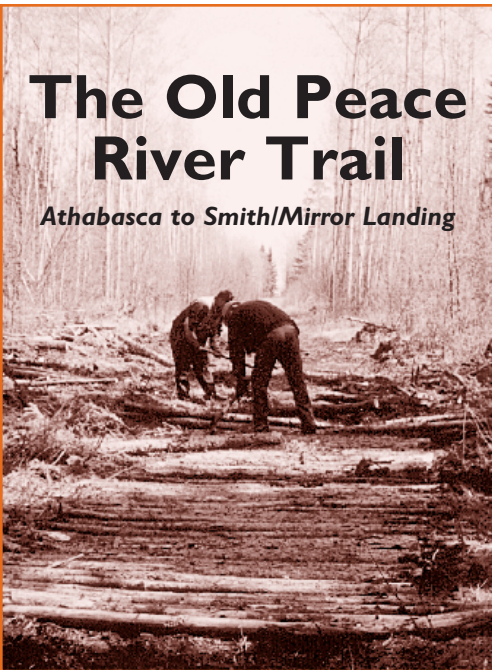


The Old Peace River Trail

Athabasca to Smith/Mirror Landing



Alberta Trails to Try

Alberta TrailNet Society www.albertatrailnet.com



Trail Managers: Landing Trails Association/
Old Peace River Trail Subcommittee

Length: 60.2 kilometres.

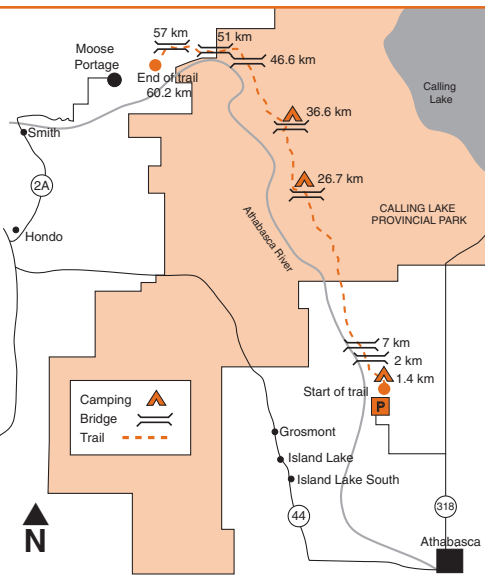
Surface: Natural with some corduroy; trail should be avoided in extremely wet conditions.

Width of Trail: Trail width approximately 3 metres; bridges 8 feet wide.

Permitted Uses: Hiking, cross country skiing, bicycles, horses, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles.

Signage: Trail signage in place. Larger trail head signage still to be developed.

Facilities: Some parking available at trail access points. Three small campsites with picnic shelter, toilet, tables and fire pit complete at the Trail head, near Tomato Creek and at Quinn Creek. Other toilet facilities available along the trail.



History & Points of Interest: The Old Peace River Trail and adjacent Athabasca River were core corridors by foot, horse and canoe for First Nations people. Early Euro-Canadian explorers, settlers and gold seekers followed these routes. Remnant historical sites located along trail include gravesites and the Tomato Creek stopping house (developed by the Goodwins in 1910) portrayed in the movie, "Silence of the North." This section of the Trans Canada Trail runs through public wilderness land administered by Alberta-Pacific Forestries Inc., which supports the development of the Trans Canada Trail through this area. This is a spectacular wilderness area with interesting native flora and fauna and views of the Athabasca River. Moose, elk, deer, wolves, black bear and most boreal mammals are abundant. Bald eagles and other raptors make their permanent homes in this area.

Type of Trail & Terrain: Historical wilderness trail through primal boreal forest on Arctic-bound trunk of the Trans Canada Trail. Be prepared to pack in all supplies and water; pack out all garbage. Food and waste must be stored to bear-proof standards in campsites. Use not recommended during hunting season. Trail generally follows the bench at the top of the river valley, about 100 metres above the river, then descends into a number of deep creek valleys providing varied

landscape and topography. Much of the valley wall is intact old growth boreal forest of white spruce, jack pine, paper birch and poplar. The trail winds through a variety of mixed boreal eco-communities – wetlands with tamarack and blue spruce, sandy uplands with jack pine and blueberries and varied age stands of spruce-poplar mixes.

Location & Access: Trail begins approx. 30 km. North of Athabasca (Hwy. 813 north from Athabasca; left at Sawdy turnoff) and ends slightly to the NE of Moose Portage. Both ends of this trail are accessible by auto and bus via primary highway. The two sections – from Athabasca to the trailhead and from Moose Portage to Smith/Mirror Landing – follow county gravel roads and are still in development. See map for current routing through these areas. Trail approx. 3 metres wide with natural (grasses, etc.) surface. Except for steeper creek valleys, trail generally consists of gently rolling terrain with corduroy in some muskeg and low areas. Bridges are in place. Remain on the signed trail route as industrial activities (cutlines) are ongoing in general area.

