

Scout-Antler Recreation Area

ANTLER LAKE LOOP - 1 hr 20 min

SCOUT LAKE LOOP - 45 min

FIRE RIDGE LOOP - 1hr 30 min

FOREST WALK - 50 min 1 way

CONNECTOR ROUTES

ATV ROUTE

Paved Road

Gravel Road

Deactivated Road

Secondary Trails

Hydro Lines

Water

T Trail Head

? Information

P Parking

A Picnic Site

♿ Restrooms

⛽ Fuel

⚠ Wooden Bike Trail Relics - caution

🏠 View Point

🪜 Stairs

🪑 Bench

🌿 Marshy Area

+ Clinic / First Aid



TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

The Scout Lake and Antler Lake area is part of the traditional territory of the Mowachaht Muchalaht First Nation. Community members would travel here for food gathering and hunting.

The salmon berry would be the first to appear and would signal the start of the sockeye salmon spawning run in late May or June. The old growth forest around Antler Lake contains culturally modified cedar trees. The trees bear a scar from the base of the tree up as far as the bark has been stripped. The bark would have been peeled off and prepared for weaving mats and clothing.

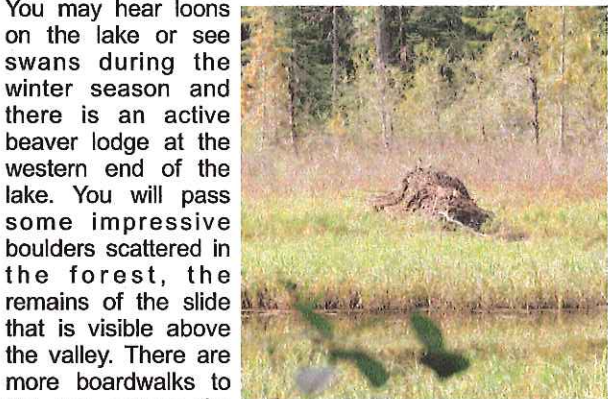


Look for the tree bearing a vertical scar at the outfall of the lake just beyond the walkway.

The trailhead is across the road from the parking area and will loop around the lake, so the lake will always be on your right hand side. The trail crosses the outflow region via a narrow boardwalk, then takes you through a section of old growth forest. The forest is in its natural state so there are standing trees and many fallen trees. The trail also has numerous benches where you can enjoy the view and the surroundings at your leisure.

ANTLER LAKE LOOP

You may hear loons on the lake or see swans during the winter season and there is an active beaver lodge at the western end of the lake. You will pass some impressive boulders scattered in the forest, the remains of the slide that is visible above the valley. There are more boardwalks to get you across the marsh at the eastern end of the lake, where you eventually come out to the road. At this point you need to cross the road and continue up the trail through a reforested area. At the high point the trail comes to



'Shovelhead Junction', one of many remnants of the old bike trails that are scattered throughout the area. Keeping to the right and following the trail downhill, will take you directly back to your car. There are two day use recreation sites on Antler Lake, with picnic tables, fire rings and pit toilets. There is a swimming area at the eastern site. Both have access for watercraft such as canoe, kayak or row boat. Motorized vessels are not permitted. Fishing is allowed (with a license) and trout can be caught year round.

SCOUT LAKE LOOP

The Scout Lake Trail is close to Gold River and showcases many examples of what our forests have to offer. It is an easy walk and takes about 45 minutes with many views along the way. The first section of your route follows an old logging road. Keep left at the first intersection and keep on until you cross under the power lines. To the left is one of several spots where you can stop and enjoy the view of Scout Lake. Hidden in the undergrowth here are the foundation stones of the Scout Cabin that once stood on the shore of the lake, giving the area its name. Here the trail narrows and you quickly enter the forest canopy. The trail loops around following the lakeshore until you reach the far side where the trail leaves the lake and eventually crosses back under the power lines. The lake is a seasonal home to ducks, geese and swans and a close look will reveal the remains of old beaver dams. Locals know the area for the many varieties of mushrooms and fungi that grow freely under the trees. If you are very lucky, you might catch a glimpse of a marten, bear, deer or elk as they all call this area home as well.

FIRE RIDGE LOOP

The first section of this trail follows old logging road. Once you cross the power lines the trail goes east and begins to climb. At the start of the loop, keep right and watch your step, you will encounter some rough sections and an incline of loose rock. It is all worth it as you enter an open section of second growth forest, heavily carpeted with moss. There are several old mountain bike trails and jumps in this area that are gradually being reclaimed by the wilderness; take time to fan out and have a look. Once you reach the top of the hill there is a short descent to the lookout. Here you can gaze across the valley to the slide and the remnants of a forest fire that swept the mountainside and came close to threatening the community in 2009. Continuing on the loop will have you meandering through the forest where you can see signs of old logging practices, windfalls and nurse logs. The trail eventually rejoins itself and comes back down past the water tower to the trailhead.



FOREST WALK

This trail began as a demonstration walk, showcasing many aspects of the area's various ecosystems, and logging practices of the past. Time and Mother Nature have combined to obscure many of the views and deteriorating signage has not been replaced. However, this is still a beautiful walk with a route that takes you through differing stages of second growth forest, grafted trees and a wide variety of west coast fauna.



The Forest Walk takes about one hour from the Trailhead across from Ray Watkins School to the Antler Lake Road. Add 45 minutes to walk back via the roadway, or retrace your route on the trail. There is a slight accent as you start your walk. Birdlife is abundant, and it is easy to find elk tracks, droppings and bedding areas for these ungulates. The trail crosses under hydro lines and continues on through the forest. If you're looking for something a little more wild and overgrown but beautiful just the same, just past the hydro lines a left turn will take you to The Buzz, a trail marked with bright pink ribbon and a small sign. The Buzz trail circles around and joins up with the forest walk closer to Antler Lake Road. Some areas are overgrown but easy enough to follow and other areas are well trodden, wide open trails.

CONNECTOR ROUTES

There are many trails crisscrossing the area and there is usually more than one way to get from one trail to another. We have highlighted the most well used route. Most of it follows an old logging road and is an easy walk. The east end, from the Fire Ridge Trail to the road, is downhill and involves some stairs.

All of the trails surrounding the community are user maintained and at any point in the year may require work.



They are also shared by wildlife that includes bears and cougars. Users should be aware and exercise caution at all times.

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