

**(Draft) Voluntary Recreational Access Management Group  
January 22, 2003 Meeting**

**Attendance List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Contact #s</b>
George Schultze	WLAP	Fax 847-7728, ph 847-7299, george.schultze@gems3.gov.bc.ca
Terry Close	President Houston Snowmobile Association	Fax 845-7778
Al Madigan	Houston Snowmobile Assn	Fax 845-7557, rydale@bulkley.net
Les Austin	Houston Snowmobile Assn	845-7040, bvcleaners@bulkley.net
Peter White	Back Country Horsemen Society of B.C	847-5897
Ed Hinchcliff	Old-timers	Fax 847-3932
Darryl Hanson	Smithers Exploration Group	daryl.hanson@gems4.gov.bc.ca
Dina Hanson	BV Back Packers	(w) 846-5247, ph 846-9214
Paul James	Lakes Dist Trappers Assn	Ph 845-3260. cell 845-8896
Mel Coulson	BV Naturalists	melanevi@bulkley.net

**Agenda Development**

- 1.) Status report of caribou
- 2.) January Newspaper Article
- 3.) Recreational Access Compliance
- 4.) Recovery Action Group (RAG)
- 5.) Other

**Minutes**

1. Status Report of the Caribou
  - George provided maps showing the caribou locations found on the fixed wing telemetry flights completed since the last meeting
  - George also provided the data from the September and November GPS collar uploads
  - George provided data on the current status of the Telkwa caribou herd based on the Spring calf surveyed and the Fall rut counts.
  - During this past reporting period the collared caribou generally exhibited the same type of movement patterns as exhibited in previous years. After calving season the caribou spread out and ranged from Hunters Basin to the area west of Mooseskin Johnny Lakes. They concentrated again in the fall in the North end of the Core Recovery Area.
  - There were no apparent mortalities determined for any of the collared caribou during this period though the "Porphyry Cr. collar did not change locations since last winter so the collar has either come off of the animal or the animal died. And the signal has failed from the "Morice Lk" caribou collar.

- We are currently tracking 17 collars (including the four GPS collars) though the signal from two of the collars seem to be failing (getting extremely weak).

## 2. January Newspaper Article

- Felt that the article appeared in the paper was out dated and did not acknowledge the efforts of the VRAMG or the current status of the TC herd.
- Felt that a letter should be sent to the editor which could be used as an article by the newspaper or be published as a letter to the editor.

**Action Item:** George to prepare a draft letter by Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> for Les and Dina to review , edit and send to the newspaper.

## 3. Recreational Access Compliance

- Compliance with the recreational access restrictions is generally good though the VRAMG acknowledges that improvements are still required.
- There were instances last year of snowmobilers recreating in areas contrary to the understanding, and motorized activities in the summer in non motorized areas and the area was being promoted as a destination hiking/recreation area
- The VRAMG and the members of the groups that they represent need to continue to be proactive in ensuring that people are aware of the voluntary access restrictions
- The signs developed by the VRAMG were erected at some key trailhead locations

## 4. Recovery Action Group (RAG Signs)

☒ Les reported that an off shoot of the “Provincial Strategy for recovering and managing Caribou populations in BC will result in the formation of a Recovery Action Group (RAG).

