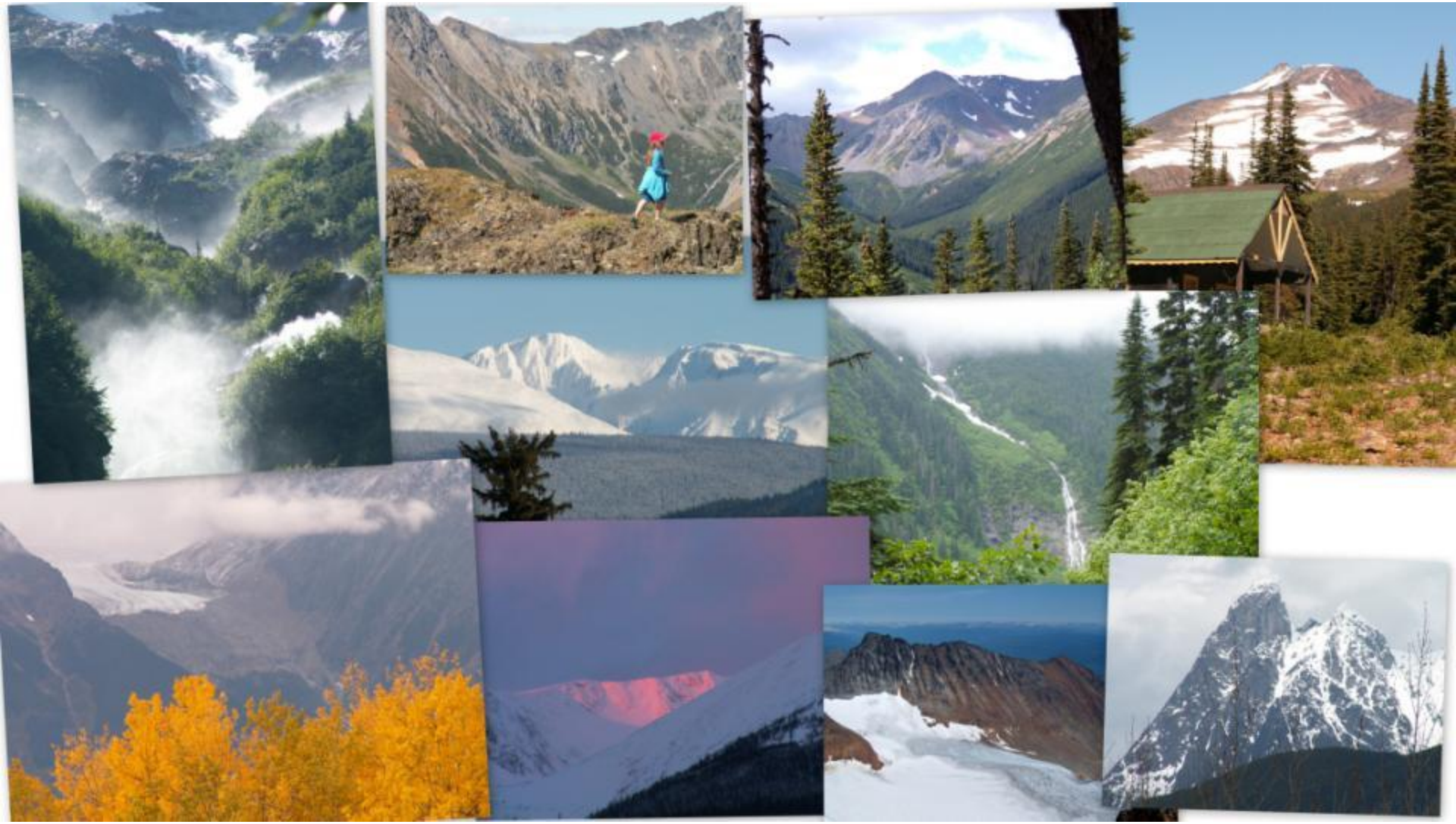
TRAIL


FOREST
5500
5000
5500
5464
4000
3600
Creek
3200
Glacial
Silvern
2900
2611
3000
2823
145
5105
144
141
Dennis
Lake
142

BRITISH
COLUMBIA
ALBERTA
BULKLEY
VALLEY
Edmonton
Banff
Revelstoke
Nelson
Vancouver
0
100
200
300 km

Image Landsat
© 2014 Cnes/Spot Image
Image © 2014 Province of British Columbia
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Google earth
Imagery Date: 4/9/2013
54°40'56.97" N 127°02'35.49" W elev 545 m
Eye alt 33.01 km

608 Road
Call Empty
159.42
NO
ROAD
TEMPORARILY
CLOSED
TO RECREATION
TRAFFIC



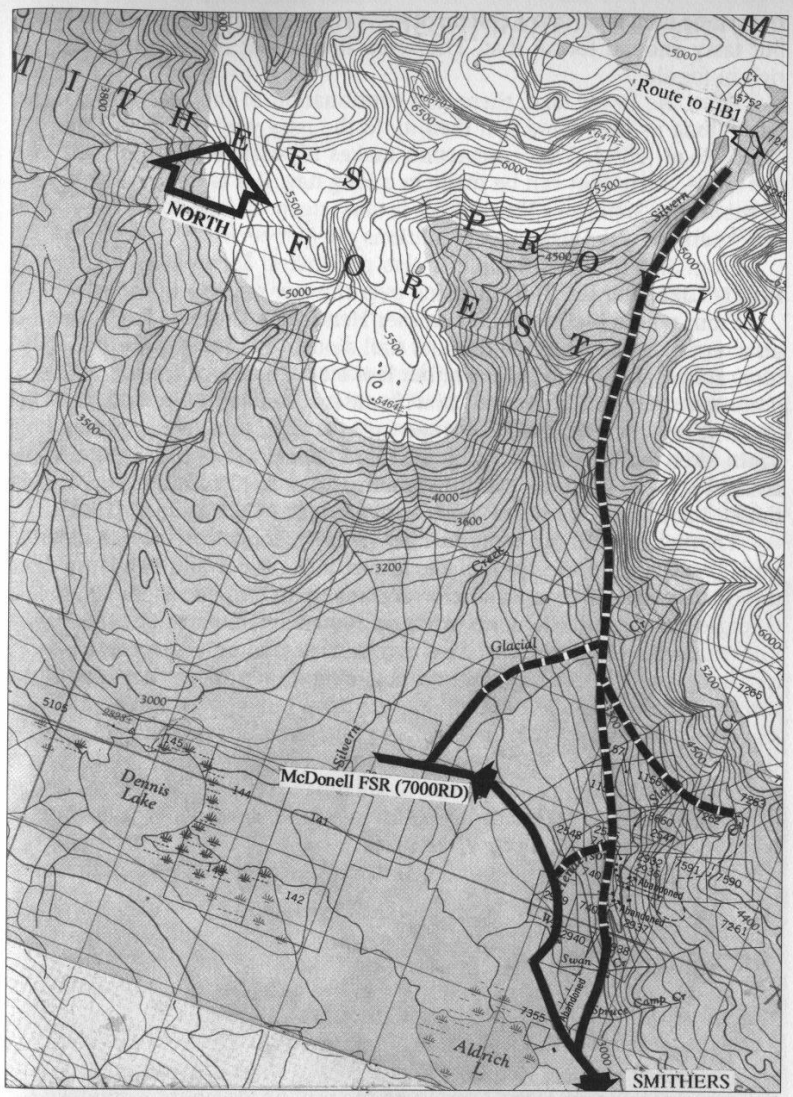
Trails to Timberline

in West Central British Columbia

THIRD EDITION

Einar Blix · Andrew Blix

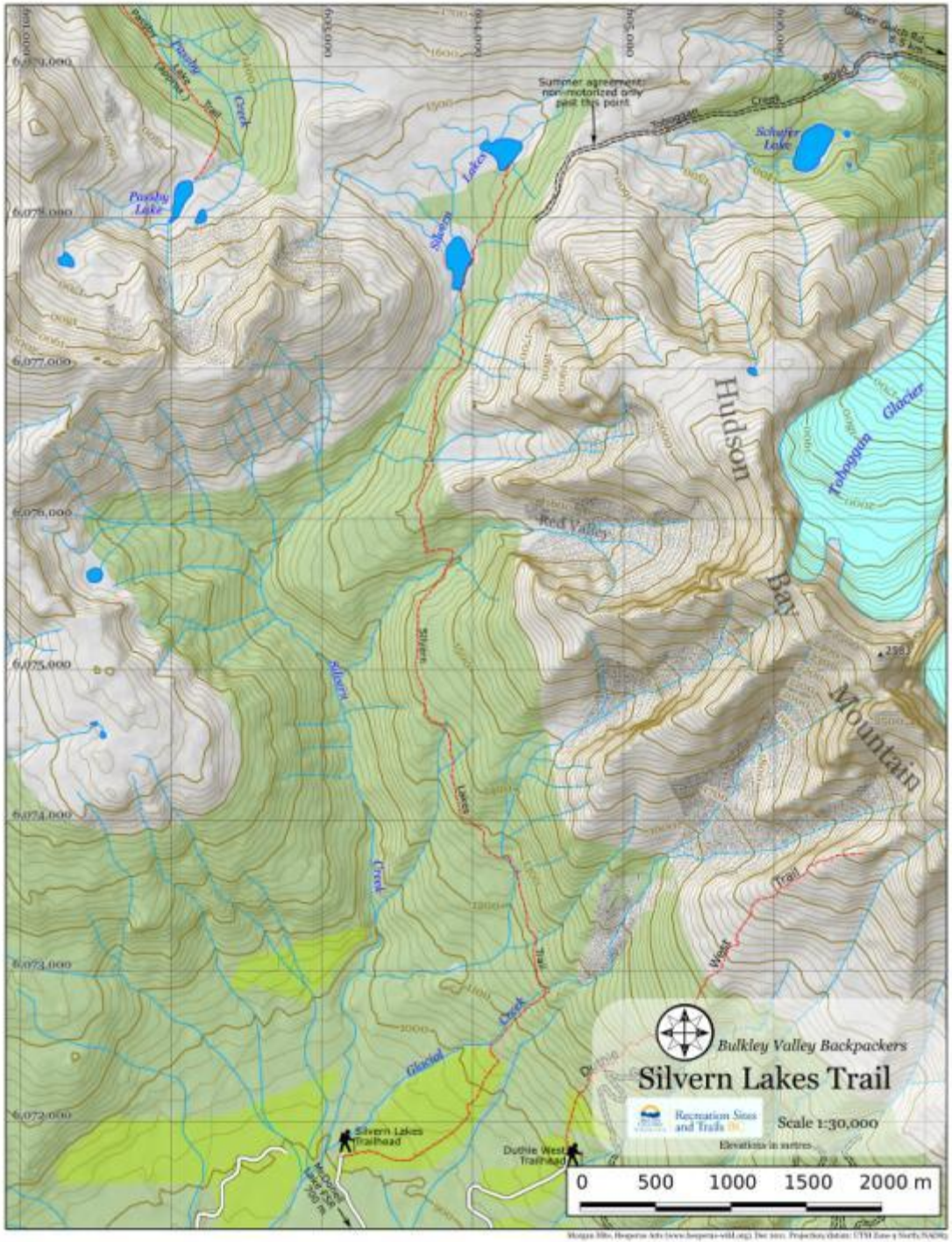
A new edition of Trails to Timberline: A comprehensive guide, with route maps, to 72 hikes in West Central British Columbia



