

NELSON SLOUGH PADDLE ROUTE

JESPERSON ROAD TO KITCHEN ROAD



ROUTE DESCRIPTION

This route features a wide, calm slough that is bordered by trees and shrubs. It is easy to paddle, but rated moderate because the access can be difficult at both Jespersion and Kitchen Roads.

Difficulty: Moderate.

Hazards: Floating debris concentrates near some of the access points. Most was cleared in May 2021, but fluctuating water conditions could change that. A short portage near Kitchen Road requires passing a fence. Please close any gates, if you use this crossing. Entering the slough at Jespersion Road can be challenging. You may need to scout the area on foot to find a location that suits your abilities.

Parking: There is parking near the Jespersion Road access. Please do not block the road or driveways. There is very little parking at Kitchen Road.

Recommendation: This route can be combined with the Ballam Road to Kitchen Road Nelson Slough Route to avoid parking near Kitchen Road. The resulting trip is a 3.7 km paddle that can be completed in a few hours. Alternatively, you can make this a there and back paddle starting and ending at Jespersion Road.

Route Highlights

- 1.74 km route
- About 1 or 2 hours of easy paddling
- It is possible to extend the route by 2 km to end at Ballam Road or to do a there and back from the Jespersion put in to avoid a portage near Kitchen Road
- The slough is flanked by tall trees and shrubs, providing shade and shelter to a range of wildlife, songbirds, and waterfowl

We acknowledge that we are on S'olh Temexw, the unceded traditional territory of the Stó:lō people.

RECENT CONDITIONS

This route has had some recent maintenance to make it one of the most recommended paddles of all the routes because of its peaceful and beautiful nature. Very few roads provide access to the route and there are not many houses, features which add to the solitude of a route that passes through rural agricultural neighbourhoods.

Vegetation and blackberries were cleared from the Kitchen Road access (or portage), making it much simpler to cross Kitchen Road. In addition, a fence across the slough, slightly east of Kitchen Road, is much easier to cross due to recent maintenance.

Along this route, you can expect to paddle a wide, calm slough that is bordered by trees and shrubs.

IMPORTANT NOTE

There are no public washrooms on this route. Please plan accordingly.

PADDLING ETIQUETTE

- You must wear a personal flotation device (PFD).
- Don't paddle alone – you never know when you need a hand.
- Respect wildlife – the sloughs are important habitat for a wide variety of waterfowl, songbirds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. Keep your distance.
- Do not disturb nesting waterfowl.
- Respect private property – the shoreline might look wild (which is good!) but the adjacent property is probably residential or a farm. Don't trespass.
- Your voice carries and others can hear – be mindful of what you say.
- Don't block other users – move your craft out of the way.
- Use leave no trace practices – please pack out all your garbage and take only photographs.

HAPPY PADDLING!

Disclaimer

The route depicted here may be different than described. Watercourses may have fluctuating water levels, downed trees, or other obstacles. Paddlers should be familiar with the risks they are assuming when using these watercourses.

RIPARIAN AREAS

One of the features of this route is the tree-lined shore, or riparian area. Riparian areas are the lands flanking watercourses, including floodplains and streambanks. They are unique because the presence of water encourages water loving vegetation to grow and the soils that form are modified by the combined factors of water, vegetation, and wetland processes.

Riparian areas are a critical component to a healthy ecosystem because of the ecological functions they provide including:

