Cranbrook West Recreation Management Strategy (RMS)

(Landscape Units C 1 – 13, C 27 – 37)

April 11, 2005

Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM)
Province of British Columbia





April 15, 2005

Dear Readers:

On behalf of Cabinet, I am pleased to confirm approval of the West Cranbrook Recreation Management Strategy (RMS) as government policy. This document will assist government agencies by providing landscape level strategic direction for recreation management within the plan area. The RMS contains key management direction for recreation access and environmental stewardship. The plan is subject to government's commitments under the *Species at Risk Act*.

An Advisory Committee of stakeholder representatives and government agencies will be established. The first Chair of the Cranbrook Backcountry Recreation Advisory Committee (CBRAC) will be MSRM until such time as the Committee elects a new Chair. The role of CBRAC will be to provide advice to government on plan monitoring, review, and amendment and to recommend to MSRM changes in plan direction and content.

I have also requested staff to pursue the following:

- Finalization of hard surface only and motorized areas as noted in Table B of the plan;
- Continue work to develop plan direction for unresolved areas (e.g. mid-elevation grasslands);
- Identify and confirm intensive use motorized areas;
- Promote a Recreational Code of Ethics;
- Employ existing legislation to support plan implementation and enforcement;
- Develop a terms of reference and budget for completion and implementation of a Trench plan;
- Work with the City of Kimberley to receive advice and recommendations on recreation access direction in their community watershed; and
- Work with winter motorized recreationists, the CBRAC and the Ministry of Forests to determine if a suitable motorized route to the Tanglefoot drainage can be identified.

Telephone: 250 354-6333

250 354-6367

Facsimile:

I recognize and appreciate the dedication and effort of stakeholders in developing this plan. The contribution of participants toward completion of this provincial strategy has been significant. I encourage continued participation in plan monitoring and implementation processes.

Yours truly,

George Abbott

Minister

pc: Honourable Wendy McMahon, MLA

(Columbia River-Revelstoke)

Bill Bennett, MLA (East Kootenay)

Deorge abboth

Ken Gorsline, Regional Director Southern Interior Regional Centre, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Pamela Cowtan, Acting Regional Manager, Planning Kootenay Region, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Cranbrook West Recreation Management Strategy (RMS)

Table of Contents

	Page No.			
1.0 Introduction				
1.1 Plan Area/Geography	2			
1.2 Planning Context and Process	2 3			
1.3 Landscape Unit C27 and C28 (Bull River)				
1.4 First Nations	4			
1.5 Plan Monitoring, Review and Amendment	4			
2.0 Strategic Direction				
2.1 Vision, Mission and Goals	6			
2.2 Maps	7			
2.3 Objectives and Strategies	7			
3.0 Definitions	15			
Tables				
A: Degradation Evaluation Framework	17			
B: Ungulate Winter Range areas for Hard Surfaces only (HSO) in the Trench (LU 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37)	18			
Appendices				
1: Recreation Management/Development and Aerial Access	20			
2: Caribou Closures Agreement and Reference Map	22			
3: Community Watersheds	25			
4: (Draft) Code of Conduct for Recreation Activity	29			
Attachments				
1: Process Terms of Reference	48			
2: RMS West List of Participants	51			
3: Stakeholder Table Transmittal Letter (March 5, 2005)	56			
4: Letter from the KKTC	58			
5: Draft Terms of Reference for the Cranbrook (West)	59			
Backcountry Recreation Advisory Committee (CBRAC)				

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Plan Area/Geography

The Cranbrook West Recreation Management Strategy (RMS) plan area totals 846,400 ha and comprises the west side of the former Cranbrook Forest District. The RMS includes <u>only</u> non-park provincial Crown land; no Federal lands, private lands or protected areas are considered in the plan. It encompasses 24 Landscape Units (LU), the municipalities of Cranbrook and Kimberley, the Canadian portion of the Koocanoosa Reservoir, sections of the Kootenay, Bull, Moyie and St. Mary's Rivers and their tributaries east of the Purcells.

The region contains a varied landscape of mountains and broad valley bottoms that provides for a mix of four-season recreation opportunities. As well, the area supports world-renowned populations of fish and wildlife and diverse, contiguous natural habitats. High scenic, conservation and recreation values of the land and water within the plan area contribute to the quality of life for residents and are spurring a current dramatic growth in tourism-related industries. This growth offers significant economic benefits for the local established recreation service sector as well as opportunities for new business.

With the diversity of recreation opportunities, there is also an increasing demand on the land base from both commercial and public recreation users; as a result, there are conflicts between and among them. Impacts on other resource values are also becoming a concern. To help address impacts and conflicts, protect resource values, provide increased certainty for the commercial recreation sector, and to complete recreation planning in the Cranbrook Landscape Units, this area was given priority for strategic recreation access planning. Industrial access is not considered in the plan.

1.2 Planning Context and Process

In 2003, the provincial government approved the Southern Rocky Mountain Management Plan (SRMMP), a landscape-level strategic plan for resource management on those lands lying adjacent and east of the RMS plan area. The SRMMP is a comprehensive, integrated sustainable resource management plan that includes among others a Recreation Chapter (http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/kor/srmmp). Recreation direction for the west portion of the Bull River drainage is included in this plan (Sec. 1.3).

A process similar to the one used to develop the recreation chapter of the SRMMP was employed for the Recreation Management Strategy for west Cranbrook. The process, guided by terms of reference (Attachment 1) began in January 2003 with convening of a stakeholder table. This table, comprising 44 representatives from various recreation sectors, environmental groups and industry (Attachment 2), met extensively throughout the planning period. A draft plan went to an Open House and 21-day public review and comment period ending July 2004. More than 1200 comments were received and, as a result of the many concerns expressed, the stakeholder table was reconvened with

additional resources including professional facilitation services, GIS support and technical staff from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. Policy direction was developed for this second phase of the planning process (Attachment 1) and the resulting Stakeholder plan, signed by 34 stakeholder representatives, was submitted to Minister George Abbott, MSRM, on March 5, 2005 (Attachment 3: Transmittal Letter). Key issues addressed in the letter included:

- agreement that conservation of extremely high wildlife values and recreational
 opportunities in the East Kootenay are a priority and that this requires some
 restrictions in sensitive areas while maintaining access for recreational users;
- a stakeholder commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible recreation through promotion and implementation of a Recreational Code of Ethics;
- expedited establishment of a means of identifying and educating off-road users, particularly non-residents;
- commitment of stakeholders to jointly support implementation;
- that government decision was requested on two areas of non-agreement, ie. access in Mause Creek and mid-elevation grasslands;
- that agreement and success of the plan is contingent on development of a strategic Plan for the Rocky Mountain Trench (LU30-37);
- the need for a coordinated initiative to address the noxious weed problem in the Trench; and
- the need for a financial commitment from government to implement the plan.

The plan and transmittal letter submitted by Stakeholder representatives was distributed to all relevant government agencies for their comments and these have been considered. The Stakeholder RMS plan forms the basis of the final Cranbrook West RMS.

1.3 Landscape Unit C27 and C28 (Bull River)

The east side of the Bull River drainage lies within the Southern Rocky Mountain Management Plan (SRMMP) which was approved by the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management in August 2003. This part of the drainage will remain in the SRMMP and direction approved in this plan will be considered by its Advisory Committee (SRMAC) which oversees implementation of the SRMMP.

The Minister, when the SRMMP was approved, directed staff to expand this plan to include the west side of the Bull including LU C28 and the remainder of LU C27. SRMAC have not to date agreed, as a group, to expand the boundaries of this plan into the West Bull River drainage. They also had requested that input to recreation direction for the Bull River be sought from the RMS West stakeholders since they recreate there and have a strong interest in the Bull River landscape units. It is also logical for plan direction to be implemented for the drainage as a whole. Given this, plan direction for LU C28 and that portion of LU C27 lying west of the Bull River, is included in the RMS plan and will be implemented through the Cranbrook Backcountry Recreation Advisory Committee (CBRAC). When and if the SRMMP is expanded into the West Bull

3

drainage, the roles of the CBRAC and SRMAC will be determined through discussion with both Advisory Committees...

1.4 First Nations

The RMS area lies within the traditional territory of the Ktunaxa Nation, which includes Kinbasket peoples ("Ktunaxa"). The Ktunaxa are in the Agreement-in-Principal stage of the Treaty Process. While the Ktunaxa have been informed of the RMS process, they have advised that consultation has not been adequate. They have agreed (Attachment 4) to approval of the plan by the Minister subject to further consultation through the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ktunaxa Nation and MSRM¹.

1.5 Plan Monitoring, Review and Amendment

Advisory Committee

MSRM will co-ordinate any review or amendment required to the RMS, and will form a Cranbrook Backcountry Recreation Advisory Committee (CBRAC) composed of sectors that represent a diverse cross-section of interests, experience and expertise, and are accountable to their sector to fairly represent their interests. The role of the CBRAC will be two-fold:

- 1. To advise on approved plan objectives and management direction and provide advice to government on plan monitoring, implementation and effectiveness; and
- 2. To recommend to MSRM changes in plan direction and content.

To achieve these roles, the committee will convene on a regular basis and will operate according to process Terms of Reference which have been drafted and will be confirmed by the CBRAC (Attachment 5).

Plan Monitoring

Monitoring of the RMS should help achieve the following objectives:

- To identify if plan implementation is occurring as intended
- To provide data for the review of the effectiveness of implemented management direction and identify required changes to implementation methods
- To ensure correct mapping boundaries and provide clearer interpretation for implementation and plan support
- To identify required changes to strategic management direction resulting from changes in social, economic and environmental conditions which may lead to the development of more detailed and appropriate management direction where necessary.

4

¹ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Establish an Effective Government-to-Government Working Relationship for Land Use Planning, Feb. 2005

An implementation monitoring report will be prepared on a periodic basis covering progress, implementation issues and/or constraints.

Plan Review and Amendment

Major or minor plan review and amendments may be initiated through scheduled plan revisions or through unscheduled plan revisions as a result of unforeseen events.

A major scheduled review of the plan will occur within seven to ten years or as time and need permit. However, local or operational planning processes may, through more detailed mapping, research or public involvement, recommend unscheduled minor or major amendments to the RMS. Examples of events that may trigger the need to consider, or proceed with, an unscheduled amendment are:

- the outcome of CBRAC meetings;
- a significant disturbance to a particular area within the region (e.g., fire, insect/disease outbreak);
- a government decision in the form of a Cabinet directive, or the adoption of new legislation or regulations.

