

**Voluntary Recreational Access Management Group
August 5, 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
Al Madigan	Houston Snowmobile Club	Fax 845-7557, rydale@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
Peter White	Back Country Horsemen Society of B.C.	847-5897

Agenda Development

- 1.) Review April 2, 2003 minutes
- 2.) Status report of caribou
- 3.) Signs
- 4.) Information Ticket
- 5.) VRAMG contact list and Information distribution list
- 6.) Compliance with current Telkwa Mountain Voluntary Access Management Restrictions
- 7.) Other

Minutes

1. Review March 5, 2003 minutes
 - Group reviewed April 2, 2003 draft minutes and with some minor corrections accepted the minutes.

Action: George to make minor corrections and email copy to Dina who will distribute minutes to all of the club reps who have email. George will mail minutes to reps who do not have email.

2. Status Report of the Caribou
 - Funding request for the 2003/04 season was turned down. Some budget savings from previous fiscal were allowed to be carried over for use this year. The primary objectives of this fund will be to conduct the spring calf survey, the fall rut counts and to recover the GPS collars.
 - Two collars from dead caribou were recovered since last meeting. One was recovered by Dina, Daryl and Judy from the Porphory Creek area where the caribou was suspected to have died some time in January of 2002. Only the

collar, eartag, a jaw fragment and some hair remained at the site. The other a GPS collar was recovered from the Telkwa Mountains during this years calf survey in June from an animal that was suspected to have died some time in January. Only the collar and some hair remained at the site. Cause of death could not be determined for both animals.

- George provided map showing the caribou locations found on the caribou calf survey as well as the data.
- The results of this Junes calf survey were again encouraging. A total of 43 animals were observed with an 82/100 calf to cow ratio.
- The GPS collars are slated to drop off early this October. The one that was recovered happened to be the collar which did not transmit any data during remote uploads. Trying to download the collar directly the computer seems to confirm that the collar was not functioning properly and did not store any data. During the June flight the other three collars were emitting a low battery signal. The worst case scenario is that the batteries will fail before the collars drop off and thus can not be retrieved when they do drop.

3. Signs

- The Hankin Plateau has not been put in place yet. It is intended to amend the Hankin sign so that it can be placed at the junction of the Hunters Basin/Webster road replacing one of the earlier ones that is not as easy to interpret.
- the lower sign at the Goat Horn Cr crossing had been vandalized and knocked down. Individual (s) had shot it numerous times with shotguns. An attempt will be made to try to make this sign functional again.

4. Information Tickets

- the 500 information tickets were printed and picked up
- The Houston Snowmobile club has issued some tickets
- The VRAMGs in attendance took some copies for their respective organizations.
- If groups need additional tickets they can contact George.

VRAMG Mail Out List contact procedures

- 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
- The adopted minutes will be sent to the names on the VRAMG contact list (email by Dina mailed by George to those with out email)
- Minutes would be forwarded to all others once the draft minutes have been reviewed and accepted at the next meeting

6. Compliance with current Telkwa Mountain Voluntary Access Management Restrictions

- evidence of Motorized vehicles trying to access Hunters basin

- evidence of Motorized vehicles accessing the Grizzly Plateau Area
- Mooseskin Johnny Trail Gate left open
- There is evidence that summer motorized activity is increasing in the non-motorized areas. This is in spite of the signage at the access points and all of the PR that has occurred over the past 7 years.
- VRAMG is looking into options for dealing with access control.

Action; George will look into the various options available IE gating, or legislation.

7. Other

- Ed Hinchcliff of the old Timers asked about the possibility of accessing Hunters basin third week of August using Quads. If conducted in the same manner as last year there should be no problem.
- Group wishes to have an article put into the Smithers, Houston and Burns Lake paper.

Action: Les and Dina to wordsmith letter to the editor

Action: George will put together an update to let interested public know the current status of the caribou recovery

- Group will support application for funding to continue project (telemetry). Need to clarify what the objectives of telemetry project will be. Concern that if we don't continue efforts to date may be in vain.
- Look into the possibility available funds from Ian Hatter in Victoria.

Next Meeting TBA.

- If any group wishes to send a representative to participate actively at the next meeting please Contact Dina Hanson or George Schultze so that you will be apprised of the date when next meeting date is set.
- As always, if any group has any comments questions or points they would like to have discussed and considered at the VRAMG meetings they can pass the information on to one of the active participants so that it can be tabled at the next meeting.