

**Cranbrook West Recreation Advisory Committee
Final Outstanding Items Working Group
September 27 2007, 6:00 – 7:00 PM
ILMB Office, Cranbrook
2nd Meeting**

Present:

Sangita Sudan, OIWG Chair	Andy Balcom, Kimberley Wildlife & Wilderness Club
Bill Adair CWRAC Chair	Dave Miller, BC Snowmobile Federation
Leanne Colombo, GCC	Peter Davidson, Rocky Mtn. Naturalists
Dave Quinn, EKBC	

Absent:

Tom McDougall, Koot Mush & Berry Pickers	Larry Hall, E.K. Hunters Assoc.
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Presenter:

Doug Martin, MOE

Recorder:

Sylvia Neufeld, ILMB Planning Assistant

Welcome and Introductions

- Round-table introductions. Chair welcomed the group and thanked them for attending.

Review and approval of Agenda

- Mid-Elevation Grasslands
- Unresolved items Table B

Agreed by all present: Agenda be approved

Mid Elevation Grasslands and Table B

- Sangita informed the group that today she along with Doug Martin MOE, Leanne Colombo MOFR, Andy Balcom (CWRAC motorized Rep) and Peter Davidon (CWRAC Non-motorized Rep), flew over areas that have been identified as Mid-Elevation Grasslands (Status unresolved) and zones #14 and #15 on map 1 (Table B) of the CWRMS Plan.
- The purpose of this meeting is to review the photographs taken on the flight and have a discussion on what was observed. A recommendation does not have to be made tonight instead the results of the discussion can be presented to the larger table at the general meeting on October 9th.
- Doug noted that at Moyie Mountain where an old MOF tower and microwave repeater stands, there are significant signs of off road use both old and recent.
- Dave M informed that the location of the microwave tower is incorrectly named Moyie Mountain as shown on the MOF maps. This area has

traditionally been used for ATV use where several roads on the site were built by the forest service. The Eagles Nest RV Park located off the highway, promotes ATV use here for their clients and so it is no surprise that there is off-road use.

- Doug M noted that Connell Ridge to the south also shows sign of off-road use. Other areas such as Teepee Mountain and Yakh Mountain for the most part show little damage since people have been staying on roads.
- Sangita asked Andy and Peter to present on their observations of the sites flown.

Summary by Andy Balcom

- Andy noted that there was some off road use in Mid-Elevation Grasslands but not as extensive as in the Kimberley Airport area and the Cranbrook Watershed. He suggested that a lot of these tracks have been there for years. Perhaps signs should be posted in these areas to stay off sensitive grasslands instead of closing access.

Summary by Peter Davidson

- Peter noted that there was significant off-road use in areas where traditional access exists for either trucks or ATVs.
- He suggested that the Teepee Ridge access should be confined to the existing fire trails or eliminated through signage where it is evident that off trail ATV use has occurred and probably by recreationists. There is a cut-block within .5 km of the Ridge that could be used as a jump-off point. Peter suggested signage should be posted and if this fails then perhaps consider road closure.
- Brochures and pamphlets can also convey the message regarding access management to a wider audience.

General Discussion

- It was noted that in mid elevation grasslands where there is potential for future development such as wind power generation or mining, access should be confined to only that needed by industry.
- Sangita asked what is the best way to approach the question of how to manage mid-elevation grasslands in the plan so that the blue blobs can be taken off the map?
- It was suggested that some of these areas resolve themselves because there is no summertime access to them, yet. However we need to think about it now before the access is put in.
- Dave Q suggested that all mid-elevation grasslands currently with no access up should be zoned non-motorized, to protect them from future forestry/mining road access
- Dave M suggested where there is traditional access try education first since enforcement at this time is not possible.

- Sangita suggested that if mid-elevation grasslands can be delineated on the map then a recommendation to stay on roads should be expanded to say bladed roads.
- Leanne suggested identifying the biogeoclimatic zone associated with mid-elevation grasslands and the recommendation to stay on roads should be expanded to say bladed roads.

ACTION: Sangita to check on Biogeoclimatic Zone for Mid-Elevation Grasslands

- Doug M expressed concern regarding recent land tenures issued to wind power monitoring sites in some of these areas. If these areas are identified for potential wind power turbines then a road may be built to access and maintain the sites. MOE is not in favour of this development.
- Dave observed that there is not enough continuous wind to justify this development so does not see any future wind farms being viable.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 PM