

Voluntary Recreational Access Management Group
September 19, 2001 Meeting

Attendance List

Name	Organization
Rick Keim	W.L.A.P – Smithers, Wildlife Section
Ed Hinchcliff	Local resident – Telkwa Mtns interest
Dina Hanson	Local resident – Telkwa Mtns interest
Daryl Hanson	Smithers Exploration Group
Bill Wookey	Rep – Smithers Snowmobile Assn.
Virginia Kimmett	Back Country Horsemen Society of B.C.
Al Madigan	President – Houston Snowmobile Club
Les Auston	Land Use Off. - Houston Snowmobile Club

Minutes

Administrivia

- Minutes of the last meeting were circulated
- Maps depicting caribou locations from the previous telemetry flight were circulated.
- Eleven mortality field investigation reports and accompanying photo's were circulated.

Agenda Development

No formal agenda was developed prior to the meeting. Main topics of discussion resulted from review of the August 15 meeting minutes. Main topics discussed were:

- Status of formation of an information bulletin to improve public awareness and voluntary compliance.
- Development of a communication strategy.
- Club reports.
- Review of comments for proposed signs.
- Action item summary.

Information Bulletin

Les expressed dismay to seeing an article in the Smithers newspaper resulting from an Ministry interview. Les indicated he was no longer interested in drafting an information bulletin but instead was considering writing a letter to the Minister regarding newspaper comment related to the possibility of Telkwa Mtns legislated access management restrictions. Daryl and Ray will now draft the information bulletin as well as circulate for comment. Les indicated Telkwa Caribou Recovery pamphlets were displayed or made available at the Houston Trade Show.

Communication Strategy

Daryl recommended that the Voluntary Recreational Access Management Group set aside time to develop a more enhanced communication strategy. This topic should be part of the agenda for the meeting in October.

Club Reports

Bill and Les both indicated snowmobile clubs attendance/membership has declined considerably over the past three years. The Smithers club membership has dropped by approximately 50 percent. They felt this was problematic from both a club support perspective as well as from ensuring local snowmobilers are aware of the voluntary winter motorized access restrictions.

Virginia indicated that on September 12, a trip was conducted into Hunters Basin. A group of eight caribou were observed on the right ridge. Two bulls and one calf/yearling were noted.

Proposed Signs

Dina went through the proposed signs for the various access points. Les indicated he would coordinate putting up signs for the meat cache area. While for the most part group members were in favour of proposed area signs, several concerns were voiced. The VRAM group felt it best to remove sign reference to "Failure to comply could result in legislated closure of this area". They felt people would be more co-operative with voluntary compliance if felt not under threat of legislation.

Les requested that George contact him regarding the Grizzly area. As previously discussed, he hoped agreement could be reached to target some areas for winter motorized use.

Bill indicated the Smithers Snowmobile Assn. would not support the Mooseskin Johnny "corridor only" restriction. Bill indicated the club wanted access to Star creek basin as he noted helicopters were transporting skiers there during winter months. It was recommended that the wildlife section and Bill further discuss this issue.

Lastly, discussion occurred surrounding sign language of club support. It was felt that current proposed sign language would necessitate contact with individual clubs confirming club support prior to posting signs as worded.

Action Items

Les – to put-up/distribute meat cache signs.

Ray/Daryl to draft newspaper bulletin and circulate for comment.

Rick to write-up minutes and distribute prior to next meeting.

Wildlife section to contact individual members over sign issues or address at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

October 17, 2001. Quick school @ 7pm.