

## HISTORY

Hudson Bay Mountain was the site of logging and mining activity during the early and mid-Twentieth Century. Most of the current network of Northeast Slope Trails exists on old access routes on the mountain. Mining roads and rough roads to small bush mills have now evolved into trails enjoyed by hikers.

The **Duthie Trailhead** intersects a portion of the old road to the Duthie silver mine, on what is now Hudson Bay Mountain Road. Simpson's Gulch, accessed by the **Simpson's Gulch Trailhead**, was named for prospector Donald Simpson, who was associated with the Empire and Victory claims on Hudson Bay Mountain.

The first ski club on Hudson Bay Mountain established a cabin southwest of the CNR track near Zobnick Road. The area featured a ski jump and lights for night skiing. This is the site of the **Bluff Trailhead** and is where the town located its water reservoir in the 1950s.

Tie-hacking crews, often comprised of Wet'suwet'en women, cut timber for railway ties and fuel in the early 1900s. Later, during the 1940s and 1950s, scattered bush mills operated along the northeast slope. In the 1970s, limited harvesting was carried out to control a pine beetle infestation.



## TRAILS

*The Northeast Slope Trail System features many small, steep trails that intersect and link with the main trails. Mountain bikers often use these, so hikers must exercise caution. The main trails are noted below and each will give hikers a substantial hike with reasonably steady grades and occasional scenic viewpoints. Many of these trail directions refer to junctions. The letters A-Z indicate trail and road junctions. The letters are posted on blue boards on trees. All time estimations are given for one-way travel, unless noted.*

## DUTHIE TRAILHEAD

### Duthie Access Trail and Bug Block Road (10 minutes)

The trail proceeds up from the trailhead until it intersects the Bug Block Road at Junction R. This gives access to the upper Bug Block Road, the Bluff Trails and the Bottom Trail, and links into several points on the Goat Trail.

### Bottom Trail (45 minutes) (Duthie Trailhead to Bluff Trailhead)

This is an easy hike on level ground. Proceed to Junction R and turn right. At Junction S, continue on the trail, which runs along the base of the bluff into the open area adjacent to the CNR track and then back onto the trail to Junction T. The trail terminates at the Bluff Trailhead.

### Upper or Lower Bluff Trail (1 hour) (Duthie Trailhead to Bluff Trailhead)

This is a relatively easy hike, with some ups and downs and some nice scenic views. Proceed to Junction R on the Bug Block Road. At this point hikers can choose to take the trail straight ahead (a short steep climb). Alternatively, they can turn left on to the Bug Block Road, step off about 40 paces, turn right and take a more gentle trail (at the "Trail" sign). The two trails meet on the hillside after a few minutes' climb. The trail goes past the remains of a small log structure and several trails that branch off the main trail to the Bluff. At the Bluff, the trail takes a fairly sharp turn to the left and goes up a hill (on this corner are several short trails that lead to the Bluff itself for a scenic view).

Halfway up the hill is Junction Z. Hikers now have the option of taking the Upper Bluff Trail or the Lower Bluff Trail to Junction X where the trails meet again.

**Upper Bluff Trail** – Proceed straight ahead up the hill and at Junction W turn right. This leads to Junction X.

**Lower Bluff Trail** – Turn right at Junction Z and then left at Junction Z1. This also leads to Junction X.

Each trail has a scenic viewpoint along the way. From Junction X, follow the trail past the Town of Smithers Pump House down the road to the Bluff Trailhead.

### Goat Trail (2 hours) (Duthie Trailhead to Bluff Trailhead)

This is a good hike with a fair amount of climbing, requiring considerable stamina. The Goat Trail is higher than the Bluff trails and it takes hikers along the top of the first hill on the northeast slope that can be seen from Smithers. Proceed to Junction R on the Bug Block Road. Continue up the Bug Block Road, past Junction Q, to Junction P. Turn right at Junction P and follow the short trail until it intersects the Goat Trail. Turn left on the Goat Trail and go past Junction Y. Soon after this junction the trail descends rapidly. Go to Junction V and take a sharp right turn. The trail is a bit awkward in places and leads to Junction U. From this point the trail descends to the Town of Smithers Pump House and the Bluff Trailhead. Turn left at Junction V to access a series of trails further to the northwest at Junction I.

