



Bulkley Valley Backpackers Society

3030 Simcoe Avenue Smithers, BC V0J2N2 Canada

July 13, 2012
by email (RAMP@bvcrb.ca)

Dear Community Resources Board:

We have been asked by the Bulkley Valley Quad Riders to comment on their proposal to allow limited motorized access by quads into certain areas in the Babine Mountains Provincial Park and into the Telkwas west of Mooseskin Johnny Lake. The Bulkley Valley Backpackers have expressed their position on these proposals at the summer RAMP meetings that took place during 2011 and early 2012. That position is as follows:

1. We do not support the use of motorized vehicles within the Babine Mountains Provincial Park. We will support a request for limited quad access to locations beyond the current non-motorized boundaries on the Orange Road and Cronin Road. Specifically, we do not oppose a system that provides for limited access by permit by application submitted to the relevant agency through the Quad Riders club to an appropriate location on the Orange Road where a barrier can be placed and just below the Orange Road's intersection with the Onion Trail at about UTM: N6076076 and E636177 (9U). On the Cronin Road, we will support similar limited access to a point where a barrier can be placed at a location just before entry into the Park and near the intersection with the trail leading to the Cronin Lookout at about UTM: N6089019 and E640335 (9U). Both these rule changes will facilitate the Quad Riders club and other riders in their stated desire to reach locations on their vehicles that are significantly higher in elevation than permitted under current restrictions. At the same time, we continue to support rules that preserve the Park's wilderness and other environmental qualities by excluding motor vehicle use and that protect the Park from noise and air pollution.

2. With regard to the request for limited entry into the Telkwas west of Mooseskin Johnny Lake, we indicated at the RAMP meetings that we believed that discussing such a request is premature because of the pending application for converting the Caribou Recovery Area into a Wildlife Habitat Area. Any proposals about recreational use in this area will have to conform to rules applied to the WHA should it be established. Once the WHA status is finalized we would be willing to enter into discussions about limited entry by permit for quads if allowed under WHA rules and with conditions as described below.

Our position as outlined above is conditioned on the drafting and implementation of a plan that will require permits for motorized use of the areas in question that adequately identify those who are to enter on any given trip, provides notice to other potential user groups of when such trips will occur, establishes gates or other physical barriers that protect against incursion beyond the permitted areas, provides for periodic monitoring to ascertain whether environmental damage is occurring AND establishes an enforcement mechanism that protects against environmental damage and includes a provision that halts future use should violations of restrictions and/or environmental damage occur.

Also, in any event, none of these changes should take place without an adequate public notice and comment process. Such a procedure should include a review by the "Future Process" forum which has been proposed in the current Summer RAMP draft.

For the BVBS,

Jay Gilden

cc: John Howard, Area Supervisor B.C. Parks
Kevin Eskelin, RSTBC
Bill Jex, FLNR Fish & Wildlife
Lloyd Kilback, BV Quad Riders