SILVERN LAKES TRAIL [HB5]

Part of Map 93L/14

1cm = 2/3km, 100ft. (30m) contour interval


Bulkley Valley Backpackers
Silvern Lakes Trail
Recreation Sites and Trails BC
Scale 1:30,000
Elevations in metres
0 500 1000 1500 2000 m
Summer agreement: non-motorized only past this point
Silvern Lakes Trailhead
Duthie West Trailhead
Hudson Bay Mountain
Red Valley
Tahtsquta Glacier
Glacial Creek
Silvern Creek
Silvern Lakes Trail
Pauchy Lake
Schuler Lake
Silvern Lake
6,078,000
6,077,000
6,076,000
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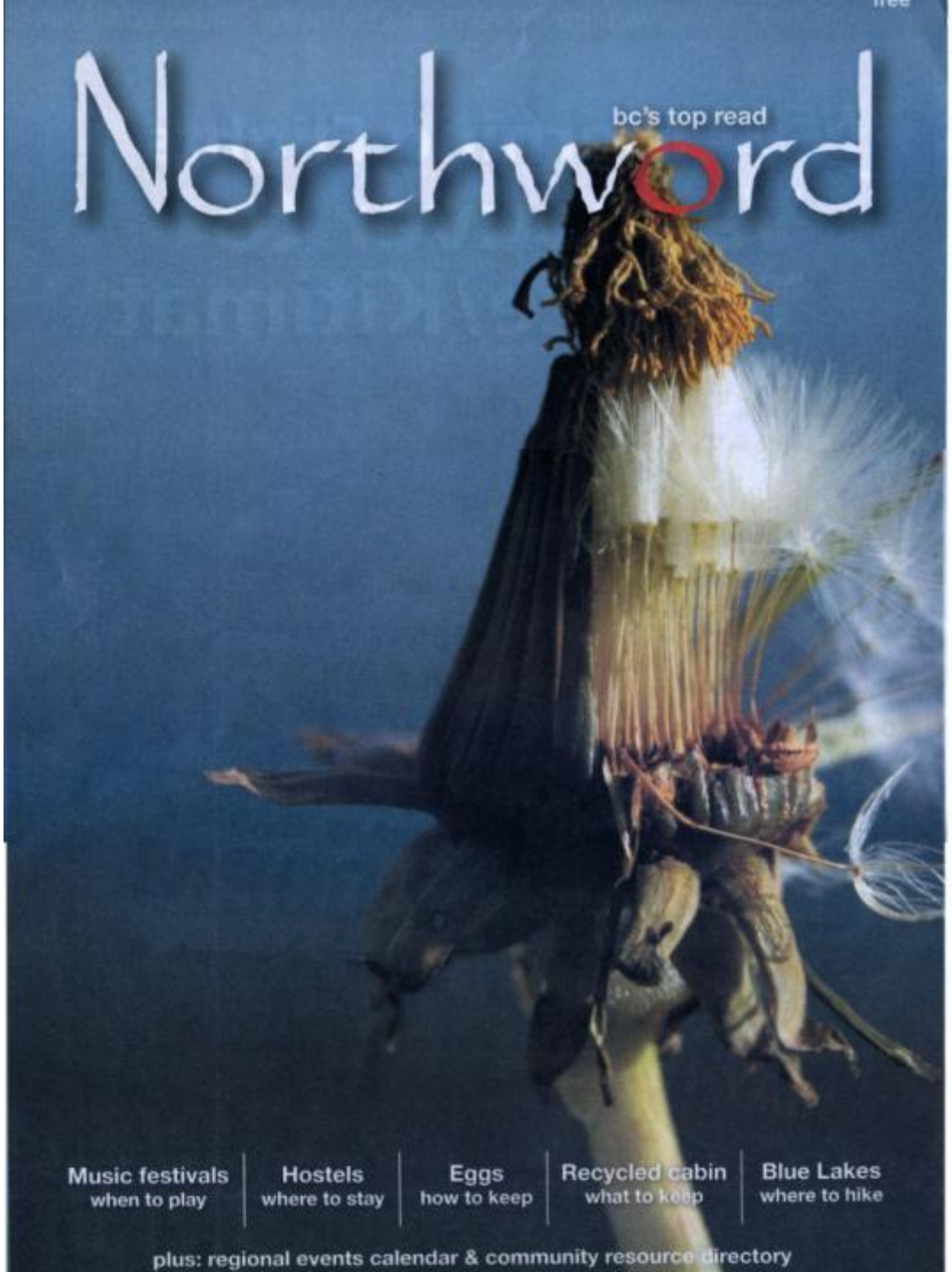
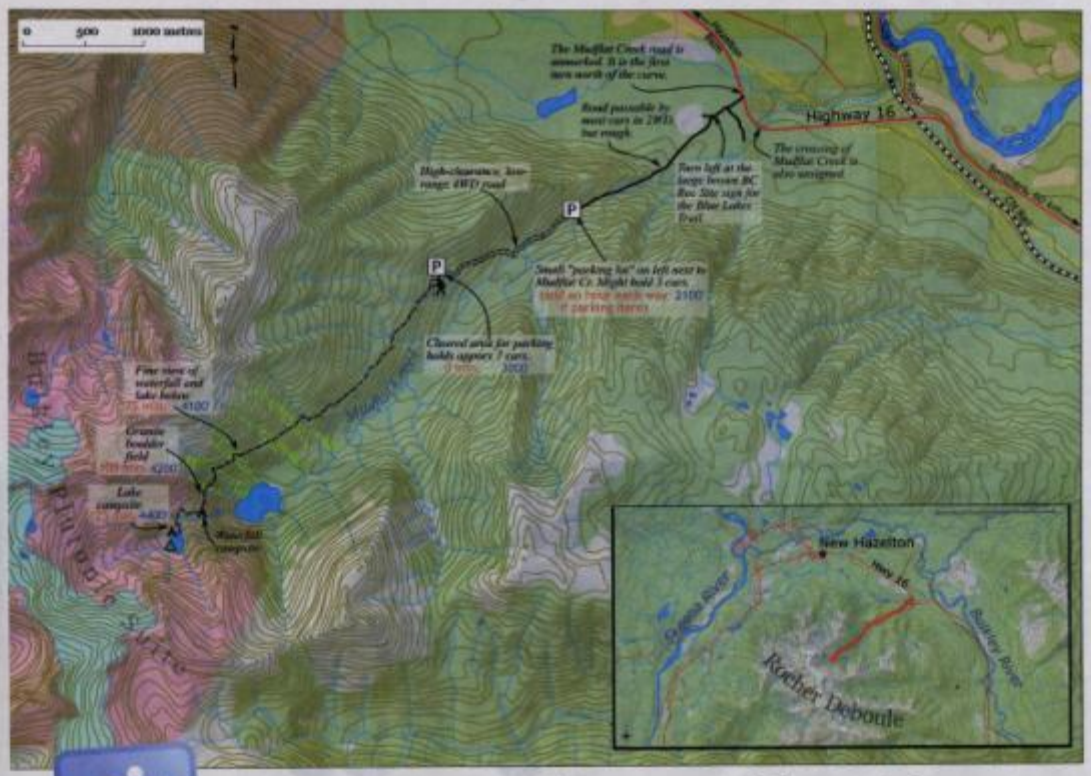
6,073,000
6,072,000


bc's top read
Northword
Music festivals
when to play
Hostels
where to stay
Eggs
how to keep
Recycled cabin
what to keep
Blue Lakes
where to hike
plus: regional events calendar & community resource directory



The Blue Lakes Trail

HIKING TO THE BLUE JEWEL

by Morgan Ilite
morganh@bulkley.net

This trail was originally constructed in the 1920s as a pack trail to the Black Prince and Blue Lake claims near the upper Blue Lake. At that time the trail would have begun down on the flats near the highway, but that section was obliterated by clear-cut logging. The present trail starts at a higher point and ascends through the remaining intact fir forest.

Note that Mudflat Creek has no identifying sign where Highway 16 crosses it, and there is no sign for Mudflat Creek Road. It is about 2 km north of the Suskwa River Rd turnoff (itself no longer signed). This is about 60 km north of Smithers.

Once on the narrow deactivated road there are very few places to turn around and occasional ruts require you to drive slowly. The pull-out for 2WD vehicles can be recognized by the presence of a second yellow Deactivation sign, but it is well worth bringing a vehicle that can get to the final parking lot, since it cuts 2km and 300m of ascent off the hike. This part of the road is uneven; passengers and possessions are thrown about inside the vehicle. You may be able to offer a ride to hikers you find walking.

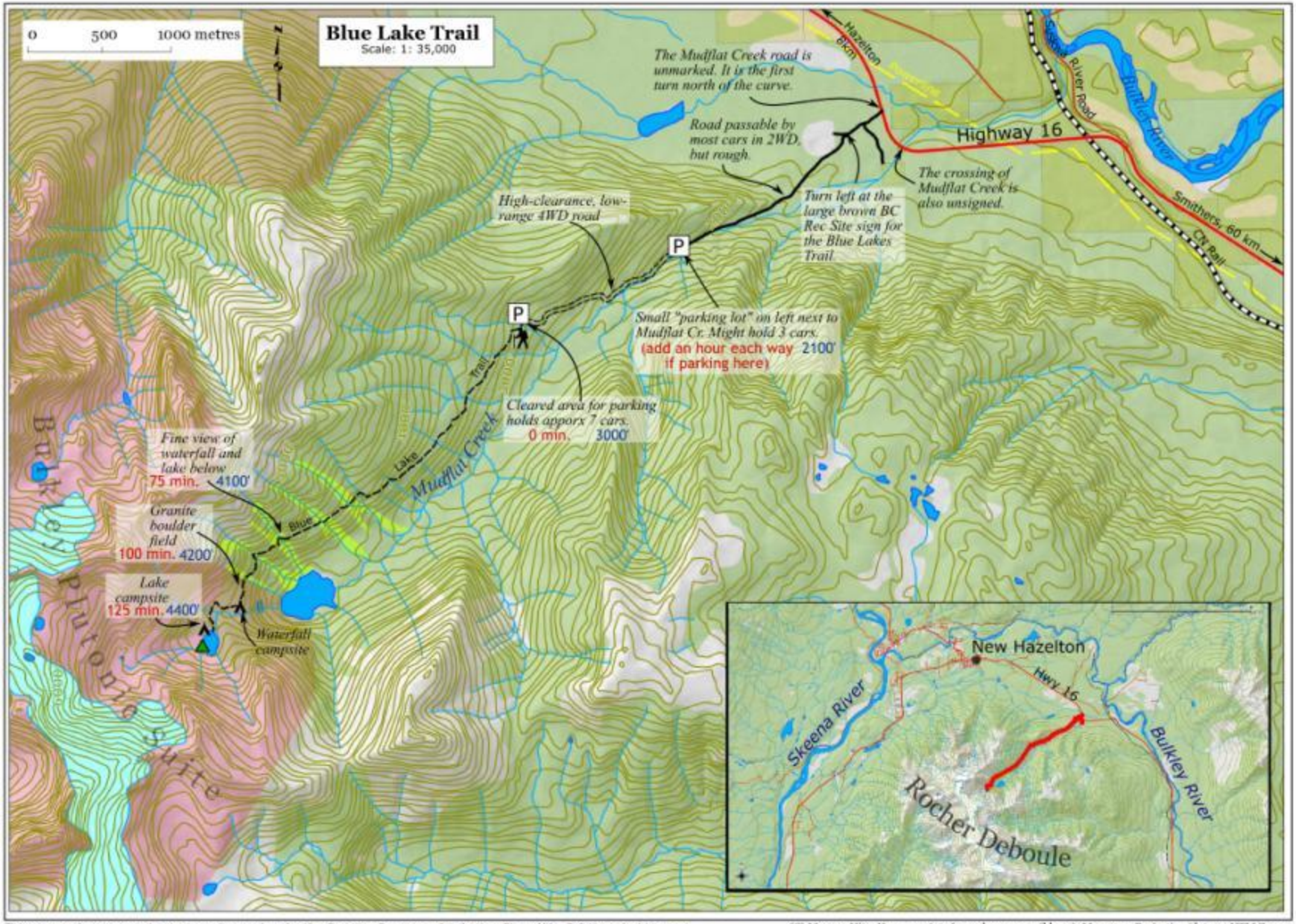
The trail ascends gradually for 2 km through rich forest, then in the next 2 km it crosses a series of five avalanche tracks thick with salmonberry in the late summer. At this point you leave the conventional rock of the Bulkley Valley and enter the "Bulkley Plutonic Suite," a delightful white, granite-like, igneous rock that forms the core of the Rocher Deboule Range. After crossing a short boulder-field, note a side-trail on the left to the waterfall campsite, complete with two picnic tables and a badly porcupine-chewed privy.

