

**Caribou Working Group Meeting**  
**April 16, 2007**  
**ILMB Office, 1902 Theatre Rd**

**Working Group Purpose:**

1. Discuss proposed winter closures in addition to the current CWRMS agreements for the upper (high elevation) portions of late winter caribou habitat in the Purcell Range that includes approximately 12 roads and some cutblocks located at the end of these roads.
2. Discuss regulating CWRMS snowmobile closures for caribou under the *Wildlife Act* in order to enable enforcement if necessary.

**Working Group members:** Ken Philpot, Earl Tatlow, Dave Miller, John Bergenske, Rob Bishop (absent), Dave Quinn, Bob Faiers.

**Guest Speakers:** Trevor Kinley (MCST), Leo DeGroot (SARCO/MOE)

**ILMB:** Bill Adair, Sangita Sudan (notes)

1. *Discuss proposed winter closures in addition to the current CWRMS agreements for the upper (high elevation) portions of late winter caribou habitat in the Purcell Range that includes approximately 12 roads and some cutblocks located at the end of these roads.*
  - Trevor Kinley and Leo DeGroot expressed concerns that the current CWRMS agreements do not include some high elevation caribou habitat on roads and cutblocks in Redding, Mathew, Angus, Nokes, VOR south, Mt. Evans, and Walsh spur, London, Negro, Wuhun, Shorty/Grassy and Goldrun. They would like members of the CWRAC to consider these additional closures.
  - Trevor pointed out that the main issue is not with the cutblocks but with the roads themselves which are in prime caribou habitat.
  - Ken Philpot and Dave Miller representatives from the Cranbrook Snowmobile Club and the BC Snowmobile Federation stated that they will not agree to additional closures in caribou habitat and they cannot speak for the unorganized group from Kimberley which is not part of their club.
2. *Discuss regulating CWRMS snowmobile closures for caribou under the Wildlife Act in order to enable enforcement if necessary.*

## Cranbrook West Recreation Advisory Committee (CWRAC)

- Leo asked Dave M and Ken P to consider putting the caribou closure agreements in the plan, under the *Wildlife Act* to ensure enforceability. These wildlife closures do not have to be permanent and are reviewed every year.
- Ken asked Leo who would enforce these closures.
- Leo informed a budget for caribou recovery including enforcement is currently under review in Victoria. He also informed that the Creston snowmobile club has agreed to regulate closures in caribou areas.
- Ken and Dave told Leo that the snowmobile sector is hesitant to support *Wildlife Act* closures of CWRMS agreements. They indicated that enforcement of these closures can be done without legislation. They believe the closures under the *Wildlife Act* would be too difficult to reverse once in place especially if caribou become extirpated from the South Purcell.
- Leo indicated that regulations can be changed as conditions change. They are willing to review wording to be included in the next edition of the hunting synopsis regarding caribou closures.  
**ACTION: Leo and Sangita will develop wording for caribou regulation in the hunting synopsis for review at the next CWRAC meeting.**
- Ken P stated that if the RMS snowmobile closures for caribou are regulated under the *Wildlife Act*, the Cranbrook Snowmobile Club would not undertake caribou related stewardship activities. This directly contravenes the MOU recently signed between government and the BC snowmobile federation (Section 5 of the MOU).

Meeting was adjourned.