



OPINION

CRB responds to last week's Guest View

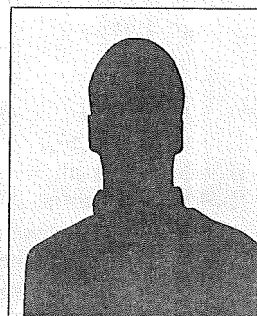
I am responding to the letter from the Bulkley Valley Rod and Gun Club concerning the Summer Recreational Access Management Planning process (Summer RAMP) being conducted by the BV Community Resources Board (BVCRB).

The BVCRB is viewed as a model of public participation in this province and is one of the longest standing groups of its kind in B.C. It is comprised of 12 volunteers representing the full range of value perspectives in the community. In the years since its inception, over 60 citizens of the area have served as Board members, and

its actions are governed by a clear Terms of Reference. Information about the Board and its activities is available at the BVCRB website, www.bvcrb.ca.

The BVCRB regrets that the BV Rod and Gun Club has chosen to not participate in this community based planning process. The Club's members have a wealth of knowledge and experience about recreational activities in the area, and the Summer RAMP Table is committed to an open and complete discussion of all available information.

Summer RAMP Table members were selected to ensure a balance of perspec-



GUEST VIEW
Ben Heemskerk

tives about summer recreational activities in the Bulkley Valley. The selection criteria for Table members, as well as contact information, is available at the BVCRB website. To ensure fairness in the process, a contract facilitator also pro-

vides an independent and neutral chair. The process is completely open, and documents and correspondence are available for viewing by the public on the BVCRB website. See www.bvcrb.ca/ramp for Summer RAMP information.

It is unfortunate that the BV Rod and Club feels that the Summer RAMP process would not fairly represent their interests. On the contrary, the process intends to provide certainty of access to high quality recreation for all users, both motorized and non-motorized, including hunters and anglers. This is the community's opportunity to provide

input into how recreation plays out on the landscape before other pressures dictate it.

The Summer RAMP process invites input from all members of the Bulkley Valley community, including both recent and long term residents. The BVCRB website contains links for contact with any of the 12 Summer RAMP Table members, or submissions can be made to the BVCRB Recreation Sub-Committee. In addition, a public meeting will be held in mid-February. I can be contacted directly at ChairRec@bvcrb.ca.

Ben Heemskerk is the Chair of the BVCRB Recreation Sub-Committee