

**Voluntary Recreational Access Management Group
March 15, 2001 Meeting**

Attendance List

Name	Organization	Email Address
George Schultze	MOELP	
Paul James	Houston	
Daryl Hanson	Smithers Exploration Group	
Les Auston	Houston Snowmobile Club	
Al Madigan	Houston Snowmobile Club	Fax # 845-7557
Ed Hinchcliff	Bulkley Valley Oldtimers	Box 367, Smithers, V0J 2N0
Virginia Kimmett	Back Country Horsemen Society of B.C.	Box 523, Telkwa , V0J 2X0
Sean Sharpe	MOELP	

Minutes

Administrivia

- Daryl Hanson was chosen as tonight's chairperson.
- Noted that Rosemary Fox, and Ray Chipeniuk were not able to attend tonight's meeting
- Rick Marshall had defer his Tweedsmuir presentation to another night

Review of the Feb 22nd 2001 Meeting Minutes

People took a moment to review draft

Discussion around action items,

- George had provided Les with the web address of the Ominica Caribou project (http://otaku.unbc.ca/nfrep/caribou/main_frame.html)
- George had provided Les with info regarding signs, Les has not had time to replace sign but has decided to put up one of their own that simply states "Closed Area"
ACTION: Les to get sign in place

Minutes accepted

Agenda Development

- No formal agenda was developed, discussions were casual

Meeting Notes

Review latest telemetry maps provided by MOELP

- noted that collared animals still using the northern part of the Telkwas

The group asked for the web site for the Ominica Caribou Project to be included in the minutes (done see above).

Al Madigan, Ed Hinchcliff and Virginia Kimmet requested copies of Astrid's thesis.

ACTION: George said that he would run off a few more copies and bring them to the next meeting.

Les mentioned that snowmobile use is likely to be busy this coming weekend with spring break and the end of the snowmobile season imminent due to spring conditions. He asked if it would be all right to use the Meat Cache corridor as they have not seen any sign of caribou in the area nor are any of the collared animals in the area. MOELP restated their position that just because none of the monitored caribou were located in the area does not mean there are no caribou there. MOELP also re-emphasised that they do not want animals to avoid using the area due to human activity. However, MOELP had stated that use in the Meat Cache Corridor on a one time a special event basis would be considered. As there appears to be no current use in the area by caribou, this one time use would be all right with the understanding that if caribou or caribou sign is seen the area would be declared out of bounds by the club.

Paul James indicated that the Wildlife person from the states would like to participate on a telemetry flight March 26th.

ACTION: George indicated that that should not be a problem and would set it up.

Discussion came up regarding Back Country Recreation Tenure (BCR). The group decided it might be beneficial to invite someone from Lands to speak to the group so that the group could be more informed on the process of application, conditions that are considered etc.

ACTION: George would approach someone from Lands to try to arrange something.

Virginia inquired as to how people or organizations were being notified. She had concerns because attendance seems to be falling off. George responded that all of the groups were being sent copies of the accepted minutes via mail. On the minutes is a notification of the place and time of the next meeting. The group thought that this was adequate as there was good turn out at previous meeting when there was good turnout. Ed pointed out that he had not been receiving the minutes. George thanked him for bring this to his attention and assured ED that he would be put on the mailing list. Virginia asked that she also be put on the mailing list as a copy that had been sent to the Back Country Horsemen had not filtered down to her.

Action; George will insure that ED and Virginia are placed on the mailing list.

It was also pointed out that people could always contact one of the members of the group if they are unsure of the next meeting venue.

Les wanted to re-emphasise that the VRAMG move forward, meaning that decisions of the group will not have to be defended at later meetings because someone was not there to participate in the earlier discussions. George said that that was not likely to happen as all of the groups have the option to participate, all of the groups are receiving the minutes, and if there is an issue that they would like to see raised they have the option of phoning someone else on the committee to ensure that those points are raised if they can not attend. Sean pointed out that if someone has missed a meeting there may have to be a bit of clarification of some points.

Ed raised the issue of summer motorized access into some of the non motorized areas and was wondering if there was any possibility of having the current access designations relaxed. MOELP

said that at this point there was no plans to condone ATVs use in the non motorized areas but that an open mind would be kept. MOELP again pointed out that it was likely not the activities of one or two people that impacted the herd but rather the cumulative impacts of the many. There was no way that MOELP could give preferential treatment to a few individuals and deny others the same request. Summer use recommendations for this year will be the same as those that were in place last year.

Ed also pointed out that there had been a RAMP process in the valley that had designated different types of use on different trails. He suggested that MOELP post signs on the roads and trails identifying where motorized use was acceptable. George said that he was unaware of any legal road closures preventing people from using them and suggested that another member of the group could look into what the RAMP decisions were and which roads could be used. AL and Ed both pointed out that MOELP should do this as it would benefit the caribou as well.

Another suggestion was that MOELP ensure that they have displays in as many public expositions as possible in order to spread the word.(Trade show, fall fair etc.)

NEXT MEETING

Had been tentatively set for April 26, 2001 but due to meeting room booking conflict was rescheduled to:

Date: April 26, 2001

Time; 7:00 PM

Location: Telkwa Town Hall.

(Note** Next meeting is scheduled for June 20th, 2001 at the Quick School)