

**Voluntary Recreational Access Management Group
December 19, 2001 Meeting**

Attendance List

Name	Organization	Fax #
George Schultze	WLAP	847-7728
Lawrence Wicks	Houston Snowmobile Association	845-7367
Dina Hanson	BV Back Packers	
Al Madigan	Houston	
Larry Dockendorf	District of Houston	845-3429, town 845-2238
Ed Hinchcliff	Oldtimers	847-3932
Sean Sharpe	WLAP	
Terry Close	Houston Snowmobile Association	
Paul James	Lakes District Trappers Assn.	

Bill Wookey was not able to attend due to work schedule.

Agenda Development

- 1.) Review last meeting's minutes
- 2.) Status report of caribou
- 3.) Club Reports
- 4.) Signs
- 5.) Other

Minutes

1. Review last meeting's minutes
 - Reviewed and approved November 21, 2001 Minutes

**** Action; George to send copies of approved minutes to all groups***

Discussion arising from Nov 21 minutes.

- George discussed Laurence's comments with co-workers and the feeling was that to allow unrestricted access would be risky from a caribou management perspective because:

1. monitoring of caribou was not intensive enough to ensure that no caribou would be in the area (only 21 collared animals being tracked presently).
2. the level of monitoring was likely to decrease in the future.
3. concerned that recreational activity would influence whether or not the caribou would utilize the habitat

- The Houston reps felt that as, responsible snowmobile operators they could be part of the monitoring process and if they saw caribou or caribou sign in the area they would actively avoid using the area and persuade others to keep out as well. They recognized that different years, different times and different snow conditions would mean that there would be times when caribou would be more likely to use the area and that they, the snowmobilers, would have to avoid using the area.
- George and Sean felt that there was a possibility that something could be worked out between the Houston Snowmobile club and the wildlife branch so that snowmobile use would only be allowed in the non-motorized area by mutual agreement between on a case by case basis depending upon conditions and caribou distribution. The signage would still indicate that the area would be off limits so that people (especially non-club members) would not get the idea that the area was a free use area.
- The issue would be mutually assessed in Spring when the club would like to use the area.

2. Status Report of the Caribou

- George provided maps showing the caribou locations found on the two telemetry flights conducted since the last meeting.
- Collared caribou predominantly in alpine winter range.
- Caribou were reported being seen in the valley bottom
- The caribou located near Takysie Lk. has moved to south of Cheslatta Lk.
- One of the caribou is again wintering near Boulder/Porphory cr.
- No GPS downloads have been done yet.
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3. Status of Recreational Compliance (Club Reports)

- Houston club had not much to report as season is just getting under way
- Dina reported that the BV Back Packers were planning on skiing in to allo of the trail heads to assess the level of compliance of the access restrictions.

4. Signs

- Signs have been acquired George will get the signs for the Houston Grizzly Plateau area to the Houston Club so that they could look at them and look after their instalment.
- George would see about installing a sign at the “Goathorn Cr Crossing”

5. Other

- Discussion arose about Starr Cr to see if the same type of arrangement would be possible there for the one that is being considered for the meat cache area. Felt that there were still too many issues to work out with regards to where exactly the snowmobiling activity would occur. The bottle neck is the steeper terrain to the north of Starr Cr. Which is likely the area the caribou would require for wintering purposes but is also the area where snowmobilers want to operate.

- It was suggested that once the logging has been completed in the area and the access is put to bed the use will again diminish due to the long ferry time to get into the area (at least from the Houston side)
- Len Vanderstar would like to accompany some of the Houston Club members in order to get more familiar with the area and their concerns.
- George will contact Alf King to try to get some idea as to the amount of back country skiing that is presently occurring in the Starr Cr. Area.

Next Meeting January 24, 2002, 7:00 PM at Quick school

*** Note as of this mailing the January 24th meeting has been held and the next scheduled meeting is February 20, 2002, 7:00 PM at the Quick school.**