### Bug Block Road and Upper Bluff Trail (1 hour, 30 minutes) (Duthie Trailhead to Bluff Trailhead)

This is a hike requiring some stamina for the climb up the Bug Block Road. Proceed to Junction R, turn left and go to Junction Q. Turn right. Do not take the side trails (unofficially signed Penetralla and Smoothy). Instead, proceed straight ahead to Junction W. Continue straight ahead, past Junction X and down to the Town of Smithers Pump House and the Bluff Trailhead.

### Bluff Circle Route (1 hour, 30 minutes)

This hike can be undertaken from either the Duthie Trailhead or the Bluff Trailhead. Hikers can hike the Upper or Lower Bluff Trail and return along the Bottom Trail or vice versa.

### Dahlie Creek Trail (4 hours)

This is a lengthy, stiff hike for those in good physical condition. Proceed to Junction R on the Bug Block Road. Follow the road past Junctions Q and P to Junction O. Turn left and continue uphill to Junction M, where the trail again intersects the Bug Block Road. Turn right onto the upper part of the Bug Block Road to Junction L, then turn left and take the trail to the Smithers Community Forest.

Alternatively, continue on the Bug Block Road past Junction O, travelling uphill and passing Junctions N and K to meet the Dahlie Creek Trail at Junction L. Turn right to continue up the Dahlie Creek Trail.

## BLUFF TRAILHEAD

### Bottom Trail (45 minutes) (Bluff Trailhead to Duthie Trailhead)

Turn left at the Bluff Trailhead and take the Bottom Trail to Junction T. Continue along the base of the bluff where the trail picks up again. Go straight past Junction S to Junction R. Turn left at Junction R to reach the Duthie Trailhead.

### Bluff Trail Access (5 minutes)

The road proceeds to the right a little distance from the parking area and goes up a short hill to the Town of Smithers Pump House, visible from the gate. At the pump house, take the trail to Junction X. At Junction X the trail splits into the Upper Bluff Trail (to the right) and the Lower Bluff Trail (to the left).

### Upper Bluff Trail (1 hour) (Bluff Trailhead to Duthie Trailhead)

Turn right at Junction X. Proceed past the viewpoint to 4-way Junction W. Turn left, over the relatively open rocky area adjacent to the Bluff. Follow the trail straight ahead as it goes down a short incline past Junction Z and makes a sharp turn to the right. The trail crosses the (unofficially signed) Shining Trail. After passing another branch trail on the right, the trail passes by a small partially built log structure. As the trail descends gradually, it splits. Take either branch as both intersect the Bug Block Road. The left trail comes out at Junction R. The right trail comes to the Bug Block road a little further up. Turn left and proceed to Junction R. From there, take the trail down to the Duthie Trailhead.

### Lower Bluff Trail (1 hour) (Bluff Trailhead to Duthie Trailhead)

Turn left at Junction X and proceed to Junction Z1. Turn right and go to Junction Z. At Junction Z, turn left. The trail goes past the small log structure to Junction R (as described for the Upper Bluff Trail hike).

Alternatively, go to the Bluff (straight ahead at Junction Z1) and take the road that leads to the bottom of the Bluff. From there, turn right and take the trail past Junction S to Junction R.

### Boyle Road Hike (1 hour, 30 minutes) (Bluff Trailhead to Boyle Trailhead)

The first part of this hike to Junction V is a very stiff climb. After that, the trail is moderately easy.

From the Bluff Trailhead, go to the Town of Smithers Pump House. Just before reaching the Pump House, turn right up an old road. Approximately 15 metres up this road there is a trail on the left. Follow this trail to Junction U. At that point the trail splits. Take the right branch and follow the trail to Junction V. The trail has some difficult sections. At 4-way Junction V, go straight ahead and proceed to Junction I where the trail meets the power line and a creek. Turn left and head up the power line, cross the creek and go to Junction H. Turn right and proceed to Junction G. Fifteen paces past Junction G, turn left up the hill where the trail splits. At that point, turn right and proceed to Junction E where the trail meets an old road. Turn left and follow the road to Junction B and take the trail to the right. The trail terminates at the Boyle Trailhead.

## SIMPSON'S GULCH TRAILHEAD

The Simpson's Gulch Road offers two routes up Hudson Bay Mountain, one leading to the Ski Smithers ski runs, the other into Simpson's Gulch and from there to the Hudson Bay Mountain "prairie" area and Hudson Bay Mountain South Peak. The road also connects to the Bluff and Dahlie Creek Trail systems (at Junctions C and D).

