

**Voluntary Recreational Access Management Group
April 2, 2003 Meeting**

Attendance List

Name	Organization	Contact #s
George Schultze	WLAP	Fax 847-7728, ph 847-7299, george.schultze@gems3.gov.bc.ca
Terry Close	President Houston Snowmobile Club	Fax 845-7778 TERRY_CLOSE@HOTMAIL.COM
Les Auston	Houston Snowmobile Club	845-7040, pvcleaners@bulkley.net
Daryl Hanson	Smithers Exploration Group	quickdnd@bulkley.net
Dina Hanson	BV Back Packers	(w) 846-5247, ph 846-9214
Paul James	Lakes Dist Trappers Assn	Ph 845-3260. cell 845-8896
Mel Coulson	BV Naturalists	melanevi@bulkley.net
Ed Hinchcliff	BV Old Timers	Fax 250-847-3932 bhinch@npsnet.com
Bill Wookey	Smithers Snowmobile Assn	Fax 250-846-5681 emptyacres@uniserve.com

Agenda Development

- 1.) Review March 5 minutes
- 2.) Status report of caribou
- 3.) Signs
- 4.) Information Ticket
- 5.) VRAMG contact list and Information distribution list
- 6.) Current Telkwa Mountain Voluntary Access Management Restrictions
- 7.) Access Concern
- 8.) Other

Minutes

1. Review March 5, 2003 minutes
 - Group reviewed and accepted the March 5 draft minutes.
2. Status Report of the Caribou
 - George provided maps showing the caribou locations found on the fixed wing telemetry flights completed since the last meeting
 - No real change other than the signal that had been heard west of Mooseskin Johnny Lake was located near Eagle Pk in a group of three caribou
 - No mortalities have been documented for any of the collared animals during this period.
 - Scheduled telemetry flights are pending depending upon the approval of funds for the new 2003 fiscal year (started April 1). No word yet.
3. Signs

- The Hankin Plateau sign will be put up this year (Dina & George) when conditions permit.
- The Houston Snowmobile club has received the funding required to place the signs along the snowmobile area. Signs are in.

4. Information Ticket

- 500 information tickets were ordered
- Les will pick them up from the Printer in Houston and get them to George
- George will forward copies to each VRAMG so that they can issue them as required.
- If groups need additional tickets they can contact George.

VRAMG Mail Out List contact procedures

- Dina had done some work to getting email addresses of contacts
- Some confusion around who the contact should be. Clarified that the VRAMG was intended for clubs, groups, governments or associations that represent local interests.
- VRAMG contact list should only include club addresses/contacts of designated club representative and alternate (1- 2 people)
- Interested individuals or businesses have opportunity for representation on the VRAMG through their group affiliations via their representatives and should be kept informed through their respective reps
- Two mailing/contact lists emerged. One with the VRAMG contact list and an additional list of people and businesses interested in the recovery program. VRAMG felt that distribution should be as wide as possible.
- Group went over the mailing lists further bring them up to date.
- Draft minutes would only be sent to those that attended the meeting.
- Minutes would be forwarded to all others once the draft minutes have been reviewed and accepted at the next meeting

6. Current Telkwa Mountain Voluntary Access Management

- Reviewed the draft of the current understanding
- suggested splitting the second bullet in "C" into two bullets
- once correction is made copies will be sent to all VRAMG reps as well as interested people.
- The summary of special access agreements draft was discussed and it became evident that some clarification was required with regards to the procedures once caribou have been identified in an area.
- As special access is the responsibilities of the clubs to administer and implement, copies of the summary would not be generally distributed by the VRAMG. Individuals would have to contact the respective clubs to get the current status.

7. Access Concern

- Christoph Dietzfelbinger reported seeing snowmobiles in the non-motorized area west of Mooseskin Johnny Lk (NW of Tom George Lk) on March 31.

- George had some concern as the Smithers Snowmobile rep had been notified March 25th that caribou had been identified as being present in the Eagle Pk area on March 24th.
- Bill commented that he had received the note and had taken steps to notify club members that caribou had been located there and asked club members to avoid that specific area. He had not discussed with WLAP on how to proceed with accessing the area.
- Bill had gone into Starr Cr on the 31st and had specifically stayed south of the Eagle peak area and kept close watch out for any sign of caribou in the areas they travelled.
- In hind sight the approach that was taken would likely have been the agreed to approach but there needs to be more communications between WLAP and the club.
- The agreement protocol is that WLAP and the club would work together to determine when activities could resume.
- Les felt that there was a potential problem with people possibly accessing the Starr Cr area from the south and not being aware of caribou being in the area.
- George said there was definitely a concern there but pointed out that it was up to the groups to try to solve it if they wished to keep enjoying the flexibility of voluntary access restrictions.
- Paul suggested putting signs up at 44km on the Morice.

8. Other

- low amount of use reported in the Starr Cr Area,
- snow about 60% of last years depth
- snowmobiling has been fairly limited this year

Next Meeting TBA depending upon funding and issues etc.