The Vancouver Island Trail Association (VITA) is a volunteer, nonprofit organization planning and developing a continuous, non-motorized trail the length of Vancouver Island.

The VITA is currently seeking to gain access onto private forest lands in order to complete this section. It does include two parcels of Crown land, but the Crown land is effectively and locked as it is surrounded by private lands.

There is however, a fairly well-known route along the crest of the Beaufort Range which has been lightly used probably for several decades. A search of the area will yield substantial information about the route.

The route is mostly at moderately high elevations (1900 - 2400 metres) through a mosaic of subalpine forest communities. The route is often quite well-defined through thickets, not well-defined but easy to follow on open ridges, but can be difficult to follow where the terrain is wet and supports a tundra subalpine forest. Hikers should be aware of and prepared for white-out conditions, fog and low cloud that is common along the trail even when clear, sunny conditions prevail at lower elevations.

The planned route (from south to north) starts on the Log Trunk Trail, then a climb up the west slopes of the Beauforts. The favoured route uses logging roads from near the Old Man Mt. Roadhead. The rough trail is just north of Mt. Innes. North of Mt. Innes, the route is more or less along the height of land past the summits of Mt. Har, Mt. Joan, the Squashhead, Mt. Apsi, Mt. Campion, Mt. Henry Spencer, Mt. Stodola and Tadala Mtn, thence along the Bank of Mt. Chief Frank to Mt. Clifton. The route continues along the ridgeline from Clifton, and then has been roughed-in to and around Tadle Lake. The Tadle Lake Trail involves a combination of rough trail and old logging roads that descend to a crossing of the upper Tadle River (not passable at moderate to high flows; usually easy to cross during the summer months). From the Tadle River to Cumberland, the hiker can follow various mountain bikers' trails that are managed pursuant to a land use agreement between private forest land owners, the Village of Cumberland and the United Riders of Cumberland.

Users of the VI Trail do so entirely at their own risk.

Access to the Trail and passage along it is at the discretion of the Trail user. Always be aware of closures for high fire hazard and safety considerations, as well as damage from natural events (windfall, avalanches etc.). For more information on routing and trail conditions, please consult our website: www.VITA-VI.ca

VITA welcomes input from all users of the VI Trail, including information on trail conditions and needed trail maintenance. Please send any comments to: VI Trail@env.gov.bc.ca