Whether scheduled or unscheduled, proposed plan amendments will be discussed at CBRAC meetings, and then forwarded to the MSRM Regional Manager for decision. The Regional Manager will review the proposed amendments, assess whether it is major or minor in nature, and make a decision whether to: 1) adopt the amendment proposal; 2) reject the amendment proposal; or 3) if considered a major amendment, forward the amendment proposal on to the Deputy Minister for further consideration and recommendation to the Minister of MSRM.

Major versus Minor Plan Amendments:

Major amendments to the plan include changes that potentially result in a substantive alteration to the balance of the plan. Examples of such alteration may involve:

- changes to recreation access or development designations in areas that are highly contentious;
- amendment of the planning area boundary to either take in or delete a substantial amount of land area.

Comment from the general public will be solicited concerning all proposed major amendments to the plan. Major plan amendments will be approved by the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management or their designate. All major changes to the plan will be documented and made available to CBRAC representatives and the general public.

Minor amendments to the plan include changes that do not result in a substantive alteration to the balance of the plan. Examples of such changes include:

• revisions of wording;

- change to recreation access or development designations in areas which are not highly contentious;
- incorporation of new resource inventory or research data Minor plan amendments will be approved by the Regional Manager of MSRM. All minor changes to the plan will be documented and made available to CBRAC representatives and the general public.

Operational Implementation

The RMS provides strategic-level direction for backcountry recreation through its objectives, strategies and mapping and it is intended that this direction will be implemented by the provincial government in conjunction with the policies of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and other agencies. Objectives and strategies are designed to address the role that other land users and industries need to play in resolving relevant issues.

To be effective, implementation will involve cooperation among governments, non-government organizations and the private sector. These may be formalized through Implementation Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding or other joint working arrangements and public education strategies. These arrangements are intended to support recreation management objectives and strategies to ensure efficient use of available human and financial resources within government and outside. For example, the noxious weeds problem requires a coordinated action by a wide range of users to adequately address it. At their discretion, private land owners are encouraged to manage their private land operations in a manner that is complementary to the intent and objectives of this plan.

The RMS is intended to be consistent with provincial legislation and regulation. It is guided by, and incorporates, direction of Kootenay Boundary higher level plans, and is compatible with the Southern Rocky Mountain Management Plan which covers Sparwood, Fernie and Elkford, east of the Bull River. Integration and implementation of plans will occur through MSRM, regional Interagency Committees, and the respective plan Advisory Committees.

2.0 Strategic Direction

2.1 Vision, Mission and Goals

Vision: A high quality natural environment in the plan area will continue to provide a range of quality recreation settings, opportunities and experiences that are essential to those living in and visiting the East Kootenay and are integral to our culture.

Mission: Implement and maintain a recreation management strategy at the landscape level in collaboration with other land users that provides for different recreation opportunities, respects all land users and promotes environmental stewardship.

Goals:

- 1. Promote environmental stewardship.
- 2. Provide for a balance and range of recreation activities throughout the Plan area that applies to both public and commercial recreation use.
- 3. Respect all land users and the land base that supports them.
- 4. Provide a framework to identify and address recreation conflicts on provincial Crown land.

2.2 Maps:

Map 1: Recreation Access – April 2 to November 30 Map 2: Recreation Access – December 1 to April 1

2.3 Objectives and Strategies

In reviewing the plan document, please refer to definitions found in Section 3.0 and Maps 1 and 2. Any discrepancies between the text and associated maps in this document should be decided in favour of the text.

1. Ecosystems and Wildlife

Objective 1-1: Manage recreation access and development to ensure that the current distribution of fish and wildlife, the sustainability of their populations and the integrity of habitats, including water quality, are not compromised.

- a. Recreation access and development, both public and commercial, shall comply with impact mitigation guidelines for all species and habitats as described in current best management practices, (e.g. "Wildlife Guidelines for Commercial Backcountry Recreation in BC", MWLAP, 2002 and "Identified Wildlife Management Strategy", MELP, 1999, and future revisions)
- b. Implement measures such as bridge and ford stabilization, and road/trail stabilization to reduce impacts on water quality from recreation activity.
- c. Permit motorized game retrieval (not pursuit) in motorized restricted areas provided hunters act responsibly to minimize impacts. Specifically there will be no live tree cutting, and wetlands, meadows and other sensitive areas will be avoided. (This does not mean that closures under the *Wildlife Act*, specifically Vehicular Access Hunting Closures (VAHCs) and Access Management Areas (AMAs) can be ignored).
- d. Manage impacts from recreation development (RM) and recreation aerial access (RH) in the plan area according to direction provided in Appendix 1. Aerial access and facility development outside critical wildlife habitat may be permitted for a limited number of sites. Consultation with a professional biologist will be required to determine acceptable levels of development and use.

- e. Work with private landowners to maintain or establish wildlife migration corridors across private lands where fencing is diverting wildlife into dangerous areas and increasing the stress on the animals (e.g. highways).
- f. Restrict mountain bike use in the Galton Range (LU C13) to hard surfaces and close lambing areas to mountain bikes between March 1st and June 14th.
- g. Close trails and spur roads that access areas adjacent to avalanche tracks on the north side of Harrison Creek in the upper Bull River (LU C27) to motorized use in the summer (see Map 1).
- h. Close the main road in the Duncan to motorized use in the summer to the burn from Galbraith Creek (see Map 1).
- i. Manage identified roads and trails as non-motorized in the winter and summer (see Maps 1 and 2) in the Dibble Creek drainage (LU C28).
- j. Close motorized access in the Donnelly (LU C28) between October 15th and March 31st to protect Mule deer migration (see Maps 1 and 2). The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (WLAP) may expand the AMA to implement this temporal restriction.
- k. Two main roads in East Wildhorse (LU C29) are to be left open subject to goat habitat protection strategy (reference Objective1-2.i). Summer closures on spurs and trails to be confirmed in the field with the Advisory Committee (CBRAC) and WLAP biologists.
- Restrict off hard surface recreation access where there is evidence of degradation caused by recreation. Degradation will be evaluated in keeping with the definition of degradation (Section 3.0) and the associated framework (Table A), which takes a comprehensive approach to degradation. Where degradation exceeds identified thresholds remedial actions will be developed in consultation with the Advisory Committee (CBRAC).
- m. Manage non-Trench LU's as Hard Surfaces only for motorized use in the summer (see Map 1) in areas that are greater than 40% slope or subject of other strategies such as protection of alpine or riparian.
- Restrict motorized access to roads, cutblocks and identified corridors (includes Rose Pass) in the upper St. Mary and Dewar Creek (LU C06) drainages in the winter (see Map 2).

<u>Objective 1-2</u>: Manage recreational use on identified Ungulate Winter Ranges (UWR) and grasslands to manage habitat loss and the displacement of ungulates from their preferred habitats.

- a. Restrict motorized use in UWR and grasslands identified on Map 1 (Zones 1- 17) to Hard Surfaces only in the summer (April 2 and November 30) as per direction in Table B. Mountain bikes to be restricted to hard surface trails as well.
- b. Restrict overland travel by mechanized vehicles in unrestricted areas when the ground is wet.
- c. Restrict motorized use to Hard Surfaces only in areas with slopes over 40%.
- d. Restrict motorized use to Hard Surfaces only in areas enhanced to produce natural grasslands provided the cattle are kept off.

- e. Engage recreation stakeholders in grasslands ecosystem restoration projects.
- f. Implement road density management direction from the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan Implementation Strategy (KBLUP-IS) through landscape level operational planning in consultation with the Advisory Committee (CBRAC) and other recreation interests. The intensity of recreation type and use and the road density must be considered when implementing the road density targets.
- g. Restrict motorized recreation access to roads and identified travel corridors in Class 1 & 2 mountain goat and bighorn sheep winter range and class 1, 2 & 3 moose winter range in the winter (see Map 2).
- h. Restrict winter motorized recreation access between December 1st and April 1st to roads and identified travel corridors in the UWR areas to be identified on Map 2. Access to Bear, Deep (east of Plumbob Mtn.) Blue Bottom, Spring 1,2,3, Fitzpatrick, and Secret lakes will be provided. The Advisory Committee (CBRAC) may identify additional access corridors to lakes.
- i. Establish winter and summer non-motorized areas within 300m of the goat and sheep winter ranges identified on the winter and summer maps (Map 1 and 2). The results of goat research that is conducted or underway in these non-motorized areas will be brought to the Advisory Committee (CBRAC) for review.
- j. Manage goat habitat at Mt. Rice (LU C05, C06) as non-motorized in the winter to protect high value goat habitat.
- k. The Advisory Committee (CBRAC) will make recommendations for motorized and Hard Surfaces access in mid-elevation grasslands (see Map 1) in conjunction with WLAP biologists.
- 1. Manage the west side of the Steeples as Hard Surfaces only.

<u>Objective 1-3</u>: Maintain the integrity of Mountain Caribou habitat by managing recreation development and activities in critical habitat within the Plan area.

- a. Restrict motorized use to roads, identified travel corridors and cutblocks within the identified critical Caribou habitat during the winter (see Map 2).
- b. Manage specific identified very high value open basins and ridges identified on the map as shown in Appendix 2.
- c. Support continued research into recreation impacts on Caribou.
- d. Apply the Wildlife Guidelines for Commercial Backcountry Recreation in BC for commercial and non-commercial backcountry recreation in identified critical Caribou habitat. (from: Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife- Caribou Accounts V.2004).
- e. Support development of a strong information, education and enforcement component aimed at managing impacts on Caribou.
- f. Restrict low level aerial overflights and landings in identified critical Caribou winter habitat in accordance with the Wildlife Guidelines for Commercial Backcountry Recreation in BC.
- g. Commercial and non-commercial new recreation facilities and commercial recreation tenures will not be permitted in identified critical Caribou winter habitat.

Objective 1-4: Protect wetland and riparian ecosystems from degradation.

Strategies:

a. Restrict mechanized use within riparian areas to Hard Surfaces only and adjacent to riparian areas to Hard Surfaces only as per the following table.

Area	Buffer beyond riparian or to nearest	
	parallel road which ever is closer.	
Pot holes in the Trench	50m with knock down fencing for wildlife	
Major rivers and streams greater than 5m in	10m from the edge of the riparian in the	
width	Trench	
Marshlands	10m from riparian edge in the Trench	
Permanent Creeks less than 5m	5m from the edge of the riparian in the	
	Trench	
Ephemeral	0 buffer. Hard Surfaces in riparian when	
	wet.	