At the upper lake the trail continues around its north side to an improved campsite nestled in krummholtz (again with massive picnic table); however there are many other attractive places to pitch a tent. From here the way is clear to access higher portions of the range.

Directions

Turn onto the Mudflat Creek Road, 8 km south of Hazelton on Highway 16. In less than one kilometre, turn left onto a deactivated road at a brown BC Rec Site sign on left for "Blue Lakes." Most 2WD vehicles can proceed slowly for about 2 km to a small pull-out on the left beside the creek (elevation 700m). High-clearance 4WD vehicles can proceed another 2 km to a larger parking area at the trailhead (elevation 1000m)

From here the trail ascends 400m over 4.25 km to the upper Blue Lake and treeline. Allow 2.25 hours up, 2 hours down. Add an hour each way if using the lower parking spot.



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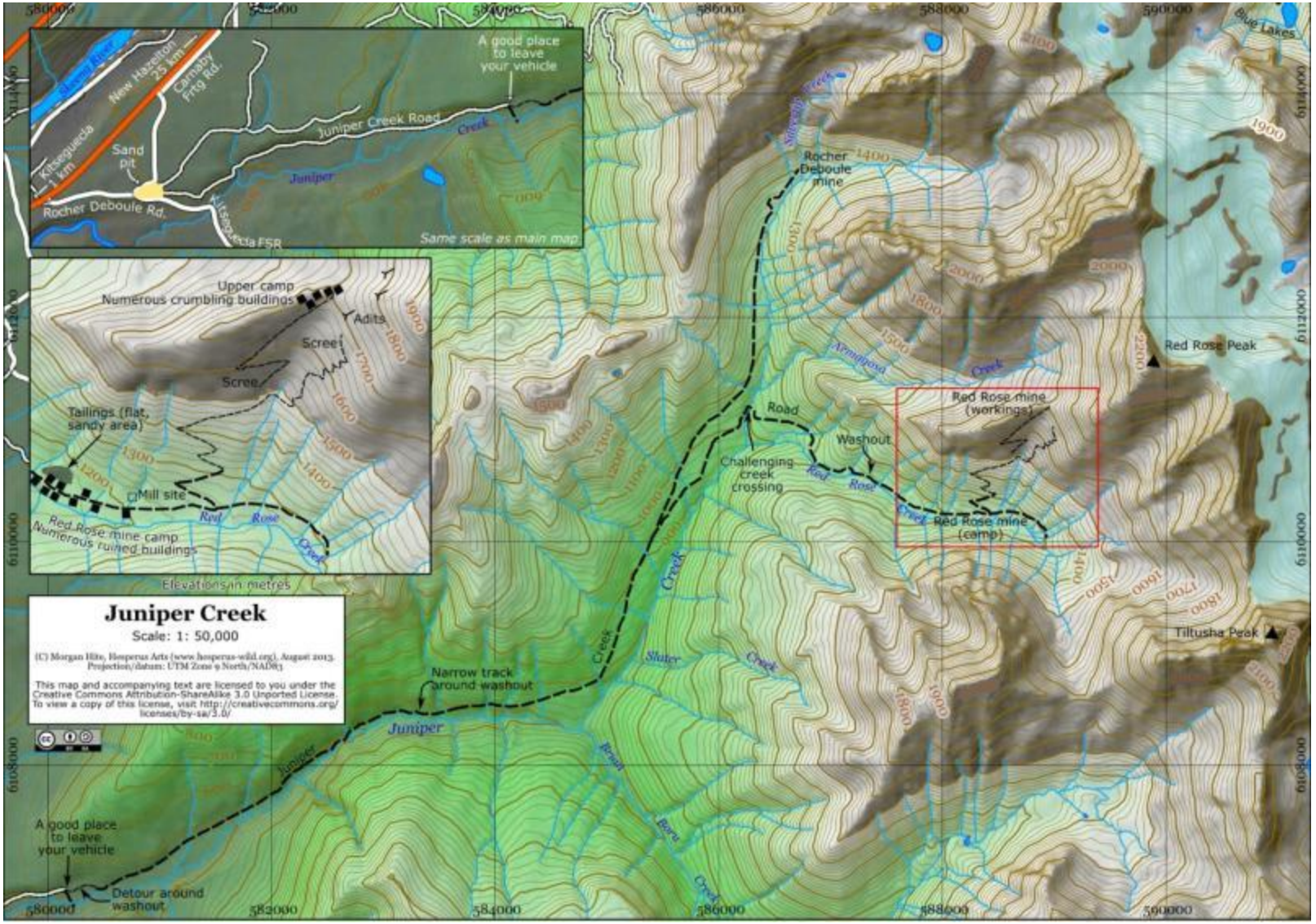
(C) Morgan Hite, Hesperus Arts (www.hesperus-wild.org), May 2011. Projection/datum: UTM Zone 9


A good place to leave your vehicle
Juniper Creek Road
New Hazelton 25 km
Cassiby Frtg. Rd.
Kitseguecla 1 km
Sand pit
Rocher Deboule Rd.
Kitseguecla FSR
Same scale as main map
Upper camp
Numerous crumbling buildings
Adits
Scree
Tailings (flat, sandy area)
Mill site
Red Rose mine camp
Numerous ruined buildings
Elevations in metres
Juniper Creek
Scale: 1: 50,000
(C) Morgan Hite, Hesperus Arts (www.hesperus-wild.org), August 2013.
Projection/datum: UTM Zone 9 North/NAD83
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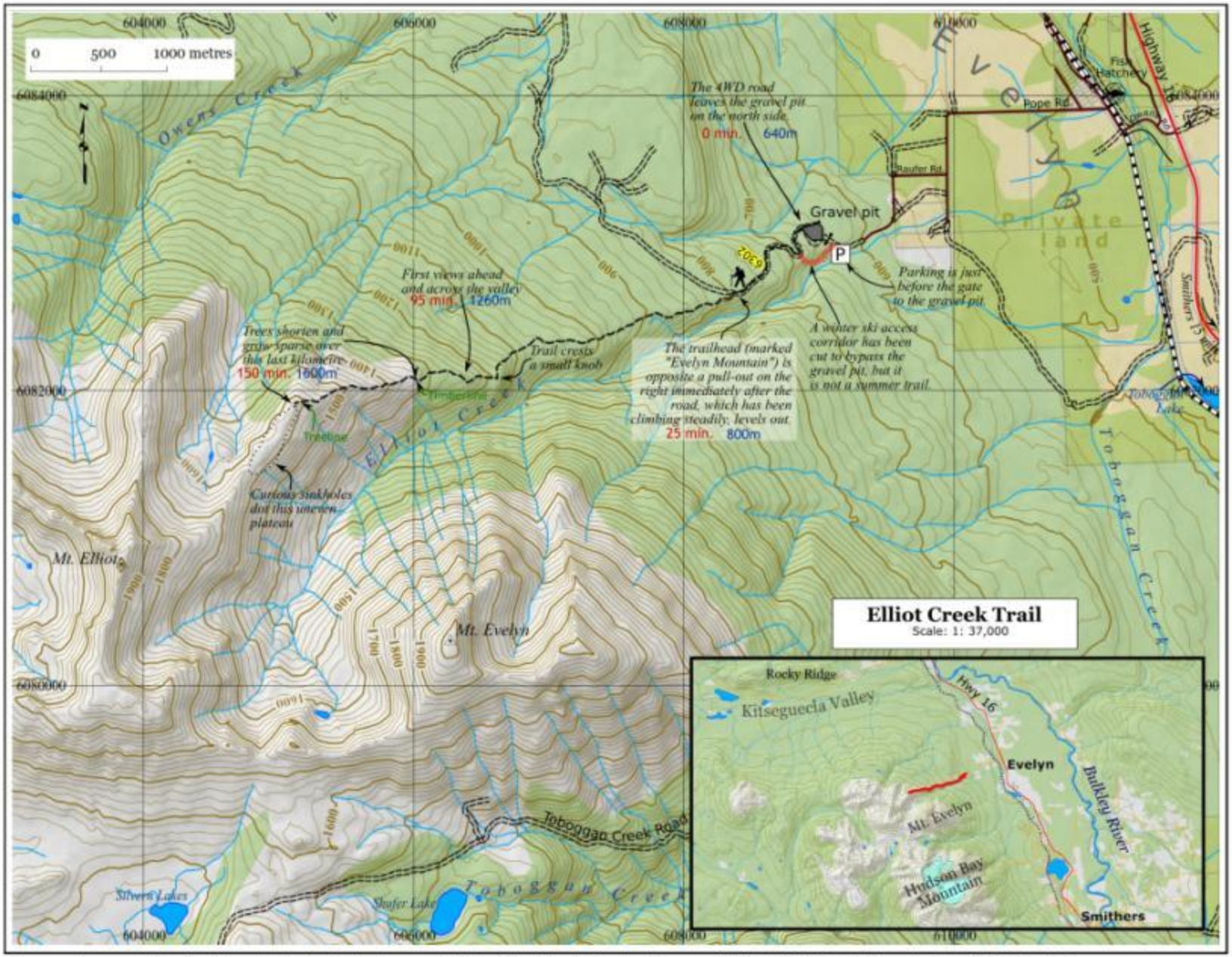
Narrow track around washout
A good place to leave your vehicle
Detour around washout
Rocher Deboule mine
Red Rose Peak
Red Rose mine (workings)
Red Rose mine (camp)
Road
Washout
Challenging creek crossing
Tiltusha Peak
Blue Lakes
Juniper
Slater
Creek
Red Rose
Armstrong
Bora
Rocher Deboule Creek



