

**Voluntary Recreational Access Management Group
August 15, 2001 Meeting**

Attendance List

Name	Organization
George Schultze	MOELP
Ray Chipeniuk	BV Naturalists
Daryl Hanson	Smithers Exploration Group
Dina Hanson	
Virginia Kimmett	Back Country Horsemen Society of B.C.
Les Auston	Houston Snowmobile Club
Paul James	Houston Snowmobile Club

Minutes

Administrivia

- Did not have minutes to review from the June 20th meeting.

Agenda Development

- No formal agenda was developed, Main topics of discussion were:
 - Telemetry update
 - Improving public awareness and level of voluntary compliance
 - Compliance and Monitoring the success of the committee
 - Sign development
 - Club Reports
 - Set next meeting date

Meeting Notes

Update

- Reviewed latest telemetry maps provided by MWLA&AP. Three adults have been lost to wolves this spring and one more that was emitting a mortality signal at the time of the meeting has since been confirmed as another wolf mortality.
- noted that collared animals are scattered over the whole Recovery area

Improving public awareness and Voluntary compliance

- Decided to try to put together an information pamphlet with the results of the access group and the recovery project so far.

Action; Les will draft information bulletin after George provides him with the calving data and the latest caribou update.

- MLW&AP will have an information booth at the BV fall fair
- Info bulletin could be put into the Houston Trade show. MLW&AP display materials would also be available.
- A press release will be wordsmithed to get it into the paper as soon as possible. Ray's suggested draft wording would be incorporated into the release

Compliance and monitoring success of the committee

- In general the committee has been successful in increasing public awareness of the access restrictions and the concerns in the Telkwa Mountains. This appears to have helped in increased public compliance with the access restrictions. There seems to be less motorized use in the Hunters Basin area of the range. There seems to be some improvement in the compliance in the winter motorized area in the south end of the range (though this seemed to have broken down in the later part of last year's snowmobile season). The indications are positive. There is still concern with regards to the motorized use in the area to the west of Mooseskin Johnny Lk. The use seems to be increasing every year both from the south end and from the north end.
- This has been an area of contention since the recovery project began. It is recommended in the recovery plan that the area to the west of Mooseskin Johnny Lk be non motorized access. There was allowances made to allow motorized use of the trail to Mooseskin Johnny Lk but that there would be no improvements to the access made for recreational motorized use. Use in the area is increasing every year from a few individuals who might have used the area in the winter time in 1997 with more people, larger parties and more frequent trips being made now. This in spite of the non motorized access management designation. George commented that this continued trend is contrary to the recovery plan recommendations.
- The caribou management recommendation is to keep the area non motorized to maintain the integrity of the suitability of the habitat for when the Telkwa caribou herd recovers in numbers. Les were not in favour of the non motorized designation of that zone. It was noted that the purpose of this group was not to question the caribou management recommendations but rather to work with the public to ensure voluntary compliance is effective enough to avoid legislated restrictions.

Sign development

- Houston Snowmobile club will be putting sign up in the meat cache area weekend of August 18th
- Dina provided examples of suggested wording and design of signs at the various trail heads.
- A sign was to be placed at Goat Horn Creek bridge crossing so that public would have early notice of the access restrictions
- A Sign with a map would be advantageous on the Grizzly Lk trail.

Action: Dina would do a quick edit and then get comments from other clubs to finalize the sign layout.

Club Reports

- Ray noted that he has heard of more people having seen caribou or sign of caribou in the area. He himself has observed tracks of a cow and a calf in the Dennis Lk area as well as tracks of a bull. He had also seen the tracks of a single animal in the Mckendrick pass area. All of these are within the last 2wo to three weeks. Other members have reported seeing caribou in the Webster Lk area.
- Les had a question regarding the summer non motorised designation in the Grizzly plateau area. George had received a call from someone about the access restriction and informed that person that the public was being asked to not use motorized vehicles in the plateau area during the summer for the sake of the caribou. The individual was informed that this was a voluntary restriction only and that there were no laws in place at this time.
- The BV naturalists have hosted Astrid to provide a lecture/slideshow on her thesis to the public. They have also contacted a local artist to illustrate caribou sign (tracks etc).

Set next meeting date

Next Meeting date set for Wed. September 19th, 2001 at the Quick school