

Bikepacking in the Bighorn

What it is

Why it matters

A proposal to help
proactively accommodate it
sustainably

January 28, 2021



What is Bikepacking?



Backpacking

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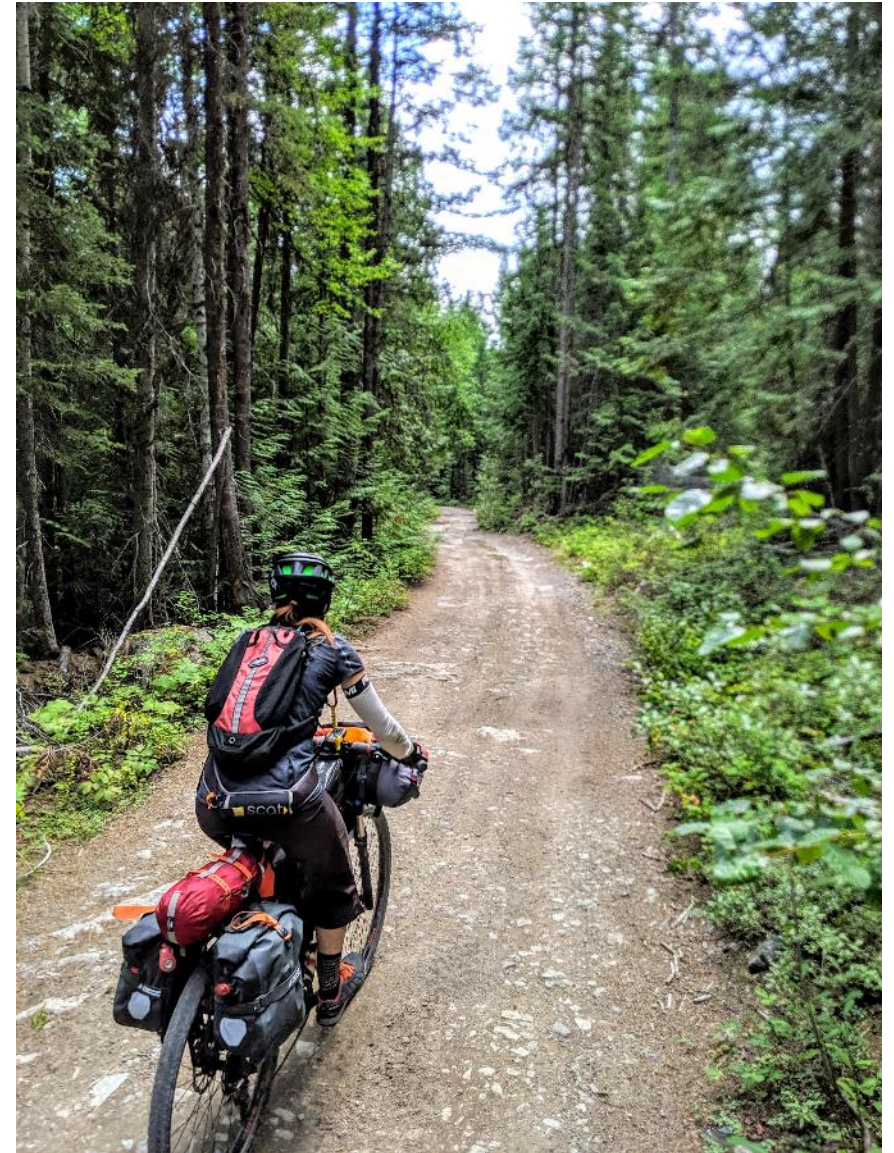
Mountain
Biking

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Cycle Touring

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A Bikepacker's Preferred Habitat

Setting

- Natural (mid-country to backcountry)
- Quiet
- Access to water

Routes

- Varied terrain. Rugged, but relatively rideable.
- Single-track, double-track and/or gravel roads with low traffic
- Sustainable, low-impact trails
- Loops



Equipment

Simple. Self-contained. Lightweight. Reliable. Comfortable.

~50-75 lbs total weight (including food and water)

