

Frederick & Dewdrop Trail

Site Identification

Nearest Community: Savona, BC
 Geocache Location: N 50 44. 972
 W 120 37. 319
 Accuracy: 3 metres
 Overall terrain: 3.5 (1=easiest; 5=hardest)
 Overall terrain difficulty: 2.5
 Ownership: BC Parks
 Access and Restrictions: Turn off the Red Lake
 Road onto the Dew
 Drop-Frederick Road;
 take the left fork at the
 next junction and
 proceed to the parking
 area. From the parking,
 area follow a route
 through the low pass to
 the south; at the top of
 the pass, turn right up
 the open slopes to the
 top of the bluff over
 0.5km and an 80m
 climb.
 Letterbox Clues: At the top of the bluff,
 look for a niche in the
 rock outcrop. Ammo
 can
 Parking Advice: N 50 45.168
 W 120 37.319

For more information or to report a
 problem with this site please contact:

 Gold Country Communities Society
 PO. Box 933
 Cache Creek, BC.,
 V0K 1H0

 Tel: 1-877-453-9467
 email: info@exploregoldcountry.com

 For more site pages go to:
www.goldtrail.com

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Photo: Doug Smith

Northwest of Kamloops, on the north side of Kamloops Lake, lies the Lac du Bois Grasslands Protected Area. The 15,000 hectare park encompasses sweeping grasslands and lush forests, cliffs and canyons, hoodoos and hidden mountain lakes, a wide variety of animals and birds, and vegetation ranging from wildflowers on the lower slopes to groves of aspens and Douglas firs. There are hundreds of kilometers of trails throughout the park, but the Dewdrop trail, with its sweeping vista over Kamloops Lake and the Thompson Plateau, is one of the best and most accessible ways to visit the area.

The trail starts off in grassland, where horses of the Hudson's Bay Company roamed free in the 1860s. As the trail winds upward, hikers will encounter gullies, streams, forest, plateaus, and lava outcrops. Viewpoints

over the lake can be accessed from the main trail, with the highest viewing point a 5.5km hike from the jumping off point on Frederick (Dewdrop Range) Road.

Almost directly across from this viewpoint, on the south side of Kamloops Lake, is the great bluff which Sir Sandford Fleming felt might be a formidable obstacle to the Canadian Pacific Railway on its proposed route along the Thompson. During his 1872 surveying expedition Fleming's party left Kamloops by boat, with the intention of traveling to Savona's Ferry (as it was then called) and getting a close look at the great bluff as they passed. They also had the opportunity to observe the landscape on both sides of the east end of Kamloops Lake:

“The hills are diversified here in form and colouring, as they are in age; some heavy bluffs of trap and basalt jutting out into the lake, intermingled with carboniferous rocks; and beyond them elevated plateaux, composed of a silt of mingled sand and clay, retreat in more or less distinctly defined terraces on which the subsiding waters had successively rested. . . . On these broken, narrow, winding plateaux, and the hillsides that bound them, is abundant grazing for ten times the number of cattle or sheep now seen on them.”

Herds of cattle may still be encountered in the grasslands surrounding the Dewdrop Trail. Another animal that can be seen is the California bighorn sheep, which was successfully introduced to the area; so successfully that animals from Lac du Bois have been used to re-populate areas in the United States where the bighorn had disappeared. The area around the Dewdrop Trail is recognized as one of the best places in the province to view the animals, with the south-facing hillsides, steep rocky terrain, and natural vegetation providing a perfect habitat. From September/October until May/June the animals stay in the lower elevations, retreating to higher alpine meadows during the summer months. Other wildlife that can be seen along the Dewdrop includes white tail deer, mule deer, and moose.

The country around Dewdrop was never well populated, either by the Secwepemc (Shuswap) First Nations people or by early settlers. However, historical hunting and root gathering was conducted there by the Secwepemc, and the area also contains pictographs and archaeological sites indicative of First Nations presence. The remains of historic homesteading sites can also be found in the area.

Please note that grasslands areas are very sensitive to disturbance. There are also some 950 hectares of privately owned land in, and

adjoining, the Lac du Bois Grasslands park, which ensure the preservation of some of the most intact native grassland in the province, and numerous at-risk species. This property cannot be accessed without permission.

Detailed access instructions to Dewdrop Trail for Point of Interest only:

From North Kamloops, follow Tranquille Road west past the airport.

Just past Tranquille, bear to the right onto Tranquille-Criss Creek Road and cross the railroad tracks. Continue along this road for approximately 9.9km until the first switchback, then take the Fredrick (Dew Drop Range) Road to the left. There is a parking area on the right, approximately 700 metres from the junction.

For a pleasant drive, continue along Frederick Road as it winds through grasslands and scattered trees closer to the lake, eventually ending at the small community of Frederick on Kamloops Lake.

Bibliography & Sources:

Grant, The Rev. George M. (1873). *Ocean to Ocean: Sandford Fleming's Expedition Through Canada in 1872*. Toronto: Radisson Society of Canada Limited.

Retrieved June 2012 from British Columbia: BC Parks (online): http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/lacdubois_grass/Bighorn_Sheep_in_British_Columbia

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