

**Voluntary Recreational Access Management Group
January 18, 2001 Meeting**

Attendance List

Name	Organization	Email Address
George Schultze	MOELP	
Dan Christison	Back Country Horsemen	
Rosemary Fox	Sierra Club	
Ray Chipeniuk	BV Naturalists	
Daryl Hanson	Smithers Exploration Group	
Virginia Kimmett	Back Country Horsemen Society of B.C.	
Les Auston	Houston Snowmobile Club	
Larry Dockendorff	District of Houston	Gldockendorff@bulkley.net
Bill Wookey	Smithers Snowmobile Club	
Al Madigan	Houston Snowmobile Club	Rydale@bulkley.net
Sean Sharpe	MOELP	
Astrid Vic Stronen	interest	
Roye Lovgren	BV Backpackers	

Minutes

Introductions

Administrivia

- clarified the point that this committee was not a MOELP committee and that government's role on the committee was as a participant. MOELP was willing to assist the group.

Chair or Facilitators

- discussed whether or not we should have a facilitator
- some felt that we should have one
- others saw the benefit of having a recognized chair at each meeting to ensure the meeting progressed in a productive fashion
- **result was to have a "roving "chair appointed at the beginning of every meeting whose responsibility would be to ensure that the meeting progressed according to the agenda.**
- Sean Sharpe was chosen as this meeting's chair.

Agenda Development

- discussed how we should set up meeting agendas.
- **decided that if anyone thought of agenda items for the following meeting they could forward them to George Schultze @ 847-7299 who will then compile a list also there will be opportunity to add or discuss the proposed agenda at the start of the next meeting.**

Agenda Items

1. Development of a Statement of Purpose
2. Update from group reps re group activities and from MOELP re the telemetry flights
3. Next meeting date and location

1. Development of statement of purpose.
 - group had discussion over the attempt made at the last meeting on the "statement of purpose and the wording in the MOELP letter that called for the first meeting in November 2000.
 - Smithers Exploration group wanted to be specific that this be called the Voluntary Recreational Access Management Group as industrial users are managed differently.
 - result was an amalgamation of the two which reads:

"Purpose is to: work co-operatively towards insuring compliance with voluntary access restrictions in areas and times when it is required to meet the objectives of the recovery program; and to do so in such a way as to allow recreation use in areas that might otherwise be off limits, so long as such use is consistent with the sustainability of the Telkwa Caribou".

2. Updates

- MOELP presented the results of the telemetry flights since the last meeting.
 - Other groups interested in an update on the Tweedsmuir caribou Herd
 - Will ask Rick Marshall to attend future meeting to provide update.
- Houston Snowmobile Club reports;
 - one set of caribou tracks was seen in the Meat Cache area about 1 week ago upon which the members vacated the area.
 - they have reports and photos from Harry Anderson re a collared caribou (green collar?) hanging around his farm on Hungry Hill.
 - avalanche conditions are extreme, windblown conditions (hard and icy) on top
- Back Country Horsemen report that they are unaware of any of their members having been in the Telkwas so no comment
- BV Back Packers report ;
 - one of their members saw tracks of two caribou on the prairie with the tracks of six wolves following.....(MOELP reported that these were tracks of two collared caribou and that they are still alive.)
 - not aware of much other winter activity in the Telkwas by their group
- Houston Town Council
 - Are putting together an interpretative center in order to inform the public about local natural history and resources, caribou being one of those resources, and will be seeking support from other sources.

- Smithers Snowmobile Club report:
 - that the club is losing membership partly because of the rules, regulations and restrictions that the club is trying to get its members to follow. Former members feel that they will have freer access by not being part of the club.
 - Houston Snowmobile rep echoed this comment
 - MOELP pointed out that it is those types of attitudes and actions that will ultimately result in Legislation

Discussion

A question came up with regards to compliance "What would MOELP tolerate with regards to compliance with access restrictions?", the answer was " the odd incidence of non-compliance would be tolerated as long as compliance objectives were largely being met."

MOELP commented that for voluntary access to work then it was the responsibility of all of the users and user groups to ensure compliance. The only tool government has at it's disposal to ensure compliance is legislation. MOELP is willing to assist the groups in getting compliance by being open with information, identifying areas of concern and trying to help with information packages or signage. Voluntary compliance would be more likely if the users kept others informed, insured that signs remained in place and used peer pressure as a lever and addressed problems when they encounter them.

3. Next meeting
Location: Houston MOF Building
Date; Feb 28,2001 (4th Thursday)
Time: 7:00 PM

Note: Feb 28 Meeting was held and the Minutes will be discussed at the March 15, 2001 meeting to be held at Quick School at 7:00 PM.