

Dena Cho Trail

Faro and Ross River

Started: Spring 1998. Trail construction to start 1999.

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The Town of Faro and the Ross River Dena are planning to construct a 70 kilometre multi-use trail between the two communities. There will be four warming cabins along the route. At each end there will be two sculptures to commemorate the First Nation role in the discovery of the ore body in the area.



Community benefits: The planning of this project has built bridges between these two communities, helping to overcome a history of tension. It is expected that the construction of the trail will add to the relationship building as people from both towns work together on the project. In addition to providing recreational opportunities for local people, the trail is expected to draw in tourists for multi-day activities (e.g. people will be able to canoe downstream and hike the trail back).

Lessons learned: Good communication has been important in getting recognition and acceptance of the idea in each community. Regulatory requirements and ongoing land claim negotiations have also presented challenges. Securing the funding to hire staff to work on these difficult and complex issues has helped move the project along. However, there are some outstanding issues related to land claims, heritage designation, non-winter use of motorized vehicles and hunting impacts that still need to be addressed.

Future of the project: Pending funding decisions, trail construction could start this summer and is expected to take three months. More formal public meetings to discuss the project will be held once funding is confirmed. Marketing and work on interpretive materials will occur in the winter. Promotion will likely be integrated with other wildlife viewing and tourist initiatives in Faro.