

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

May 6, 2011

Heather MacRae
Adventure Tourism Manger
Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Prince George BC
Heather.MacRae@gov.bc.ca

Re: Referral response for File No.6408330 Land Referral - Commercial
Snowmobile Recreation License Application

Dear Heather,

The Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) is composed of local residents who represent the range of value perspectives of the community and help to guide local land use decisions. We are charged with monitoring the implementation of the Land Use Plans within the Bulkley Timber Supply Area. Our purpose is to advise government regarding responsible management of all resources to guarantee long-term resource sustainability and enable communities to maintain their quality of life without compromising the needs of future generations.

We have reviewed the Harvey Mountain Adventures application for a Commercial Recreation Snowmobile Tenure and can only provide support if the tenure (1) follows the current Recreational Access Management Plan (RAMP), (2) does not displace current public recreation, and (3) allows the current initiative to complete the RAMP for the Bulkley TSA to move ahead unhindered.

The Dome and Microwave areas are currently designated for winter motorized recreation and ,as such, are appropriate locations for snowmobiling recreation use. The Harold Price, area as mapped on the application, has both designated motorized and non-motorized polygons, trails and roads. The application and potential tenure should recognize and adhere to these existing designations. As an extra level of diligence for the commercial snowmobile operator they could consider including a 2.5 km buffer around the existing non-motorized cabin. The current application is requesting access to the Harold Price area via the 8000 Rd (Meadow Creek Road). This road is not currently used by snowmobilers,

and has no parking area. Consequently, proposed access should be redirected to a 7km trail that starts at 22 km on the Blunt Forest Service Road and is actively used for snowmobile access to the area.

The Mount Seaton area is not designated for winter-motorized use at this time. It is an area with motorized and non-motorized recreation interests. We also note that there is an established commercial recreation tenure in the Seaton area which presents potential conflict around compatibility of use. It should not be granted commercial tenure; a suitable alternative for the applicant might be the Sinclair area, which is currently designated for winter-motorized use. The Dome, Microwave, Harold Price and Sinclair snowmobiling areas are recognized public recreation features in the valley, both the Smithers Snowmobile Association and Recreation Sites and Trails BC, Nadina-Skeena District must be contacted to ensure this application is an appropriate and compatible use for these areas.

In April 2011 the BVCRB has initiated a process to complete the RAMP for the Bulkley TSA. We plan on completing the summer RAMP during the 2011-12 fiscal year. It is anticipated that the winter RAMP will be completed during 2012-13. Any commercial recreation tenure being awarded prior to completion of the RAMP should not influence or restrict this process from being fairly completed. During this process motorized and non-motorized designations may be modified and new areas may be designated. An awarded tenure should allow for these changes to be incorporated so this important planning process is not undermined. If your agency requires this process to be completed before 2013, the BVCRB would welcome additional resources to help reduce the projected time frames.

The current Recreation Access Management Plan for the Bulkley TSA can be downloaded from our website (www.bvcrb.ca). If you require further information or clarification please feel free to contact us at info@bvcrb.ca. Thank you for reviewing our comments on this application.

Sincerely,

Dave Stevens
Chair, Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board