### Bluff Trail Connection (45 minutes)

Follow the Simpson's Gulch Road to Junction F. Turn left and climb to Junction G. Continue left to Junction H. Turn left to go to Junction I and turn right to go to Junction V. (The road going downhill at Junction I is on private property). At Junction V, go straight ahead and proceed to Junction U, which is located just above the Town of Smithers Pump House. From there connect to either of the Bluff trails or to the Bottom Trail.

### Dahlie Creek Connector Trail (1 hour, 30 minutes) (From Simpson's Gulch to Dahlie Creek Trail)

Follow Simpson's Gulch Road to Junction F. Turn left and climb to Junction G. Turn left and go to Junction H. Turn right and go to Junction J. Turn left and take the short trail to Junction K. This is the intersection with the Bug Block Road. Continue right to Junction L and the Dahlie Creek Trail. Alternatively, turn left at Junction K and travel the Bug Block Road down to the Duthie or Bluff Trailhead.

### Simpson's Gulch Trail (3 hours)

Take Simpson's Gulch Road to Junction F, turn left and climb to Junction G. (At this point hikers can intercept the Dahlie Creek Trail or the Bluff and Duthie trailheads if they continue left to Junction H). Turn right at the junction and pace off 15 steps. Then turn left and proceed up the hill. At the fork, go straight ahead for a steep uphill climb to Junction C. Alternatively, hikers can turn right at the fork for a more moderate link to Junction E, which connects with the Simpson's Gulch Road. Stay left at Junction B, which is the intersection with the Boyle Trailhead access, pass Junction C and turn right at Junction D. Also turn right at Junction A to continue up the south side of Simpson's Gulch. Climb out of the Gulch onto an alpine area called "the prairie". From there, climb to the south peak of Hudson Bay Mountain. Estimate a further 4-5 hours to the peak. The route from Simpson's Gulch Trailhead is the most direct all-hiking route to the south peak.

### Chairlift Trail (1 hour, 30 minutes from Junction A)

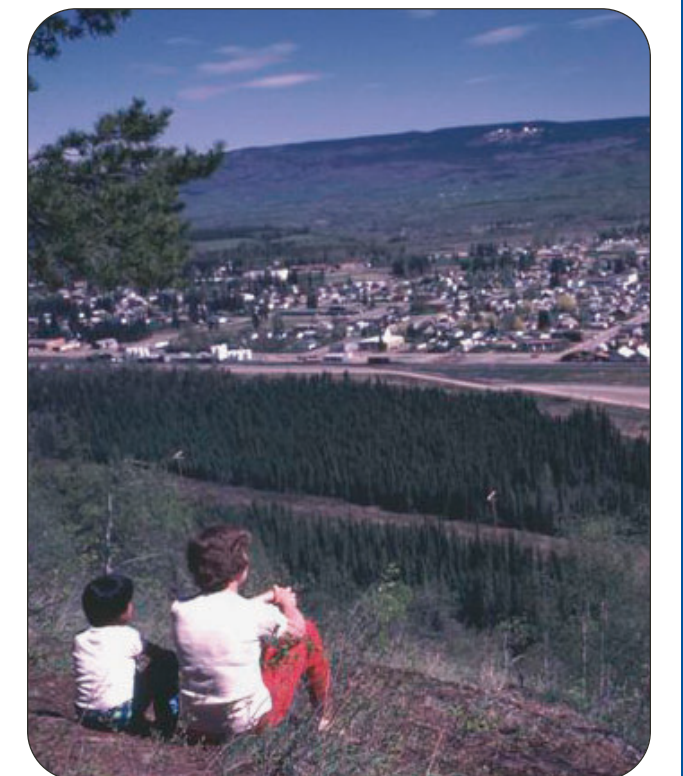
Follow the directions for the Simpson's Gulch Trail, but take a left turn at Junction A. This rough trail heads south away from Simpson's Gulch and ends up at the Ski Smithers downhill ski area (base of the chairlift).

## BOYLE TRAILHEAD

This trailhead provides a connector to the Simpson's Gulch Road and the Simpson's Gulch Trailhead, from which it is possible to access the Goat, Duthie and Bluff trail systems as well as the Dahlie Creek Trail.