- b. Motorized access on Hard Surfaces to informal, existing locations (water access sites, campsites, road pullouts) is permitted within buffer zone and riparian area.
- c. Where strong recreational demand exists for managed access within the buffer and riparian, explore options for access that address environmental concerns.
- d. Monitor and identify causes of degradation to wetlands and riparian ecosystems caused by recreation and undertake measures to address the degradation. Enable recreation stakeholders to effectively participate in monitoring of degradation and reporting of results to appropriate government agencies and the Advisory Committee (CBRAC).

Objective 1-5: Protect alpine and avalanche path ecosystems from degradation.

Strategies:

- a. Manage summer recreation access for alpine and avalanche path ecosystems as non-motorized except for hard surface roads (see Map 1).
- b. Horses, mules and mountain bikes are to be kept to existing hard surfaces or trails except for game retrieval.
- c. Encourage foot traffic, particularly groups, to stay on trails while travelling in alpine
- d. Monitor and identify sources of degradation to alpine and avalanche path ecosystems from recreation and undertake measures to address the degradation. Enable recreation stakeholders to effectively participate in monitoring of degradation and reporting of results to appropriate government agencies and the Advisory Committee (CBRAC)

<u>Objective 1-6</u>: Manage recreation access and development within the plan area to maintain endangered, threatened or vulnerable species and communities, as provincially listed, and ensure the health and survival of regionally significant wildlife populations.

Strategies:

- a. Manage recreation access to avoid known sensitive habitats for rare and endangered species, wildlife or vegetation.
- b. Where recreation is identified as having an impact on rare and endangered species by qualified biologists, supported by accepted science, develop and implement mitigation strategies in consultation with the Advisory Committee (CBRAC). Options for mitigating the impacts may include removal of access and restoration of habitat, relocation of access if required and/or implementing seasonal restrictions to avoid disturbance.
- c. Monitor and identify sources of degradation to endangered, threatened or vulnerable, and regionally significant wildlife populations from recreation and undertake measures to address the degradation. Enable recreation stakeholders to effectively participate in monitoring of degradation and reporting of results to appropriate government agencies and the Advisory Committee (CBRAC).

<u>Objective 1-7</u>: Manage recreation access and development within the plan area to maintain wildlife habitat features and Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs).

Strategies:

- a. Manage recreation access and activities to avoid known wildlife habitat features.
- b. Where recreation access is identified as having an impact on a wildlife habitat feature by qualified biologists, develop options for mitigating the impacts including removal of access and restoration of habitat, relocation of access if required and/or implementing seasonal restrictions to avoid disturbance. Develop and implement mitigation strategies in consultation with the Advisory Committee (CBRAC).
- c. Monitor and identify sources of degradation to known wildlife habitat features and undertake measures to address the damage. Enable recreation stakeholders to effectively participate in monitoring of degradation and reporting of results to appropriate government agencies and the Advisory Committee (CBRAC).
- d. Manage recreation in OGMAs in accordance with the established strategies for these areas.

<u>Objective 1-8</u>: Manage recreational use to reduce the spread of noxious weed species.

- a. Document and monitor all known areas of noxious weed infestation including high use areas (e.g. intensive off-road use areas, gravel pits, transfer stations, railway right of ways, and highways).
- b. Government agencies, industries and non-governmental organizations to work together on noxious weed management plans and control. Where problems are identified, develop a comprehensive plan to address the weed issue, which may include temporary access controls while the problem is addressed.

c. Support development of a strong information, education and enforcement program including enforcing the Noxious Weed Act to control the noxious weed problem on crown and private lands.

Objective 1-9: Manage recreation to protect water quality in surface lakes, streams & wetlands for downstream consumptive users.

Strategies:

- a. Ensure recreational activities are not significantly contributing to degradation of water quality. Implement measures such as bridge and ford stabilization, road/trail stabilization, and campsite stabilization or relocation, to reduce impacts on water quality from recreation activity where there is a significant impact.
- b. Manage recreation within Community Watersheds according to Appendix 3.

<u>Objective 1-10</u>: Restrict domestic ruminant species (e.g. llamas, Alpaca, sheep, goat) from Big Horn Sheep and Mountain Goat habitat.

2. Recreation Management and Development

<u>Objective 2-1</u>: Provide recreation opportunities that result in social, economic and cultural benefits for both public and commercial recreation.

- a. Management direction in the Plan will apply to both public and commercial recreation users.
- b. Guide Outfitter, Angling Guides and Commercial Recreation tenure holders within the plan area will be consistent with the Plan. This applies to new structures and tenures and ensures that all tenures when amended are consistent with the access management plan.
- c. Manage the cumulative impacts of recreation developments on environmental quality, public use and existing commercial recreation tenures. (This is not intended to result in exclusive use.)
- d. Apply the "Wildlife Guidelines for Commercial Backcountry Recreation in BC", (Ministry of WLAP, 2002) to tenure applications and ensure that these guidelines are updated on an ongoing basis in consultation with the Advisory Committee (CBRAC).
- e. Establish areas near communities for on and off road motorized winter recreation provided impacts on UWR and communities are addressed (e.g. snowmobiling).
- f. Ensure highway easements through private lands that are available for public access are open to public access and for wildlife migration corridors.
- g. Undertake an assessment of the impacts of off-road use by ATVs relative to other impacts caused by other recreational, commercial or industrial users. Assessment to be undertaken by an independent mutually agreed upon consultant.
- h. Refer the establishment of the Trans-Canada Trail to the Advisory Committee (CBRAC) and local communities for feedback.

<u>Objective 2-2</u>: Manage conflicts between recreation and other land users and amongst recreationalists, consistent with the plan.

Strategies:

- a. Recreation users and other land users will work together to reduce conflicts
- b. Facilitate resolution of conflicts between recreation users and other land users.
- c. Present all road closure and deactivation proposals from all relevant ministries and licensees to the Advisory Committee (CBRAC) for information or review prior to implementation.
- d. Conduct periodic reviews of all VAHCs, AMAs (*Wildlife Act*) and Section 58 (*Forest and Range Practices Act*) closures to ensure they are current and effective or rescinded in consultation with the Advisory Committee (CBRAC) and the general public.
- e. Undertake a review of gated roads and ensure that gates are in place for scientific reasons or to protect property. Present the results of this review to the Advisory Committee (CBRAC) for discussion.

<u>Objective 2-3</u>: Manage impacts of intensive off-road use by designating opportunities within the Plan area for intensive off-road use by motorized vehicles, including 4X4s, ATVs and motorbikes.

Strategies:

- a. Identify appropriate intensive use areas in cooperation with pertinent government agencies including local government, local private land owners, stakeholders and the Advisory Committee (CBRAC). Ensure these areas are of sufficient size to meet the needs of the user groups with easily definable boundaries to contain the use. Investigate the areas identified on the summer map (Map 1), as a priority.
- b. Encourage cooperative management of these intensive use areas among user groups, local residents and responsible agencies.
- c. Provide information and educational programs to publicize the location, rationale and need for Intensive Use areas to gain increased public acceptance.

Objective 2-4: Maintain opportunities for non-motorized recreation within the Plan area.

- a. Manage Forest Recreation trails as non-motorized trails unless otherwise designated by Ministry of Forests (MOF) provided new trail establishment is referred to the Advisory Committee (CBRAC).
- b. Manage the area beyond the Yurt on the Vulcan Road (Patrick Creek), as a non-motorized area in the summer and winter (see Maps 1 and 2)
- c. Manage the Mause Creek trails according to the objectives established by the Ministry of Forests under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, i.e. non-motorized use in all seasons (see Maps 1 and 2).
- d. Manage the Cranbrook community forest and South Star Trails (LU C30) as non-motorized areas in the winter (see Map 2).

- e. Manage Norboe creek (LU C27) and Lakit Mountain (LU C29) as non-motorized areas in the summer and winter to maintain non-motorized recreation opportunities. Lakit road will remain open. The burn on the west side of Lakit is Hard Surfaces only in the summer.
- f. Manage Kimberley Cross-country trails, Lois Creek trails, Horsebarn valley interpretive forest, Kimberley nature park (LU C08) as non-motorized summer and winter
- g. Manage Old Baldy Ridge east of Perry Creek (LU C02) as non-motorized in the summer with provision for motorized access on the existing road.

3. Cultural and Heritage Values

<u>Objective 3-1</u>: Manage recreation access and development to conserve and protect cultural and heritage values.

4. Implementation, monitoring and enforcement

Objective 4-1: Inform the public of the plan, and involve them in plan implementation and future amendments.

Strategies:

a. Provide information to promote awareness of, and compliance with, the plan. (e.g.: in southeast BC, north-western Montana and Idaho, and south-western Alberta).

Objective 4-2: Implement and enforce plan direction.

- a. Establish an Advisory Committee (CBRAC) involving Government agencies and local stakeholders to monitor implementation of the plan and revise the plan as needed to address emerging issues. Ensure the Advisory Committee (CBRAC) meets at least twice a year. (Attachment 5: draft TOR).
- b. Use a combination of legal tools, voluntary compliance and partnerships to implement plan direction and develop and implement an effective program of enforcement and compliance.
- c. Develop a recreation code of ethics in consultation with the Advisory Committee (CBRAC) (see draft in Appendix 4)
- d. Communicate plan direction in a format similar to the Hunting and Fishing Regulations and cross reference them.
- e. Inform the Advisory Committee (CBRAC) of all Commercial Recreation tenure applications, amendments and management plan reviews to ensure that plan direction is being complied with, including consideration of cumulative impacts.
- f. Work with the Advisory Committee (CBRAC) and recreation groups to implement an effective signage program, including providing funding for signage.

- g. If the Government is going to establish a registration system for off-road vehicles,
 - Ensure that it provides a means to identify off-road recreation vehicles (i.e. ATVs, dirt bikes, snowmobiles) to support compliance and enforcement of plan direction. This identification program should involve a small one-time fee (ie. comparable to snow machine registration) for resident and annual fees for non-residents.
 - Ensure that any identification program provides equal opportunity for all (e.g. does not discriminate against youth or others without drivers licenses).
 - Reinvest the fees collected from registration in plan implementation, education and restoration in partnership with user groups.
- h. Provide information on the plan and associated compliance when issuing permits.

3.0 Definitions

Alpine:

Alpine/Parkland/Avalanche Path map notation will be defined as alpine tundra ecosystem including adjacent alpine tundra vegetation communities with well spaced or clumped conifers forest stands and snow maintained avalanche paths. (BEC zones: Alpine, ESSFdkp, ESSFwmp and ESSFwmp1)

Degradation

Any activity, work, or undertaking that may directly, or cumulatively, result in the harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction of ecosystems unless authorized by provincial regulation.

Enhanced

Any forestry or range improvement work that has been specifically initiated for the purpose of improving wildlife habitat or range values.

