

**SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
INTERIM AREAS WORKING GROUP
December 10, 2003
Best Western, Fernie, B.C.
Abbreviated Notes**

ISSUE: INTERIM MOTORIZED ZONES ON MAP E.7.1.1 (RECREATION ACCESS – SNOWFREE)

In Attendance:

Mike Sosnowski

Bill Hanlon

Dave McRitchie

Pat Gilmar

Peter Cunningham

Gordon Galloway

Douglas Dean

Don Patterson

Kent Petovello

Dave Beranek

Casey Brennan

Steve Short

Dave Grieve

Identified needs and wants

- Good inventory of current roads and trails
- Clear definitions of “road” and “trail”
- Informal but consistent terms to describe road condition/status
- 1:20,000 topographic coverage (contours, water, roads)
- Carrying capacity information, where available
- Biological value statements and up-to-date inventory mapping for the interim motorized areas from MWLAP (at an early date)
- MSRM coordination

Issues discussed

1) Overall objective of having balanced use in these areas; they were not intended to be wide-open or totally restricted.

2) Possible use of conditional statements for global situations, to avoid the need for, or to supplement, detailed Recreation Access designation (e.g. trail not to be used for motorized use when a particular situation is encountered). Global management may not address issues of road density, and the situation where a badly deteriorated road is upgraded for industrial use.

3) New roads:

- should they be
 - automatically closed;
 - automatically open; or
 - initially open or closed, dependent on the map colour, and possibly subject to a later review (current situation);
- current permitting processes for new roads, and potential for construction of new roads to negate our efforts

4) Permitting for new recreation tenures; is carrying capacity being taken into consideration?

5) Other map “refinement” issues (i.e., future tasks); there is the opportunity to identify and note some of these during the process of dealing with the interim areas, but this is not the major focus at this stage

6) Brochure, signage, etc.

7) Proposed process to assemble road inventory:

- Gather input from clubs and others with local knowledge in the communities
- Filter data if possible (“triage”)
- Carry out on-the-ground (field) work where needed
 - group exercise to agree on terminology
 - assigned mapping
- compile data to complete inventory
- actual road and zone designations would be addressed after inventory is completed

8) Other potential methods, and alternate funding sources, to carry out the field component of the inventory

9) Meeting of October 5, 2002. This was a special RMS session to deal with summer recreation access in specific high-road-density road areas corresponding very closely to the current interim motorized areas (in Landscape Units 15 and 16). The notes from this meeting need to be considered in this process.

10) Landscape Unit 25. The interim area was resolved (map notations provided by Mike Sosnowski).

Action items

- MSRM to provide TRIM 1:20,000 hard-copy maps of Landscape Units 82G-007, 008, 017, 018 and 027 to: Kent/Don; Peter; Dave McR.; Mike; Jim Lant and John.
- Individuals who receive maps to arrange sessions for input from club/organization members and other known experts in the communities, to provide a first-pass inventory of current road condition/status.
- MSRM to provide copies of the Golden Backcountry Recreation Access Plan brochure.
- MSRM to check on status of Carrying Capacity Pilot Project report in the Elk Valley (2002), and find out if it can be used when applicable.