



# Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

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Mail: Treasurer Ron Vanderstar, 11565 Old Babine Lake Road,  
Smithers, BC. V0J2N7

March 6, 2026

**To: Smithers Snowmobile Association**  
**Referral No. 186472291 - proposed new snowmobile trail to Microwave Ridge**

**To Kyle Kurulak,**

The Board would like to acknowledge the Smithers Snowmobile Association (SSA) for submitting an excellent application for the construction of a new winter access trail to the microwave snowmobile area from the Pine Creek FSR. We would also like to thank Brandy Hughes from Trails and Recreation for passing the referral on to the board for review.

Managing recreational access is important to provide a variety of experiences and to minimize the impact of human disturbance on fish, wildlife, and other environmental resources. As directed by the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), a strategic Recreational Access Management Plan is required for the Bulkley Plan Area. Although a significant amount of data has been collected in the past, this has not been completed for winter access. It is the opinion of the Board that no new winter recreational areas or trails be developed without first having completed a Winter Recreational Access Management Plan (WRAMP). To do so is inconsistent with the LRMP Consensus Management Direction. The WRAMP needs to be completed. The Board encourages the SSC to support this process.

The board does support these site-specific improvements, while emphasizing the need to complete the WRAMP. Without this groundwork, we cannot predict potential impacts, consistency with objectives set by government, conflicts with other users and community concerns or support. These issues will need to be resolved.

The proposed trail will likely increase snowmobile activity near or in mountain goat winter habitat. We insist that the SSC meet with appropriate agencies to formulate a plan to mitigate impacts to mountain goats. The board supports the recommendation from the B.C. Mountain Goat Society to legally designate the western portion of the Microwave Range non-motorized (see attached report).

It will be important for participating parties to ensure that unauthorized motorized summer access is prevented from this trail, particularly as future trail conditions change. We feel it is critical to follow through with legal designation of the trail to ensure appropriate future use and management.

Sincerely: Ron Vanderstar  
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