



Photo: Derek Crowe

## Story of Montana Mountain/ Tsélgí shaa

According to Carcross/Tagish First Nation (CTFN) legend, Montana Mountain/Tsélgí shaa is one of four peaks from which Game Mother hung a hammock to host a celebration for her animal creations before they spread out across the land to live. A spiritual cornerstone, the mountain provided food, medicines, and refuge for the Carcross/Tagish people.

The discovery of silver in the steep cliff faces on the east side of the mountain triggered a staking rush in 1904. A brash promoter from Montana by the name of John Conrad consolidated the mining claims and built an extensive network of mule trails, tramways, and wagon roads to transport the valuable ore off the mountain. Conrad's promise of untold riches drew thousands to the shores of Windy Arm.

The Windy Arm stampede was short-lived, but smaller scale mining activity persisted on the mountain for decades. Foot and wagon trails were abandoned as more modern roads were built. After the last mine closed in the 1980s, the mountain continued to lure small numbers of 4x4 adventurers, hikers, and skiers. The spiritual energy that First Nation people had long recognized in the mountain compelled one man to build a Buddhist temple in the alpine.

A century after their construction, traces of the Conrad-era trails could still be found. CTFN took back the mountain in its land claim settlement in 2006 and set out to restore the historic trails and build anew. Since then, Carcross/Tagish youth have gone to work each summer building trails, reconnecting with their ancestral lands, and greeting visitors from all over the world through the Singletrack to Success Project. We are proud of what these young people have accomplished.

We invite you to enjoy all of the beauty and adventure that our mountain and traditional territory have to offer.

Cover photo: Derek Crowe

## Trail Use Information

### USER SAFETY

As a guest on our lands, your safety and enjoyment is important to CTFN. Please read the following information to ensure that your Montana Mountain experience is a positive one.

### Choose Your Routes Conservatively

Many of the trails on Montana Mountain are rocky, rooty, and technical in nature. Please consider a "warm up" lap on an easier trail to gauge your skills in relation to the trail difficulty ratings. A list of Recommended Routes is available at the Visitor Information Centre.

### Be Prepared and Play Safe

You are venturing into a wilderness environment. There is no mountain patrol and rescue may not be available. Weather and conditions can change rapidly. You may encounter wildlife, including bears. We recommend that you:

- Carry extra clothing, food and water
- Hike or bike with others
- Pack a trail map and take note of signage
- Carry a First Aid kit and bear spray (and know how to use them!)
- Let someone know your whereabouts and anticipated time of return
- Take spare tubes and/or patch kit and bike pump

### Special Note for Mountain Bikers

Mountain biking is a high risk sport. To minimize your risk:

- Always wear a helmet
- Wear protective armour
- Inspect technical trail features/structures prior to riding
- Ride within your ability level

### Special Note for Runners/Hikers

Please be prepared for mountain bikers riding downhill at higher speeds. Stay alert at all times and use the trails recommended for running/hiking in the guide and kiosk maps.

### Emergency Contact

Most cell phones can receive coverage in the very lower portion of the trail network, but reception is unreliable higher up. The Carcross Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment can be reached at 821-5555. A nursing station is also located in Carcross.

### TRAIL ETIQUETTE

- Absolutely NO motorized vehicles permitted on the trails
- Please do not disturb wildlife
- Please use the trails according to the permitted activity
- "Leave no Trace": take only pictures, leave only footprints!
- Bikers ALWAYS yield to hikers

### MONTANA MOUNTAIN ROAD

The road is unmaintained. Most passenger vehicles can drive just past the Caribou trailhead; beyond that point, 4x4 capabilities and high clearance are strongly recommended. The alpine sections of the road network are impassable to virtually all passenger vehicles. Parking is extremely limited at Nares View.



