

Trail Usage Report

Summer 2019



Prepared by

United Riders of Crowsnest (UROC) Club

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www.uroc.ca

Introduction

This report covers trail traffic surveys on Pass Powderkeg trails for the period **May 1, 2019 to October 31, 2019**. This is the sixth in a series of summer trail usage reports.

Six trail traffic counters were installed - referred to as PP-C01, PPTC02, PPTC03 etc. (Pass Powderkeg Traffic Counter 01 and so on). Trail counters were checked, and data downloaded approximately once a month.

PPTC01 was installed on the Double Dirt trail in the woods below the water tower;

PPTC02 was installed on the Double Dirt trail between the water tower and the Dale Strandquist trail;

PPTC03 was installed on the Chainsaw Massacre trail above the Dale Strandquist trail;

PPTC04 was installed on the lower half of Berma-Grin.

PPTC05 was installed on the Buck-50 trail above the mid-hill connector;

PPTC06 was installed on the Buck-50 trail near Southmore;

These trail counter locations are basically the same as used for the 2017 and 2018 seasons.

Pass Powderkeg Summary

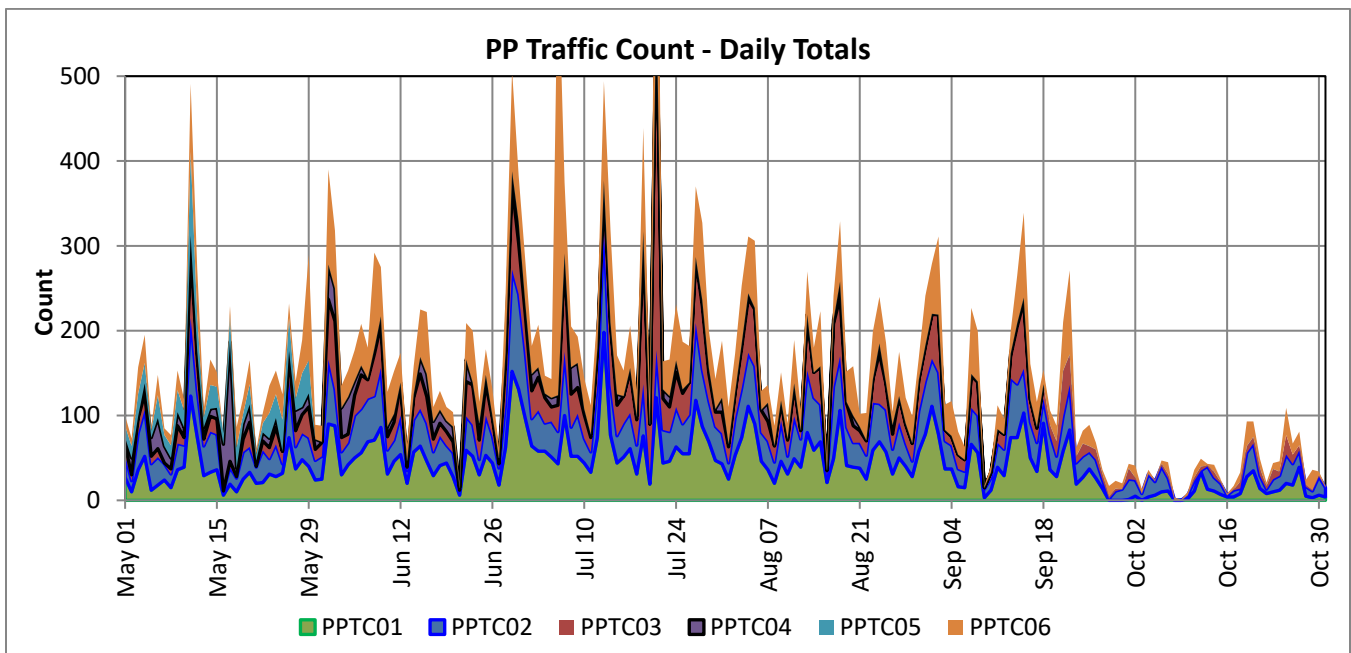


Figure 1 Traffic Count, Daily Totals Summer 2019

The above **stacked area graph** gives a general idea of the traffic pattern through the summer season. Individual users may pass several counters, so the daily totals are not helpful in quantifying unique users; it is the pattern of usage that is illustrated – busy weekends, periods of low usage etc. The four peaks in July correspond to the long weekend, Sinister 7, Sole Survivor and Bikefest-Enduro weekends.

This graph is also of interest in comparing to past years' traffic and the influence of seasonal weather – late snow clearing, early snow arrival etc.

Discussion of Results

In 2019, the biking season picked up about two weekends earlier than in 2018. Heavy snow in late September and again in the second week of October resulted in very little traffic for most of October. On balance, there were a similar number of decent, useable trail days in 2019 as 2018 thus weather was a minimal factor in the overall increase in trail traffic in 2019.

