

February 6, 2009

Honourable Ron Cantelon
Minister of Agriculture and Lands
Box 9071, Stn Prov Govt,
Victoria, BC V8W 9E9;

Dear Minister Cantelon

The Community Resources Board (CRB) has advocated for the completion of the Recreation Access Management Plan (RAMP) for many years in their role as stewards of the Bulkley Land and Resources Management Plan (LRMP).

I was involved in the original Bulkley LRMP (1995) which would have completed the RAMP had not government intervened and halted the process due to a shortage of time. Since that time valuable non-motorized areas have been lost in the Bulkley TSA to motorized vehicles because of new logging roads, high powered motorized all terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles. The Bulkley State of the Forest Report (2002) indicated that since 1983 the area of primitive recreation use (within 8 km of a road) had been reduced from 11% to 3% with no limit on development or access.

A community-supported RAMP has been identified as a priority for the implementation of the LRMP. The Vold report notes that "Nearly everyone interviewed in the community voiced strong support for completing the RAMP". Benefits include improved ability: (1) to provide certainty for recreation users, (2) to provide support for recreation organizations who build and maintain trails and structures; (3) to promote tourism; (4) to reduce conflicts in the community that can take considerable resources to address; and (5) for the community at-large to better get along and respect each others recreational pursuits."

The Northeast Slope Trails group is one group that is adamant about completing the Bulkley RAMP. While we agree that some areas must have motorized use, our group needs to have some certainty that our area of hiking and biking trails on the Northeast Slopes of Hudson Bay Mountain and adjacent to Smithers will be respected by motorized users. To this end we are applying for a recreation tenure with Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and the Arts, but even if we do get tenure there is no protection from motorized use.

The whole community of the Bulkley Valley supports the RAMP process. We urge you to reinvigorate the RAMP process in the Bulkley TSA now.

Yours Truly

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cc: Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board