

Terms of Reference
For
The Golden Backcountry Recreation Advisory Committee
(GBRAC)

January, 2009

Definitions

“Government”	means those local provincial government representatives designated as liaisons to the Golden Backcountry Recreation Access Plan.
“GBRAP” or “the plan”	means Golden Backcountry Recreation Access Plan
“GBRAC”	means Backcountry Recreation Advisory Committee
“MAL”	means Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Mission Statement

To seek maintenance of the balance of social, environmental and economic recreational opportunities which are inherent in the Golden Backcountry Recreation Access Plan. This will involve work towards plan implementation as well as strategic guidance to plan changes, in consideration of the high degree of negotiation-based consensus that was fundamental to the origin of the plan.

Objectives

The committee will liaison with government primarily through the Regional Director, Integrated Land Management Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, or his/her designate. For operational implementation issues, liaison may also occur directly with other government agencies or corporations where appropriate.

It is the role of the Golden Backcountry Recreation Advisory Committee to uphold the approved plan objectives and management direction. The role of the committee is one of making recommendations, as the ultimate decisions for changes to the plan and tenure approval resides with government. Specific duties of the committee will include:

- Recommending changes and improvements to plan objectives and direction to reflect new information as it becomes available;
- Providing recommendations for strategic and operational implementation, and assisting with developing implementation strategies in key areas;
- At the committee’s discretion, reviewing of proposals and developments for public and commercial recreation activities, when government or the proponent solicits the advice of the GBRAC. Providing sound recommendations to proponents and government consistent with approved plan objectives and management direction. This may involve, at the committee’s discretion, resolution of issues between commercial backcountry users.
- Reviewing the plan maps to ensure technical correctness, and assisting government in increasing the resolution of mapping data as required;
- Participating in plan promotion and acting as ambassadors for community relations to this end;
- Assisting in securing funding for implementation and monitoring requirements; and,

- At the request of government, generating ideas and recommendations for similar planning processes, and working to develop efficient strategies for similar plans with colleagues and government agencies in other jurisdictions.

It is recognized that the GBRAC does not represent the entire recreational community, and that there are other key personal, corporate and public entities at the local and provincial levels that have the equal ability to make recommendations to government.

Membership

- Government shall decide which sectors are members of the committee.
- Sectors will choose which individuals represent them. Sectors may rotate their representatives, but appointments should be for two-year terms.
- Both government and sectors will strive to have members with a diversity of experience and expertise.
- Representatives must abide by and sign off this Terms of Reference in order to be confirmed or maintained as committee members. If any representatives are not following this requirement, government will decide and require the sector to nominate a new representative, or failing that, will recruit a new representative for the sector.
- Government representatives will act as facilitators for the committee, and will act as chairperson and secretary during committee meetings.
- The optimum size of the committee shall be between ten to fifteen members.
- Members of the committee shall not receive remuneration for their participation and will not normally be reimbursed for expenses associated with attending meetings.
- Sub-committees may be established, as needed, to address specific issues or projects, and may include non-committee membership if required.

Current Committee Membership

<u>Sector Member</u>	<u>Representative Organization</u>	<u>Representative (and Alternate)</u>
Public Ground Motorized	Golden Snowmobile Club	Hal Porter
Commercial Ground Motorized	Golden ATV Club	Randy Baun
Public Non Motorized	Golden Outdoor Recreation Association	Bruce Fairley (Marvin Lloyd)
Commercial Non-Motorized		Bernie Schiesser Paul Leeson
Public Aerial	Alpine Helicopters	Dirk Debie
Commercial Aerial		Rudi Gertsch (Greg Porter)
Habitat Protection; Sport Fishing and Hunting Access	Golden Rod and Gun Club	Dale Foster
Environmental Protection	WildSight	Ellen Zimmerman (Rachel Darvill)
Forest Industry	Louisiana Pacific Engineered Wood Products Wood River forest Products B.C. Timber Sales	Peter Russell
Local and Regional Government	Town of Golden, EDO Office, CSRD	Jon Wilsgard Ron Ozsust
Provincial Government	MoTCA, ILMB	Ken Gibson Darcy Monchak
Federal Government	Parks Canada	Todd Keith (Ken Shroeder)
Golden Nordic Club (<i>sector for the West Bench area only</i>)		Jeff Dolinsky
Kicking Horse Mountain Resort (<i>sector for the West Bench area only</i>)		Steve Paccagnan

Roles and Responsibilities of Committee Members

Each member is expected to:

- Help to establish GBRAC annual workplan goals and objectives and ways to achieve them;
- Ensure familiarization with the approved GBRAP objectives and management direction;
- Attend scheduled meetings and serve on sub-committees when requested;
- Represent their sector based upon the best factual information;
- Respect the rights and opinions of other committee members. Be willing to work cooperatively to address the concerns and values of other sectors at the table in addition to those of the sector that they represent; and,
- Decline participation when a conflict of interest is possible. Members must fully represent their constituency at all times, conveying sectoral, not personal opinions to the committee, and consult with their sector membership when required to ensure representational participation at the committee table.

