

Copley Ridge Recreation Trail

A BIT OF HISTORY

The Trail follows the original logging road built by pioneer farmer George Copley who began logging on his 40 acre farm in the World War I era and on adjacent Crown land in the 1930s. In 1951 he was awarded the first Farm Woodlot licence issued in BC, for the eastern portion of the current woodlot. This provincial program enhanced the viability of small farms by including logging. Copley operated a small mill, powered by Model T engines and supplied local farmers and miners with lumber for homes and barns. Copley initially logged with his team of horses and later with a tractor built from Model T parts. Some of his road building works can still be seen along the trail.

The District of Lantzville has a Partnership Agreement with the Province for the District to maintain, within a 10 metre right of way, the 8.6 km Copley Ridge Recreation Trail (also known as the Copley Woodlot Trail) for non-motorized public recreation within the productive working forest (Woodlot Licence W1475). Please stay on the designated trail. *Take only photographs, leave only footprints.* Access to portions of the trail may be restricted for safety reasons from time to time due to adjacent harvesting and road building activities for short time periods.

Bears and cougars in area; use caution. Watch for cyclists and pedestrians.

LEGEND

8.6 km Trail including :

- Difficulty – Easy
- Difficulty – Moderate
- Difficulty – Hard
- You are Here
- Trail Access Point
- No Motor Vehicles
- No Bicycles

0 250 500 Metres

Safety Advisory – Use at your own risk

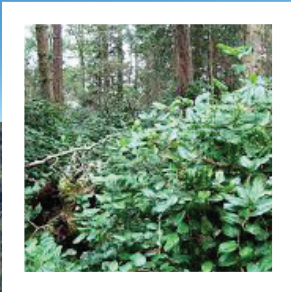
911 In case of emergency, dial 9-1-1 for fire, ambulance or police

To report a trail obstruction, dial 250-390-4006

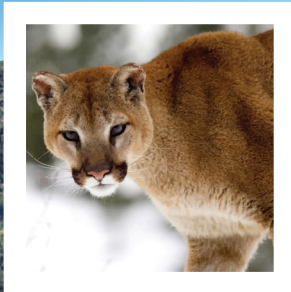
Black Bear



Salal



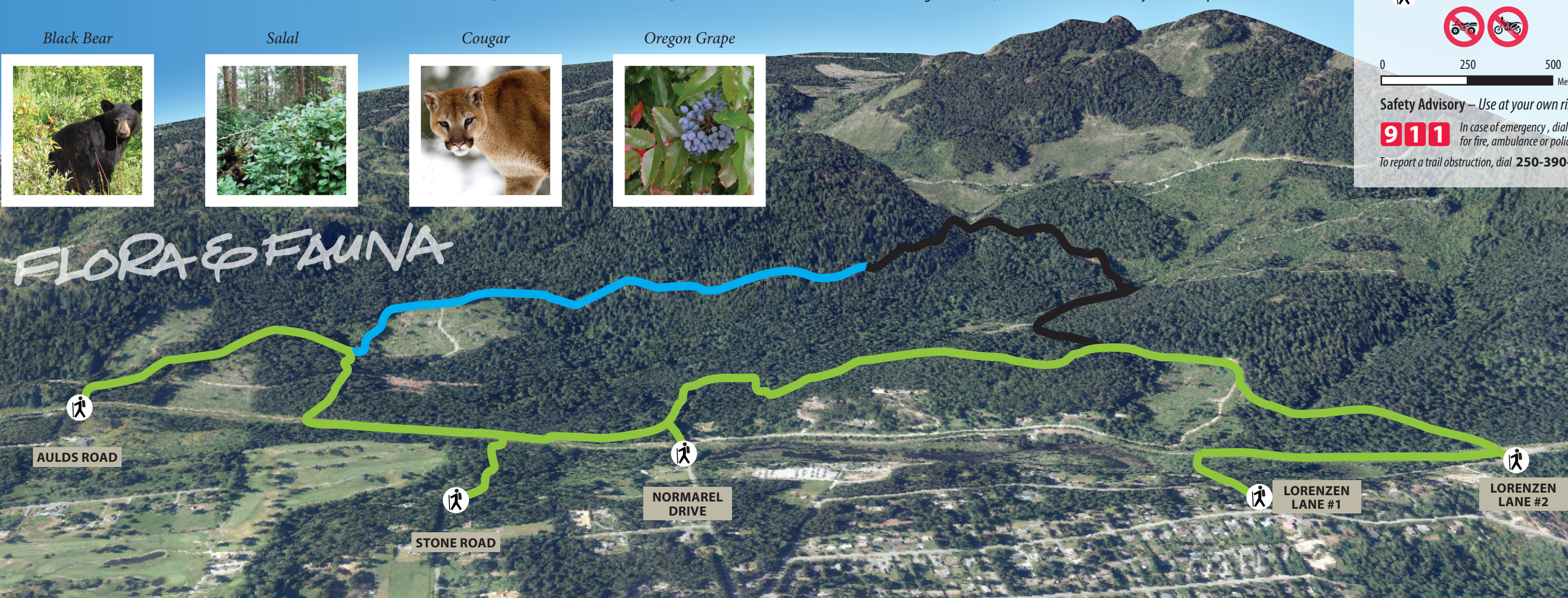
Cougar



Oregon Grape



FLORA & FAUNA



Woodlot W1475 is located in the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone. Historically this area was subject to frequent fires favouring the thick barked, fire resistant Douglas-fir trees to thrive. You may see charred bark on some of the older ‘veteran’ fir in the woodlot. Between 1920 and 1940 most of this area was logged, burned and then left to naturally regenerate.

Fires are no longer common and while this forest is still dominated by Douglas-fir, it also includes western red cedar, big leaf maple, arbutus amongst others. These forests support a wide array of understorey vegetation including salal, Oregon grape, sword fern and many more. A diversity of wildlife from wandering salamander to black bears may also be found within the woodlot.

Today this 244 ha working forest is managed for the sustainable production of wood products as well as ecological and community resources such as water, plant and wildlife habitat and recreation trails. 26% of the woodlot is reserved from harvest and the remaining area produces a sustainable harvest of just over 1,000 m3/year (roughly 2 ha/year on average). Older trees are left in these harvest areas to maintain structural diversity and openings are replanted within months of harvest. You will see some of these regenerating stands adjacent to this trail and new harvest areas in the future.