Hard Surfaces

Hard Surfaces (Summer): hard surface roads or trails (i.e. those that can sustain use without becoming unstable) that are wide enough to accommodate motorized use on a running surface greater than 1m wide that are not otherwise designated as non-motorized.

Managed Forest:

Lands ecologically suited for Douglas Fir and Yellow Pine dominated forest. These provide forage values for 1-3 decades during the forest regeneration phase. Stands may also be partial cut to help promote forage. Snow is typically light to moderate.

Mechanized Use:

Transport of people with wheels, tracks, or skids for traveling over land (including snow).

Open Forest:

Lands ecologically suited for production of large-crowned open forest with bunchgrasses and dryland shrub species. Snow accumulations are typically light. (typically </=40% tree crown closure, multi-storied stand structure, and low stocking levels) (FRPA Ungulate Winter Range)

Open Range:

Lands ecologically suited to production of bunchgrasses and dryland shrub species. Snow accumulations are typically low. (includes existing open range, meadows, cultivated and similar cover classes with </=10% tree crown closure)(FRPA Ungulate Winter Range)

Recreation

A pastime to refresh, entertain, agreeably occupy or indulge in an activity by oneself or with others for enjoyment and responsible personal use of Crown land.

Riparian Area:

The land adjacent to the normal high water line in a stream, river, lake, or pond and extending to the portion of the land that is influenced by the presence of the adjacent ponded or channelled water. Riparian areas typically exemplify a rich and diverse vegetative mosaic reflecting the influence of available surface water.

Summer:

For the purposes of the RMS, Summer begins April 2nd and ends November 30th (Note some temporal management direction may cover portions of either, or both summer and winter periods).

Winter:

For the purposes of the RMS, Winter begins December 1st and ends April 1st. (Note some temporal management direction may cover portions of either, or both summer and winter periods).

Wet

When soil and surface conditions are as follows the ground is wet:

- Ground is saturated water drips from hand squeezed soil "squeeze test";
- Ruts created by mechanized vehicle travel subject to the degradation framework.

TABLES

Table A: Degradation Evaluation Framework

This evaluation Framework is not complete. The RMS needs an evaluation framework(s) that will facilitate implementation of Objective 1-1.1 and Objective 2-1.g. Government will task the appropriate scientists with developing this framework and request these scientists to consider the table below as well as the Soil Conservation Surveys Guidebook January 1997 and Limits to Acceptable Change methodology in developing the framework.

LEVEL	RECOVERY TIME	DESCRIPTION	Spatial Context
LEVEL 1. Vegetation Disturbance Response: Requires Monitoring	seasonalwill recover with no additional use	bent vegetation, damage to shrubs. Visible evidence of use	2% of the ecosystem unit.
LEVEL 2 Soil Disturbance Response: Requires monitoring and warnings to users through signage	1-2 years w/o additional use	 evidence of rutting less than 3cm soil disturbance to level where vegetation has been dislodged or killed compacted soils disturbance to litter layer 	2% of the ecosystem unit.
LEVEL 3 Moderate Rutting Response: Requires a remediation strategy developed by Government Agencies and presented to AC Signage to reduce use.	 long term, several years to recover may need restoration in some soils and/or slopes 	 evidence of rutting to depths between 3 cm and 5cm erosion damage to vegetation 	2% of the ecosystem unit.
LEVEL 4 Severe Rutting Response: Requires remediation strategy developed by Government agencies and presented to AC. Immediate signage indicating the area is closed until a remediation strategy is in place.	permanent w/o restoration	 evidence of rutting to depths greater than 5 cm damage to soils soil erosion on slopes vegetation destroyed heavy compaction in ruts 	2% of the ecosystem unit.

Table B: Ungulate Winter Range areas for Hard Surfaces only (HSO) in the Trench (LU 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37)

Ref# (Map 1)	LU	Area	Motorized	Non Motorized
1	C35	Grasmere	Agree HSO Subject to allowing a managed motorbike/ATV trail system between Dore Rd and Elk River that will be closed between October 21st and March 31st	Agree HSO
2	C37	Newgate	Agree HSO subject to maintaining road density and allowing intensive use sites (suggest consideration of the gravel pit)	Agree HSO provided this is consistent with Higher Level plan road density requirements. (see additional road density strategy,Obj.1- 2.f, agreed to)
3	C35	Elk	Agree HSO subject to maintaining road density	Agree HSO provided this is consistent with Higher Level plan road density requirements. (see additional road density strategy [1-2.f], agreed to)
4	C34	Elko	Agree HSO subject to allowing a trail system for moto-trial bikes at Rabbit Mtn. that will be closed between October 21 st and June 14 th . Integrate western triangle into Jaffray area.	Agree HSO
5	C34	Colvalli	Agree with identified Grassland area for HSO	Agree HSO
6	C36	Tokai	Agree HSO	Agree HSO
7	C33	Picture	Agree to HSO on natural grassland.	Agree HSO.

Ref#	LU	Area	Motorized Non Motorized		
(Map 1)					
8	C30,	Whiskey	Agree HSO subject to	Agree	
	C36		access being provided		
			to the river.		
9	C30	Overpass Junction	Agree HSO to existing	Agree	
			closure and enhanced		
			area subject to allowing		
			an intensive area		
			somewhere in the		
10	G20	T .0	vicinity.		
10	C30	Facifern	Agree HSO on south	Agree	
			facing slopes and ridges		
11	C20	XX7*1 11.	above the highway	A	
11 12	C29	Wildhorse	Agree	Agree	
12	C33	Ft. Steele	Agree with biologist	Agree	
			recommendation for		
			HSO area. Exclude dog trial area.		
13	C33	Bummers		Agree	
14	C32	McGinty/Wycliffe	Agree Local motorized users	Local motorized users	
14	C32	WicGinty/ wycinie	to meet with Non-	to meet with Non-	
			motorized/Environment	motorized/Environment	
			users in the field to	users in the field to	
			identify specific areas	identify specific areas	
			for Hard Surfaces in	for Hard Surfaces in	
			grasslands.	grasslands.	
15	C32	Ha Has	Local motorized users	Local motorized users	
			to meet with Non-	to meet with Non-	
			motorized/Environment	motorized/Environment	
			users in the field to	users in the field to	
			identify specific areas	identify specific areas	
			for Hard Surfaces in	for Hard Surfaces in	
			grasslands.	grasslands.	
16	C33	Wasa	Agree with biologist	Agree with biologist	
			recommendation.	recommendation.	
17	C34	Jaffray	Deal with this in the	Deal with this in the	
			Trench Plan.	Trench Plan	

Appendix1: Recreation Management/Development and Aerial Access

Recreation Management/Development (RM) Definitions

RM 1: Low Development/Use

Informal structures are acceptable to facilitate existing and approved uses to mitigate environmental impacts.

- o Low incidence of managed trails, routes or sites.
- o Low acceptance of recreational changes in the landscape.
- o Low incidence of human contact or managerial presence.

RM2: Moderate Development/Use

Small scale formal structures may be acceptable in specific areas.

- o Moderate number of managed trails, routes or sites may be present.
- o Moderate acceptance of recreational changes in the landscape.
- o Moderate incidence of human contact or managerial presence.

RM3: High Development/Use

Large or small scale formal structures may be developed in specific areas.

- o High number of managed trails, routes or sites may be present.
- o High acceptance of recreational changes in the landscape.
- o High incidence of human contact and managerial presence.

RM4: Existing Formal Structures

Large or small scale structures are present.

- Moderate to High number of localized trails and modifications are present.
- No new accommodation structures are acceptable, maximum limits to non-industrial change have been achieved.
- o High incidence of human contact and managerial presence.

<u>Informal Structures:</u> include campsite facilities such as tent pads, tables, toilets and information signage.

<u>Small-scale Formal Structures:</u> include public and commercial day use huts/cabins and toilets or small overnight huts/cabins.

<u>Large-scale Formal Structures:</u> include commercial lodges and outbuildings associated with large or multi-day over knighting purposes.

Recreation Access (RH) (Aerial based, summer/winter)

RH 1: Areas that have very high environmental or social sensitivity to aerial landings. Landings within areas designated as RH 1 area not allowed

RH2: Areas that have high environmental or social sensitivity to aerial landings. Landings within areas designated as RH 2 will be limited based on frequency location and timing.

RH3: Areas that have no identified constraints to aerial landings. No limitations to frequency location or timing within areas designated as RH 3.

Reference. Objective 1-1.d

December 1 to April 1 (winter)			April 2 to November 30 (summer)		
Landscape Unit (LU)	RM Value	RH Value	Landscape Unit (LU)	RM Value	RH Value
LU 1	RM 1	RH 1/RH 2	LU 1	RM 1	RH 1/RH 2
LU 2	RM 1/RM 2	RH 1/RH 2	LU 2	RM 1/RM 2	RH 1/RH 2
LU 3	RM 1	RH 1	LU 3	RM 1	RH 1
LU 4	RM 1	RH 1	LU 4	RM 1	RH 1
LU 5	RM 1	RH 1	LU 5	RM 1	RH 1
LU 6	RM 1	RH 1	LU 6	RM 1	RH 1
LU 7	RM 1	RH 1	LU 7	RM 1	RH 1
LU 8	RM 1	RH 1	LU 8	RM 1	RH 1
LU 9	RM 1/RM 2	RH 1/RH 2	LU 9	RM 1/RM 2	RH 1/RH 2
LU 10	RM 1/RM 2	RH 1/RH 2	LU 10	RM 1/RM 2	RH 1/RH 2
LU 11	RM 1/RM 2	RH 1/RH 2	LU 11	RM 1/RM 2	RH 1/RH 2
LU 12	RM 1	RH 1	LU 12	RM 1	RH 1
LU 13	RM 1	RH 1	LU 13	RM 1	RH 1
LU 27	RM1	RH1	LU 27	RM1	RH1
LU 28	RM1	RH1	LU 28	RM 1	RH 1
LU 29	RM 1	RH 1	LU 29	RM 1	RH 1
LU 30	RM 1	RH 1	LU 30	RM 1	RH 1
LU 31	RM 1	RH 1	LU 31	RM 1	RH 1
LU 32	RM 1	RH 1	LU 32	RM 1	RH 1
LU 33	RM 1	RH 1	LU 33	RM 1	RH 1
LU 34	RM 1	RH 1	LU 34	RM 1	RH 1
LU 35	RM 1	RH 1	LU 35	RM 1	RH 1
LU 36	RM 1	RH 1	LU 36	RM 1	RH 1
LU 37	RM 1	RH 1	LU 37	RM 1	RH 1

LU1: RH2 near Moyie microwave site

LU2: RM1 with RM2 for existing legal structures and RM2 zone in Ridgeway Creek near Powerline. RH1 with RH2 for safety and emergency concerns

LU 4,5,6,7,8,31 (part): RM1 and RH1 due to Caribou habitat and Community Watershed values except existing CR tenure

LU 9,10,11: RH2 and RM1 with RM2 – outside the critical wildlife habitat may be permitted for a limited number of sites

LU 30-37: RM1 and RH1 may be revisited upon completion of the recommended land use plan for the trench

LU 13,27,28,29: RM1 and RH1 to maintain wilderness and wildlife values

Appendix 2: Caribou Closures Agreement and Reference Map

Table members have agreed to closure on (reference associated map for locations):

- o Z6 (upper Galloway);
- o Z5 (Richmond Lake);
- o Z3 (sugar bowl and cutlits creek);

<u>subject to</u> the following areas being left open with the associated grooming and signage strategies:

- o Z1 Heaven with grooming pulled back to the powerline and removed from trail maps;
- Z2 Cooper with grooming pulled back to the powerline and removed from trail maps;
- o Z4 Helmet Ridge with grooming pulled back to Ryder creek;
- o Signage will located in the field and visiting riders will be informed about closed areas.

and <u>subject to</u> these decisions being revisited in the event that caribou recovery is unsuccessful.

