

**January 2011**

*Telkwa Mountain Access Understanding*

*Agreement between the Houston Snowmobile Club, Smithers Snowmobile Association and Ministry of Natural Resource Operations (MNRO) regarding winter motorized access into the voluntary non-motorized designated zones in the Telkwa Caribou Recovery Area*

- Recognizing that caribou recovery is the overriding priority in the area, through the Snowmobile Organizations (here after referred to as Clubs) additional special (limited) access may be available, provided that the needs of the caribou are met through conformance to the below provisions. These provisions are in addition to those outlined in the related document “*Telkwa Mountains Caribou Recovery Project Voluntary Recreation Access Restrictions*” [March, 2003 – attached as a supplement to this Agreement]:
- Clubs will co-manage (i.e. limiting use, promote awareness and compliance) the “special” winter motorized access into the non-motorized area (Zone B: including the ‘Meat Cache’ corridor and the Starr Creek Area);
- Clubs will develop, implement, and maintain an effective notification program, including options such as signage, phone calls, emails or other means of communication, so users will be clearly aware of when the special winter motorized access privileges are in effect or when the non-motorized designation applies;
- The CORE Recovery Area (Zone D) remains off limits;
- East of Thautil R, snowmobile activity would be in the southern portion of the ‘Meat Cache’ area to access the steep topography found there [*warning: avalanche hazard*]. The flatter terrain (ridge tops) is to be avoided;
- If caribou are present in the area, determined either through telemetry or the observation of animals or sign, special winter motorized access privileges are suspended and the Clubs will initiate notification program to ensure user compliance. Special snowmobile privileges will not resume until it is determined co-operatively between government (MNRO) and the Clubs that the caribou have left the area;
- Winter motorized activity is to cease as of April 30;
- Clubs are committed to addressing the access/caribou concerns and are willing to make reasonable and responsible efforts to ensure that the caribou receive the protection they require. Clubs further acknowledge that legislated closure will be necessary as a final option if the voluntary restrictions can not be made to work;

**March 2003**

## **Telkwa Mountains Caribou Recovery Project Voluntary Recreation Access Restrictions**

As agreed to by the Voluntary Recreational Access Management Group (VRAMG)

### **Zone A - Integrated Use Areas**

- No restrictions.
- Access will be controlled through the deactivation (gates, barricades, ditching and bridge removal) of industrial roads.

### **Zone B - Non- Motorized Areas**

- Generally no motorized recreational access is allowed (winter or summer).
- Some winter motorized recreation opportunities are potentially available through the Smithers and Houston snowmobile clubs.
- No dogs allowed

### **Zone C – Grizzly Plateau Area**

- No summer recreational motorized access is allowed past the “Gas Stop” (May 1 – September 15)
- There are no non-motorized restrictions
- There are no winter motorized restrictions (Sept 16-April 30).
- No dogs allowed.

### **Zone D – Core Recovery Area** (includes Hankin Plateau, Webster Lake and Hunters Basin)

- Generally, no recreational access is allowed in this zone except for non-motorized access between July 15 and September 30.
- Additional limited access opportunities may be available through clubs after discussion with the VRAMG .
- No dogs allowed

