

Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board  
Box 577  
Smithers, B.C.  
V0J 2N0

June 12, 2006

W. Bergen, Director for Resource Agency Liaison  
Bulkley Valley Quad Riders Club  
Box 2886  
Smithers, B.C.  
V0J 2N0

Dear Mr. Bergen

**Re: Limited ATV Access to the Higgins Creek and Orange Trails**

This letter is in response to your letter of May 18, 2006.

The Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) discussed this issue and your proposed restrictions at our June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Although the board was impressed by the conditions your members are willing to implement on themselves to resume using these trails, we find that in the LRMP it states clearly on pages 140 and 141 that ATV access on these trails is to be prohibited. This means that to re-open these trails would require an amendment to the Bulkley LRMP. We are well aware that the LRMP is a living document and we do have a process for making amendments. We are enclosing a copy of our requirements for making an amendment to the LRMP and would like to encourage you to proceed with this process. If you have any questions or if you need clarification, please feel free to contact the BVCRB.

We would like to commend your Club for forming a responsible organization and would like to invite you to help us urge the various government agencies to complete the Recreational Access Management Plan that was started back in the 1990s. If this plan were to be finalized we could avoid future issues of this nature.

Thank you for your patience and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely

Adrian de Groot  
Chair  
Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

## **Amendments to the Bulkley Land and Resource Management Plan: Proponent Requirements and Considerations**

The Bulkley Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) was approved in April 1998 and is intended to guide management of public lands and resources within the Bulkley Timber Supply Area (TSA). The LRMP was developed in accordance with provincial government policy for land use planning and reflects the “Consensus Management Direction” established by the Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) and a team of government representatives in consultation with local government and First Nations.

Highlights of the Bulkley LRMP planning history include:

- The planning process was initiated in 1992, the LRMP approved in 1998, and landscape unit plans, excepting the Bulkley LUP, were completed in September, 1999;
- The plan had the consensus of the BVCRB, and enjoys wide-spread support within the community;
- The Bulkley TSA is unique in the Province, by virtue of having comprehensive landscape unit plans completed; and
- Government agencies, the BVCRB, and major forest companies are committed to implementation of the LRMP, and there is a spirit of cooperation to make the plan work.

Key roles of the BVCRB are to monitor the development, implementation and effectiveness of the LRMP and associated plans to ensure that resource development protects environmental and other resource values and that development provides the most benefits possible to residents of the Bulkley TSA; to review any proposed changes to the LRMP; and to cooperatively develop a new LRMP when the current LRMP expires. These roles require the BVCRB to reflect the range of value perspectives of the community and balance those diverse interests to guide land use decisions.

Although the LRMP is intended to be a living plan, it is important to note that the Consensus Management Direction was developed through an extensive community involvement process that required compromises on behalf of all participating resource sectors.

The requirements, as listed below, for amendments to the LRMP may be too onerous for well-intended comments from the public at large. The BVCRB does not want to discourage constructive suggestions, and encourages the public to submit their ideas or thoughts regarding the LRMP through letters to any Provincial agencies, or to the BVCRB directly.

If the BVCRB decides there is a need for an LRMP amendment to address concerns raised by Board members or the public, they will recommend that the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands consider amendments to the plan.

If the proposal for an amendment to the LRMP comes from an entity other than the BVCRB the proponent(s) for the change would be responsible for fulfilling the following requirements:

- The name(s) and address(es) of the proponent (s), affiliated organization(s), and consultants hired (if any) to collect data or to prepare the proposed amendment;
- A clear description of how the current LRMP is not meeting the needs of the particular resource value(s) in question;
- An explanation of efforts made to work within the LRMP framework to address the specific resource management concerns, or why this is not possible;
- New information, including the results of effectiveness monitoring, that shows the underlying technical assumptions in the current LRMP were incorrect or social choices of the LRMP are not being met, or that substantial new values or management issues have arisen that were not anticipated;
- A clear description of analyses of any data presented, the source of the data, and the methods used to collect the data;
- A detailed description of the proponent's proposed amendment(s) to the LRMP;
- If possible, provide names of persons or organizations that are considered experts on, or have significant interest in the amendment, and may be contacted for review or comment regarding the amendment; and
- Demonstrated support from a broad cross-section of the community to amend the plan;

If these criteria and information requirements are met, the BVCRB would consider recommending an amendment to the LRMP to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. Any amendment proposed by the BVCRB would have to be agreed to, and carried out by, the Minister of Agriculture and Lands.

For further information please:

1. contact any member of the BVCRB;
2. email your comments to Adrian de Groot ([adriandegroot@bulkley.net](mailto:adriandegroot@bulkley.net));
3. visit the BVCRB website at [www.bvcrb.ca](http://www.bvcrb.ca);
4. or mail comments to Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board, Box 577, Smithers, B.C., V0J 2N0.