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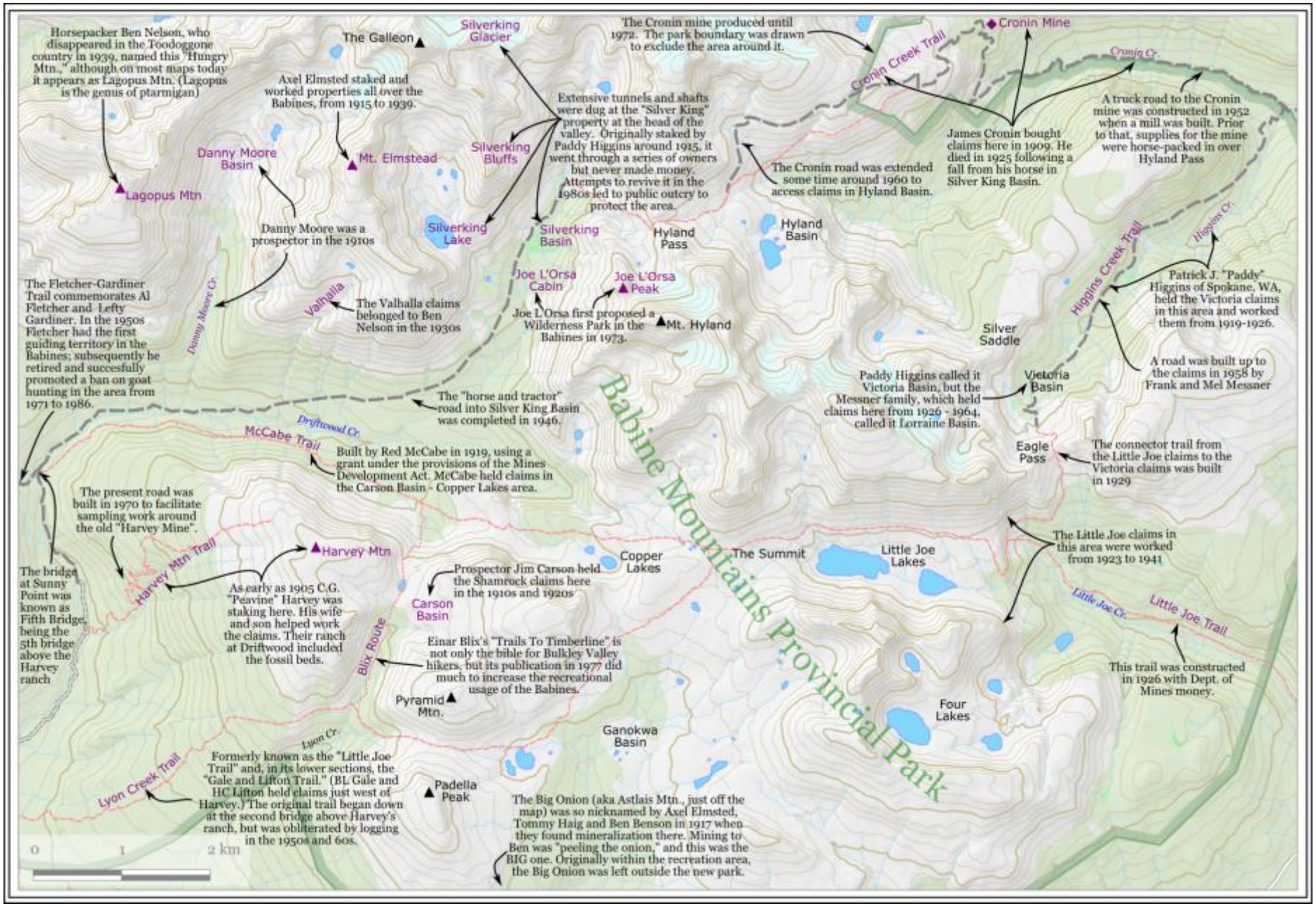
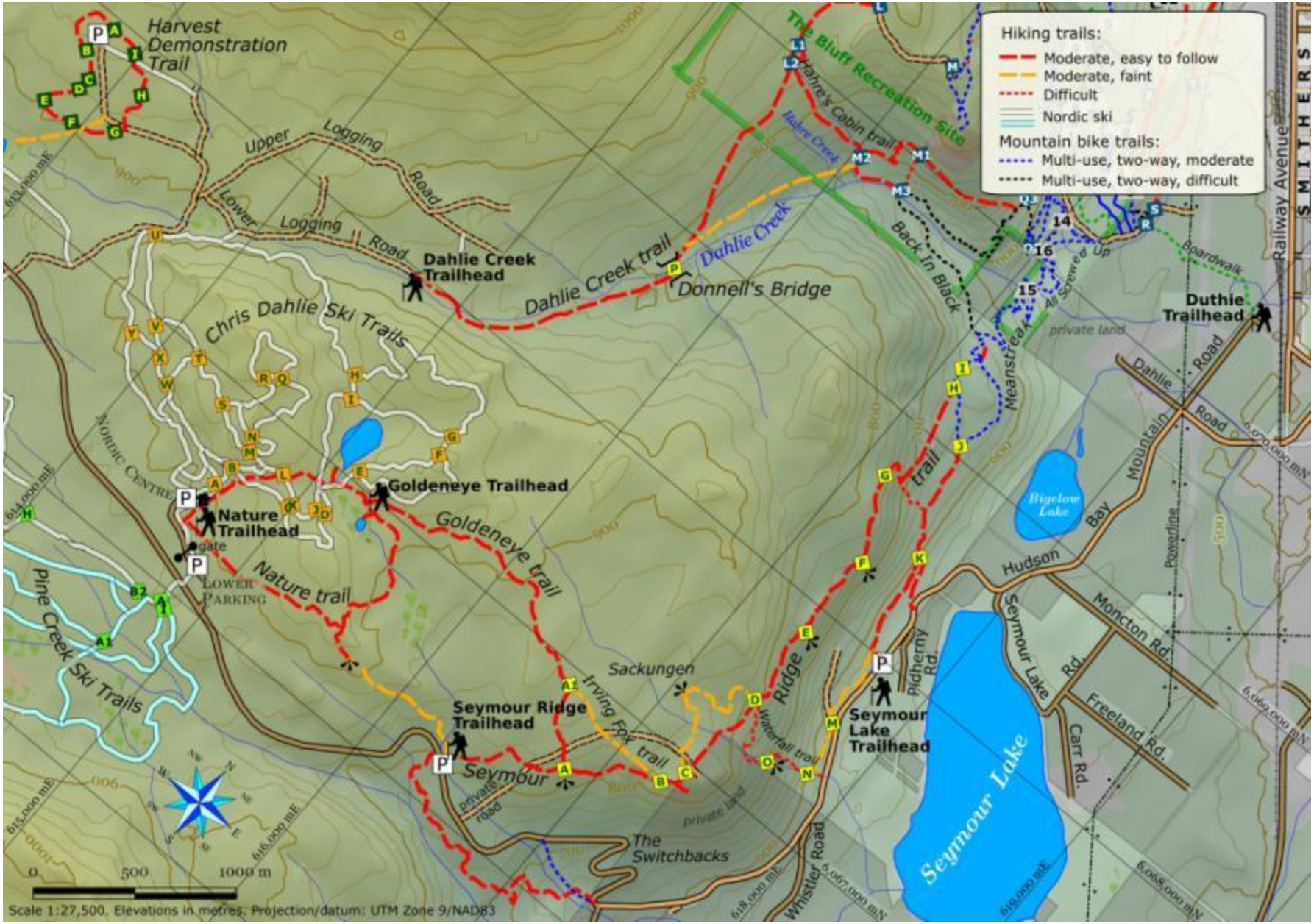
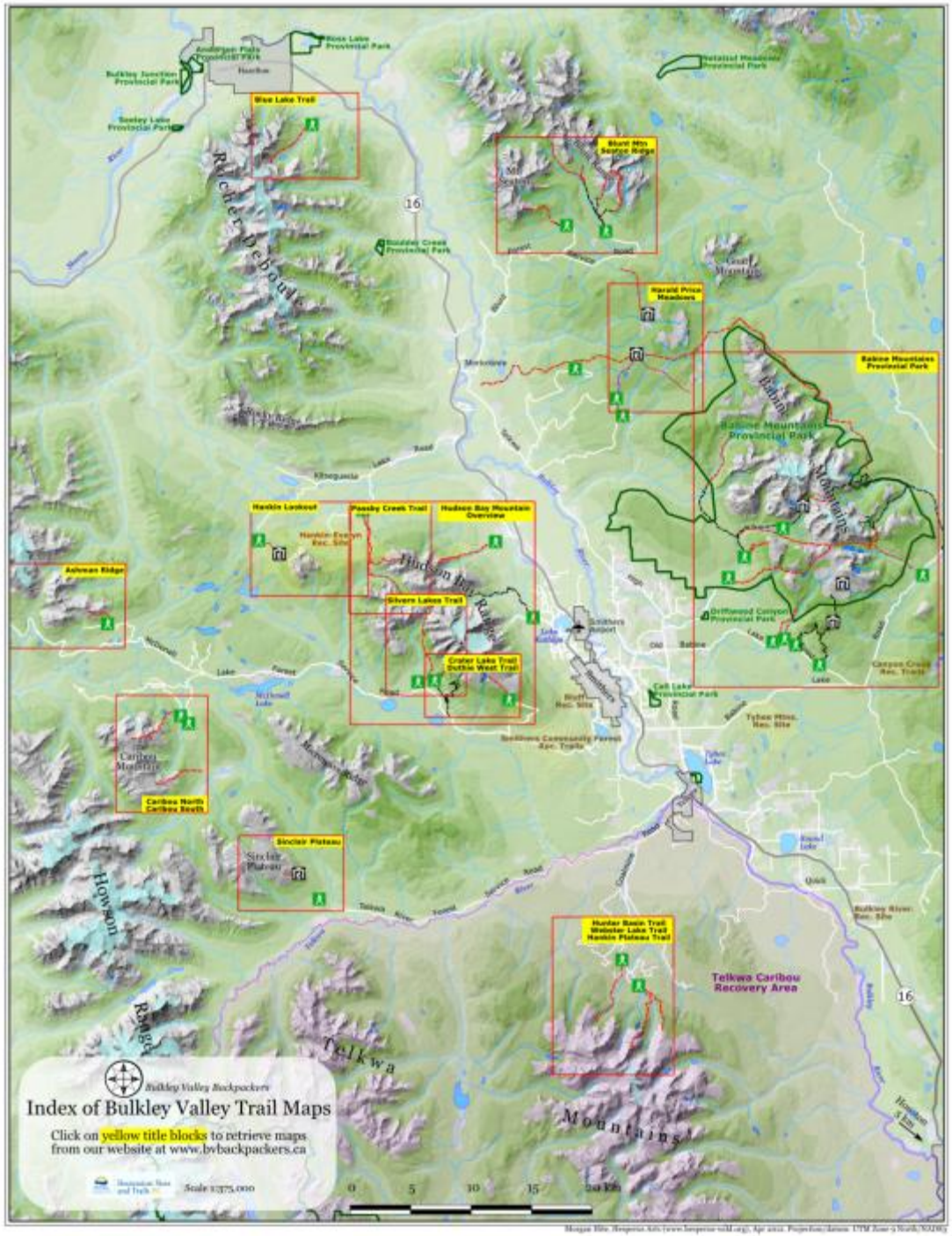
(C) Morgan Hite, Hesperus Arts (www.hesperus-wild.org), August 2013.
Projection/datum: UTM Zone 9 North/NAD83