### **Mooseskin Johnny Trail**

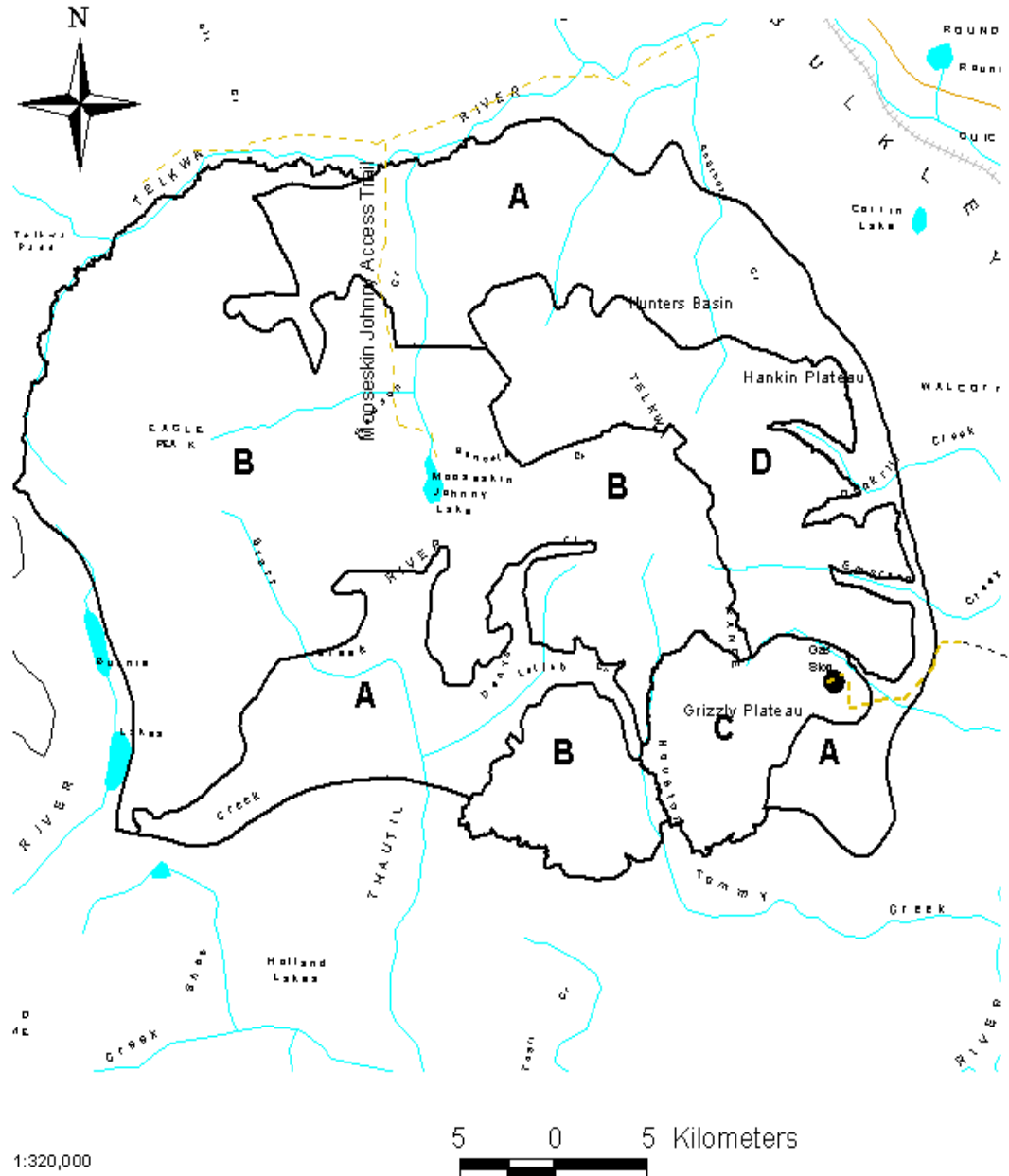
- Motorized access is allowed along the old access trail from the Telkwa River bridge to Mooseskin Johnny lake. Industrial access upgrades and development (roads and Bridges) are not intended to improve or increase the recreational access to the area.

**Note:** *The 18 Km bridge across the Telkwa R. Is not intended to facilitate recreational activities except for, due to the Morice LRMP, the one weekend a year agreement to allow motorized access through the Protected Area*

### **Behavior Protocol**

1. Dogs are not permitted in the alpine
2. If caribou tracks are observed do not follow the tracks.
3. If you see caribou do not approach. Do not attempt to get closer for photographs. Stay downwind if possible.
4. If caribou are encountered while you are operating a motorized vehicle, turn off your machine and allow the animals to calmly move away. After the caribou have departed, leave the area. Make every effort to minimize disturbance.
5. If caribou are encountered while you are engaged in non-motorized activities such as skiing, hiking, cycling or riding keep voices quiet and movement limited until the caribou have left the area. If the animals do not appear to see you, leave the area immediately.
6. Remember you are in their home.

# Telkwa Mountains Caribou Access Areas



- Zone A - Integrated Use**
- Zone B - Non- Motorized Recreation**
- Zone C - Grizzly Plateau Winter Motorized, Summer Non-Motorized**
- Zone D - Core Recovery Area July 15 to Sept 15 Non Motorized Access**
- Mooseskin Johnny Trail - Motorized access along trail to Mooseskin Johnny Lk only.**