



VISTA Concept:

“To provide a hiking trail from Victoria to Cape Scott, accessible along its entire length for five months of the year (June to October) and many sections year round, promoting healthy lifestyles and regional tourism development”.



The Vancouver Island Spine Trail:

- Approximately 700 km long, already one-third complete
- Wilderness route along mountain ridges, valleys, oceanfront
- Runs through or near communities – Holberg, Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Woss, Campbell River, Cumberland, Port Alberni, Nitinat, Lake Cowichan, Langford, Saanich, Victoria
- Links to West Coast Trail and Trans Canada Trail
- Non-motorized – hiking, running, cycling, equestrian, winter sports
- Supports local economies via local service businesses
- Benefits local hiking, running, mountain biking, equestrian clubs
- Attracts international distance hikers and runners



Support:

The following have endorsed the VI Spine concept:

- Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
- Capital Regional District Parks Committee
- City of Campbell River
- City of Courtenay
- City of Port Alberni
- Comox Valley Regional District
- District of Port Hardy
- Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation
- Town of Cumberland



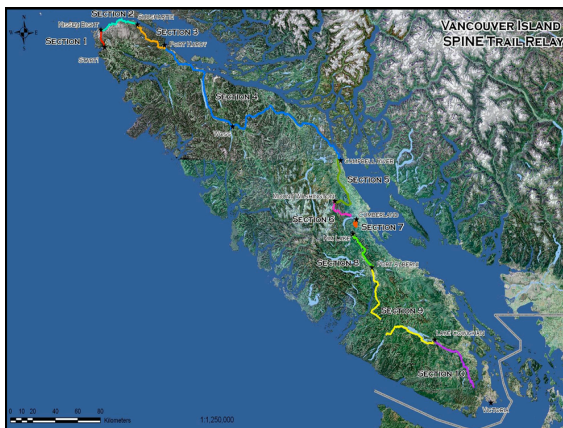
Support: (Continued)

- Alberni Valley Outdoor Club
- Alpine Club of Canada (VI Section)
- Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
- Heathens Club (Campbell River)
- Ditidaht First Nations
- Island Mountain Ramblers
- Kludahk Outdoors Club
- National Hiking Trail (Via Hike BC)
- Outdoor Club of Victoria
- Prairie Inn Harriers Running Club



VI Spine Relay (2010):

The first annual VI Spine Relay was held in 2010, involving groups of individuals running, hiking, cycling, mountain biking and horseback riding along parts of the Vancouver Island Spine Trail from Cape Scott to Victoria. The purpose of the Relay was to increase awareness and community support for the development of the trail and support local economies”



VI Spine Relay (2010):

- 500 kms travelled
- 70 relay participants – hiking, running, cycling, snowshoeing, mountain biking, horseback riding
- Six “Community Days” with ~ 100 attendees, including local hikes (e.g., Quatse Trails, Port Hardy)
- Significant local media
- See the relay “blog” at: www.vispine.ca



VI Spine “Series” (2011)

- Series of weekend events near Spine Trail organized by local clubs (e.g., Arrowsmith Radical Runners)
- VISTA provides coordination, marketing, sponsorships
- New VI Spine website with functionality for local clubs
- Internet “passport” providing personalized account of participants’ achievements
- First event: April 10, Cumberland XC Mountain Bike
- See news release at: www.vispine.ca



Proposed Local Government Support

- VI Spine Trail will promote healthy lifestyles and economic development via the service sector
- Direct endorsement within municipal and regional parks, recreational and trails plans and OCPs
- Administration of studies to clarify trail route (co-funded by VISTA, other governments and organizations)
- Where appropriate, new right-of-ways via development permit amenity agreements (e.g., during rezoning)



QUESTIONS??