The RMS Stakeholder Table also agrees with the agreement involving Kimberley recreationists as follows:

Kimberley snowmobilers² and RMS Stakeholder Table representatives³ agree to temporary Caribou closures to be reviewed in five years in the following locations:

- o A 1,2,3 Angus south, middle and north and Z7 (top of fiddler Creek).
- o Al 1 Alki creek
- o M 8 Bootleg west and ridge to the north.
- o M1
- o M 3 (Sinclair ridge). Closure at the end of the road.
- o M 4 closure after the identified travel corridor at the cliff in the saddle.
- o M6
- o H3
- o P1 closed except for the road corridor. Closure at the end of the road (Hoot lake).
- o M 2 except for identified travel corridor that ends at lookout over Bergland lake.

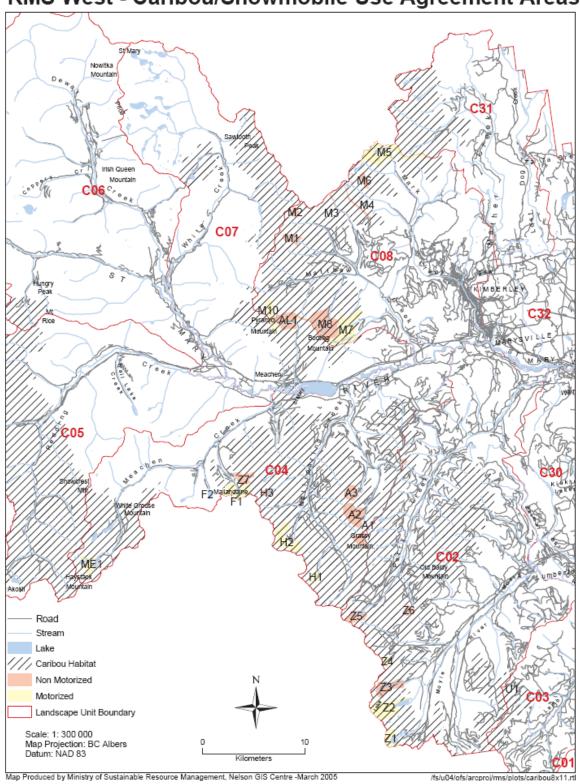
Subject to the following areas remaining open:

- o F1 Malendine
- o Al 2 Murphy
- o M 10 Upper Mathew
- o Pyramid.
- o M 7 Bootleg east open
- o M 5 Hunter dam and lake with 1 year review to confirm management effectiveness. Closure at northeast corner is just north of the lake.
- o H 1, H2, ME1

² Kimberley snowmobilers and skiers: Kevin Anderson, Dave Lynch, Roy Smyth, Chris Kelly, Bob Plante, John Bjorn, Al Wilson, Deb Douglas, Andre Niessen (president of Kimberley Recreation Club membership of 400).

³ Dave Quinn, Earl Tatlow, Ken Philpott, Doug Williamson, Dave Miller

RMS West - Caribou/Snowmobile Use Agreement Areas



City of Cranbrook Watershed Recreation Plan

DRAFT

Draft

SUBMISSION TO RECREATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

CITY OF CRANBROOK



PROTECTION OF THE CITY WATERSUPPLY WITH RESPECT TO VEHICULAR ACCESS IN THE JOSEPH CREEK AND GOLD CREEK WATERSHEDS



Statement of Interest

The city of Cranbrook receives its drinking water from the capture and dam retention of surface waters of the Joseph Creek and Gold Creek drainage systems. Water is stored in the Phillips and Gold Creek Reservoirs for distribution within City boundaries.

Protecting the integrity of water quality within these watersheds is essential to the interest of the City of Cranbrook in its role as water provider for domestic use. Off road recreational vehicular access within the Joseph Creek and Gold Creek drainage systems poses serious concern to ensuring water quality.

The Cranbrook West Recreational Management Strategy must address this concern in the geographic area defined as "C12" as illustrated on the attached map.

Goal

The goal of this plan is to protect the integrity of the City of Cranbrook water supply drawn from the Joseph Creek and Gold Creek watersheds.

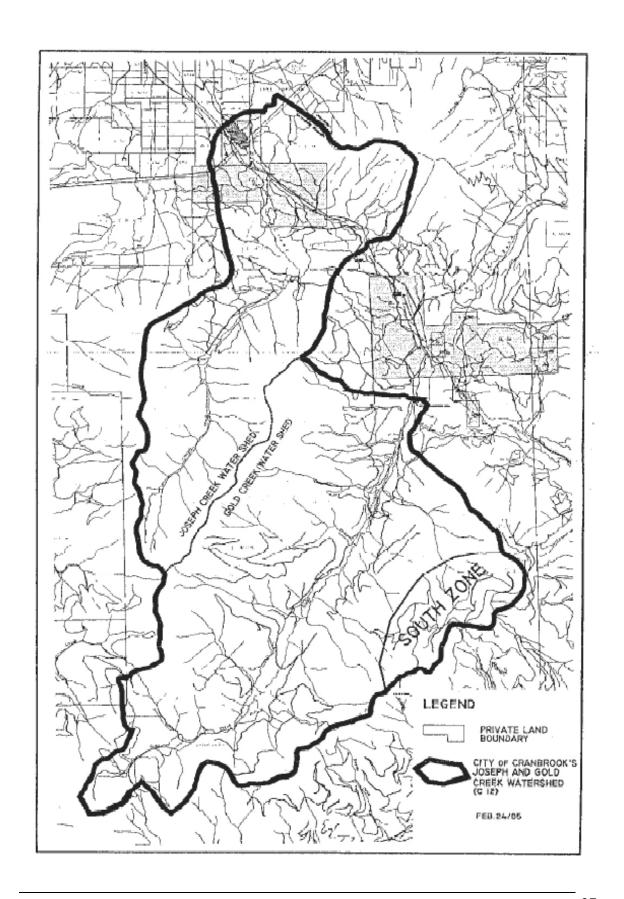
Objective

The objective of this plan is to maintain industrial closed gate access within the Joseph Creek and Gold Creek watersheds to restrict off-road and off-trail access for recreation purposes within the area defined as "C12" as illustrated on the attached Map, with the exception of existing roads/trails within the southern portion or "zone" of C12 of the Gold Creek watershed which are accessed via the Tee Pee Creek watershed which shall remain open.

Discussion

The Highway (Industrial) Act designates "industrial roads" to be used for motor vehicular transportation of natural resources and related machinery, materials and personnel. Regulations under this Act prohibit public vehicular use of these "industrial roads" without permission from the industrial operator/company involved in resource-based activities.

Industrial roads are designated and provide access within the Joseph Creek and God Creek drainage systems for managed resource extraction purposes. Prohibition of public use of these roads will address concerns of access affecting water quality.



City of Kimberley Watershed recreation plan

Advice and recommendations from the City of Kimberley to MSRM are pending.			

Appendix 4: (Draft) Code of Conduct for Recreation Activity

Best Management Practices for Outdoor Recreation

- 1.0 General Guidelines for all Recreational Users
- 2.0 Respect Sensitive Ecosystems
- 3.0 Respect All Users, Property and Livelihoods
- 4.0 Respect Cultural and Heritage Features
- 5.0 If you are a commercial recreation operator, land manager, shop or a club involved in managing recreational activities:
- II. Non-Motorized Recreation (Summer)
 - 6.0 Camping
 - 7.0 Hiking
 - 8.0 Climbing / Mountaineering
 - 9.0 Mountain Biking
 - 10.0 Horseback Riding and Pack Animals
 - 11.0 Berry Picking
 - 12.0 Rock and Fossil Collecting
- III. Non-Motorized Recreation (Winter)
 - 13.0 Cross-Country and Backcountry Skiing
- IV. Motorized Recreation (Summer)
 - 14.0 ATV, 4-Wheeling and Motor Biking
- V. Motorized Recreation (Winter)
 - 15.0 Snowmobiling
- VI. Hunting and Fishing
 - 16.0 Hunting
 - 17.0 Fishing

I. General - All Users

1.0 General Guidelines for all Recreational Users

- Leave no trace; Travel & recreate with minimum impact
- Pack out what you pack in (and other's garbage!)
- Respect the environment and the rights of others
- Allow for future use of the outdoors, by leaving it better than you found it
- Respect and be courteous to other users who also want to enjoy the lands you are using. Set an example of courtesy for all.
- Be considerate and honour other's desire for solitude and a peaceful outdoor experience.
- Educate yourself, plan and prepare before you go
- Obtain a map of the area and carry it along with a compass, and know how to use them
- If you will be using private property contact the land owner(s) for permission.