Bike

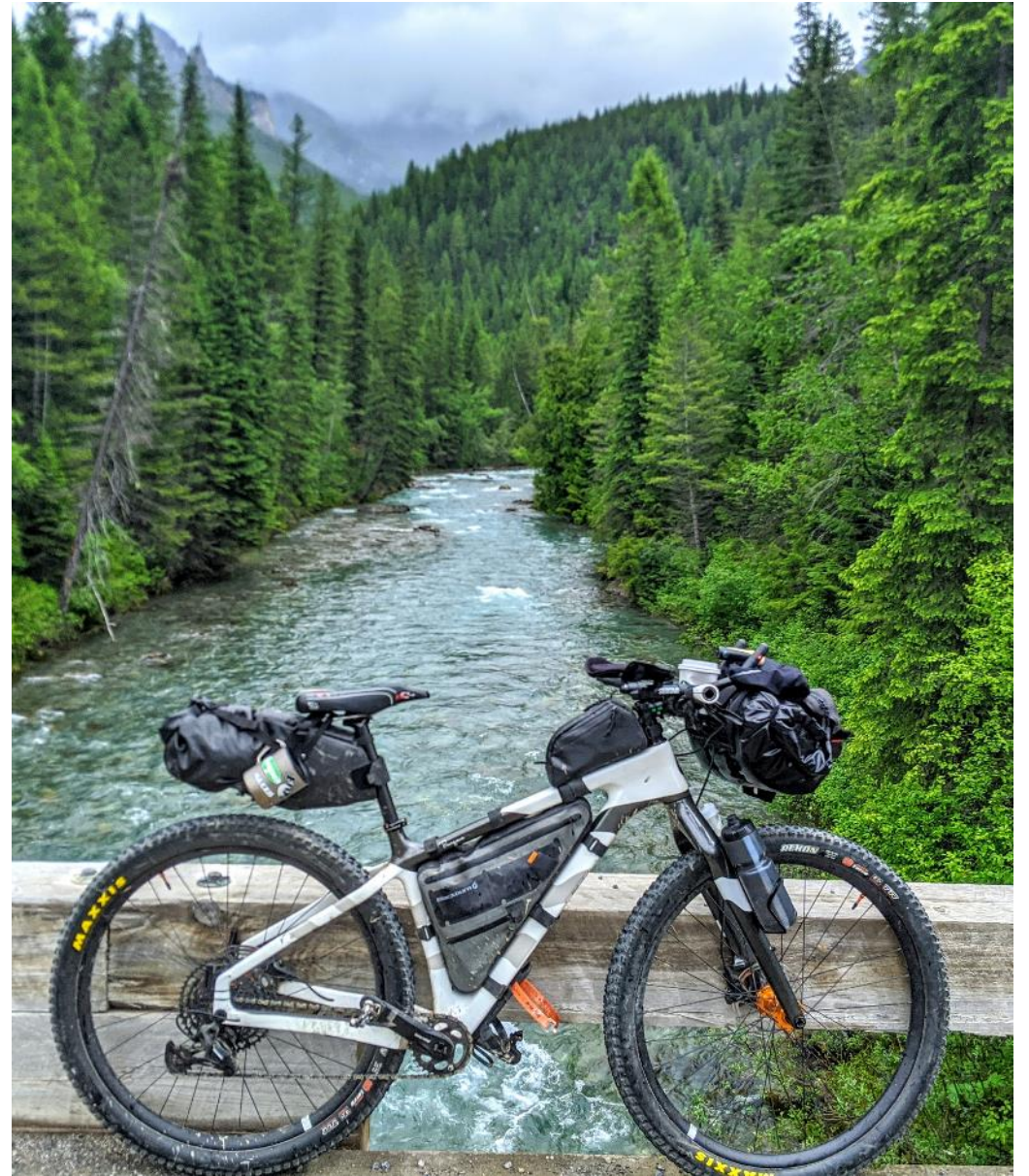
- Upright, wide tires, low gearing

Gear

- Soft specialized bags or panniers
- Shelter, sleep kit, basic kitchen, extra clothing, rainwear
- Repair kit and tools

Nutrition

- Lots and lots! Food is fuel.
- Water filter



A Bikepacking Trip

Typically:

- Solo or small group
- Motivated by the journey, not just the destination (e.g. usually 1 night per camp)
- Speeds: ~8 to 20 km/hr
- Distance per day: 25 to 100+ km
- Overall distance: 50 to 500+ km
- Loops (where possible)

Variations:

- Winter trips with fatbikes
- Hybrid river/water trips with packrafts
- Informal Races (350-4400km)



Ideal Campsite/ Accommodation

Campsite or rustic fixed-roof

- Secure
- Access to water
- Seating and/or table
- Bear hang
- Garden throne or outhouse
- With or without fire ring/wood



Community & Culture

Global and connected

Inclusive. Broad demographics.

Respectful and conscientious

- Share trails
- Value public land and natural spaces
- Understand trail sustainability (IMBA)

Enjoy connecting & sharing proven routes

Tough, driven, adaptable, friendly folk 😊

Tour and “race” sub-cultures

Quiet neighbours (i.e. no room for noisy equipment and too tired to stay up late!)