The Chair is expected to:

- Call and co-ordinate meeting dates, and set agendas;
- Preside over meetings;
- Present reports and recommendations to government for discussion and action;
- Provide direction and serve as spokesperson for the committee; and,
- Encourage an atmosphere conducive to productive discussion.

Meetings and Communications

- The committee shall meet at least twice a year; to coincide with the end of each recreation “season”, or as required, at the discretion of the chair.
- Government will provide administrative support services in the form of mapping changes, meeting locations, and communication facilitation.
- The committee shall invite area specific stakeholders to meetings where required, or refer relevant issues to the larger stakeholder group at large for input.
- The committee shall develop an annual workplan, in relation to the Terms of Reference that identifies goals and objectives relative to the implementation and monitoring goals of the plan, for the following year.
- Government shall provide relevant new information, where possible, as it becomes available and as requested by the committee.

Process for Making Recommendations

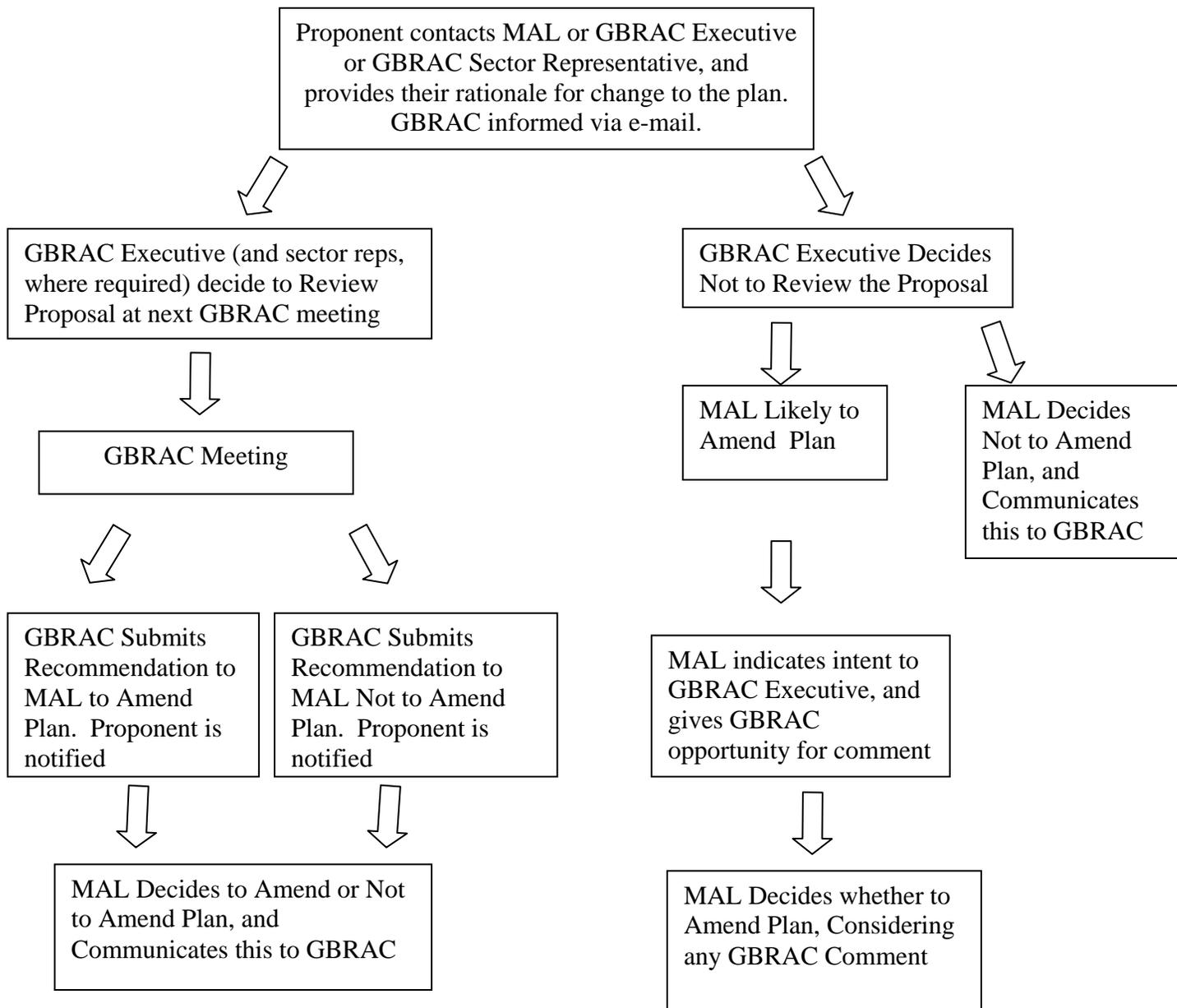
- In developing recommendations to proponents and government, the GBRAC will strive to follow a consensus-based format. Notwithstanding, recommendations regarding major and minor amendments to the plan made to government from the committee shall include the positions of all committee members regarding issues discussed, in the event that consensus cannot be reached on a specific issue. Preliminary to this may occur open discussion between committee members, which are not necessarily recorded.
- On behalf of the committee, the Chair will prepare and submit to government, a brief report of discussions and recommendations following each meeting, where applicable.
- Committee recommendations involving major plan amendments will be ultimately conveyed to the appropriate statutory decision-makers within the provincial government and to the broader stakeholder interest group (attached). The committee shall be kept informed of the final disposition of each recommendation, particularly if a government decision differs from a GBRAC recommendation.

