

**(Draft) Voluntary Recreational Access Management Group
August 11, 2004 Meeting**

Attendance List

Name	Organization	Contact #s
George Schultze	WLAP	Fax 847-7728, ph 847-7299, george.schultze@gems3.gov.bc.ca
Tom	Back Country Horsemen Society of B.C	tranch@bulkley.net
Les Auston	Houston Snowmobile Club	845-7040, lauston@telus.net
Dina Hanson	BV Back Packers	(w) 846-5247, ph 846-9214
Paul James	Lakes Dist Trappers Assn	Ph 845-3260. cell 845-8896
Pete Ziegler	BV Rod and Gun Club	Ph/fax 847-5284email: ziecan@bulkley.net

Agenda Development

- 1.) Telkwa Caribou Powerpoint presentation
- 2.) Review Dec 10, 2003 minutes
- 3.) Status report of caribou
- 4.) Signs
- 5.) Information Tickets
- 6.) Compliance with current Telkwa Mountain Voluntary Access Management Restrictions
- 7.) Budget
- 8.) Other

Minutes

1. Telkwa Caribou Powerpoint presentation

George ran through the Telkwa caribou Power Point presentation

- Presentation provides: an introduction to: caribou in Canada,
 - the status ranking system,
 - introduction to the Telkwa Caribou Recovery Plan
 - identifies potential liabilities to the caribou
 - budget details of the recovery project,
 - summary of some of the information
- suggestions made that the charts showing effects of changes in calf survival and adult mortality should be synchronized, the colour of the text on some slides made it hard to read
- CD copies of the presentation were given to Dina and Les Auston

2. Review Dec 10, 2003 minutes

Group reviewed Dec 10, 2003 draft minutes and accepted the minutes.
Action Items were completed

Action: George to email copy to Dina who will distribute minutes to all of the club reps who have email. George will mail minutes to reps that do not have email.

3. Status Report of the Caribou

- No funding to monitor this year,
- Last counted 74 animals in March, 2004
- Should be at least 80 animals considering this years calf crop
- All of the GPS collars have been recovered.

4. Signs

- Webster Lake trail sign has been chewed by porcupine
- suggest that if anyone is going hiking in the area to place some tin or wrap a cut out bucket around the trunk of the tree so that porcupines can not get at the sign

5. Information Tickets

- Information tickets were supplied to Dina and Tom

6. Compliance with current Telkwa Mountain Voluntary Access Management Restrictions

- Evidence and reports of Motorized vehicles accessing Hunters basin. One of the transgressors is reported to be a local individual who is respected in the community as an outdoor nature enthusiast and wildlife photographer.

Action Item: VRAMG to write a letter to the individual expressing their disappointment in his actions and that, given his profession, he should be setting an example for others to follow.

- Other individuals were observed in the Hunter Basin area using motorized vehicles
- hikers with dogs were in Hunters basin area, They claim that when they contacted the village of Telkwa Office they were informed that there were no access restrictions in the area and that they could take in their dogs.
- The village of Telkwa was contacted and the current access agreements were provided to them. Hopefully they will now provide public with accurate information.
- discussed how group could ensure proper information was being provided to the public regarding the conditions particular to the area. Need to ensure chamber of commerce's and tourist information outlets, and sporting goods stores pass out proper information.

Action: Les will contact the Houston Chamber of commerce and Dina will contact schools and Telkwa Village

- One quad and motorbike were observed on the NW corner of the Grizzly plateau in the summer non-motorized area
- Les reported that there seems to be more compliance with the access restriction on the Grizzly Plateau,
- The quad and motorbike were seen in the vicinity of some mineral claims so may have had something to do with that.

- The bridge over Gold Cr will be barricaded to prevent regular motor vehicle use due to safety concerns. This should alleviate some of the problems.

While there are still reports of some non compliance there are also reports that violators are being approached by users to inform them about the conditions thus user enforcement (peer pressure) is increasing. VRAMG recognises that information and education is an ongoing function of the group

7. Budget

- No funding received for this 04-05 year.
- Will try to find alternate source of funding to conduct a key (October) rut survey and a (March) recruitment survey. Houston Snowmobile club and BV Rod and Gun club have offered to provide financial assistance.

7. Other

- Tom wished to know if there would be opportunity to develop a commercial back country (trail rides) into the Telkwa mountains. Idea was not ruled out however at this time given that eth caribou are still at relatively low numbers and such a short time frame has passed since the recovery effort began, the Ministry position is that while we are trying to provide some opportunity for people to recreate in the area it is not being encouraged and any such proposal would not be endorsed at this time.
- Tom was provided with a copy of the access agreement and map.

Next Meeting TBA.

- If any group wishes to send a representative to participate actively at the next meeting please Contact Dina Hanson or George Schultze so that you will be apprised of the date when next meeting date is set.
- As always, if any group has any comments questions or points they would like to have discussed and considered at the VRAMG meetings they can pass the information on to one of the active participants so that it can be tabled at the next meeting.