Bicycle Touring & Bikepacking

Private group · 53.4K members



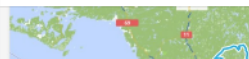
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Bikepack Canada Forum



BT 700 Bikepacking shared a post January 8 at 4:17 PM · 🌐

Let me make it tempting for you to plan in 2021. Many of the major bikepacking the BT 700, Log Driver's Waltz (www.logdriver.com), Hasty Highlander have now been all link Bikepacking Collective. Yes, it's now possible to connect routes on the continent. All the details at <http://www.bt700.ca/>



2018 Bikepacking Survey



BIKEPACKING 101

BIKEPACKING 101

START YOUR JOURNEY HERE

WHAT HOW WHERE WHEN

Simply put, bikepacking is the synthesis of mountain biking and minimalist camping. It evokes the freedom of multi-day backcountry hiking, but with the range and thrill of riding a mountain bike. It's about exploring places less traveled, both near and far, via singletrack trails, gravel, and abandoned dirt roads, carrying only essential gear. Ride, eat, sleep, repeat, enjoy!

Why pay attention?

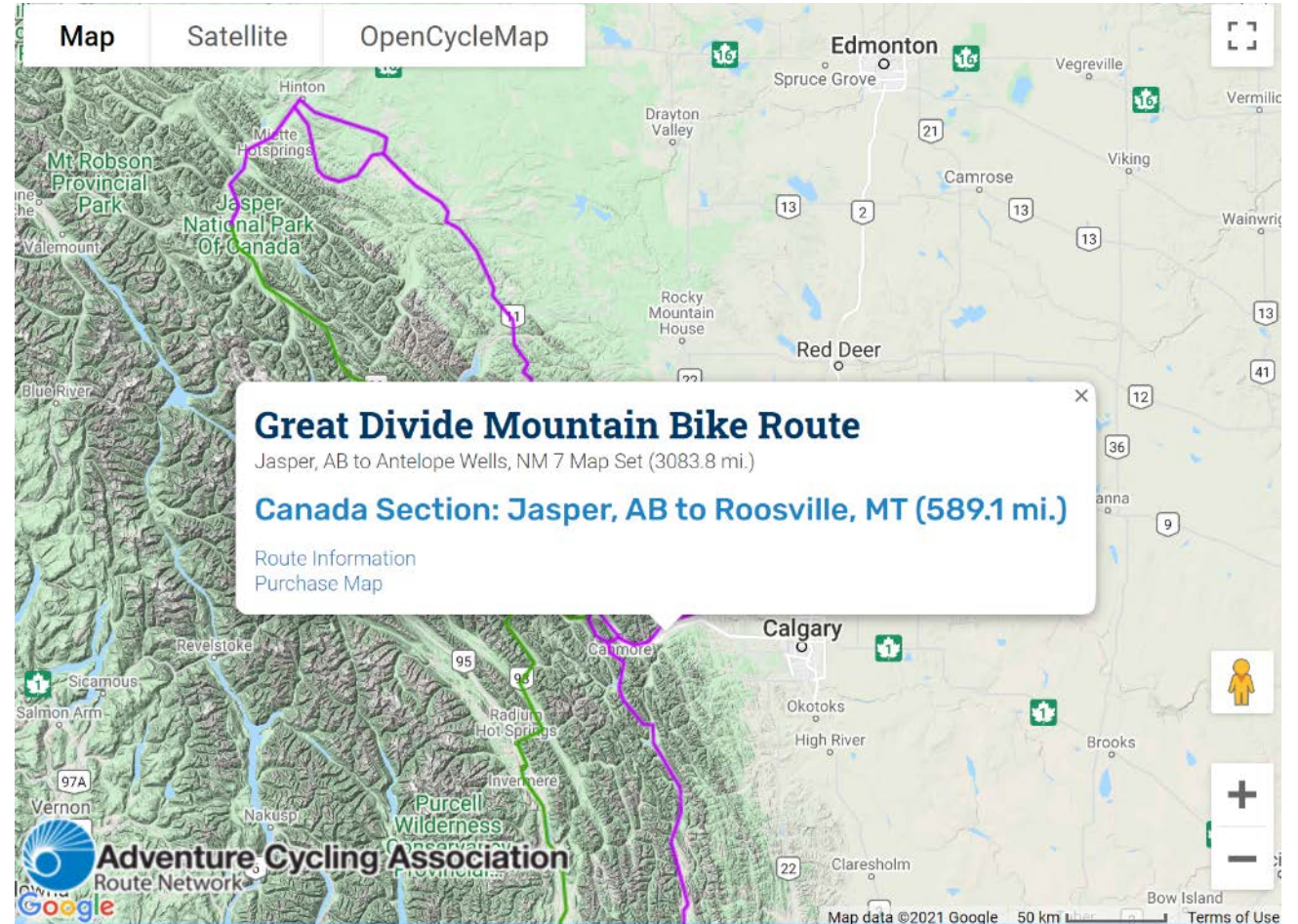
It's already here (e.g. North America's GDMTBR extended route between Jasper and Mexico uses the trunk road; some races e.g. AB Rockies 700)

