

**Voluntary Recreational Access Management Group
January 24, 2002 Meeting**

Attendance List

Name	Organization	Fax #
George Schultze	WLAP	847-7728
Lawrence Wicks	Houston Snowmobile Association	845-7367
Bill Wookey	Smithers Snowmobile Association	846-5681
Al Madigan	Houston	845-7557
Larry Dockendorf	District of Houston	845-3429, town 845-2238
Ed Hinchcliff	Oldtimers	847-3932
Les Auston	Houston Snowmobile Association	
Terry Close	Houston Snowmobile Association	845-7778
Paul James	Lakes District Trappers Assn.	
Daryl Hanson	Smithers Exploration	

Ray Brochu had phoned to indicate that he and Rosemary would not be able to attend.
Virginia could not be reached to let her know of the meeting date.

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 December 19, 2001 Minutes

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

Discussion arising from December 19 minutes.

1. George talked to Alf King re cabin use in the Starr Cr. Area. Alf commented that the amount of use varied from year to year and this year there are approximately five parties booked to use the cabin with an average of five people per party. Each trip averages about 6 days in duration.

2. Discussion continued around the access into the Meat Cache area. It was finally agreed that snowmobile use could occur in the area provided that there were no caribou present.
 - If, either telemetry data or the presence of caribou sign (tracks, droppings, observation) determined that caribou were utilizing the area that the snowmobile association would keep users out of the area. Once it is determined the caribou have left the area as determined through cooperation between the club and ministry staff, snowmobiling activities could resume in the area.
 - The “Core” reintroduction area would still be treated as a no access zone
 - The club reps are committed to making this work as they realize that they could potentially be denied access to the area and would in fact support legislation if they could not make it work.
 - The clubs will have to develop an effective means of signing and notification so that users will be clearly aware of when the area is off limits.
3. The Smithers Association rep inquired if the same system could be applied to the area west of Mooseskin Johnny Lk and it was agreed to try it there as well.
4. Terry Close would like to send word out to other organizations and groups that come into the area so that they are aware of the conditions.

Action Item: Terry will draft a letter and provide it to George for comment prior to sending it out to other clubs.

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.
- Some caribou have moved a bit further south into the range
- During the telemetry flights fewer caribou were being seen which highlights the point that we do not know where all of the caribou are. Just because there is no collared animal found in an area does not necessarily mean that there are no caribou.
- No GPS downloads have been done yet.
- .

3. Status of Recreational Compliance (Club Reports)

- Houston club had extended some of their activities into the meat cache area but have not seen any sign of caribou being present.
- Smithers Club reported that no excursions have occurred into the Star Cr Area to date...

4. Signs

- Len has placed a sign at the Coal Mine Goat horn Cr. and assisted the Houston Snowmobile Association in erecting the sign at the Grizzly Lk Trail head. As well four smaller signs were provided to the Houston club. The Houston and

Smithers Associations identified a need for more signs at the actual meat cache and one along the Mooseskin Johnny Lk corridor.

George indicated that there was likely a bit of project funds available to cover the costs of the signs.

ACTION ITEM: Lawrence would co-ordinate the production of the signs and let George know the cost. The clubs would look after installation.

5. Other

- concern about the implications of the budget cuts with regards to cooperative processes like this. Less resources will be available for governments to continue to participate on time demanding activities such as this.

- concern about the implications of federal Species at risk legislation. Our strongest tool is that we do have a management plan for the Telkwa Herd and as long as it continues to be successful there will likely be minimal impacts of the legislation.

Next Meeting February 20, 2002, 7:00 PM at Quick school

*** Note as of this mailing the February 29th meeting has been held and the next scheduled meeting is April 3rd, 2002, 7:00 PM at the Quick school**