Horsepacker Ben Nelson, who disappeared in the Toodoggone country in 1939, named this "Hungry Mtn.," although on most maps today it appears as Lagopus Mtn. (Lagopus is the genus of ptarmigan)
Lagopus Mtn
The Galleon
Silverking Glacier
Axel Elmsted staked and worked properties all over the Babines, from 1915 to 1939.
Mt. Elmstead
Danny Moore Basin
Silverking Bluffs
Extensive tunnels and shafts were dug at the "Silver King" property at the head of the valley. Originally staked by Paddy Higgins around 1915, it went through a series of owners but never made money. Attempts to revive it in the 1980s led to public outcry to protect the area.
Silverking Lake
Silverking Basin
Hyland Pass
Hyland Basin
Danny Moore was a prospector in the 1910s
Danny Moore Cr.
The Fletcher-Gardiner Trail commemorates Al Fletcher and Lefty Gardiner. In the 1950s Fletcher had the first guiding territory in the Babines; subsequently he retired and succesfully promoted a ban on goat hunting in the area from 1971 to 1986.
Valhalla
The Valhalla claims belonged to Ben Nelson in the 1930s
Joe L'Orsa Cabin
Joe L'Orsa Peak
Joe L'Orsa first proposed a Wilderness Park in the Babines in 1973.
Mt. Hyland
The Cronin mine produced until 1972. The park boundary was drawn to exclude the area around it.
Cronin Creek Trail
Cronin Mine
Cronin Cr.
A truck road to the Cronin mine was constructed in 1952 when a mill was built. Prior to that, supplies for the mine were horse-packed in over Hyland Pass
James Cronin bought claims here in 1909. He died in 1925 following a fall from his horse in Silver King Basin.
The Cronin road was extended some time around 1960 to access claims in Hyland Basin.
Higgins Creek Trail
Higgins Cr.
Patrick J. "Paddy" Higgins of Spokane, WA, held the Victoria claims in this area and worked them from 1919-1926.
A road was built up to the claims in 1958 by Frank and Mel Messner
Silver Saddle
Victoria Basin
Paddy Higgins called it Victoria Basin, but the Messner family, which held claims here from 1926 - 1964, called it Lorraine Basin.
The "horse and tractor" road into Silver King Basin was completed in 1946.
Driftwood Cr.
McCabe Trail
Built by Red McCabe in 1919, using a grant under the provisions of the Mines Development Act. McCabe held claims in the Carson Basin - Copper Lakes area.
Eagle Pass
The connector trail from the Little Joe claims to the Victoria claims was built in 1929
Babine Mountains Provincial Park
The present road was built in 1970 to facilitate sampling work around the old "Harvey Mine".
Harvey Mtn Trail
Harvey Mtn
The bridge at Sunny Point was known as Fifth Bridge, being the 5th bridge above the Harvey ranch
As early as 1905 C.G. "Peavine" Harvey was staking here. His wife and son helped work the claims. Their ranch at Driftwood included the fossil beds.
Copper Lakes
The Summit
Little Joe Lakes
The Little Joe claims in this area were worked from 1923 to 1941
Prospector Jim Carson held the Shamrock claims here in the 1910s and 1920s
Carson Basin
Blix Route
Einar Blix's "Trails To Timberline" is not only the bible for Bulkley Valley hikers, but its publication in 1977 did much to increase the recreational usage of the Babines.
Little Joe Cr.
Little Joe Trail
This trail was constructed in 1926 with Dept. of Mines money.
Pyramid Mtn.
Four Lakes
Ganokwa Basin
Lyon Cr.
Lyon Creek Trail
Formerly known as the "Little Joe Trail" and, in its lower sections, the "Gale and Lifton Trail." (BL Gale and HC Lifton held claims just west of Harvey.) The original trail began down at the second bridge above Harvey's ranch, but was obliterated by logging in the 1950s and 60s.
Padella Peak
The Big Onion (aka Astlais Mtn., just off the map) was so nicknamed by Axel Elmsted, Tommy Haig and Ben Benson in 1917 when they found mineralization there. Mining to Ben was "peeling the onion," and this was the BIG one. Originally within the recreation area, the Big Onion was left outside the new park.
0
1
2 km


Hiking trails:
Moderate, easy to follow
Moderate, faint
Difficult
Nordic ski
Mountain bike trails:
Multi-use, two-way, moderate
Multi-use, two-way, difficult
Harvest Demonstration Trail
Upper Logging Road
Lower Logging Road
Dahlie Creek Trailhead
Dahlie Creek trail
Dahlie Creek
Donnell's Bridge
Chris Dahlie Ski Trails
Nordic Centre
Goldeneye Trailhead
Goldeneye trail
Nature Trailhead
Nature trail
Lower Parking
gate
Pine Creek Ski Trails
Seymour Ridge Trailhead
Irving Fox trail
Sackungen
Seymour
private road
The Switchbacks
Ridge
Waterfall trail
Seymour Lake Trailhead
Pidherny Rd.
Seymour Lake
Seymour Lake Rd.
Carr Rd.
Freeland Rd.
Moncton Rd.
Hudson Bay Mountain
Powerline
Dahlie Road
Duthie Trailhead
Railway Avenue
SMITHERS
Bigelow Lake
Meanstreak
Back In Black
All Screwed Up
Boardwalk
The Bluff Recreation Site
Haahre's Cabin trail
Haahre Creek
private land
Whistler Road
0 500 1000 m
Scale 1:27,500. Elevations in metres. Projection/datum: UTM Zone 9/NAD83


Bulkley Valley Backpackers
Index of Bulkley Valley Trail Maps
Click on yellow title blocks to retrieve maps
from our website at www.bvbackpackers.ca
Scale 1:375,000
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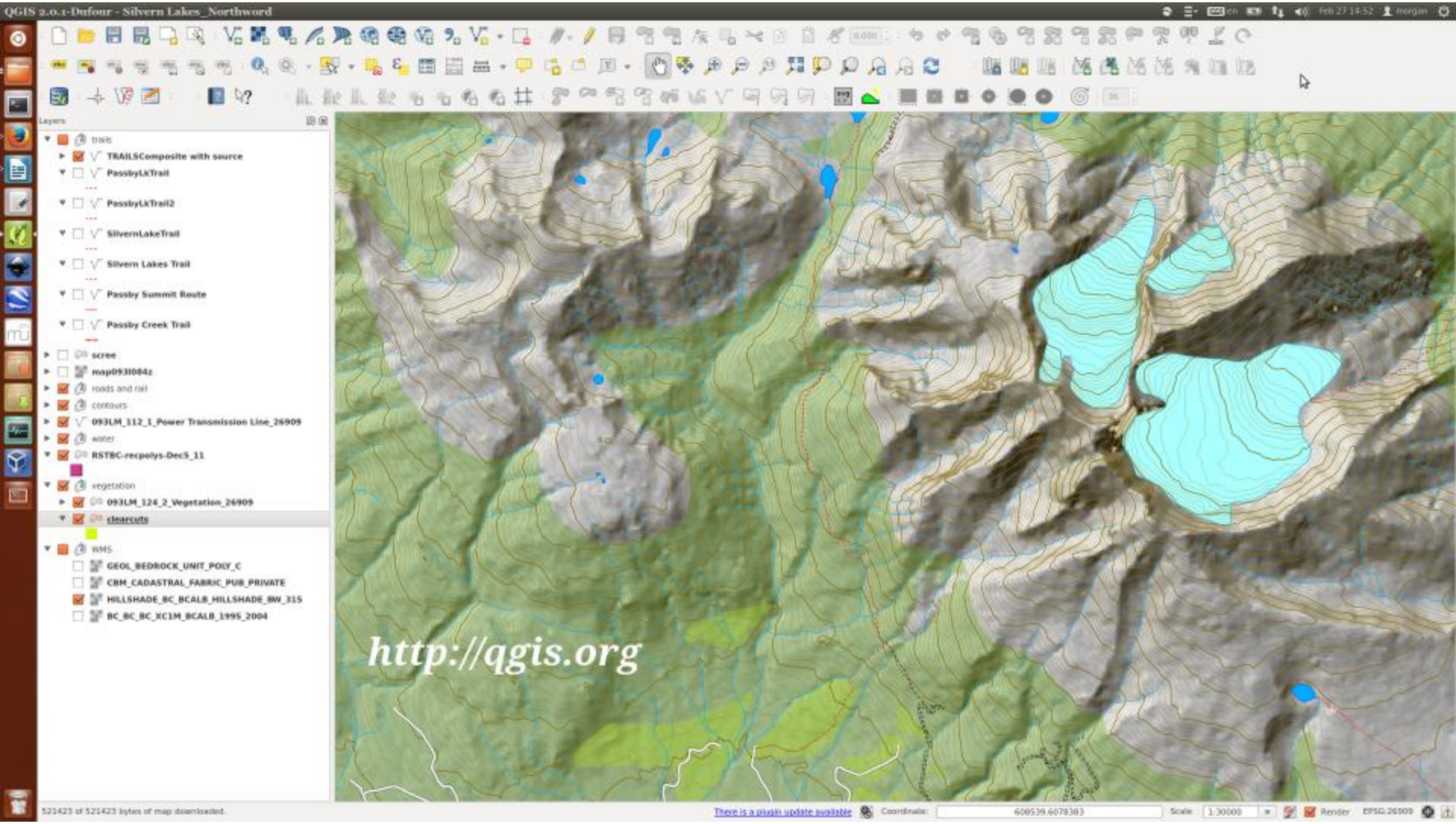
5
10
15
20 km
Telkwa Caribou Recovery Area
Rocher Deboule Range
Hudson Bay Range
Howson Range
Telkwa Mountains
Babine Mountains Provincial Park
Driftwood Canyon Provincial Park
Smithers Airport
Bulkley Junction Provincial Park
Boer Lake Provincial Park
Seeley Lake Provincial Park
Moricetown
Hagwilget
Telkwa
Quick
Round Lake
Tyhee Lake
Tyhee Rec. Site
Bulkley River Rec. Site
Canyon Creek Rec. Trail
Cull Lake Provincial Park
Boer Lake Trail
Burnt Mtn Bestico Ridge
Harold Price Meadows
Babine Mountains Provincial Park
Hankin Lookout
Hankin-Evelyn Rec. Site
Peasley Creek Trail
Hudson Bay Mountain Overview
Silvers Lakes Trail
Crater Lake Trail
Skyline West Trail
Ashman Ridge
Caribou Mountain
Caribou North
Caribou South
Sinclair Plateau
Hunter Basin Trail
Webster Lake Trail
Hankin Plateau Trail