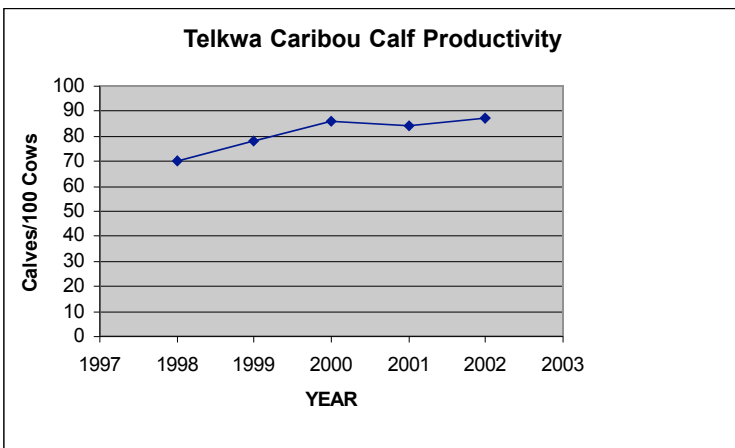
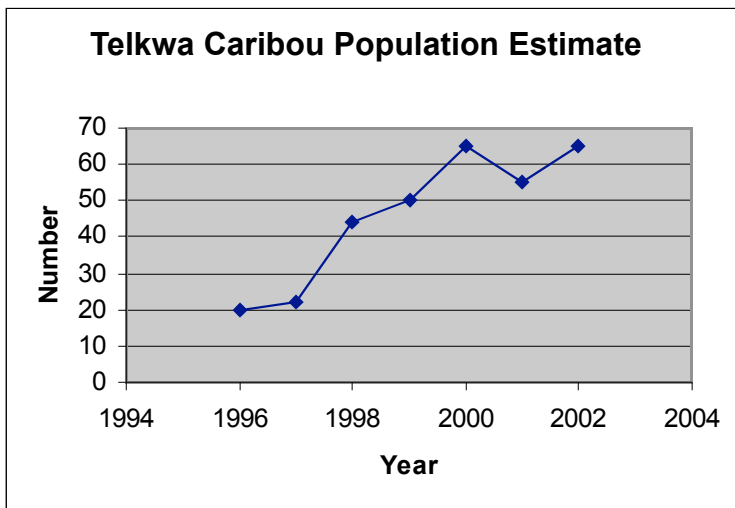
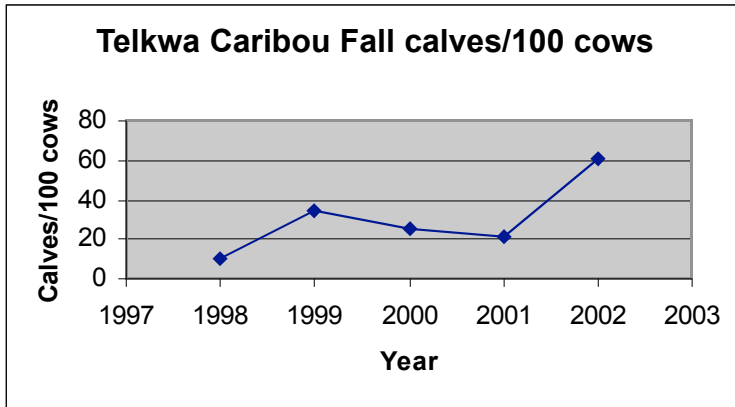
☒ The RAG group for this area will address the Tweedsmuir and Telkwa caribou Herds.

☒ The VRAMG address only the Local Telkwa Mountain Area so would like to be kept aware of the activities of the RAG group as well as ensure that they are aware of the activities of the VRAMG through the sharing of meeting minutes

## 5. Other

- George has applied for funds through HCTF to continue monitoring the radio collared caribou for 2003/04.
- Ed reported that the organized motorized (ATV) tour into Hunters basin on the third weekend of August was enjoyed by those who participated, no caribou were seen, they did see some sign of previous unauthorized ATV use in the area.
- An article on the “Telkwa caribou was posted on the “HWY 16” web page.
- It was noted that the environmental impact statement for the proposed ski hill expansion does not mention caribou. This will be pointed out to the proponent so that caribou issues will be considered.

Next Meeting Wednesday, March 5, 2003, 7:00 PM at Quick school



**Telkwa Caribou Calf Recruitment Data (based on only collared caribou observations )  
June Survey**

Year	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
# of collared cows	17	19	24	25	9
# of collared cows observed	15	18	20	23	9
# with calves	12	9	14	12	3
# calves lost	1	6	4	6	1
# not pregnant	2	3	2	5	5
# not checked	2	1	4	2	0
est # of calves/ 100 cows born	87	83	90	78	44
est # of calves/ 100 cows lost	7	33	20	26	11
est # of cows / 100 cows that did not calve	13	17	10	22	56
est # of calves/100 cows by June 26	80	50	70	57	33

**Telkwa Caribou Calf Recruitment Data (based on ALL caribou observations )  
June Survey**

Year	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Total # cows observed	28	19	24	33	12
# with calves	21	9	15	15	5
# calves lost	1	7	4	6	2
# not pregnant	3	3	3	5	3
# not checked	3	0	2	7	2
# of yearlings	3	3	0	2	0
# of bulls	2	3	10	3	1
# not classified	0	0	0		0
Total number of caribou observed	54	34	49	53	18
est # of calves/ 100 cows born	79	84	79	64	58
est # of calves/ 100 cows lost	4	37	17	18	17
est # of cows / 100 cows not pregnant	11	16	12	15	25
est # of calves/100 cows by June 26	75	47	62	45	42