- Leave gates as you found them, or as marked (unless they are lying on the ground, in which case you should pick them up and lean them up against a fence, and inform the landowner).
- Inquire about regulations in your area at the local WLAP, MSRM or MOF office.
- Remember, designated park areas are reserved for the most primitive outdoor adventure. (Abide by land use designations and zoning)
- Respect seasonal and any other closures (e.g., those pertaining to high fire hazards).
- Observe all fire restrictions, and take due care with fires to prevent them from spreading. Do not discard burning materials such as matches and cigarettes.
- Avoid traveling along riparian areas and wetlands.
- Restrict recreational access in riparian areas within one kilometre of community water supply intakes.
- Avoid the introduction or spread of invasive species by checking clothing, equipment and animals.
- Avoid areas and landforms that are especially sensitive to soil disturbances.
- Avoid disturbing native vegetation and wildlife.
- Respect cultural, traditional and heritage features.
- Hike, bike or ride on open trails only. Respect all trail signs, gate and road closures including seasonal /short term closures.
- Consult local landowners before using non-designated trails to make sure you are not trespassing.
- Stay on designated and existing trails, roads, and routes in sensitive areas.
- Do not construct new trails without prior authorization from responsible agencies.
- Only mark trails where absolutely necessary. Use GPS units instead of ground markers if
 possible. Use temporary markers for events (ribbon, pegs) and be sure to remove them
 afterwards.
- Use existing parking or staging areas where possible.
- Keep groups to manageable numbers, in most cases to fewer than a dozen consider the sensitivity of areas.
- Reduce waste, pack it in and pack it out, use stoves rather than campfires and practice responsible human waste management.
- Store food and garbage securely at rest areas and campsites to avoid attracting wild animals.
- Clean up any food that spills and burn food waste. Do not bury waste as animals will dig it up.
- Pack out all garbage, including micro-garbage, such as cigarette butts, matches, and drink straws
- Leave pets at home or control them at all times If travelling with dogs on high-use trails clean up or properly dispose of their feces in garbage cans. If on remote trail, kick feces off the trail

2.0 Respect Sensitive Ecosystems

2.1 MINIMIZE SOIL DISTURBANCE

Be Aware

- Learn about soil disturbance issues.
- Help educate other recreationists.
- Learn to recognize soil conditions, and avoid areas and landforms that are especially sensitive to soil disturbances.

If you are on managed trails, roads, routes:

- Avoid traveling on existing trails if they are poorly placed, and are causing erosion problems (e.g., straight up or down a hillside or on an eroding side slope, or in riparian or wetland areas).
- Avoid widening trail corridors.
- Minimize or avoid trail use during periods of high precipitation and spring break up, when the soil is soft or sloppy.

If you are not on managed trails, roads, routes:

- Avoid crossing grasslands except on established trails. Vehicles or large groups of people or horses can leave a noticeable track and result in others following this tack.
- Avoid creating new trails (without appropriate planning and consultation). It is very easy for a new trail to develop by setting off on grasslands. The initial set of tracks you form will attract others to follow and soon a new trail is formed. With new trails come erosion and potential transfer of invasive plants.
- Travel on the most durable surfaces available: rock, gravel or snow.
- Avoid marking trees or building rock piles to point out your path, and remember to dismantle makeshift bridges that you built to cross streams.
- Report areas where soil disturbance is occurring to the land owner, your local government, Regional District, regional provincial offices, or First Nations in the Region

If you are building or maintaining trails, roads, routes:

- Leave trail building and maintenance to trained professionals. Individuals are encouraged
 to help, but only as part of work parties that are organized by experts in trail building and
 maintenance.
- Rehabilitate closed trails (put trails to bed) in order to allow them to return to their pretrail natural condition.
- Work collaboratively with landowners and government, including First Nations, and
 other organizations. Consult with landowners and First Nations to utilize their expertise
 on such things as trail design, soil sensitivity, and location, and to achieve their support
 for trail building.
- Minimize soil disturbance and erosion:
- Reduce or minimize number of trails (especially where there are many in one area).
- Maintain firm trail surface (also called 'trail hardening'), by using wood chips, gravel, or wooden paths, but not asphalt.
- Ensure trails are properly designed, placed, and maintained.
- Ensure trails are built on appropriate soils that can withstand the impacts created by the particular activity.

- Avoid steep downhill sections, especially where a trail is shared with other users such as hikers and horseback riders.
- A lot of mountain bikers and ORV riders are looking for steeper areas because they are more fun. Where steep areas cannot be avoided or are desired, use appropriate erosion prevention measures such as water bars or switchbacks.

2.2 AVOID THE INTRODUCTION OR SPREAD OF INVASIVE PLANTS

Be Aware

- Learn to recognize invasive plants and know which plant parts to be concerned about in your area. Become aware of the issues associated with invasive plants and how your activities can contribute to their spread.
- Read guides, brochures, and pamphlets produced by provincial government agencies or local weed management groups on invasive plants.
- Share your knowledge with other recreational users.

If you find yourself in an area with invasive plants:

- Avoid or minimize all types of travel through weedy areas, or restrict activities to those periods when the spread of invasive plants is least likely.
- Before entering and upon leaving recreation areas, inspect clothing, footwear, and pets for invasive plant seeds or plant parts. Also inspect your equipment and vehicles. Remove seeds and plant parts, bag them, and dispose in the garbage or by incinerating them.
- Don't pull invasive plants you may be doing more damage by disturbing the soil, spreading seeds, or breaking plant roots. Weed pulls should only be undertaken under expert guidance.
- Flag sites of invasive plant infestations with biodegradable tape.
- Report infested areas:
- On Crown land: Report infested areas to the nearest B.C. Forest Service office or the local invasive plant management group (See side bar and Section 8.4 for further information sources).
- On private land: Inform landowners.

2.3 RESPECT NATIVE PLANTS AND WILDLIFE

Be Aware

- Learn about the native plants and ecosystems in your area.
- Learn about the types of wildlife that occur in your area and about their habitat requirements and migration patterns during different seasons.
- Inform yourself of important nesting or breeding and feeding areas by contacting your local conservation groups, wildlife stores, and resource managers.
- Share your knowledge with others.

Minimize damage to plant life:

- Do not pick wildflowers, carve initials in trees, cut branches, peel bark off trees, or cut wildlife trees for firewood. (Refer to the firewood permit for your area for regulations regarding firewood cutting Ministry of Forests)
- Avoid breaking branches, which can lead to plant/tree destruction.
- Avoid trampling native vegetation.

Respect wildlife and wildlife features:

- Avoid salt licks, nesting and denning areas, winter ranges, and lek sites (i.e., sites used by birds such as Sharp-tailed Grouse for courtship and breeding).
- Avoid known sites used for breeding and rearing young. Watch for amphibians that are migrating between wintering and breeding areas, and avoid disturbing them.
- Do not scare, pursue, or harass wildlife.
- Keep your distance from wild animals. Learn the signals they use to tell you that you are too close. Maintain a distance that is comfortable for them.
- Yield to wild animals and wait until they move off the trail. If you must move before they do, move quietly, slowly, smoothly, and steadily; if possible, avoid moving directly towards them.
- Avoid making extended eye contact with wild animals, as they can sometimes interpret this as a threat.
- If you encounter nest or brood sites, give them a wide berth so you don't disturb adults or young, or damage eggs.
- Do not handle baby animals. If you find babies that appear to be lost or abandoned, remember that the adults are probably close by, or know how to find their young.
- Leave injured animals where you find them and notify local conservation officers.
- Never feed wildlife as this interferes with their natural patterns and human food is often harmful.

2.4 RESPECT SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTS AND LANDSCAPE FEATURES

- Learn about riparian areas, rock faces, hoodoos, silt cliffs, and talus slopes—these are sensitive environments
- Leave rocks, fossils, plants, and other natural or archaeological objects as you find them. Take home memories and photographs instead.

If you are recreating near streams and riparian areas:

- Avoid or minimize stream crossings and travelling along riparian areas.
- If streams must be crossed, do so only at bridge crossings, or where roads or trails intersect the stream.
- Minimize crossings if a bridge or another appropriate crossing is not available. If crossing
 is necessary, cross where there is existing disturbance, or cross at right angles to the
 banks, where the ground is low and firm, and where the stream bottom is firm. Stream
 bottoms with large cobbles are preferred over fine gravel substrates since there is less
 potential for damaging fish spawning beds or displacing fine silt which can smother fish
 eggs.
- Avoid trampling and breaking shrub branches near streams and in riparian areas.
- Don't remove or damage vegetation in riparian areas as this vegetation is required to hold banks during flood events.
- Engage dealerships, clubs, and commercial recreation operators to sponsor local trail work sessions to help build trails that protect sensitive environments and landscape features, and maintain existing trails.

3.0 Respect All Users, Property and Livelihoods

3.1 AVOID DISTURBING LIVESTOCK, DAMAGING FORAGE & PROPERTY Be aware

• Learn about the planned grazing use of the area before you set out. Inform the landowner if you observe cattle in unexpected areas.

Respect livestock and private and Crown land:

- Do not cross private land without permission.
- Be aware that on some sections of trails, motorized equipment may be used for farming or other purposes.
- Do not trample forage or create dust concerns.
- Avoid contaminating forage by packing out all garbage.
- Avoid calving areas. Give domestic livestock the right-of-way on trails. Don't spook cattle.
- Keep dogs under control, or leave them at home to avoid harassing livestock.
- Report any damage, or sick/injured livestock to the land owner, if possible, or the Ministry of Forests, Range Section.

If you are traveling during fire season:

- Check machines regularly for plant material near exhaust pipes or other structures that can become hot during use.
- Fuel up at staging areas wherever possible. Never fuel up in sensitive ecosystems, including riparian and wetland areas.
- Don't smoke while riding, make sure butts are fully extinguished, and pack them out.
- Be aware of dry grass, maturing grain crops and especially stay away from haystacks.
- During periods of extremely high fire hazard conditions, landowners and ranchers may ask for areas to be closed to public use. Respect landowners' wishes.

If you are building or maintaining trails, roads, routes:

- Work with commercial recreation operators, ranchers, land managers, shop owners, and club members to design and build trails that stop cattle moving off the range and into unauthorized areas. This will help protect grassland areas, and will enhance the trail riding experience.
- Encourage the involvement of interested parties in the trail planning process from the very beginning.
- Use fences, vegetation, or other types of physical buffers to keep trail users away from crops, and to minimize dust. Additionally, trails can be routed to take advantage of natural buffers.
- Require temporary trail closure if disease threats appear.
- Minimize water crossings. Where water crossings are necessary, provide bridges to
 discourage people from walking through the water since pathogens can be passed through
 the water supply. Consider riparian and water quality signage at stream sides to build
 awareness.

Respect private landowners, their land and buildings:

- Respect all buildings.
- If in doubt about private property, ask the landowner/manager's permission to go on the land, or contact the local range officer for information.

