

**Voluntary Recreational Access Management Group
October 17, 2001 Meeting**

Attendance List

Name	Organization	Fax #
George Schultze	WLAP	847-7728
Ray Chipeniuk	BV Naturalists	
Daryl Hanson	Smithers Exploration Group	
Dina Hanson		
Virginia Kimmett	Back Country Horsemen Society of B.C.	846-9842
Bill Wookey	Smithers Snowmobile Assn.	846-5681
Ed Hinchcliff	Oldtimers	847-3932

Agenda Development

- 1.) Review last meeting's minutes
- 2.) Status report of caribou
- 3.) Status of Recreational Compliance
- 4.) Information Newsletter
- 5.) Signs
- 6.) Other

Minutes

1. Review last meeting's minutes
 - Reviewed, amended and approved September 19, 2001 Minutes
 - Corrected minutes as well as minutes of August 15, 2001 meeting will be distributed to all groups on the mailing list.

**** Action; George to send copies of minutes to all groups***

2. Status Report of the Caribou
 - George provided maps showing the caribou locations found on the four telemetry flights conducted since the last meeting.
 - Caribou have gathered into larger groups for the fall rut
 - Bulls were observed with virtually every group
 - 2 more adult mortalities have been detected (one by wolves, one yet to be determined)
- George handed out copies of a progress report of the Recovery project to date.
 - Numbers of caribou are increasing, based on calf production breeding success is good, calf survival could be higher, adult mortalities have been low until this year however unknown what the long term trend will be.
3. Status of Recreational Compliance (Club Reports)
 - Ed reported that someone might have seen a group of caribou in addition to the ones observed during the October 5th survey while flying over the area. George was going to contact the individual for particulars.

- Ed also asked if it would be a possibility that a once a year ATV outing to the Hunter Basin area could be considered to facilitate those people who are not able to get around quite as easily.
- George stated that that was a possibility and that he would broach the idea to his counter parts.
- Ray reported that the BV Back Packers have proposed to conduct some patrols this winter at the various access points to monitor use.
- Bill reported that the Smithers Snowmobile association was not in favour of the non - motorized access restriction in the area west of Mooseskin Johnny Lake, especially if Helicopters were still allowed to drop skiers off
- Bill also stated that the Smithers club wanted access to the area to the north of Starr Cr. Access to the area to the south only would not be of benefit to them. He felt that motorized use in the area would likely keep on increasing.
- Bill reported the Access gate on the Telkwa was basically open all summer and was closed last week.
- George reported that on telemetry flights this season there was evidence of significant amount of ATV activity in the Grizzly Plateau area (The Houston Snowmobile winter motorized /Summer non motorized) and that ATV activity was occurring in the alpine to the north of Starr Cr. In the Non motorized area.. Compliance regarding motorized access into Hunters basin seemed to have greatly improved.
- Discussion arose regarding the status of access into the areas for prospectors and miners. Darryl pointed out that miners/prospectors were not bound by the existing recreational access plan and would fall under the same type of guidelines as forest development. This means that motorized access would be confined to existing roads. If there was development of new roads or trails , it would be done through a development plan. Winter prospecting is rarely done.
- George reiterated the pointy that access prescriptions would be based on the needs of the caribou. If the level of helicopter traffic became a concern then appropriate recommendations would be made..
- Darryl pointed out that it is in the best interests of everyone to avoid legislated restrictions by ensuring that voluntary compliance is effective enough to meet the needs for caribou recovery. Avoiding legislated closures means that there is a higher degree of flexibility as things change as opposed to a more rigid situation if legislation is in place.

4. Information news letter

- Darryl had prepared a draft and faxed copies to reps for comments.
- Feed back was provided by the group
- It was decided that the collar and ear tag colour coding should be included
 - the question of the dollar investment into the project to date came up and it was decided that it would be good for people to know the dollars spent to date but that the newsletter might not be the most productive place for it. It was agreed that George would bring the budget information to the next meeting and the information would then be included in the minutes which would be distributed to all of the clubs.
 - George was to send Darryl electronic pictures of Telkwa caribou
 - Darryl was going to make the suggested changes, get a hold of Les to try to address any comment he might have and then submit the article to the Papers.

5. Signs

- Dina had suggested edits for the proposed signs
- Signs are to be prepared for :

- Goat horn Cr
- Hunter Basin Trail Head
- Webster Lk Trail Head
- Hankin Trail Head
- Grizzly Plateau Trail Head
- Thautil Access Point
- Mooseskin Johnny Corridor.

- George was going to approach the sign shop to have signs produced. If possible review a proof with Dina.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 21st, 2001 at Quick School.

**** (Note November meeting held at time of mailout and Next Meeting date set for Wednesday, December 19, 2001, 7:00 PM at Quick school)**