

06 Burns Lake Bike Park

Early in the 2006 season, Mark from [IMBA Canada](#) contacted Hoots regarding the possibilities of working for IMBA on a project in Burns Lake that was going to encompass multiple XC trails and a skills park. Due to the pine beetle infestation Burns Lake had decided to look into investing into mountain biking as a way to attract tourism, over and above the benefits of offering a healthy activity.



During the World Mountain Bike Conference/IMBA World Summit held in Whistler representatives from Burns Lake came to the conference and spent time riding both local and resort trails. With Mark's guidance the club re evaluated their concept plan and decided to budget for several XC trails, pump track, jump area and a A-Line (Whistler trail) trail.

Arriving in Burns Lake, I was greeted by the experienced trail crew who had been flagging and building trail and setting the stage for my arrival. Mark's organization gave us all a great advantage and with areas cleared for jumps, pump track built and trail areas flagged and ready to break ground, we set to work

I was blown away by everyone we met in Burns Lake as the community seemed to have a understanding of our presence and were very friendly and accommodating. Although the MTB club was dealing with some growing pains they had a responsible formalized approach and exercised their stewardship roles with great care. Please visit their website a www.burnslaketrails.ca to see how this small town really got it together. A lot of communities could learn a tremendous amount from the Burns Lake project.

Building started with 2 days of developing a progressive jump line that bermed into a wall ride and then into some further berms, tuning the pump track and building a drop zone.



Because of the grades and natural land features for the A line trail, options were discussed and it was decided that a freeride trail would be built and with everyone's input we set to work creating a fully progressive super roller coaster adrenaline rush that offered riders of all levels opportunity to ride and session.



It's been a number of years since building full on trail and it was great to have a chance to spread my creative wings beyond skills parks, especially when the club and IMBA were so stoked on it! I used all of my riding, contest and building influences to help flavour the trail and matched with IMBA's drive for sustainability we created a masterpiece.



The freeride trail (seen bottom) took a solid eight days to build using Dave our one of a kind operator, 2 days

of a second machine, 2 volunteer days and 2-4 people at any given time with tools. Over and above, several youth came out to help on regular occasions.

One work day ended early and we all went up to the main freeride trail to ride which takes a couple of hours to come down. It was great to see the clubs progression/history simply by seeing their trail sections on the way down! Several great ride sessions gave a clearer understanding of level of abilities and that information was all translated in trail options.





The MTB club members all had their 'special niches' and would come out to help build providing a great opportunity to teach and empower building and drainage techniques as well as discussing club plans. Two volunteer days brought out lots of helping hands and a ton of work was completed!





I was super stoked to work with this enthusiastic community of riders, especially under the guidance and partnership of IMBA Canada. IMBA is a fantastic organization that understands the MACRO and the MICRO and it was evident by the IMBA trail crew I worked with that their passion for trail and riding is second to none.



I hope I have another chance to build in Burns Lake, however, the trail is so good that I am coming back to

film on it (after maintenance of course), you betchya!

Start of trail

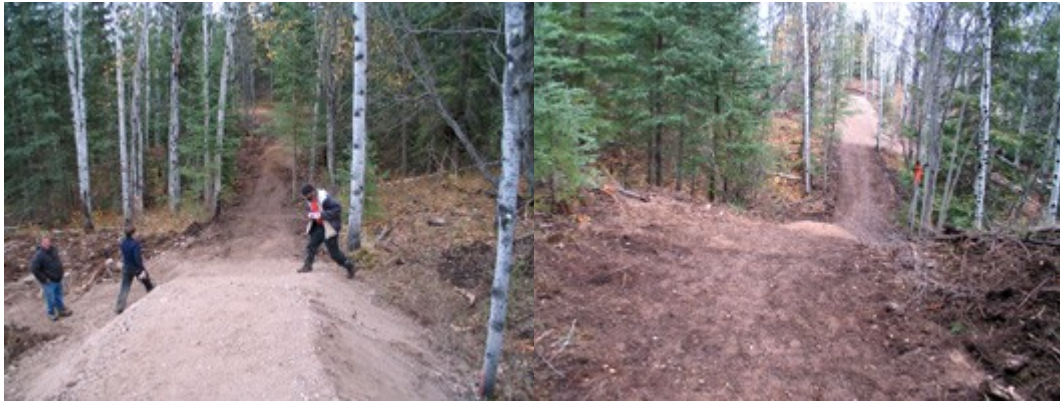


















End of trail

Click [here](#) for video of the trail

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