4.0 Respect Cultural and Heritage Features

4.1 RESPECT FIRST NATIONS LANDS, SPIRITUAL SITES, CULTURAL HERITAGE FEATURES, AND TRADITIONAL LAND USE

Increase awareness and communicate:

- Find out if recreational activities are permitted on First Nations' land.
- Learn about and communicate with the First Nations that live in your region to find out in whose territory you are planning to conduct your activities

Have respect:

- Do not disturb or remove cultural features such as pictographs or petroglyphs.
- Do not disturb known cultural sites such as First Nations traditional use areas, pit dwellings, or burial grounds.
- Avoid picking native species of plants. Some plant species may be used by First Nations peoples for cultural and traditional purposes.
- Do not cut, damage, move, or otherwise impact culturally modified trees (CMTs), including coring them for dating purposes.
- Do not damage or alter historic features such as old homesteads, cabins, and historic
 mining sites. B.C. law forbids the removal of archaeological material or historical
 artifacts.

If you are building or maintaining trails, roads, routes:

• Involve First Nations in trail planning, design, and implementation.

If you think you have found cultural heritage or traditional use sites:

- Contact the archaeology or anthropology department of your local University or College for advice on what you have found.
- Contact the Archaeology Branch: 250-952-4300.

5.0 If you are a commercial recreation operator, land manager, shop or a club involved in managing recreational activities:

5.1 SOIL DISTURBANCE

- Use the best available practices to ensure that operations are environmentally and socially sustainable.
- Use signage on existing trails to identify trails, and sensitive areas.
- Provide a drop box with reporting form for recreationists to report soil disturbances or other problems.
- Consider the development of deterrence incentives for irresponsible users.
- Be aware of your operation's footprint, and endeavor to keep it as small as possible.
- Ensure members and clients are aware of soil disturbance issues, and proper activity-based techniques to minimize damage to trails.
- Educate users on benefits of/reasons for staying on trails.
- Provide education on shutting down and rehabilitating damaged trails.

5.2 Invasive Plants

- Organize volunteers at trailheads during busy times of the year, or when certain invasive
 plants are coming into seed, to build trail users' awareness, and ensure they understand
 invasive plant issues.
- Work with other recreationists to learn about the specific invasive plant issues in your recreation area.
- Work together to develop invasive plant control programs, and distribute local information on invasive plants to users through brochures, on the web, and in newsletters.
- Ensure clients and members are aware of invasive plant issues, and how their activities can contribute to the spread of invasive plants.
- Use signage to educate users about invasive plants.
- Encourage your group to participate in organized weed pulls that are supervised by trained professionals.
- Provide a drop box with reporting forms for recreationists to report sites of invasive plant invasions.

5.3 NATIVE PLANTS AND WILDLIFE

- Make recommendations to all users to stay on existing trails to avoid making new trails and impacting or changing plant communities.
- Use signage to increase awareness of wildlife breeding and rearing areas.
- Promote and encourage wildlife conservation practices by your clients and members:
- Lead by example and follow standards, regulations and guidelines established by government for the protection of wildlife species and habitats.
- Work together to develop and distribute information to clients or members on minimizing disturbances to local plants and wildlife (via brochures, maps website, newsletters, and local papers).
- Display or hand out materials about native plants, sensitive ecosystems, and wildlife areas to avoid and be aware of in a particular area, and in particular seasons.

5.4 SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTS AND LANDSCAPE FEATURES

- Be aware of your operational footprint, and endeavour to keep it as small as possible.
- Government Commercial Backcountry policies have been developed to address commercial 'back country operations'. Be informed about Provincial Park and other government policies (See reference to laws below).
- Work together to provide signage:
- Post signs at trailheads letting people know the consequences of littering.
- List user groups on signs involved in trail development and maintenance.
- Develop appropriate designated stream crossings (e.g., DFO-approved gravel crossings).
- Contact your local land manager to find out about the particular environmental concerns in your area, and help educate other recreationists.
- Encourage voluntary stewardship, group involvement and collaboration.
- Consult with First Nations/landowners about sensitive areas and landscape features.
- Take responsibility for certain areas (Adopt-a-Trail).
- Stage litter 'clean up' events; they get rid of unsightly messes, and build general public awareness.

5.5 LIVESTOCK AND FORAGE

• Collaborate with landowners on proactive solutions which allow ATVs and other motorized vehicles to travel over cattle fences without opening gates.

- Ensure clients or members are aware of private lands that may be affected by recreation activities. Supply educational information on the issues associated with trespassing on agricultural land.
- Establish good working relationships between farmers/ranchers and trail managers to
 ensure quick responses to issues related to changes in agricultural
 operations/management.
- Land managers should provide consistent and easy to read signage along trails so recreationists do not accidentally wander off trails and trespass onto farm property.
- Interested parties should work with the ranching community to find out about, and warn clubs and tourism operators tourism operators of intense farming activity (e.g., harvest time) when large volumes of dust are created. In turn, shops and clubs can warn their clientele/members, and land managers can provide temporary signage to warn trail users of trail conditions.
- Tell recreation users that land managers may deliberately leave gates open to allow livestock passage usually these are tied back to the fence.
- Work together to develop invasive plant control programs and distribute local information on invasive plants to users through brochures, on the web and in newsletters.

5.6 RESPECT PROPERTY AND LIVELIHOODS

- Clean up after events and gatherings in open range areas.
- Build a positive relationship with landowners whose property recreationists are using.

5.7 CULTURAL AND HERITAGE FEATURES

- Provide your clients and members with appropriate educational materials to enhance their appreciation of the First Nations cultural heritage history of the areas they visit.
- Provide clients and members with appropriate educational materials to enhance appreciation of, and respect for, the cultural heritage history of the areas to be visited.

II. Non-Motorized Recreation (Summer)

6.0 Camping

Site Selection

- While traveling to your favorite camping spot, stay on roads and trails to reduce impacts.
- Use designated camping areas if possible.
- If designated areas do not exist, seek areas that have already been disturbed.
- If there are no designated or already disturbed areas, disperse camping spots to minimize disturbance in one area. Choose campsites that have durable surfaces such as bedrock or dry grassy areas. Such sites are quite resilient and capable of recovering rapidly from the effects of one night of low-impact use. In areas where there are no designated campsites, keep campsites small, and move camp as often as is necessary to avoid damaging the site.
- Do not dig trenches around tents.
- Do not camp for more than 2 or three days in one spot on the alpine tundra (or stay on hard surfaces where available to minimize impacts to delicate soils and vegetation)
- Keep campsites at least 50 m from streams, lakes, and other riparian areas. If you are camping for long periods of time on, or near, a bank or shore, preserve as much as the natural vegetation to avoid damage to plants.
- Do not cut tree boughs to use as sleeping pads. This creates minimal benefit and maximum impact.

Cooking and Cleaning

- Don't cook or keep food in or near your tent
- Do not wash in streams and lakes. Detergents, toothpaste and soap harm fish and other aquatic life. Any washing activities should take place at least 60 m from natural water sources.
- Reduce waste: Plan meals to reduce the amount of food carried. For example, avoid overpackaged and disposable items to help reduce the volume of garbage generated while
 camping. Use plastic bags or reusable containers to help reduce the potential garbage to
 be packed out.
- Pack it in and pack it out even biodegradable garbage should be brought back to urban areas where it can be disposed of properly.
- Avoid washing directly in a lake or stream or other bodies of water because this can
 cause contamination. Use a basin and small amount of biodegradable, phosphate-free
 soap for washing yourself and dirty dishes. Pack water in a pail or pot, wet down, then
 lather up and rinse off. The soap will filter through the soil and break down before
 reaching any body of water. Clothes can be cleaned by washing in plain, hot or cold
 water.
- After washing dishes, remove all food particles from waste water (a light weight strainer is handy) and scatter over a wide area away from camp. In bear country the best method is to pour the waste water into a cat hole and cover.

Practice responsible human waste management practices:

- If outhouses are not available, dig waste pits at least 15-20 cm deep and 10-15 cm in diameter, and at least 60 m (about 70 adult paces) from water, campsite, cattle, crops and trail sources. Cover and disguise pits when finished.
- Pack out all toilet paper and hygiene products to dispose of properly later.
- Always empty your holding tank at an approved site

Campfires

- For cooking, use a camp stove. They are always preferable to a campfire in terms of impact on the land.
- Avoid building fires when possible; keep them to a minimum
- Use existing fire pits
- If campfires must be built, keep fires small, and use established fire rings or fire pans wherever possible.
- If fire rings or pans are not available, dig up a small piece of sod and store it in a garbage bag. Build the fire in the area that has been removed. Burn all wood and coals to ash, and bury by replacing the sod to its original place.
- Let your fire burn down to a fine ash. Ensure your fire is completely extinguished.
- Observe all fire restrictions.
- Consider the weather: Do not light campfires in strong winds.
- Use of wood: Walk 5 to 10 minutes away from camp to gather wood from a large area so that no single place becomes denuded. Collect loose sticks and branches from the ground. Do not cut down trees or remove their limbs. Firewood should be no larger in diameter than an adult's wrist so that it can be broken into proper lengths by hand and will burn down to white ash or small coals.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, and put out campfires completely.

Breaking Camp

- Pack out all garbage
- Leave your campsite better than you found it or as if you were never there.
- Return the site to its natural condition before you leave your campsite. Do not build permanent structures. Do not hammer nails into trees for hanging gear, or cut trees or tree boughs.
- Naturalize the area by placing, fallen logs, rocks, etc. where you found them.

7.0 Hiking

- Cutting switchbacks and taking shortcuts can destroy vegetation and cause erosion.
- Stay on the trail even if it is rough and muddy. Walking on the track edge and cutting switchbacks increase damage, cause erosion and visual scarring.
- Minimize soil disturbance in sensitive ecosystems by keeping groups small
- Walk single file to avoid widening the trial.
- Spread out in open country where there are no trails. Spreading out, rather than following each other's footsteps, disperses impact and avoids creating a new trail.
- Avoid sensitive vegetation. Watch where you put your feet.
- Flagging and marking trails is unsightly. If necessary, remove flagging as you leave.

If you encounter a horse or pack trains:

- Be especially cautious around horses. Stay to the right of the trail and let them pass.
- Wait for horseback riders to tell you it's okay to pass
- Put pets on leash when meeting horseback riders
- Stay back from horses and pack trains (at least 10 feet) to avoid getting kicked.
- If you encounter a frightened horse, remove your backpack and talk in a friendly tone to the horse.

