

Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board  
Box 577  
Smithers, BC  
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November 10, 2006

Dave Byng  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Regional Client Services  
Integrated Land Management Bureau  
PO Box 9352, Stn Prov. Gov't  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9M1

**Re: Completion of a Recreation Access Management Plan (RAMP) for the Bulkley TSA**

**Dear Dave Byng,**

The Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) is writing to request that the Integrated Resource Management Bureau (ILMB) undertake to complete a Recreation Access Management Plan (RAMP) for the Bulkley TSA. The reasons we feel this project needs the attention of your agency are outlined below, as is some background on the issue.

The BVCRB has been active in resource management issues in the Bulkley Region since 1991. The BVCRB formed the planning table that wrote the Bulkley Land and Resources Management Plan (LRMP), and has been active in monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the LRMP since it was signed in 1998. The local ILMB office has been very helpful in addressing many land and resource use issues in the area and we have been working together successfully on a number of projects. Most recently, the BVCRB partnered with ILMB on the development of the Bulkley Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP). This potentially controversial plan was approved with a high level of public support. The BVCRB has also recently been used as a model for other Plan Implementation Committee's around the province where LRMP's have been completed.

Recreation management has been a contentious issue in the Bulkley TSA for many years. A recent report on the implementation of the Bulkley LRMP has shown that most of the outstanding issues are related to recreation management. A RAMP was drafted for much of the Bulkley TSA in 1997, but agreement between user groups was not reached on all areas. Further, new issues have arisen since the RAMP and the LRMP were written. These unresolved issues have had led to the Forest Practices Board having to investigate several recreation based complaints in the Bulkley TSA in recent years; this has cost much time and effort.

The lack of a RAMP in the Bulkley TSA can also have negative economic effects. For example, potential investors in commercial backcountry recreational infrastructure will be hesitant to do so with the potential of further recreational conflicts looming over the region.

The Bulkley LRMP Implementation Report, states that completion of the RAMP is designated as a very high priority. Indeed, the BVCRB spends much of its time dealing with recreational issues in the region. Multiple access agreements related to the RAMP by numerous agencies led to much

confusion amongst recreation users over the last few years. Recent efforts by the ILMB Smithers office have consolidated all the existing recreation access agreements into one document and one set of maps. This has been very helpful in resolving the confusion amongst recreational users about which areas are open for their activity. It has also set the base for completing the RAMP for the Bulkley TSA.

Once the RAMP has been completed the BVCRB will consider the LRMP largely implemented. We feel that government could use the complete implementation of the Bulkley LRMP as a model of how it intends to fulfill the commitments made in LRMP's throughout the province.

The BVCRB understands that ILMB has many priorities and limited resources, but we believe that completion of the RAMP need not be a lengthy or costly process. The BVCRB requests that ILMB include the RAMP into its fiscal work plans and budgets, to be completed by March 31, 2008. This plan would then need to be implemented, monitored and enforced. This would be one of the final steps needed before we would consider the Bulkley LRMP (1998) as fully implemented.

Sincerely,

Adrian de Groot, Chair  
Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

Cc: Jim Yardley, Assistant Deputy Minister, Tourism and Resort Development Division, Ministry of  
Tourism, Sport and the Arts  
Eamon O'Donoghue, Regional Client Services Manager, Integrated Land Management Bureau  
Barry Smith, District Manager, Skeena/Stikine Forest District, Ministry of Forests and Range  
Hugh Markides, Regional Manager, Ministry of Environment  
Danelle Harris, Regional Manager, Adventure Tourism, Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts  
Kevin Eskelin, District Recreation Officer, Nadina/Skeena District  
Dennis Mackay, MLA, Bulkley Valley-Stikine