

January, 2009

The Golden Backcountry Recreation Access Plan has been approved by government for 6 years now. The plan came about after local volunteer stakeholders attended over 30 meetings to discuss and largely agree upon patterns of recreational use in the Golden area in order to maintain valuable recreation experiences, promote and manage tourism, and manage our impact on important wildlife habitat. The plan does not affect forestry operations.

Our Golden Backcountry Recreation Advisory Committee (GBRAC) is mainly composed of sector representatives, and meets regularly to monitor and recommend required changes to the plan to the Integrated Land Management Bureau of the B.C. Provincial Government. Recently, the committee has been discussing the West Bench area – from Canyon Creek north to Quartz Creek, in an effort to consider what is required so the plan can best reflect public and commercial recreational and other concerns.

The GBRAC Terms of Reference requires that all sectors work together to recognize and respect everyone's recreational needs, and work to balance key values. Our committee membership, to date, is as follows:

Committee Sector	Representative
Public Ground Motorized Sector	Hal Porter
Commercial Ground Motorized Sector	Randy Baun
Public Non Motorized Sector	Bruce Fairley / Marvin Lloyd
Commercial Non-Motorized Sector	Bernie Schiesser
Commercial Aerial Motorized Sector	Rudi Gertsch / Greg Porter
Habitat Protection; Sport Fishing and Hunting Sector	Dale Foster
Environmental Protection Sector	Ellen Zimmerman / Rachel Darvill
Forest Industry Sector	Peter Russell
Parks Canada Sector	Todd Keith
GBRAC Local and Regional Government Sector	Jon Wilsgard / Ron Oszust
<i>for the West Bench area only:</i>	
Kicking Horse Mountain Resort	Steve Paccagnan
Golden Nordic Ski Club	Jeff Dolinsky

We welcome you to contact any of our committee representatives to discuss our work to date, or the ongoing discussions regarding the West Bench.

Please remember that while we agree for the most part on how and where we recreate, there are key areas where we have to continue to work together to find solutions.

The GBRAC are unanimous in recognizing:

- The Golden area is likely to continue to experience growth in recreation.
- That by working together now, we can more effectively deal with future issues.
- We must maintain the local recreation experiences we all seek.
- Tourism in the backcountry is important, and should be developed in consideration of other values.

Sincerely,

The Golden Backcountry Recreation Advisory Committee