8.0 Climbing / Mountaineering

Respect Native Plants and Wildlife

- Learn about the types of plants and wildlife that use rock structures, and about their habitat requirements during different seasons; share your knowledge with other climbers.
- Avoid disturbing any plants and animals that use rock faces or bluffs.
- Snakes are likely to be encountered in the grasslands and rock outcrops while approaching a climbing site and while rock climbing from April to September/November. If you see a snake, give the area a wide berth and alert other climbers to avoid these areas during these critical times.
- Birds such as the Prairie Falcon breed from April to August and tend to nest on cliff ledges below overhangs for shade. Climb with care during these periods to avoid disturbing nesting sites.
- Do not bring dogs to the rock climbing areas. They can be a major disturbance to the local wildlife.
- Avoid areas where mountain goats and mountain sheep habitat

If you are considering cleaning a rock face for a climbing route:

• Minimize impact of cleaning rock faces at all times.

- Remove only the minimum amount of material (e.g., lichens, moss, and debris) needed to ensure that a climb is safe and offers an appropriate climbing experience.
- Do not remove trees unless approved by a government agency
- Carefully consider the importance and quality of the climbing route. Ask:
- Will this route continue to be used and does it justify the amount of cleaning proposed?
- How significant will it be to climbers for its length and grade of difficulty?
- During any cleaning activities, ensure the safety of any other user in the area. Consider safety especially when developing longer climbs.

If you are building or maintaining trails, roads, routes:

- Any trail work to existing trails should be planned collaboratively with land mangers and rock climbing clubs, associations and tourism operations.
- As new climbing areas are developed, climbers should access them by choosing existing access trails or low impact access routes and must not cut or remove any material.
- If the need for trail planning and construction arises, climbers and local planners should evaluate, plan, and implement new trails in cooperation with land management agencies.

If you are a commercial recreation operator, land manager, shop or a club involved in managing recreational activities:

- Work with land managers to monitor trails and conduct minor maintenance works, such as water runoff control.
- Provide climbers with educational material on animals that use rock faces, bluffs, and cliffs.
- Work collaboratively to develop strategies to ensure the protection of plants and wildlife especially during critical periods of the year (e.g., nesting).
- Consider closing climbing faces or access routes (even temporarily) where there are unacceptable environmental impacts to plants and/or wildlife (e.g., closure of routes due to presence of nesting Falcons).
- Work together with the climbing community to develop strategies to ensure the protection of sensitive environments and landscape features, and recreation opportunities.

9.0 Mountain Biking

Stay on managed trails, roads, and routes:

- Practice low impact cycling
- Soil erosion and compaction can be avoided or minimized by riding responsibly and with appropriate trail design.
- Learn how to minimize damage to trails by riding responsibly and using proper riding techniques:
- Control your bicycle at all times; your speed and the way you ride influences trail management decisions and policies;
- Avoid skidding and sliding, which can occur by breaking harder than necessary;
- Stay on existing trails and avoid cutting switchbacks;
- Learn how to recognize different types of soils. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage. Stay off trails during wet and muddy conditions as tire ruts will become pathways for water erosion;
- If you find yourself on a wet trail section, stay on the existing trail and avoid creating a new one. Wade Don't Braid: get wet, ride through the puddle. Riding around puddles widens trails and leads to erosion.

- Don't cycle on designated hiking trails
- Avoid cattle
- Yield the right of way to those passing or traveling uphill.
- Respect trail and road closures including seasonal or short-term closures (ask a local shop or club or land manger if uncertain);
- Avoid using hoodoos as bike drops (large jumps)

If you are building or maintaining trails, roads, routes, build and maintain trails with a focus on minimizing soil disturbance/erosion:

- Maintain a firm trail surface;
- Ensure proper trail placement, design, and management;
- Ensure that soils can withstand the impacts created by mountain biking and cycle touring;
- Avoid steep downhill sections, especially where a trail is shared with hikers; and,
- Where steep areas cannot be avoided, or are desired, use erosion prevention measures such as water bars, and curves.

Avoid Introducing or Spreading Invasive Plants

- Before entering and upon leaving recreation areas, inspect clothing, footwear, bikes, and pets for invasive plant seeds or plant parts.
- Remove seeds and plant parts, bag them, and dispose in the garbage or by incinerating them.
- Clean your bike of dirt and mud to remove any embedded seeds.

Negotiating Terrain

- When climbing, shift to a gear that provides comfortable forward momentum and maintains traction.
- When descending, apply enough brake to maintain control, but avoid locking your bike's wheels to avoid skidding and sliding.
- Avoid trails that are obviously wet and muddy to avoid trail damage.
- Cross streams slowly, at a 90-degree angle to the stream. Walking may be preferable as stream bottoms are often slippery. Cross streams at fording points only.
- Ride single file on existing trails.

If you are a commercial recreation operator, land manager, shop or a club involved in managing recreational activities:

- Work with local land managers to determine which areas are sensitive to soil disturbance.
- Provide clients with maps, rules of the trail, trail condition updates and educational brochures to ensure they are aware of soil disturbance issues and proper riding etiquette and techniques to minimize damage to trails.
- Organize volunteers at trailheads during busy times of the year, or when certain invasive plants are coming to seed, to build trail user awareness, and ensure understanding of invasive plant issues and minimize impacts.
- Sponsor local trail work sessions to help build trails to protect sensitive environments/landscape features and maintain existing trails.
- Know what legal trails exist, and their conditions given recent weather patterns. Direct members and clients to appropriate trails.
- Be the source in your community for responsible riding advice:
- Display a local trail map, and use it to teach clients about local parks and sensitive areas;

• Ensure clients both understand and follow a set of trail ethics suited for your region. For example, display environmental trail ethics, point clients to appropriate websites, and hand out brochures with relevant information.

10.0 Horseback Riding and Pack Animals

- Dismount when meeting hikers
- Ride on hard surfaces or trails
- Stay on established trails and routes and other areas open for horse use. Be aware of prohibited areas.
- Know which roads are open to vehicles.
- Cutting switchbacks and taking shortcuts can destroy vegetation and cause others to use the unauthorized route.
- Respect and be courteous to others who want to enjoy the lands you are enjoying.
- When riding, be especially cautious around hikers and bikers.
- If possible, do not shoe horses prior to a trip. New shoes cut up the ground more than worn shoes.
- Do not utilize ruminant species (e.g. llamas, alpaca, goats) in the backcountry
- Use the minimum number of horses required for the trip.
- Minimize travel when trails are wet.

Stay on managed trails, roads, and routes:

- Avoid creating switchbacks, shortcuts, or new paths for others to follow.
- Try to keep horses from skirting shallow puddles, small rocks, and bushes.
- Avoid traveling on the edges of potholes, along stream banks or other areas easily impacted by hoof action.
- Ride single file on all existing trails to avoid widening them.
- Avoid wet or boggy areas that are sensitive to hoof action.
- If accompanied by dogs, keep them close to the riding party and under control when wildlife or another party is encountered. If uncertain if a dog is controllable, leave the dog at home to avoid danger to the dog, other parties and wildlife.
- When traveling in groups, try to stay in the same track, ride single file, and keep the group small.
- Keep campsites or areas where horses are contained at least 50 m from streams, lakes and other riparian areas.
- Lead horses to water or haul water to them.
- Check with local landowners if they have access restrictions for animals with health concerns.
- Upon leaving and entering grassland areas, inspect clothing, footwear, horses (especially legs and hooves), and pets for invasive plant seeds or plant parts.
- Inspect tack and equipment, especially for burrs. Remove seeds and plant parts, bag them, and dispose in the garbage or by incinerating them.

If you are not on managed trails, roads, routes:

- Smaller riding parties should spread out and ride abreast to avoid creating new trails. Large riding parties should stick to managed trails and ride single file.
- If extremely difficult terrain must be negotiated, leave ample room between each rider. Horses that are free to place their feet around obstacles are less likely to cause damage to the ground, to themselves, and to their handlers.

When you come to a rest stop:

- Use discretion on where you tie your horse; horses often paw at the ground, and may do less damage to the surrounding soils and vegetation if tied on the trail.
- However, if on a well-used trail, consider tying your horse off the trail to avoid conflict.
- When tying up, choose live trees that are larger than 20 cm in diameter. Avoid heavily used trees, which may be killed by heavy soil compaction.
- Tend to your horses often:
 - o For a rest stop or short break, where horses are not going to eat, use a short halter rope, typically 6-15 feet long. If a halter rope is long enough for a horse to nibble at the ground, it is long enough for him to step over it. A horse in trouble can do irreparable damage both to itself and the environment.
 - For a longer break where the horse is going to feed, then use a picket rope, typically up to 50 feet.
- Be aware that some horses are nervous if tied away from their friends and may trample or paw the ground. Relocate fretting horses, or hold them and help them settle down.
- Before you move on, fill in any ground that has been pawed.

If you are going to feed your horse during the trip:

- Provide hay and grain that is free of invasive plants in order to reduce the amount of time that horses graze on native vegetation.
- Avoid grazing in wet or boggy areas that are sensitive to hoof action.
- Grazing of any livestock on Crown Land requires a grazing permit/license (under the Range Act). This requirement is often waived for non-commercial use. Check with the district Forest Service office near you.
- Ensure that only feed that is free of invasive plants is given to horses for several days before traveling in grassland areas.
- If feed is hauled in, ensure that it is free of invasive plants, and processed.
- Keep horses in dry areas with abundant forage, and away from wet and boggy areas.
- Rotate horses throughout the area to reduce trampling and prevent overgrazing.
- Tend to horses often
- At campsites, break up horse manure and scatter it.
- Utilize established or previously used overnight shelters for the horses to minimize the number of disturbances to soils and vegetation.
- Avoid letting horses graze in wet, lowland areas where trampling damage is an issue.
 Camp in areas with adequate forage, or take the horses to another area for the majority of their grazing.
- Hold horses 200 feet from lakes, streams, huts and camping areas.
- Use yards, paddocks or hitching rails where provided.
- Report lost horses immediately.

11.0 Berry Picking

- Be on the lookout for bears (be bear aware)
- Leave some berries for wildlife

12.0 Rock and Fossil Collecting

- Respect private property and collect only with the owner's permission.
- Do not collect or remove rocks or fossils from Provincial Parks without proper permits

- Avoid causing damage to the environment while collecting material. Avoid contaminating wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- Take home only what you can reasonably use.
- Do not use firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- Report any deposits on public lands that should be protected for scientific and public education purposes, and for future generations to enjoy.
- Fill all excavation holes.

III. Non-Motorized Recreation (Winter)

13.0 Cross-Country and Backcountry Skiing

- Travel on areas open to cross-country/back country skiing. Staying on designated trails, routes, or in designated areas reduces the impact of cross country/backcountry skiing.
- Avoid high use snowmobile areas
- Avoid sensitive areas.
- Avoid wildlife; be sensitive to the life sustaining needs of wildlife and livestock. In deep snow, stay clear of animals so that noise and close proximity do not add stress to animals struggling to survive.
- