

**Voluntary Recreational Access Management Group
May 1, 2002 Meeting**

Attendance List

Name	Organization	Fax #
George Schultze	WLAP	847-7728
Terry Close	President Houston Snowmobile Association	845-7778
Al Madigan	Houston Snowmobile Assn	845-7557
Les Austin	Houston Snowmobile Assn	845-7040
Virginia Kimmett	Back Country Horsemen Society of B.C	846-9842
Ed Hinchcliff	Old-timers	847-3932
Larry Dockendorf	Dist of Houston	845-3429 or 845-2238
Dina Hanson	BV Back Packers	(w) 846-5247

Agenda Development

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

Minutes

1. Review last meeting's minutes
- No required changes to minutes identified.

- Action Items

- George did send copies of the Feb minutes to all the other groups

- approved April 3, 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 one fixed wing telemetry flight done since the last meeting as well as the maps showing the locations collected from three GPS collared animals for February March and April.
- The collared caribou being monitored are still basically in alpine winter range in the northern part of the Telkwa Mountains. The two collared animals outside the Telkwa Caribou Recovery area (the Porphory Cr one to the north and the Cheslatta Lk one to the south.) have not changed locations.

- There are no mortalities to report for this period.
- Still 19 collars are being monitored including the four GPS collars.

3. Recreational Access Compliance

- During the course of the April 30th GPS collar data upload flight observations were made of snowmobile tracks in the recovery area on basically every ridge south of Sunsets Cr. Snowmachine Tracks were seen well beyond what had been indicated by the Houston snowmobile club as the area where the snowmobile use was likely to occur and the snowmobile activity had encroached into the Core area.

- *The current understanding of snowmobile use for the Meat Cache area (as of Jan 2002) was:*
 - *if caribou were determined to be present in the area either through telemetry, observation or sign, snowmobilers would stay out of the area*
 - *the Core area would remain off limits*
 - *the clubs were responsible for making it work and were going to look after the notification and signage.*

Discussions at that time suggested that most of the use would be in the southern portion of the meat cache area to access the steep topography found there. The flatter terrain (ridge tops) would be avoided. The non motorized area north of the Houston snowmobile area (Grizzly Plateau) would remain designated as non motorized so that any one going there would not have the impression that it was business as usual in the area but would have had to have contacted the club and been made aware of the conditions. As well there had been a previous understanding that snowmobiling in the area does not occur after April 15.

- Though none of the caribou being monitored via telemetry this winter were found in the area where snowmobiling occurred and no one reported seeing any sign of caribou there are still a couple of points of concern. The scope of the area being accessed is much larger than suggested, flatter ridge top terrain was being used and the Core area was being encroached upon.
- The Houston club indicated that some of the problems were likely due to not all of the signs having been put up. One of the main signs still needs to be put up in the Meat Cache corridor but due to logistics of snow and topography would have to try to access area with helicopter in summer to get the sign in place. As well, with regards to the areas where riders were encroaching upon the Core area they would like to review those particular problem areas to determine a solution (signs or potential for boundary realignment. With regards to the late date the club felt that this years snow conditions have extended their riding season longer than usual and this is not the norm.

***Action: George was going to provide Terry with GPS coordinates of Core Area Boundary location on ridges in order for the club to try to conduct ground inspections of the sites.**

4. Signs



Ed reported that he had passed the signs on to the Smithers Snowmobile assn and he understood that they were to have been put in place last weekend.

5. Other

- George has secured funds through HCTF to continue monitoring the radio collared caribou for 2002/03.
- Group members asked for a copy of the telemetry flight schedule.
- some members asked for copies of the TC recovery area maps.

***Action;** George to fax copies of the flight schedules to interested group members and to run off some copies of the map.

Next Meeting Wednesday, June 5th , 2002, 7:00 PM at Quick school

*** Note as of this mailing the June XX meeting has been held and the next scheduled meeting is Wednesday XXXXX at the Quick school**