

Hans Smit
Chair, Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board
c/o 10084 Hislop Road
Telkwa, B.C. V0J 2X1

Dennis MacKay, M.L.A.
Province of British Columbia
4 ♦ 3830 Second Avenue
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0

Date: December 17, 2002

Re: Angling Use Plans; Bulkley and Babine Rivers

Dear Dennis,

Another fishing season has gone by without the implementation of an Angling Use Plans (AUP) on the Bulkley or Babine rivers. The Community Resources Board (CRB) considers the angling opportunities on these rivers to be a very valuable resource to our community, for recreational, economic, social, cultural and subsistence reasons. Both the Bulkley and the Babine rivers provide world class opportunities, but the quality of the fish resource is being compromised by overuse and lack of management. The Bulkley LRMP states that "Agencies will provide management to address recreational user conflicts, including the Bulkley River". Without an AUP in place, the fish and the opportunities they provide stand to lose immensely.

The CRB understands that Angling Use Plans are a legal requirement on all waters of the province which have been classified and on which the number of angling guides and their level of activity is regulated. The AUP process for the Bulkley and Babine rivers was started back in 1988. The plans were completed and agreed to by all major stakeholders after lengthy discussion and negotiation. Unfortunately, they have never been fully implemented. The CRB discussed this problem with representatives of the Ministry of Water, Air and Land Protection before last season, and **was informed that the reason that the AUPs have not been fully implemented was due to a lack of regulations which could be used to institute some of the recommendations. The CRB is not aware that any serious effort is being made to deal with this issue.**

Residents of the community, especially those who volunteered many hours to help create the plans, have been frustrated by the AUP process and the lack of implementation of the agreed to plans. The CRB would like to see the outstanding resources of the Bulkley and Babine rivers used in such a way that a balance between local use, economic activity and protection of the resource is established.

Another season should not pass without some controls on use of these rivers by anglers. Therefore, we ask that you look in to this issue and see what can be done to fully institute the agreed to AUPs on the Bulkley and Babine rivers. Any further reduction in the quality of the fishing resource would be a tragic loss for our communities.

Please call me at (250) 846-5764 to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,
Hans Smit
Chair, Bulkley Valley Community Resource Board

cc: Kevin Kriese, MSRM
Hugh Markides, MWALP
Joyce Murray, MWALP