

**Voluntary Recreational Access Management Group
April 3, 2002 Meeting**

Attendance List

Name	Organization	Fax #
George Schultze	WLAP	847-7728
Lawrence Wicks	Houston Snowmobile Association	845-7367
Ed Hinchcliff	Old-timers	847-3932
Ray Chipiniuk	BV Naturalists	(250) 847-5758
Dina Hanson		
Daryl Hanson	Smithers Exploration	

Rosemary Fox had contacted George to say that she could not attend due to a conflicting schedule

Bill Wookey also had a scheduling conflict and could not make it.

Guest Speaker Ray Carrier

Agenda Development

- 1.) Review last meeting's minutes
- 2.) Status report of caribou
- 3.) Club Reports
- 4.) Signs
- 5.) Back Country Recreation Licencing (Ray Carrier)
- 6.) Other

Minutes

1. Review last meeting's minutes
 - Reviewed minutes commented on change in number of known caribou to 44 from 48 as a result of re-tabulation of telemetry observations

Action Items

- George did send copies of the Jan minutes to all the other groups
 - Terry had sent a copy of the propose information letter to George for review and comment which was then returned to him.
 - Lawrence had signs painted and invoice was sent to George
 - George did arrange for Ray Carrier to attend this meeting
- approved Feb 20, 2002 Minutes

**** Action; George to send copies of approved 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.

- Collared caribou predominantly in alpine winter range in the northern part of the Telkwa Mountains. Two of the collared animals are still outside the Telkwa Caribou Recovery area (the Porphyry Cr one to the north and the Cheslatta Lk one to the south.)
- Animals generally in the same location though the Cheslatta Lk caribou has moved a bit further to the east.
- Still 19 collars are being monitored including the four GPS collars.

3. Status of Recreational Compliance (Club Reports)

- Lawrence reported that there have been no sightings of caribou by any of their club members. Snowmobilers seem to be complying with the "Caribou Watch Program" the club has implemented.
- Ray reported that the BV Naturalists have not been able to get out to do any of the monitoring that they had planned on doing. He expressed concern that the membership in the club seems to be fading and that it is getting harder and harder to coordinate enough people for any type of group activity.

4. Signs

Lawrence reported that the new signs had been posted and that he had received favourable comments from snowmobilers regarding the one posted at the cabin.

Lawrence gave the signs intended for the Mooseskin Johnny Corridor to Ed Hincheliff to pass them on to Smithers Snowmobile Assn

5. Back Country Recreation Licencing (Ray Carrier)

- Ray introduced himself as working for BCAL and was involved in the Commercial Back Country Recreation Licencing Process.
- In his experience he has not been aware of any conflicting tenures being issued (i.e. between motorized users and non-motorized users)
- CBR Tenure does not give exclusivity of use in that it does not exclude the general public from continuing to have access to an area
- In the Telkwa Caribou Recovery Area there have been no BCR tenures issued. If application were made in the area then conditions in other plans as well as other concerns would be taken into account before tenure is issued.
- Heli Ski operations need to address impacts to wildlife (i.e. goats), Liability concerns as well as huge insurance costs.

Discussion

- Concerns about access conflicts. RAMP process would be the proper means of addressing these concerns.
- Ed wondered if Ray was aware of any concerns with atv's. Ray said that he had not encountered major concerns as most atv use was on FS roads and old access roads.
- the current road deactivation strategy was questioned.

- general consensus by group that irresponsible use was not tolerable (i.e. trashing of meadows and alpine).
- It was pointed out that most of the roads were constructed for the specific purposes of resource extraction i.e. timber or minerals. What is required, considering the exponentially expanding network of roads, is an access management plan which would recognize other uses and identify the types of activities and access that would be appropriate in consideration of sensitive habitats, wildlife and other resource values. A formal access plan would provide and stability with regards to recreational access opportunities available.
- BC is one of the last jurisdictions in North America with no legislated general restrictions. As resource demands increase legislation will likely become a reality.

Other

☒ Ray Chipiniuk suggested that the user groups might be able to develop a form that could be used by the users to record observations. This could possibly provide enough data that could be used to monitor the situation in the Telkwa Mountains. Info on use, wildlife observations, response of wildlife to users etc could be documented.

Next Meeting Wednesday, May 1st, 2002, 7:00 PM at Quick school

*** Note as of this mailing the May 1st meeting has been held and the next scheduled meeting is Wednesday June 5, 2002 at the Quick school**