In aggregate, there was a total of 29,000 counts in 2019 versus 29,580 in 2018 (for the same six counters) however when adjusted for the number of active days of counting, there was an average 31 daily count in 2019 versus 28 in 2018 – **a 12% increase.**

There continues to be a general increase in trail traffic on cross-country type of trails.

The Berma Grin trail (PPTC04), which received a makeover in early June, showed some increase in traffic. Because of wet weather on June 20 (Saturday of the Bikefest-Enduro weekend), the scheduled race on Berma-Grin did not occur. While the Berma-Grin makeover was well received, it remains to be seen whether this will translate into a sustained revival of traffic on this trail.

The loss of the counter PPTC05 at mid-hill on Buck-50 early in the season, negatively affected the daily average count for this location since it was not working during the high use periods, particularly July.

Because of the shortage of working counters, no counter was installed on Spare Change (PPTC07) this year.

We had three events which are clearly identified in the data:

- July 6 Sinister 7 ultra-marathon/relay foot race (Buck-50)
- July 13 Sole Survivor foot race (Double Dirt and Buck-50)
- July 20-21 Bikefest-Enduro weekend (primarily indicated for Chainsaw Massacre and Buck-50 which was used for the Enduro race)

The annual change in “Daily Average” count is readily viewed in Figure 2. The daily average count is the best, simple basis for comparison since there are periods of missing data for some counters.

Anecdotally, it seems that the out-of-towners (non-residents) are responsible for a fair bit of the traffic increase.

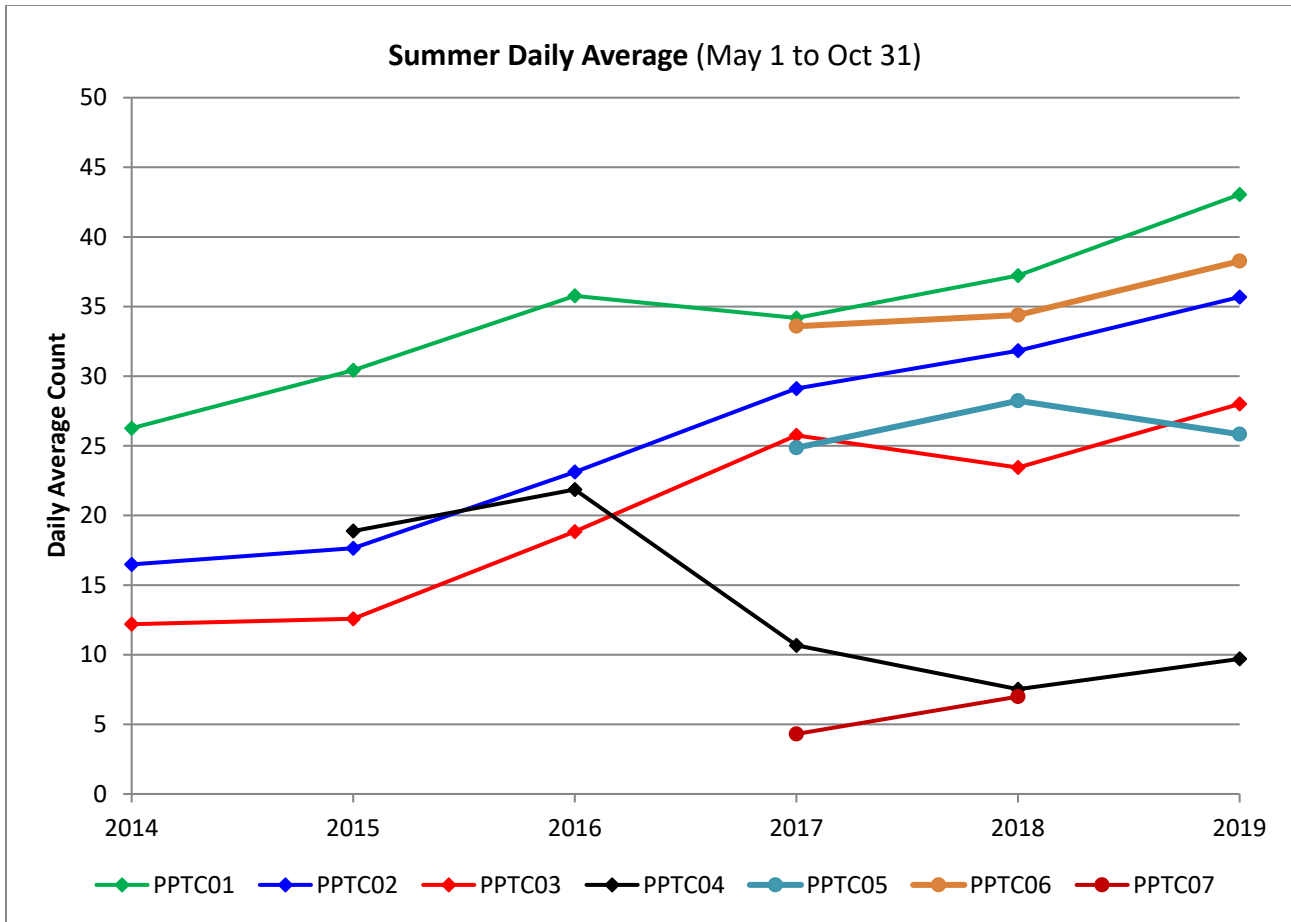


Figure 2 Daily Average Count

- PPTC01 Double Dirt trail in the woods below the water tower
- PPTC02 Double Dirt trail between the water tower and the Dale Strandquist trail
- PPTC03 Chainsaw Massacre trail above the Dale Strandquist trail
- PPTC04 Berma-Grin, lower half
- PPTC05 Buck-50 trail above the mid-hill connector
- PPTC06 Buck-50 trail near Southmore
- PPTC07 Spare Change