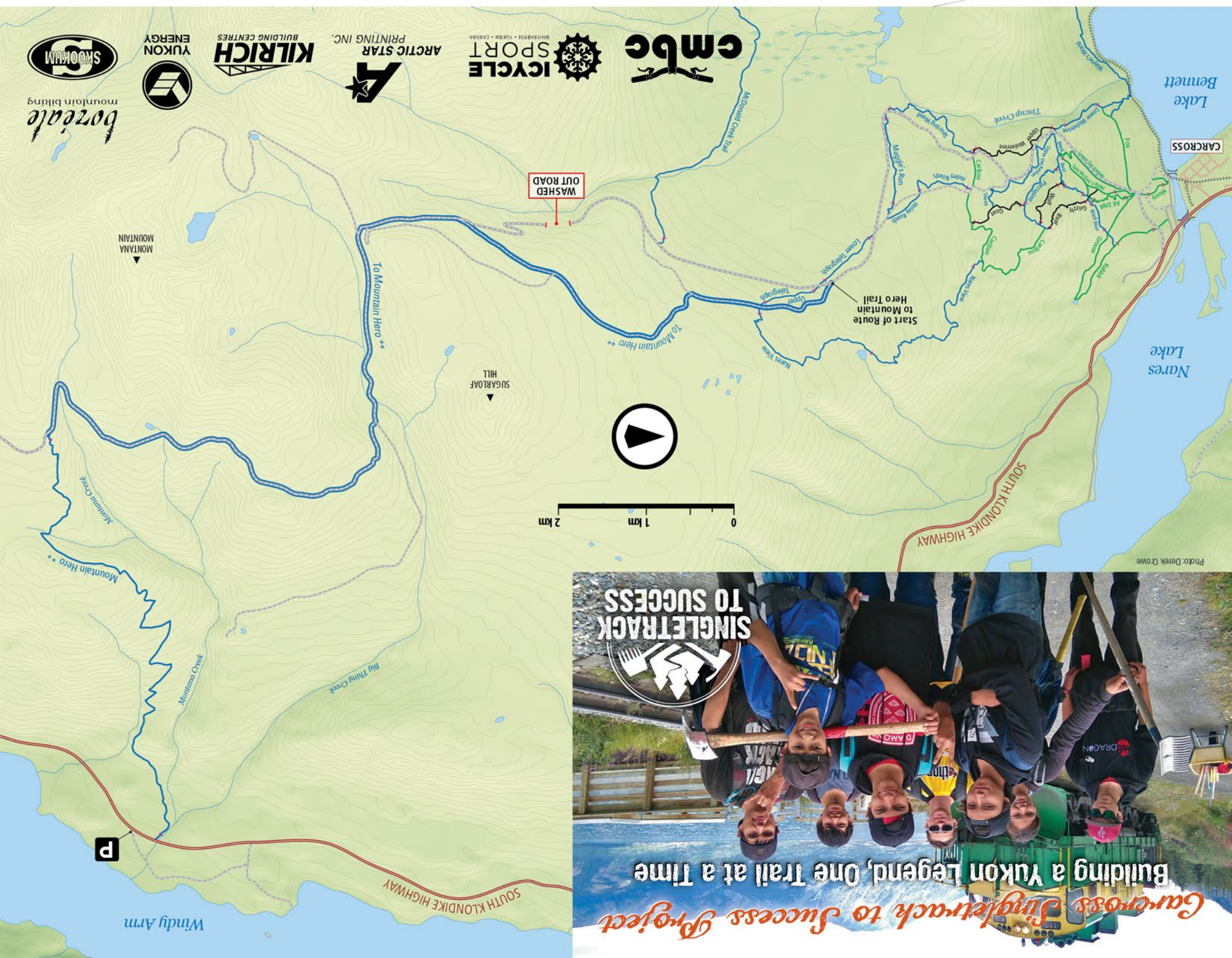
[www.montanamountain.ca](http://www.montanamountain.ca)



