

**Bulkley Valley
Community Resources Board
Box 985
Smithers BC V0J 2N0**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE BULKLEY RECREATION ACCESS
MANAGEMENT PLAN TABLES (BRAMPT)**

Preface

These Terms of Reference borrow heavily from the Golden Backcountry Recreation Access Plan because it was viewed as a very successful recreation planning process here in B.C. The “Proposed Process for Completing the Bulkley Recreation Access Management Plan” (Vold, 2007) was also drawn on. The dispute resolution section is an abbreviated version of the dispute resolution process outlined in the terms of reference of the Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB).

Participants

Anne Harfenist, BVCRB
Jim Easterday and Wayne Buholzer, Bulkley Valley Backpackers Society
Kevin Eskelin, Recreation Sites and Trails BC
Taylor Bachrach, BVCRB
Ben Heemskerk, BVCRB, Alpine Club of Canada
John Emmerson and Lenard Vriend, Smithers Snowmobile Association
Lloyd Hooper, Guide Outfitter
Ed Hinchliffe, BV Quad Riders

References

Summary of Golden Backcountry Recreation Access Plan
<http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/slrp/srmp/south/gbrap/background.html>
Golden Backcountry Recreation Access Plan
<http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/slrp/srmp/south/gbrap/index.html>
BVCRB’s Terms of Reference
http://www.bvcrb.ca/files/admin/other/BVCRB_termsofreference.pdf
Proposed Process for Completing the Bulkley Recreation Access Management Plan
http://bvcrb.ca/files/issues/recreation/Proposed_Process_to_Complete_Bulkley_RAMP_-_Nov_final_report.pdf

Definitions

BVCRB = Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board
RAMP = Recreation Access Management Plan
BRAMPT = Bulkley Valley Recreation Access Management Table

Mission

To develop a Recreation Access Management Plan for the Bulkley TSA which:

- Maintains diversified, balanced, high quality recreational opportunities.
- Is derived through consensus-based negotiation between participants reflecting a range of recreational values and through public consultation, with input from government agencies.
- Gives certainty to users.
- Is sustainable over time.

Objectives

It is the role of the BRAMPT to develop a plan with recommended objectives and management direction; the ultimate decisions with respect to accepting the plan reside with the government.

Ensure that the Plan is based on the Bulkley Land and Resources Management Plan (LRMP) and other existing higher level plans and ensure that consideration is given to government policies

- Consider previous recreation planning processes.

Ensure a balance of recreational opportunities, minimizing conflicts

- Ensure that opportunities for a range of motorized and non-motorized recreation exist both in remote areas and in areas close to towns.
- Provide certainty for user groups.
- Consider sharing of areas and permitted access (e.g. seasonal allowances for stocking cabins with firewood).
- Careful consideration will be given to existing use patterns by a full range of users.

Ensure that key areas are identified for public use

- Consider all areas within the Bulkley TSA.
- Focus on public recreation.
- Commercial recreation will not be directly addressed; future commercial considerations will be dealt with through the review and amending processes.
- Ensure that the project focuses on spatial (mapped) results.

Ensure that the Process is community-based

- Ensure that the plan is based as much as possible on recreational user negotiation and consensus and general community consultation.
- Ensure that implementation be primarily undertaken via voluntary means.
- Consider regulatory restrictions in areas where there is evidence of non-compliance; non-compliance with consequential negative impacts on recreation, wildlife or other values will be dealt with through the review and amending processes.

Ensure that the plan promotes stewardship and sustainable resource use, considering economic, social and environmental factors

Ensure that the plan can change over time

- Identify a mechanism for plan adaptation over time.
- Amendments may be required to deal with commercial recreation proposals, non-compliance, imposed restrictive measures brought in by government agencies (e.g. general wildlife measures or a new park), etc.

Membership and Input

- There will be an open call for participation at the beginning and as the process progresses that will be overseen by the BVCRB.
- A minimum of one representative and one alternate from each recreation sector will sit at the table.
- Separate winter and summer tables will be formed.
- The preferred size of the table will be 10-12 people.
- Table members agree to represent the full range of relevant values expressed by members of their sector.
- Table members must abide by and sign this Terms of Reference in order to sit at the table. If members cease to abide by the Terms of Reference, the sector will be requested by the BVCRB to choose a new member.
- A facilitator will be hired for the process; all other participation will be voluntary with no remuneration or expense reimbursement.
- Sub-tables may be established, as needed, to address specific issues or projects and may include non-table membership.
- Representatives will be chosen by other members of their sector. Because area-specific agreements (e.g. cabin use agreements) in the plan will need the support of specific clubs/organisations, representatives of the relevant clubs will sit at the sub-table that deals with those issues.

- Members of the Morice Implementation Committee will be invited to participate in the sub-tables dealing with the Starr Creek area.

Roles and Responsibilities of Table Members

Table members are expected to:

- Respect the rights and opinions of other table members.
- Be willing to work cooperatively to address the concerns and values of other sectors at the table in addition to those of the sector that they represent.
- Ensure familiarization with the areas under consideration at each meeting.
- Attend scheduled meetings and work on or with sub-tables as needed.
- Fully represent their constituency at all times, conveying sectoral, not personal, opinions to the table.
- Consult with their sector membership to ensure that the entire community has opportunities to participate.

The facilitator will have experience with consensus-based negotiations and is expected to:

- Call and coordinate meeting dates and set agendas.
- Preside over meetings.
- Present a final recommended plan to the BVCRB to be passed on to the government for discussion and action.
- Encourage an atmosphere conducive to productive discussion. This may involve working with individual sub-tables.

Meetings and Communications

- The table will meet frequently over a period of time expected to be less than one year.
- Government representatives will be invited to provide input as needed.
- Meeting notes will be distributed for comment to ensure accuracy. These will be made available to the public once they have been reviewed.
- A designated administrative support person will take notes at table meetings.

Process for Making Recommendations

Consensus is defined as general agreement by all table members of lack of expressed objection by any table members. The aim is to reach consensus on recommendations relating to all issues addressed by the table. The minutes of a meeting will be presented at the following meeting giving table members an opportunity to reaffirm the consensus previously reached.

If the table is unable to achieve consensus on specific issues or planning options:

- Dissenting table members will pinpoint the area of disagreement so that the exact nature of the disagreement can be determined (i.e. is it a difference over wording or a matter of principle).
- If it is wording, the facilitator will entertain different wording proposals to determine if consensus can be reached.
- If it is a matter of principle the dissenting table members will prepare a written report outlining their differences with other members and the reasons for the disagreement; if possible, the report will contain an alternative to the position held by most table members and background documentation to support that alternative; the facilitator will again place the issue before the table to see whether consensus can now be achieved; if not, the fallback procedure is to ask a Disputes Mediator, jointly agreed to by the table, to help resolve the differences.

The above is a summary of “Section 14.0 Decision Making and Principles of Consensus Building” as outlined in the BVCRB’s Terms of Reference. The full description can be found at <http://www.bvcrb.ca/about> on page 9.

Presentation and Implementation of the Plan

- The RAMP report will be presented by the BVCRB to the provincial government for consideration by relevant ministries.