

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

Attendance List

Name	Organization
George Schultze	MOELP
Dan Christison	Back Country Horsemen
Rosemary Fox	Sierra Club
Ray Chipeniuk	BV Naturalists
Daryl Hanson	Smithers Exploration Group
Dinah Hanson	
Virginia Kimmett	Back Country Horsemen Society of B.C.
Sean Sharpe	MOELP

Minutes

Administrivia

- Did not have minutes to review from the June 20th meeting.
- Noted poor attendance decided that we did have a quorum and proceeded with the meeting.
- Rick Marshall was not able to give the Tweedsmuir update at this meeting.

Review of the March 15th 2001 Meeting Minutes

People took a moment to review draft

Discussion around action items,

Corrected Ray's last name and the spelling of Omineca.

" Minutes accepted"

Agenda Development

- No formal agenda was developed, Main topics of discussion were:
 - Telemetry update, passing out of requested thesis copies
 - Improving public awareness and level of voluntary compliance
 - Compliance and Monitoring the success of the committee
 - Need for continued summer meetings
 - Club Report
 - Set next meeting date

Meeting Notes

Update

- Passed out more copies of Astrid's thesis
- Reviewed latest telemetry maps provided by MOELP
- noted that collared animals still using the northern part of the Telkwas.

- Last telemetry flight had been on April 3, 2001 and the next telemetry schedule was to start in early May.
- Telemetry schedule developed for 2001, again, opportunity for people going along on a flight.

Action: George would fax Dinah a copy of the schedule so that she could make a tentative booking

Improving public awareness and Voluntary compliance

- Signs and informational campaigns are important but only go so far.
- It was suggested that the minutes should be posted on the MOELP web page. It was noted that the wildlife section did not possess the expertise or the time to create a web site but that it might make a good school project.
- There should be continued media coverage
- Photographs should be encouraged ("a picture is worth a thousand words")

Action: George would discuss the idea with the provincial communications branch.

- It was felt there is a need for and to keep up media coverage. Since the media is reluctant to continually have the Telkwa Caribou in the news. The group felt it might be possible to keep it in the news through letters to the editor. There should be something in the paper regarding the calving season.

(Was noted that Astrid was planning on placing an article in the "Connections" publication.)

- There were discussions around a Telkwa Caribou web page. The page would be useful for keeping the public informed about the caribou, what the access restrictions were, where the problem areas were, what to look out for etc. As this committee was not a government committee it was not appropriate to use the government web site. It was suggested that we look into the possibility using the "Yellowhead Highway "web site.
- Signage was again raised and it was felt that some of the signs could be much clearer.
- It was felt that peer pressure would be more likely to dissuade individuals from not complying with the voluntary access restrictions. Somehow people have to be informed that the community supports this project.

Action: Dinah was going to try to design some better signs (possibly with logos of the groups).

- It was felt that the VRAMG needed to have a strategy in place to improve compliance but that a review of what methods are available and their effectiveness should be completed first. A literature review needs to be done, have club reps solicit members for ideas, and check with other agencies that deal with similar situations.

Action: Ray was going to persue some of the literature review.

Action: Group reps to solicit club members for input.

Compliance and Monitoring the success of the committee

- Significant non-compliance has been noted in the Non-Motorized area. Les has been contacted and he is taking steps to try to address the problem. Should be discussed at next meeting when Snowmobile club reps are present.
- MOELP would provide status of the caribou and the plan.

- The VRAMG members felt that as there was no formal monitoring program in place to monitor compliance, that the groups and group members keep track of observed transgressions which will be kept track of by the VRAMG to help monitor compliance over time.
- The VRAMA also decided that at each meeting that a Statement of compliance is made and recorded IE compliance is favourable, increasing, or deteriorating., non existent
- For this meeting, considering the snowmobile activity in the non motorized area the group voted that recreational compliance has deteriorated.

Need for continued summer meetings

- It was raised whether or not it would be useful to continue these meetings through the summer. After discussions it was decided that they should continue in order to keep on top of what is going on, continue monitoring users for compliance, keep working on ways to ensure compliance of voluntary restrictions and address concerns in a timely manner.
- As there are access restrictions in the summer (non-motorized July 15 and September 15 in the CORE area and nonmotorized access in other parts of the Recovery Area) the groups activities are still important.
- The "non-motorized July 15 and September 15 in the CORE area " will continue to be accepted as long as there were minimal impacts to the caribou. People should be aware that it was the cumulative impacts of access that were thought to have contributed to the decline of the caribou. This means that caution should be used in how often or to what degree the public accesses the area. People can literally love an area to death.

Club Reports

- The BV naturalists have hosted Astrid to provide a lecture/slideshow on her thesis to the public. They have also contacted a local artist to illustrate caribou sign (tracks etc).

Set next meeting date

Next Meeting date set for Wed. June 20th, 2001 at the Quick school