Alpine Prairie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PassbyLkTrail2
SilvernLakeTrail
Silvern Lakes Trail
Passby Summit Route
Passby Creek Trail
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WMS
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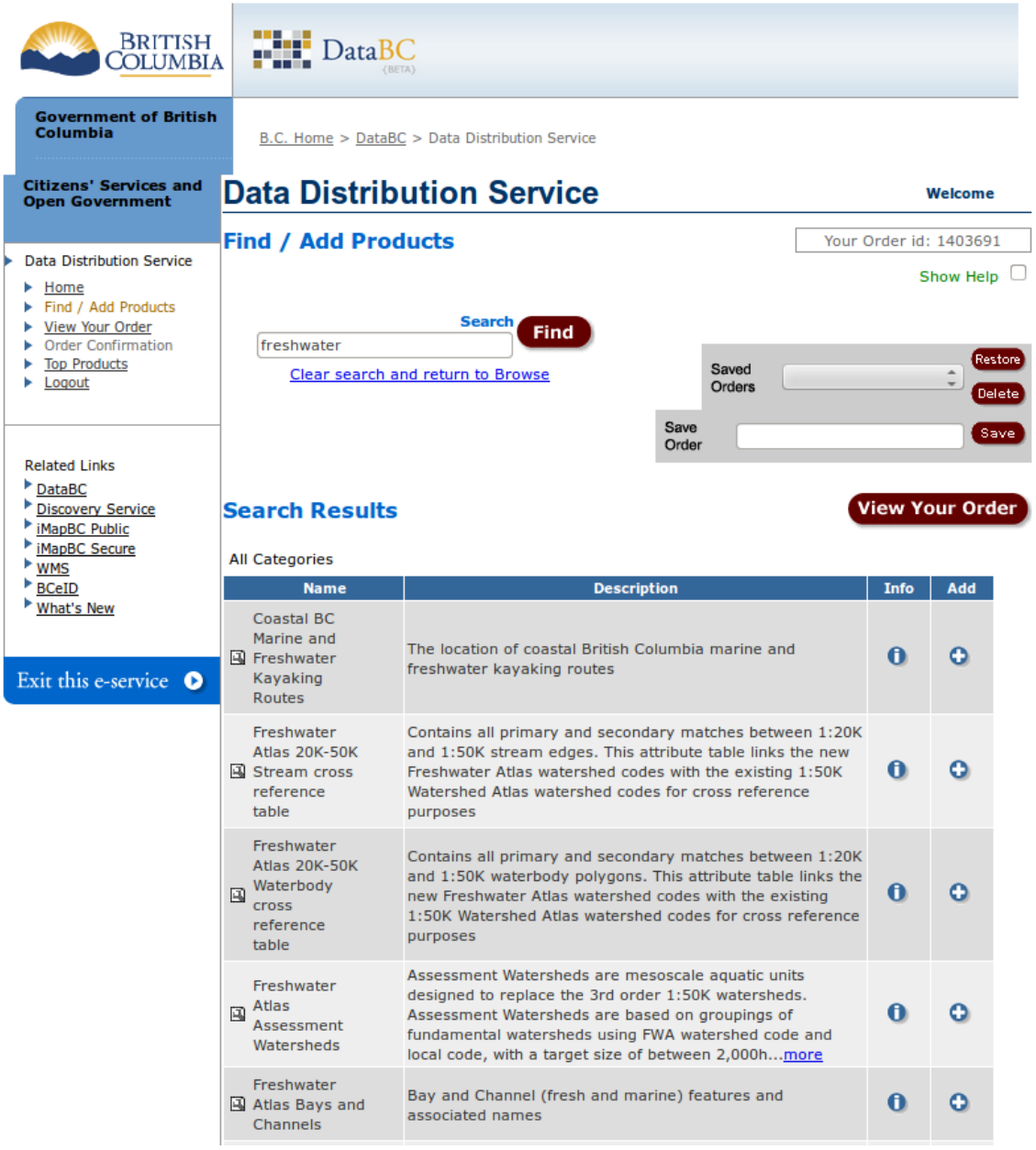
BRITISH COLUMBIA
DataBC
Government of British Columbia
Citizens' Services and Open Government
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Find / Add Products
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Show Help
Data Distribution Service
Home
Find / Add Products
View Your Order
Order Confirmation
Top Products
Logout
Search
Find
freshwater
Clear search and return to Browse
Saved Orders
Restore
Delete
Save Order
Save
Related Links
DataBC
Discovery Service
iMapBC Public
iMapBC Secure
WMS
BCeID
What's New
Search Results
View Your Order
All Categories
Name
Description
Info
Add
Coastal BC Marine and Freshwater Kayaking Routes
The location of coastal British Columbia marine and freshwater kayaking routes
Freshwater Atlas 20K-50K Stream cross reference table
Contains all primary and secondary matches between 1:20K and 1:50K stream edges. This attribute table links the new Freshwater Atlas watershed codes with the existing 1:50K Watershed Atlas watershed codes for cross reference purposes
Freshwater Atlas 20K-50K Waterbody cross reference table
Contains all primary and secondary matches between 1:20K and 1:50K waterbody polygons. This attribute table links the new Freshwater Atlas watershed codes with the existing 1:50K Watershed Atlas watershed codes for cross reference purposes
Freshwater Atlas Assessment Watersheds
Assessment Watersheds are mesoscale aquatic units designed to replace the 3rd order 1:50K watersheds. Assessment Watersheds are based on groupings of fundamental watersheds using FWA watershed code and local code, with a target size of between 2,000h...more
Freshwater Atlas Bays and Channels
Bay and Channel (fresh and marine) features and associated names
Exit this e-service

DataBC

Connect and Use WMS Services

KML and WMS Viewers

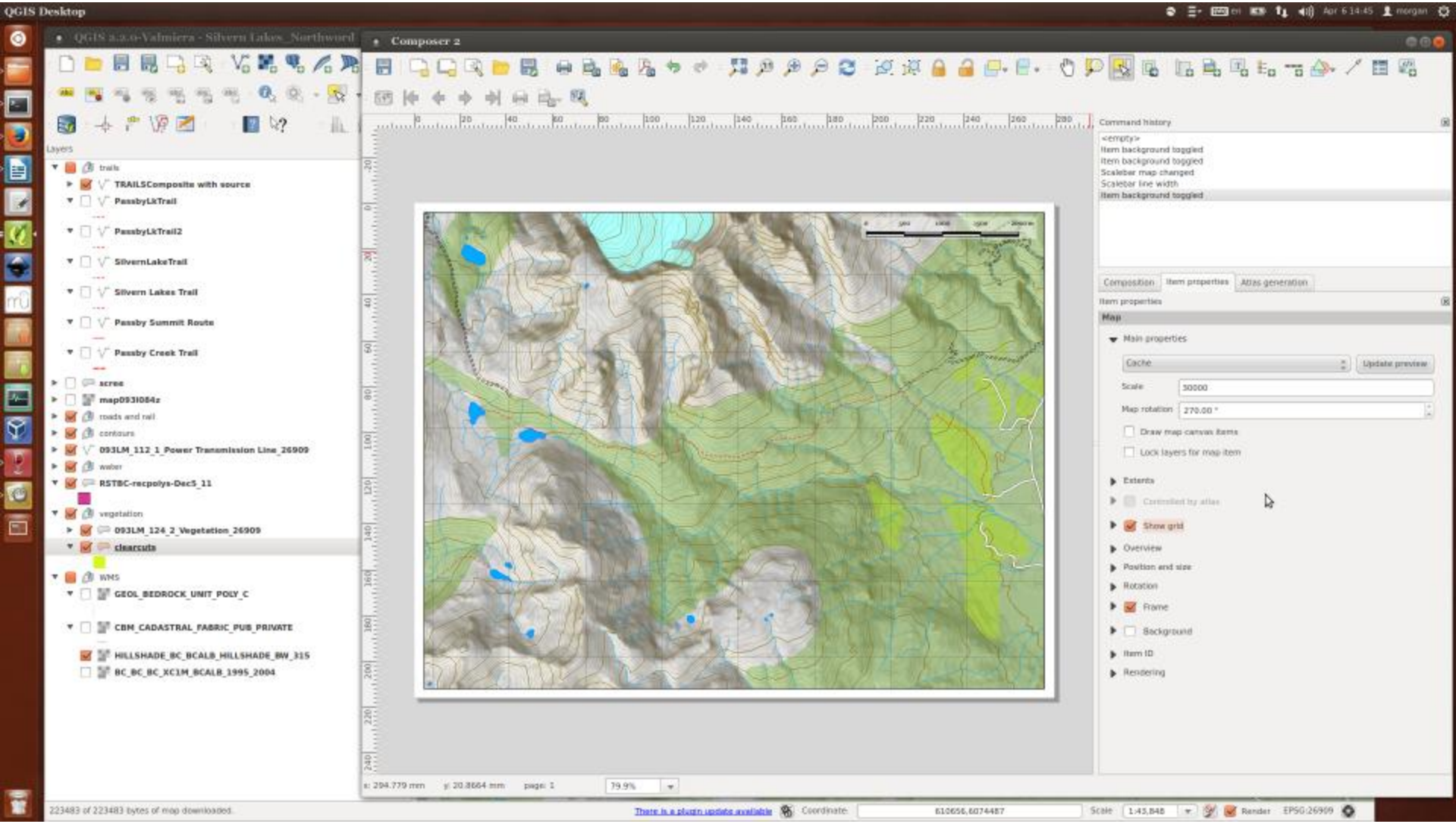
Connect

DataBC offers a number of connection services that can be leveraged either directly through geospatial software or through custom application development.

Web Map Services

DataBC now provides public access to the Province's geographic warehouse through connection links such as Google Earth's popular KML and industry standard WMS (Web Map Service). This provides users unprecedented access to provincial geographic information through a single Internet gateway.

