

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

November 8, 2006

John Howard,
Babine Area Supervisor
Ministry of Environment, Environmental Stewardship Division
Skeena Region
Bag 5000,
Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0

Re: BC Parks Proposed Deletion of section of Driftwood Road #23 in Babine Mountains Provincial Park

Dear Mr. Howard

The Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) appreciated you contacting us regarding the proposed deletion of Driftwood Road between the summer and winter parking lots from the park to allow the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to maintain this road as agreed to in Appendix 7 of the Bulkley Land and Resources Management Plan (LRMP).

The BVCRB supports this move to live up to provisions in the LRMP, but has some concerns regarding this deletion. The concern is whether the current operating conditions of the road in winter will be able to continue once BC Parks and the Ministry of Environment no longer has jurisdiction over the road. Specifically, the concerns are:

- 1) Whether the road will continue to only be snow ploughed to the present winter parking lot at the last residential driveway on Driftwood Road.
- 2) Whether the present status of this road as winter non-motorized will be maintained.

We understand that the Ministry of Transportation and Highways intends to only remove snow from the road as far as the last residence, which is the location of the winter parking lot. We are thus satisfied that point 1 above is dealt with.

We also understand that all roads under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation and Highways are closed to snowmobiles, making this road non-motorized in the winter. We are thus satisfied that point 2 above is dealt with. However, this closure will need to be enforced to be effective, so we encourage you to ensure this enforcement measures are in place.

Regarding the last point, we understand that Driftwood residents have been working to establish a method to determine a date when the road is closed in winter to allow their non-motorized recreational activities to commence. We urge you to work with them on this issue.

Regards,

Adrian de Groot
Chair, Bulkley Valley Community Resource Board