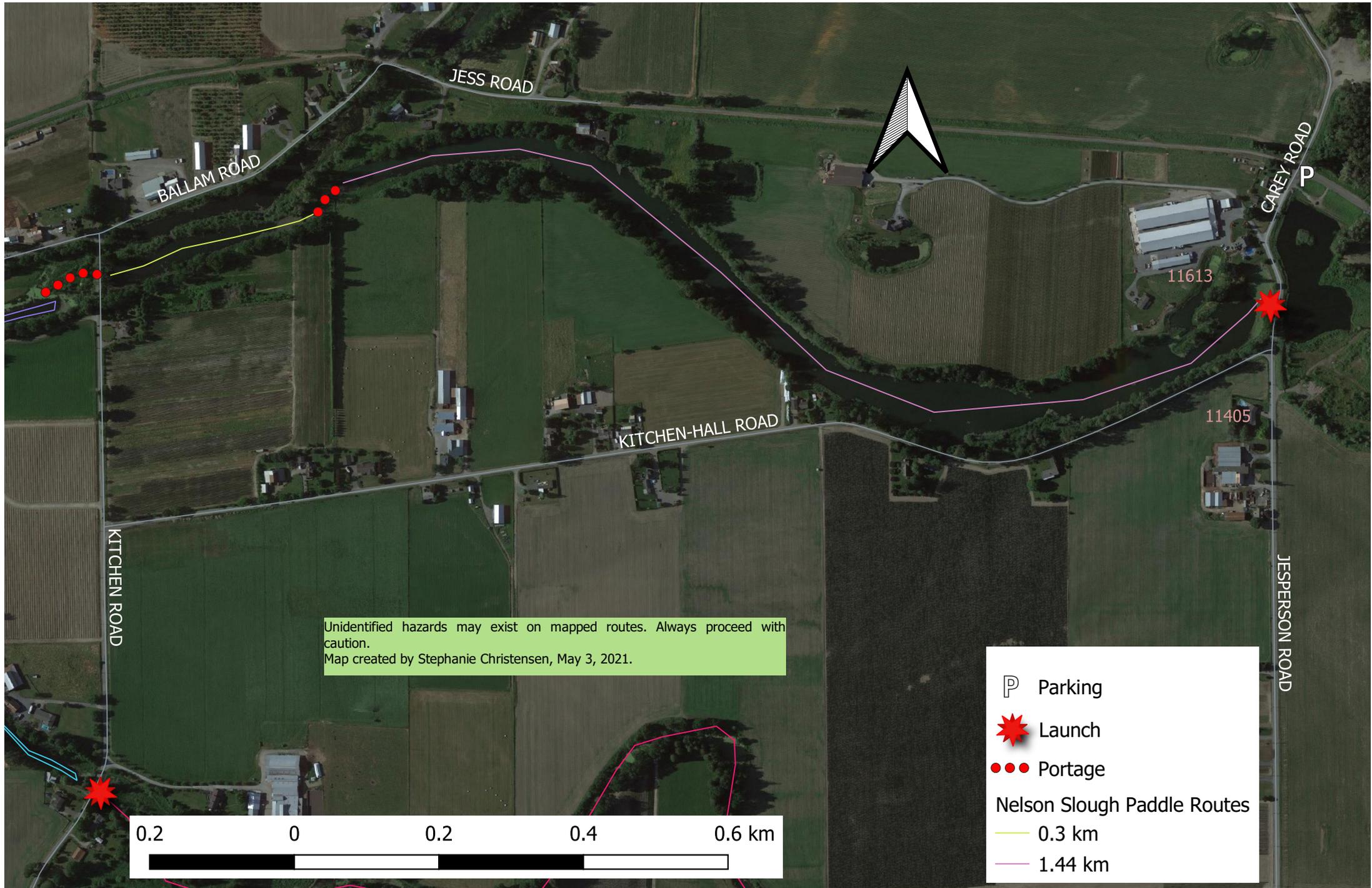
- Building and maintaining streambanks
- Storing floodwater and reducing stream flow energy
- Trapping sediment
- Filtering nutrients from water
- Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity
- Supporting primary production
- Sequestering carbon
- Providing shade

Riparian areas are important in the agricultural landscape. Some recommended management practices for farming near riparian areas are to maintain riparian vegetation throughout the year, limit access by vehicles or animals that can damage the soils, and avoid overapplication of fertilizers or manure.

For more information:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/water/riparian-areas>

Nelson Slough- Jespersen Road to Kitchen Road- 1.74 km



Unidentified hazards may exist on mapped routes. Always proceed with caution.
Map created by Stephanie Christensen, May 3, 2021.

P Parking
★ Launch
●●● Portage

Nelson Slough Paddle Routes
— 0.3 km
— 1.44 km

