

Reference: 145946

Adrian de Groot, Chair
Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board
PO Box 577
Smithers BC V0J 2N0

Dear Adrian de Groot:

Thank you for your letter of November 10, 2006, regarding a Recreation Access Management Plan (RAMP) in the Bulkley Timber Supply Area (TSA).

I would like to acknowledge the Community Resources Board (CRB) for their contribution to the Current Recreational Access Agreements (CRAA) document. Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) staff informs me that CRB has been very helpful in providing comment and assisting in putting this document together. Smithers' staff are currently in the process of addressing the final changes recommended by CRB, and expect to have the document completed shortly. Our hope is that with the increased clarity this document will bring to recreational users that levels of conflict will decrease. We do recognize, however, that CRAA only addresses part of the issue.

As has been previously communicated to CRB, Ministry staff are fully engaged on other priority projects at this time. Integrated Land Management Bureau's service plan delivery priorities are not set by ILMB regional staff alone, but rather through inter-agency dialogue and business planning sessions where priorities, both regionally and provincially, are determined. We believe that completing the RAMP will involve a significant commitment of funds, experienced staff and contractors over a period of approximately one year.

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Ministry staff would be pleased to meet with you to better define the scope of the project and resource requirements to set the stage for further discussions with other agencies and stakeholder groups. Please contact Fred Oliemans at (250) 847-7575 to further discuss this possibility.

Again, thank you to all members of the board for your time and commitment to proactively resolving natural resource issues in the Bulkley TSA.

Sincerely,



Dave Byng
Assistant Deputy Minister

pc: Fred Oliemans, Planning Team Leader
Regional Client Services Division - LMB