# Montana Mountain

CARCROSS, YUKON

## TRAIL GUIDE





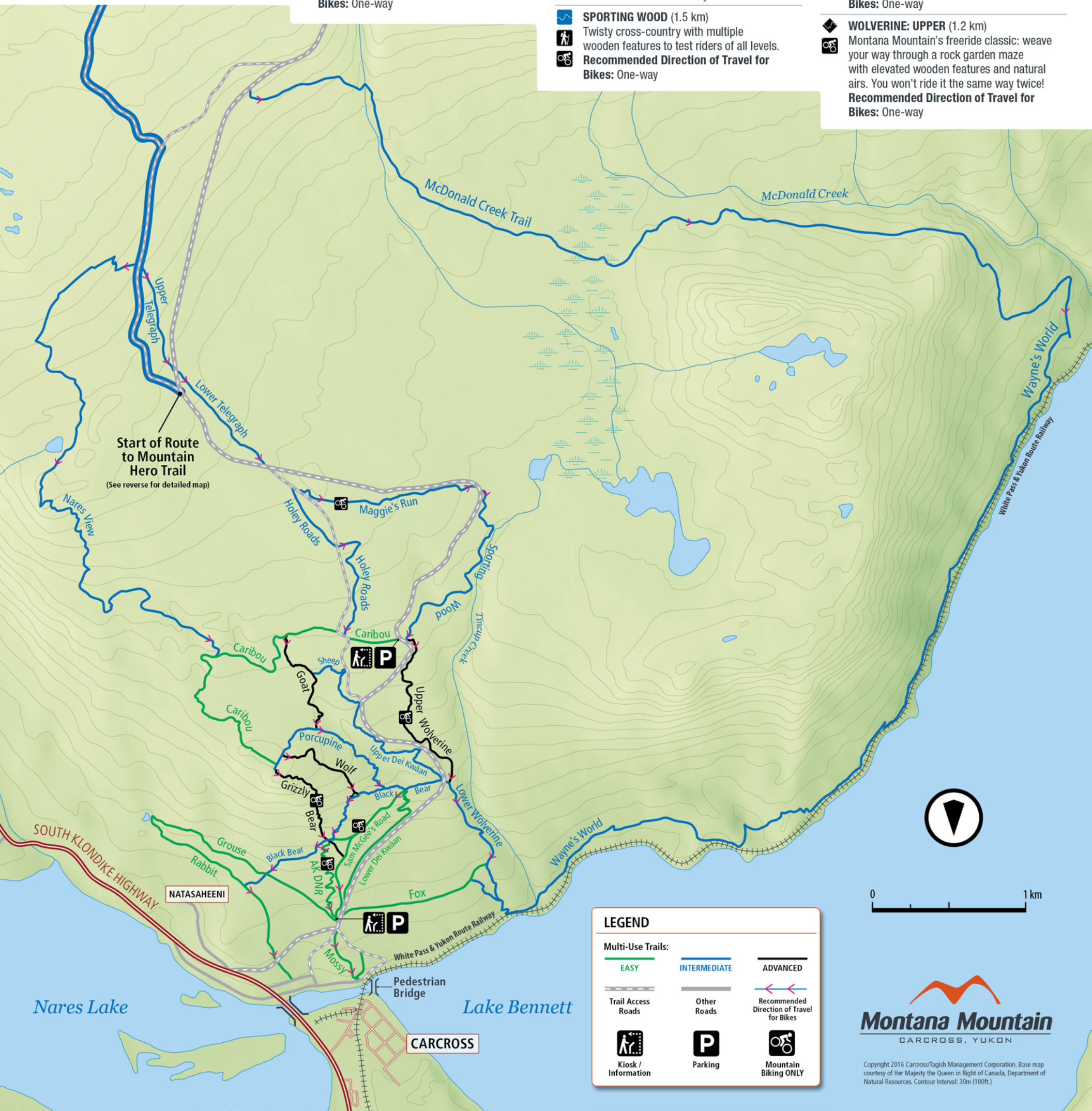
# TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

- Alaskan Dinner (AK DNR) (0.9 km)**  
This fast, flowy descent through berms, rollers, and wooden ramps is guaranteed to put a smile on the face of any rider.  
**Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes:** One-way
- CARIBOU (2 km)**  
Cross-country singletrack that follows an old mining access route before meandering through pine forest past the remnants of a prospector's log cabin.
- DEI KWÁAN - LOWER (1.5 km)**  
Built as a singletrack alternative to the Montana Mountain road, this "People's Trail" follows a steady grade up to Black Bear.
- FOX (1 km)**  
Gently graded singletrack that was part of the route to fox and mink fur farms in the Tincup Creek area in the early 1900s.
- GROUSE (1.4 km)**  
Cross-country singletrack that follows another historic wagon trail with some short climbs/descents.
- Mossy (0.7 km)**  
This short ribbon of historic trail cut through deep green moss is a favourite with photographers. A great way to end your ride!  
**Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes:** One-way