There are two types of recommendations that can come from the GBRAC:

1. Those that occur as a result of a complete review of plan zonations (this may occur every number of years, as time and the need permit).
2. Those that occur on an adhoc basis, due to proposals from proponents or other immediate circumstances.

The below flowchart and procedures relate to 2) above (those recommendations based upon adhoc proposals to change the content of the Plan:

Flowchart showing steps that are involved in adhoc plan amendment (for more detail, see the points which follow this flowchart)



Recommended Detailed Procedures for adhoc plan amendment

1. Besides the latest recommendations regarding mountain goat areas, the GBRAC will not recommend changes to the plan to existing RA1/RM1 areas within 2003 and 2004 calendar years. Therefore, those geographic areas of the plan will likely remain stable for that period, at least.
2. When a proponent has a proposal which does not comply with the plan, proponents will contact the GBRAC Executive, or most appropriate sector representative of GBRAC (i.e. the sector which best represents the proponents activity), or to MAL. The contacted party will then inform the proponent of which sectors should be contacted to assist the proponent with identification of issues. The contacted party will document (via E-mail to GBRAC members) issues of concern that were communicated to the proponent. The proponent must be told that the GBRAC may not have time to consider this proposal, in which case it may still be considered by MAL for plan amendment.
3. If the proponent wishes to proceed with the proposal, the next step is for the proponent to document why it is beneficial to the plan for the GBRAC to consider the proposed changes and how issues of concern are being dealt with.
 - If a wildlife issue, get input from concerned sectors and biological expertise
 - If a social issue, get input from concerned sectors

This will require the proponent to consider how the proposal affects the balance of social, environmental and economic opportunities in the plan regarding their activity, and consider cumulative impacts to plan values, where appropriate. The proponent should offer solutions to maintain the current balance of plan opportunities, where appropriate. Note that in exceptional circumstances the proponents will be asked to provide a technical cumulative impact assessment.

The issue of carrying capacity and levels of acceptable change were only indirectly dealt with in the plan through the Resource Management (RM) Strategies. In the interim for commercial applications, this RM zoning should be used as a guide for the plans' existing levels of acceptable uses.

4. Proponent goes to GBRAC executive to enquire if they will put the proposal onto the next GBRAC meeting agenda.
5. If the GBRAC executive confirms that the proponent has looked into the issues, then they decide whether to consider the proposal and to place it on the next GBRAC meeting agenda. The GBRAC must consider their workload when determining whether to review a proposal.

If not placed on the agenda, then the GBRAC executive must inform the proponent and MAL. If placed on the agenda, the GBRAC executive informs the proponent that they must bring to the meeting: 1) a mapping of the proposed changes to the GBRAC, drawn upon an approved GBRAP technical map (either the summer, winter or aerial maps); and 2) a document explaining the proposal, and rationale for changing the GBRAP maps.

6. GBRAC discusses the proposal with the proponent at the next GBRAC meeting (or during an additional meeting) – with 15 minutes maximum allowed for presentation followed by a brief (5 minute) question period - and makes subsequent recommendations in camera.
7. In making recommendations to MAL, the GBRAC considers:
 - Does the proposal adequately address the issues and propose strong arguments that would lead to the rationale of the original GBRAP decision to be reconsidered?
 - How does the proposal affect the balance of social, environmental and economic values that were often strenuously negotiated into the plan?
 - Does the proposal consider cumulative impacts, where appropriate to do so?

- Does the proposed change make the plan better (does it better provide for the social, economic and environmental values that are already inherent in the plan)?
- Does the proposal demonstrate an understanding of the GBRAP and is the proposal presented in a clear enough manner to be considered?
- the quality of the proposal (the accuracy of mapping, the thoroughness in understanding and planning for social, economic, and environmental impact of the proposal on the plan) and application will be taken into consideration

Flexibility may be exercised when using the above procedures.