

Nature Notes

What's In A Name



Some names of trails in the Kimberley Nature Park seem obvious. Creek Trail does run alongside a creek and bears are known to travel on Bear Trail. But have you ever seen a duck in the pond on Duck Pond Trail or an army marching up either the Upper or Lower Army Road? Shannon's Trail and Mary's Lunchroom and Myrtle Mountain were named for what women and what are their stories? The place names speak to the history of the park and the community of folks who have enjoyed this rich and varied area for decades.

People have been working and recreating in the area now known as the Kimberley Nature Park for nearly a hundred years. The Flume Trail and Skid Road reflect on the years when logging was active. Mountain Mine Trail reminds us, as do the old pits in the Park, that miners have spent time exploring the area for minerals. Speaking to Romantic Ridge, we can let the imagination supply the details of the recreation that occurred in this area!

There are no Ponderosa Pine trees on the Ponderosa Trail. Old timers tell us that a large one use to stand about half way along the trail and that young men liked to show their strength and courage by swinging out over the bank on a rope attached to a branch. That tree has died and fallen over.



At the very top of Ponderosa Trail in the early 1930's, ski jumping was introduced in Kimberley by Scandinavians. As you stand on this rise overlooking Overwaitea, imagine a ski jump built and used by Leif Lund, Arne Moan, Einer Edwards and many others. The first tournament was held in 1933 with the then world champion from Revelstoke, Nels Nelson, participating. He jumped a record 198 feet. Maybe this trail should have been called the Jump Trail or the Challenge Trail which could refer to its history of either the rope or the ski jumping!

Visit the website at www.rockie.net/kimberley/nature for a hard copy and more information about the Park and guided events.