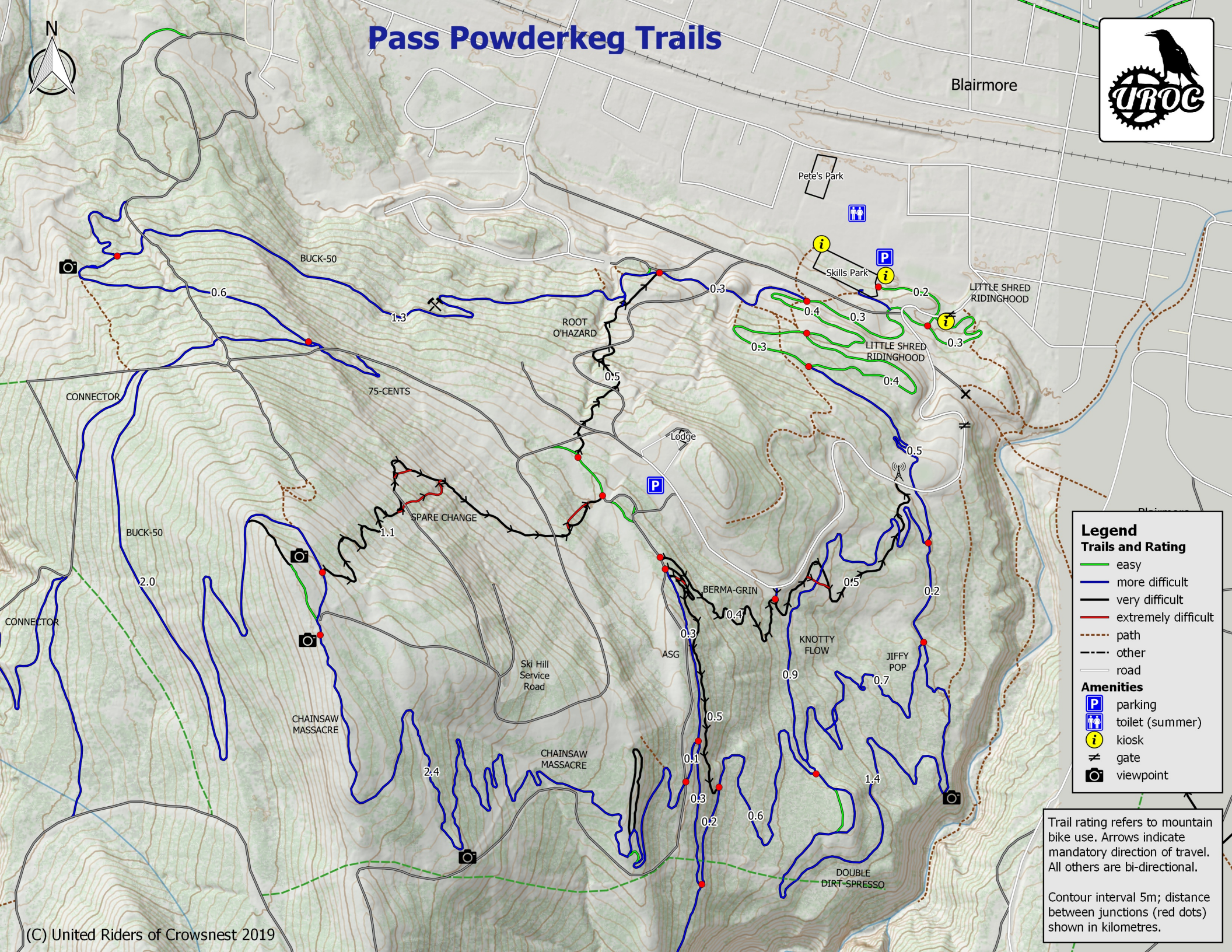
Recommendations

Four trail counters will be left out for the winter, but monitoring will be reduced.

Pass Powderkeg Trails



Blairmore



Legend

Trails and Rating

- easy
- more difficult
- very difficult
- extremely difficult
- - - path
- other
- road

Amenities

- parking
- toilet (summer)
- kiosk
- gate
- viewpoint

Trail rating refers to mountain bike use. Arrows indicate mandatory direction of travel. All others are bi-directional.

Contour interval 5m; distance between junctions (red dots) shown in kilometres.