

**(Draft) Voluntary Recreational Access Management Group
December 10, 2003 Meeting**

Attendance List

Name	Organization	Contact #s
George Schultze	WLAP	Fax 847-7728, ph 847-7299, george.schultze@gems3.gov.bc.ca
Peter White	Back Country Horsemen Society of B.C	847-5897
Les Auston	Houston Snowmobile Club	845-7040, pvcleaners@bulkley.net
Darryl Hanson	Smithers Exploration Group	
Dina Hanson	BV Back Packers	(w) 846-5247, ph 846-9214
Paul James	Lakes Dist Trappers Assn	Ph 845-3260. cell 845-8896
Pete Ziegler	BV Rod and Gun Club	Ph/fax 847-5284 email: ziecan@bulkley.net
Ed Hinchcliff	BV Old Timers	Fax 250-847-3932 bhinch@npsnet.com
Dan Christison	Back Country Horsemen Society of B.C.	

Agenda Development

- 1.) Review August 5, 2003 minutes
- 2.) Status report of caribou
- 3.) Signs
- 4.) Information Tickets
- 5.) Status of the Telkwa Caribou Recovery Area related to the Morice LRMP
- 6.) Compliance with current Telkwa Mountain Voluntary Access Management Restrictions
- 7.) Budget
- 8.) Other

Minutes

1. Review Aug 5, 2003 minutes
 - Group reviewed August 5, 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
 - Though funding request for the 2003/04 season was turned down some carry over funds from the previous year were available. This allowed for the completion of a spring calf count, fall rut count and the recovery of two of the three remaining GPS collars.

- The Telkwa caribou herd continues to show signs of growth (high calving rates, little evidence of mortality) so that the estimated population as of October 2003 was approximately 70 animals.
- George provided maps showing; all of the VHF telemetry locations since 1997, and the GPS location data from the GPS collars
- George also provided the spring and fall survey data.
- Still intend to recover the remaining GPS collar.

3. Signs

- The Hankin Plateau/Webster Lk sign has been modified to reflect both areas.
- The sign at the junction of the Hunters Basin/Webster road was replaced with one of the newer more legible sign developed by the VRAMG
- the vandalized lower sign at the Goat Horn Cr crossing has been repaired and reinstalled
- A sign was posted by the Houston members at the junction of the Morice West Rd at 44 km to inform people that there were access conditions in the Starr Cr area .

4. Information Tickets

- there is still a supply of tickets available (contact George)

Status of Telkwa Caribou Recovery Area related to the Morice LRMP

- Les has been sitting at the Morice LRMP table and would like assistance from the group to put some words together that he could present at the table on how recreational access will be managed in the recovery area. Group recommended that the wording should indicate that the recreational access opportunities would continue to be provided through the workings of the VRAMG.

Action: George to provide Les with copies of the current Access Management Understanding (Pete and Peter also wanted copies)

- Les also commented on the “new recovery area boundaries that were presented at the table by the province and asked if anyone was aware of them.
- George stated that he was aware that the Ecosection folks had reviewed all of the telemetry data to date to determine if the original boundary, which had more or less only been an educated guess, did in fact incorporate all of the habitat features required by the caribou. When looking at the data there were some features outside of the original boundaries (particularly to the east in the Bulkley Valley and to the west down the Burnie River which had been missed. A proposed boundary was redrawn to incorporate these features. George also was under the impression that the recreational access boundaries would not be changed (certainly not with out first discussing with the group) and that implications were more for the integrated use boundary which would ensure that development in the area would be sensitive to the habitat features required by caribou.

Action: George to talk to Ecosection to ensure clear understanding

6. Compliance with current Telkwa Mountain Voluntary Access Management Restrictions

- evidence and reports of Motorized vehicles trying to access Hunters basin
- Motorized vehicles accessing the Grizzly Plateau Area is a problem
- reports of motorized vehicles into the non motorized area west of Mooseskin Johnny Lk
- report of hiking in the core area after the September 15 deadline.

While there are still reports of some non compliance there are also reports that violators are being approached by users to inform them about the conditions thus user enforcement (peer pressure) is increasing. VRAMG recognises that information and education is an ongoing function of the group

- efforts to have legislative support for gating some of the access points were unsuccessful.
- Houston Snowmobile club looking at replacing the bridge over Gold Cr. next year and bridge specs will preclude vehicular use.
- Ed thought that gating might have merit as legitimate use could still occur

Action: Dina will write letter on behalf of the VRAMG to the schools (districts?) explaining the access restrictions George will look into the various options available IE gating, or legislation.

7. Budget

- hand out submitted to group
- have applied for \$35,000 for the 2004-05 fiscal year
- potentially have enough money left in this fiscal budget to potentially do 6 FW telemetry flights
- group suggested that knowing the whereabouts of the caribou would be more usefull later in the Snowmobilling season so decided on 1 flt in Jan, 2 flts in Feb. and 3 flts in March.

Action: George to fax flight telemetry locations to Les as soon as they are available

7. Other

- Old timers missed window of opportunity for August outing into hunters Basin so did not access Hunters basin this Year.

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.