

**Bulkley Valley
Community Resources Board
Recreational Access Management Plan
Box 985
Smithers BC V0J 2N0**

March 23, 2012

The Corporation of the Village of Telkwa
PO BOX 220
Telkwa BC V0J 2X0

Attention: Carmen Graf, Mayor

Dear Carmen Graf:

Thank you for your letter of February 21, 2012, regarding the Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) summer Recreational Access Management Plan (RAMP) completion project.

We have reviewed your request for creation of a seat at the RAMP Table for a member of the Village of Telkwa Council. After considering your request, we would like to advise that we are not able to do so at this time for the following reasons:

1). A Terms of Reference for the RAMP Table was developed in 2009, with the participation of Anne Harfenist, BVCRB; Jim Easterday and Wayne Buholzer, Bulkley Valley Backpackers Society; Kevin Eskelin, Recreation Sites and Trails BC; Taylor Bachrach, BVCRB; Ben Heemskerck, BVCRB, Alpine Club of Canada; John Emmerson and Lenard Vriend, Smithers Snowmobile Association; Lloyd Hooper, Guide Outfitter; and Ed Hinchliffe, BV Quad Riders. This group established that the summer RAMP Table should be comprised of 10 -12 representatives from recreation sectors.

2). There was an open call for participation in the RAMP in the summer of 2011. A selection process was undertaken to evaluate applications. The successful applicants were: Janette Daly and Barb Veale (Backcountry Horsemen of B.C.), Ed Hinchliffe and Lloyd Kilback (BV Quad Riders club), Katie Von Gaza and Brian Shorter (Smithers Mtn Bike Assoc), Jay Gilden and Wayne Buholzer (BV Backpackers); and Bob Mitchell, Casey Pyper, Eugene Bekar and Matt Sakals, representing the public at large. The Table has been working together since October of 2011 and is nearing completion of their involvement.

However, we believe that public input is critical to the success of the RAMP project. We recognize that the Village of Telkwa Council represents many members of the area's recreating public and manages Crown land surrounding Telkwa that is within the Settlement Zone of the Bulkley Land and Resources Management Plan (LRMP). Therefore we feel that it is important that we meet with Village representatives to review the RAMP and to receive your recommendations.

We would like to comment on an article “Telkwa wants RAMP scrapped”, Interior News, March 14, 2012, in which you say that “the Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board Recreation sub-committee, overseeing the RAMP,.... have no mandate. RAMP has no mandate”. This issue has been raised by other groups and individuals in the last few weeks and we would like to provide information to clarify it for the Village Council, as follows:

- 1). The BVCRB, considered a model of public participation in the province, works under a Terms of Reference which was established by community members in 2003 and endorsed by the Regional Director of the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM), Skeena Region; the District Manager of the Ministry of Forests (MOF), Bulkley/Cassiar Forest District; and the Inter-Agency Management Committee (IAMC). (Names of these agencies have changed in intervening years).
- 2). A letter from the Minister of Agriculture and Lands in 2009 encouraged the BVCRB to initiate a community led consensus recommendation process at arms length from government.
- 3). Recreation Sites & Trails BC has provided letters of support for the project in 2011 and 2012 (See letter of March 13, 2012, from Bill Marshall, Director, Recreation Sites & Trails Branch Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations , which follows).

With regards to your “impression of the group as wanting to stop motorized recreation on a lot of area trails”, the Summer RAMP process has actually resulted in an increase in the number of sites and trails identified for a motorized use recommendation. We would appreciate the opportunity to present this information to Telkwa Council.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience by telephone at 250-846-9281, or by email at chairrec@bvcrb.ca to arrange a meeting. I would be pleased to provide any further information that you may require.

Thank you for your interest in the RAMP.

Yours truly,

Jeffrey Anderson
Chair
Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

Marshall, Bill J FLNR:EX"

Date: 13 March, 2012 1:22:00 PM PDT

To: "chair@bvcrb.ca" <chair@bvcrb.ca>

Subject: **Bulkley Valley Recreation Access Management Plan**

I am writing this letter to express continued support for the Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) initiative to complete the Bulkley Valley Recreation Access Management Plan (RAMP) partially completed by the Province and BVCRB in 1997.

The *Trails Strategy for British Columbia*, lead by Recreation Sites and Trails BC, identifies collaborative regional trail planning as a critical action required to secure high quality, value based recreation opportunities for all user groups while respecting the interests of other users of public lands. Successful trail and recreation access management planning depends on participation across the full spectrum of land users, interest and rights holders. As pressures on public lands continues to increase across the province, recreation trail and access planning becomes an even more pressing requirement.

Through implementation of the *Trails Strategy*, the Province will endeavour to support recommendations from the varied forms of recreation trail and access planning that occur across BC, where those recommendations are consistent with existing land management direction, legislation and policy. It is the intent of the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations to review any recommendations to the Province, from the completed community led and consensus-based Bulkley Valley RAMP process, and implement those recommendations where feasible.

The Recreation Sites and Trails BC is proposing to provide additional funding of approximately \$20,000, subject to final budget approvals, in 2012/13 to support completion of the RAMP process.

Thank you for your continued efforts to complete this community led process.

Bill Marshall

Director

Recreation Sites & Trails Branch

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations