

Mount Arrowsmith Park Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions

Feb 1, 2005

1. I have never seen this mountain, where can I see it?

The next time you drive up the Island Highway, just north of Nanaimo, look towards the west (on the left side if going up the island). It is the big obvious mountain in the skyline.

2. How do I access the mountain?

Mt Arrowsmith is in the middle of the lower half of Vancouver Island. Take the number 4 highway north of Nanaimo towards Port Alberni. Just after Cameron Lake, you will be driving along the north shoulder of Mt Arrowsmith. As you crest the summit of the highway there will be logging road access to Mt Arrowsmith.

3. What is a “wilderness” park?

A “wilderness” park aims to preserve the natural wilderness environment of the park. The existing trail system will be maintained largely as is, without expansion. Only very minimal facilities will be established. The focus is to provide to the recreationists a truly natural, wilderness experience.

4. Are there any trails that are in use in the proposed park area?

Yes! Several! There are 10 well established trails which range from family hikes to difficult scrambles. The oldest trail has been in place since 1912 (by the CPR), with most trails established from 1950-1970.

5. What area is under consideration for the park?

The legal description is Block 1380 Cameron Land District. (PID 008739668)

6. How big is the area?

Approximately 1300 hectares (approx 13 square kilometers)

7. Who owns the land? Are there any existing licenses?

There are two “folio” numbers on the land, indicating ownership and a license: The owners: Crown Provincial (number 04-768-12471.300) and a license for communication (number 04-768-12741.400).

8. If Arrowsmith is not a park, then what is the Mount Arrowsmith Regional Park?

Mount Arrowsmith regional park, is actually the Mt Cokely ski area. This area is privately owned by the Alberni Clayoquot Regional district, and does not include the summit of Mt Cokely. The Mount Arrowsmith Park proposal is a large area neighboring south of the ski park, which includes the summits of Mt Cokely and Mt Arrowsmith.

9. Who controls access to the proposed park?

The proposed area can be accessed through the Old Arrowsmith Trail from Cameron Lake or by the logging road leading to the Mt Cokely Ski Area. The trail is leased from Timberwest and Weyerhaeuser by the Regional District of Nanaimo; The Alberni Regional district has road lease agreements for access to the Mt Cokely Ski Area.

10. Why do we need another park?

Mount Arrowsmith is the only example of alpine mountains on the Southern half of Vancouver Island. It is home to rare birds, plants and animals. It is a very popular recreation area, with thousands of people hiking, climbing, birding, backcountry skiing and fishing there every year. The snow pack of Mt Arrowsmith feeds 2 major watersheds for nearly 10 months of the year. Slowly the land is being encroached upon. We are seeing more and more destructive traffic up in this area. We need to protect it for the ecology and our future.