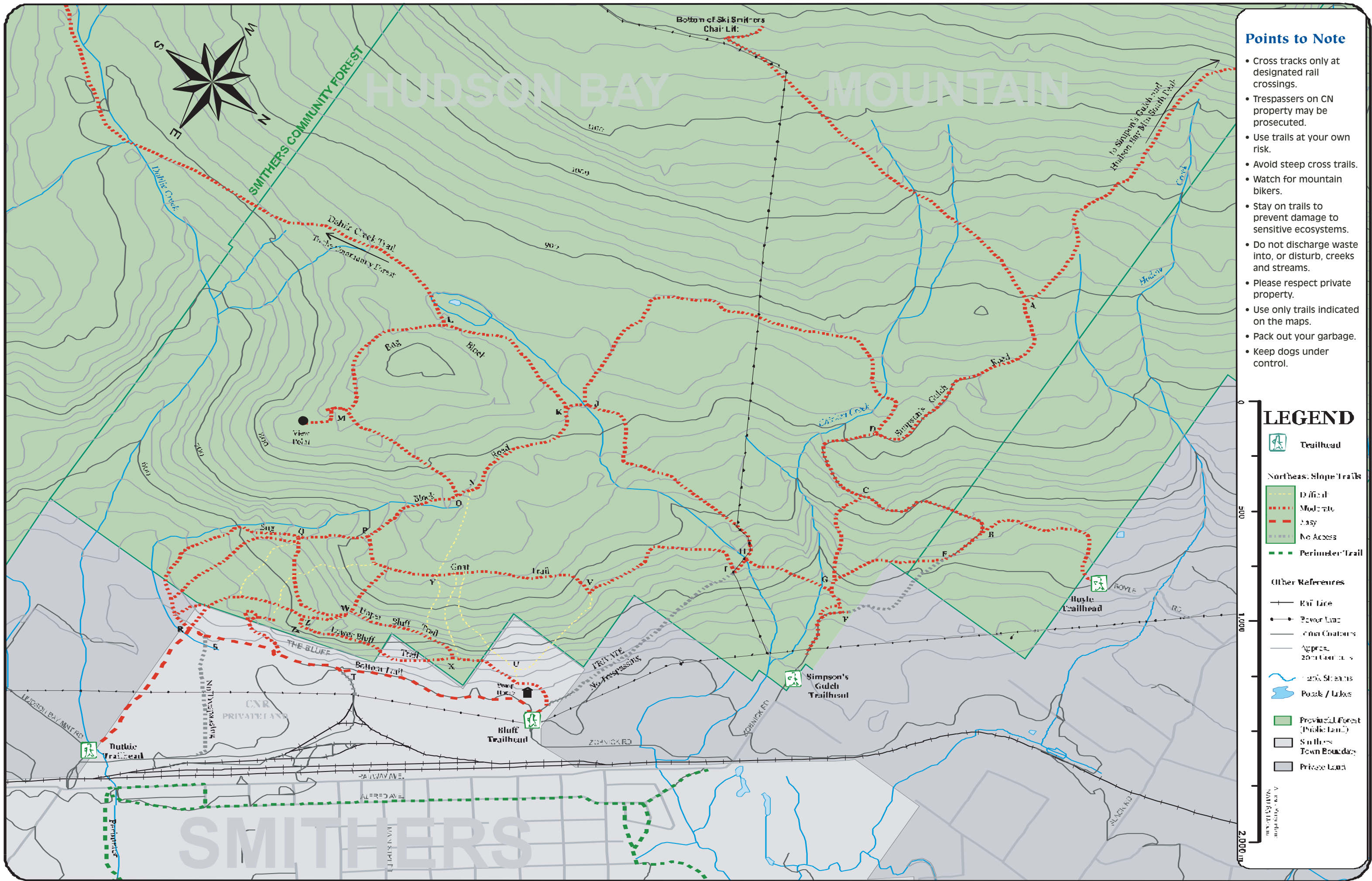
# Northeast Slope Trail Systems



## Hudson Bay Mountain Smithers, BC

Photos courtesy Harry Kruisselbrink





**Points to Note**

- Cross tracks only at designated rail crossings.
- Trespassers on CN property may be prosecuted.
- Use trails at your own risk.
- Avoid steep cross trails.
- Watch for mountain bikers.
- Stay on trails to prevent damage to sensitive ecosystems.
- Do not discharge waste into, or disturb, creeks and streams.
- Please respect private property.
- Use only trails indicated on the maps.
- Pack out your garbage.
- Keep dogs under control.

**LEGEND**

**Trailhead**

**Northeast Slope Trails**

- Difficult
- Moderate
- Easy
- No Access
- Perimeter Trail

**Other References**

- Rail Line
- Power Line
- Contour Lines
- Approx. 20m Contours
- Streams
- Ponds / Lakes
- Provincial Forest (Public Land)
- Smithers Town Boundary
- Private Land

Vertical scale: 0, 500, 1,000, 2,000 ft.

Vertical text: Aerial photography 2004