Name	Description	Google Earth	WMS	REST
BC Albers Base Cache	Base Cache using Google Scale Levels and BC Albers Projection EPSG:3005.			preview
BC Web Mercator Base Cache	Base Cache using Google Scale Levels and Web Mercator Projection EPSG:3857.			preview
BC Albers Roads Cache	BC Roads Cache using Google Scale Levels and BC Albers Projection EPSG:3005.			preview
Quick Base	This wms offers base geographic features at 1:20 000 scale optimized for drawing speed.			
BC Web Map Library	This service includes the entire layer library of Web Map Services, available as individual services below.			
Administrative Boundaries	This web map service offers seamless, administrative boundary data for the province of			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PassbyLkTrail2
SilvernLakeTrail
Silvern Lakes Trail
Passby Summit Route
Passby Creek Trail
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Scalebar line width
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Item properties
Atlas generation
Item properties
Map
Main properties
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Update preview
Scale
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Map rotation
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Lock layers for map item
Extents
Controlled by atlas
Show grid
Overview
Position and size
Rotation
Frame
Background
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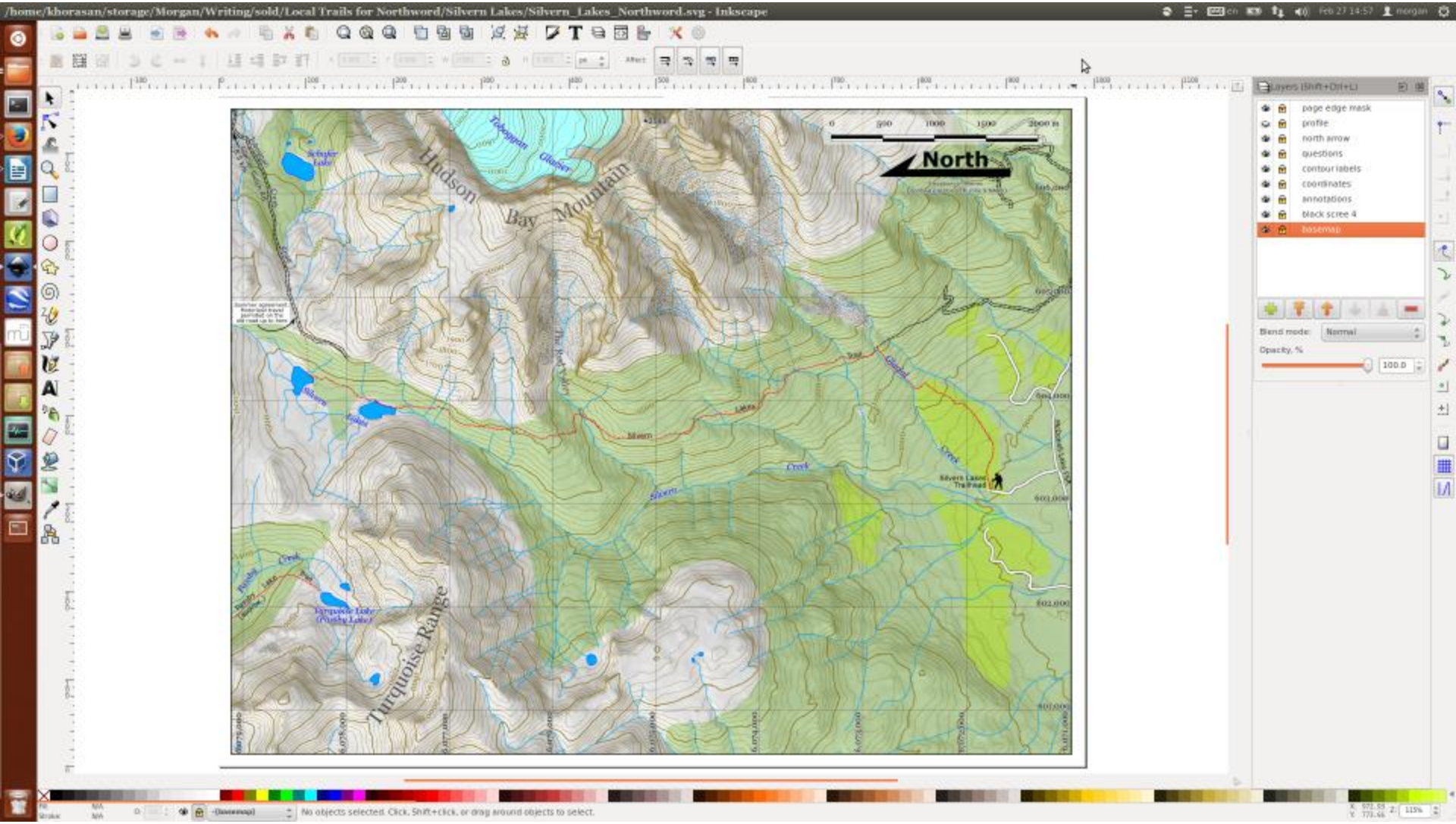
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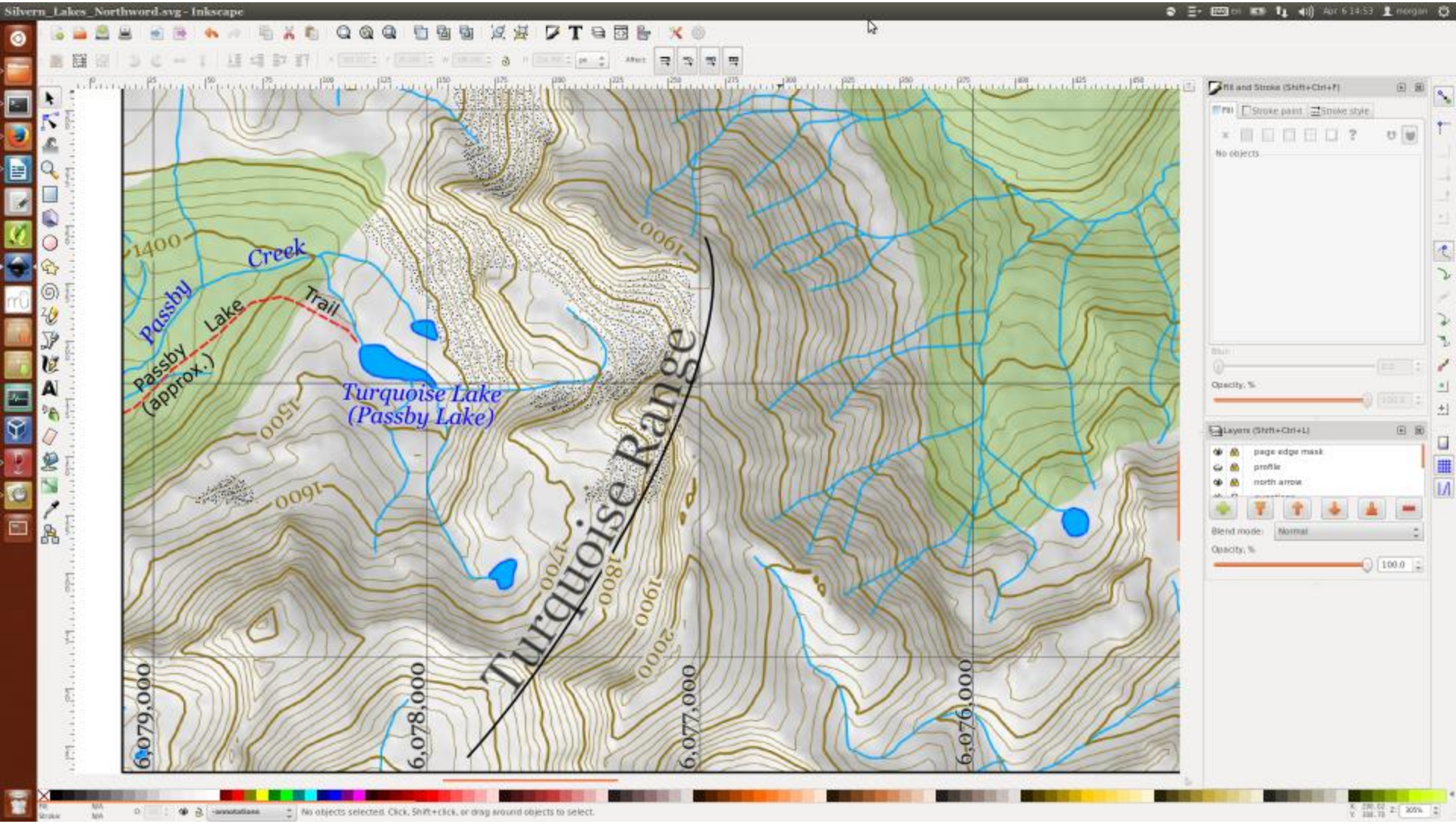
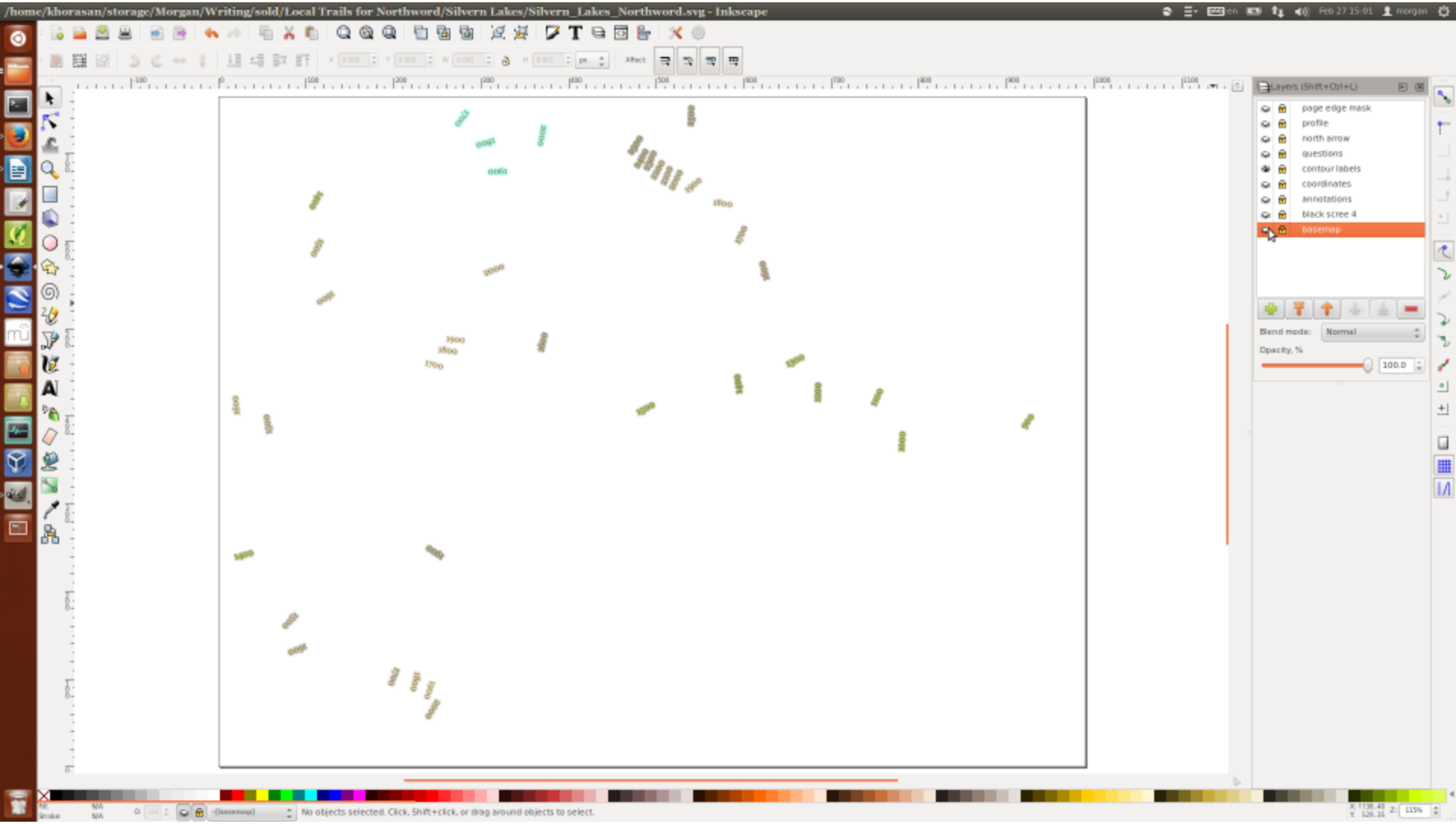
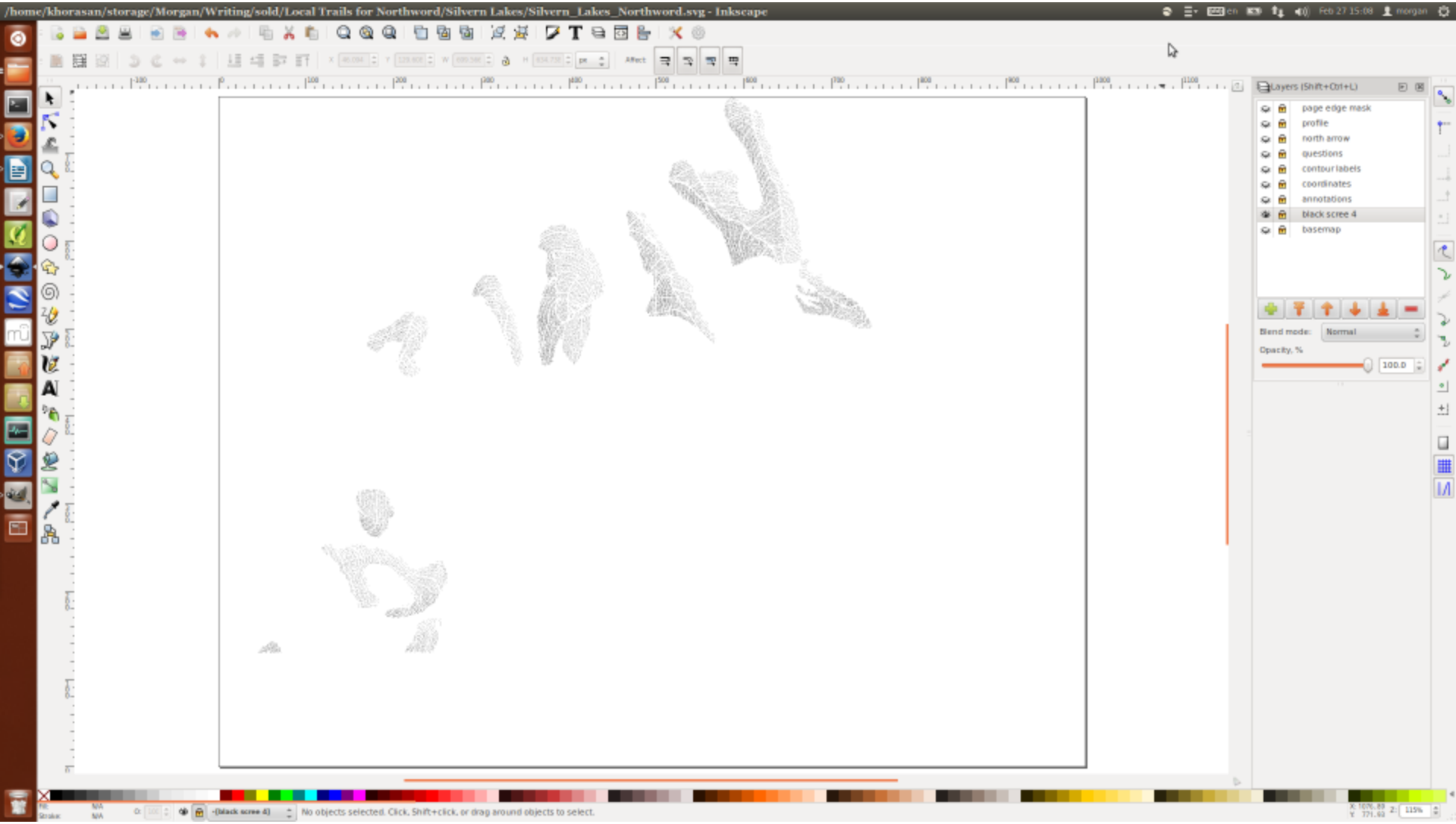
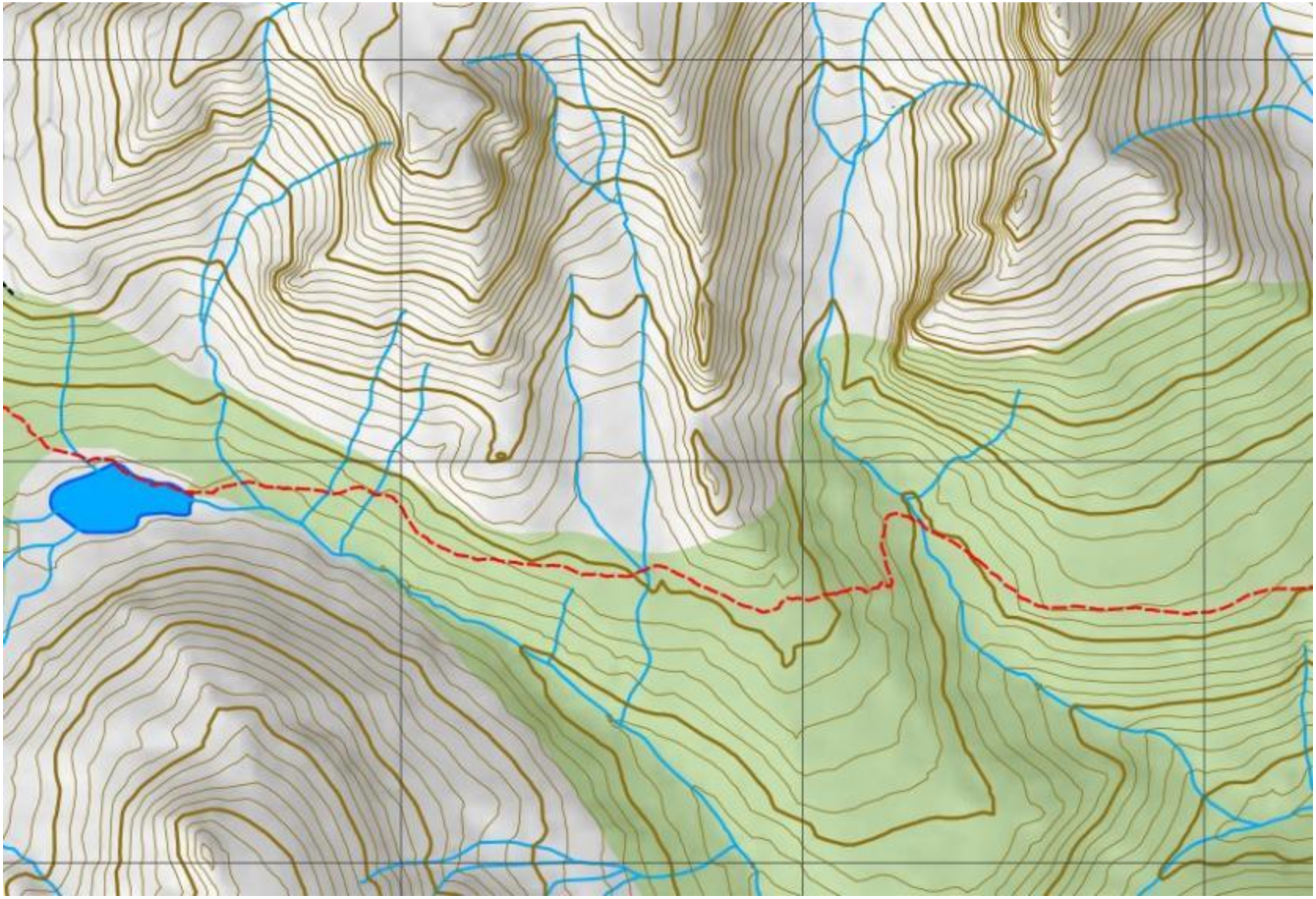
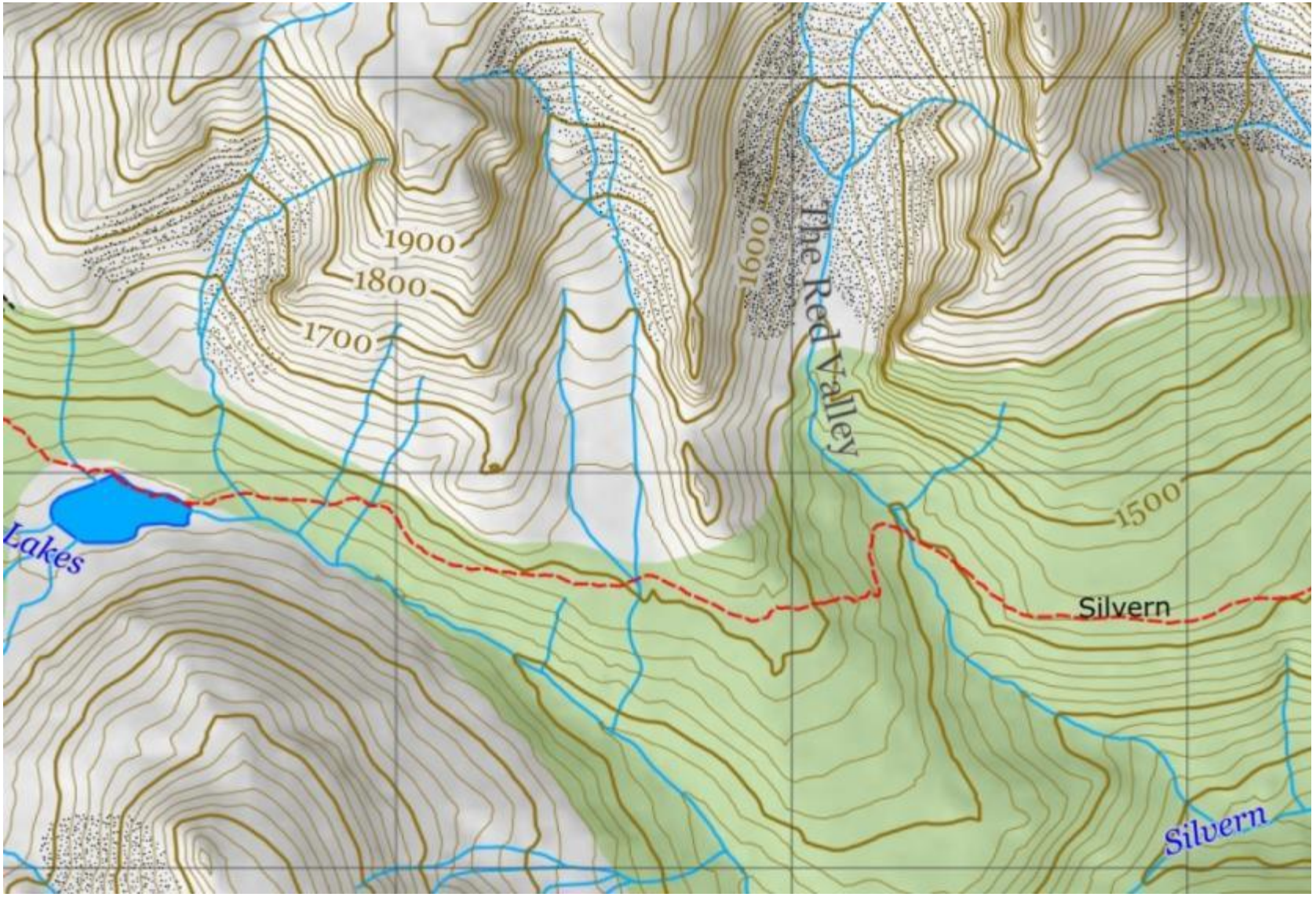
Hudson Bay Mountain
Turquoise Range
Layers (Shift+Ctrl+L)
page edge mask
profile
north arrow
questions
contour labels
coordinates
annotations
black scree 4
basemap
Blend mode:
Normal
Opacity, %
100.0
No objects selected. Click, Shift+click, or drag around objects to select.