- RABBIT (1.5 km)**  
Cross-country single and doubletrack along an old power line transitions to a short but sweet blast down to Carcross along another historic trail. **Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes:** One-way between Black Bear & Carcross
- SAM MCGEE'S ROAD (1 km)**  
A "must do" – fast, smooth descent along a historic wagon road/telegraph trail believed to have been built by Sam McGee in the early 1900s. **Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes:** One-way
- BLACK BEAR (1.7 km)**  
Traversing cross-country trail with steep and technical sections; advanced riders can test the multiple optional lines found at "Elephant Rock". **Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes:** One-way between Wolf & Grouse
- DEI KWÁAN - UPPER (1.6 km)**  
The grade steepens slightly on this upper part of the "People's Trail", but trees provide welcome shade and there are views of Lake Bennett and the rock garden.
- HOLEY ROADS (0.9 km)**  
Berms and jumps on another section of historic telegraph trail connects to natural rock features for a moderately technical descent on this mid-mountain classic. **Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes:** One-way
- MAGGIE'S RUN (1.3 km)**  
Berms, rock drops of varying sizes and buff dirt make for a fun, progressive line. **Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes:** One-way

- MCDONALD CREEK (7.2 km)**  
This 1910 wagon trail built to construct a power transmission line for the mines in the alpine offers history, scenery, and non-stop fun.
- MOUNTAIN HERO \*\* (24 km)**  
The Yukon's all-mountain classic: starting in the alpine near the historic Mountain Hero mine and stone house, the trail follows the path of a 1905 mule trail built to haul construction materials for the Mountain Hero tramway. **Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes:** One-way. \*\*Please note: the route to Mountain Hero is a technically challenging mining road with steep climbs and loose, cobby sections.
- NARES VIEW (4.5 km)**  
Starting with a short, winding climb through the subalpine, this all-mountain trail traverses down to Caribou through mixed forest, alpine meadow, and rock garden against the stunning backdrop of Nares and Tagish lakes. **Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes:** One-way
- PORCUPINE (1 km)**  
Fun, fast corners through pine forest and rock outcrops; a good starting point for beginner to intermediate riders seeking a challenge. **Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes:** One-way
- SHEEP (0.2 km)**  
Short but challenging connector; good option for technical cross-country riders who wish to bypass the advanced features on the upper section of Goat. **Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes:** One-way
- SPORTING WOOD (1.5 km)**  
Twisty cross-country with multiple wooden features to test riders of all levels. **Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes:** One-way

- TELEGRAPH: LOWER & UPPER (0.9 km & 0.8 km)**  
This upper section of Sam McGee's telegraph trail descends steeply at first and ends in big berms; multiple boardwalks on the lower section make for a mellow, playful singletrack. **Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes:** One-way
- WAYNE'S WORLD (6.5 km)**  
This traversing singletrack features numerous ups and downs, sections of historic power line, and stunning vistas of Lake Bennett throughout.
- WOLVERINE: LOWER (0.7 km)**  
One trail, two personalities: a steep line through the trees gives way to fast corners and built airs in the open with great views of Lake Bennett. **Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes:** One-way
- GOAT (0.8 km)**  
Natural rock and built wooden features make for a great cross-country technical challenge for advanced riders. **Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes:** One-way
- GRIZZLY BEAR (1 km)**  
As aggressive as its namesake, Grizzly is a steep descent along smooth rock faces and buff dirt, with some hair-raising (optional) expert lines. **Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes:** One-way
- WOLF (0.8 km)**  
Also known as the "Ramp Trail" due to its notorious high ramp-like skinny, this trail ends in a fun rock slab descent. **Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes:** One-way
- WOLVERINE: UPPER (1.2 km)**  
Montana Mountain's freeride classic: weave your way through a rock garden maze with elevated wooden features and natural airs. You won't ride it the same way twice!  
**Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes:** One-way



**LEGEND**

**Multi-Use Trails:**

- EASY** (Green line)
- INTERMEDIATE** (Blue line)
- ADVANCED** (Black line)

**Trail Access Roads** (Dashed line)

**Other Roads** (Solid grey line)

**Recommended Direction of Travel for Bikes** (Blue arrow)

**Kiosk / Information** (Person icon)

**Parking** (P icon)

**Mountain Biking ONLY** (Bike icon)



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