One of cycling's fastest growing segments

Bighorn is "on radar" within the cycling community for future promoted routes

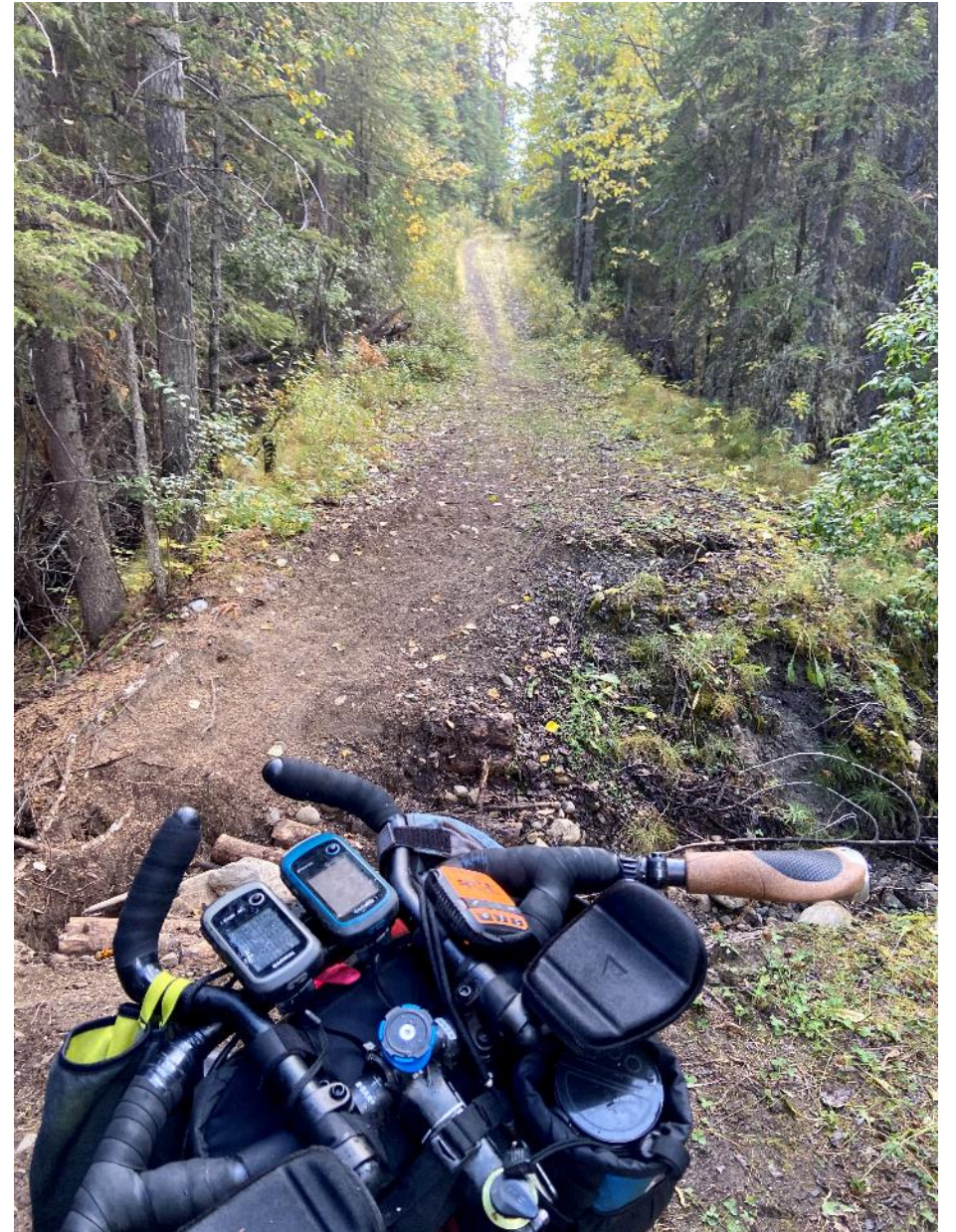
Opportunities

- Still time to proactively influence and shape how use occurs (i.e. use is not out-of-control)
- Foreseeable demand can likely be accommodated with relatively little effort or expense



Proposal

1. **Gather and assemble information** for 3-5 potentially suitable “designated” routes/ loops
 - Summer 2021
 - Standardized methodology, existing trails
 - Identify opportunities and potential issues
2. Develop **detailed recommendations and proposal** for this committee’s consideration
 - Fall 2021
 - Where? When? What? Why? How?
 - Plan to foster and maintain responsible use
3. If supported, work to **organize** within cycling community
 - Winter 2021
 - Incorporate, develop OHS program and workplan
 - Connect/share/cooperate with other users
4. **Begin to implement** (e.g. minor trail/camp improvements, navigation support)
 - Spring 2021
 - Apply for/obtain AEP approval(s)





Questions? Suggestions? Concerns?