Silvern_Lakes_Northword.svg - Inkscape
1400
Creek
Passby
Lake
Trail
Passby
(approx.)
Turquoise Lake
(Passby Lake)
1500
1600
1900
Turquoise Range
1700
1800
1900
2000
6,079,000
6,078,000
6,077,000
6,076,000
Fill and Stroke (Shift+Ctrl+F)
No objects
Opacity, %
Layers (Shift+Ctrl+L)
page edge mask
profile
north arrow
Blend mode:
Normal
Opacity, %
100.0
No objects selected. Click, Shift+click, or drag around objects to select.


/home/khorasan/storage/Morgan/Writing/sold/Local Trails for Northword/Silvern Lakes/Silvern_Lakes_Northword.svg - Inkscape
Layers (Shift+Ctrl+L)
page edge mask
profile
north arrow
questions
contour labels
coordinates
annotations
black scree 4
basemap
Blend mode:
Normal
Opacity, %
100.0
No objects selected. Click, Shift+click, or drag around objects to select.


/home/khorasan/storage/Morgan/Writing/sold/Local Trails for Northword/Silvern Lakes/Silvern_Lakes_Northword.svg - Inkscape
Layers (Shift+Ctrl+L)
page edge mask
profile
north arrow
questions
contour labels
coordinates
annotations
black scree 4
basemap
Blend mode:
Normal
Opacity, %
100.0
No objects selected. Click, Shift+click, or drag around objects to select.




1900
1800
1700
1600
The Red Valley
1500
Silvern
Lakes
Silvern

http://hesperus-wild.org/GIS_carto/BVTrailMaps.html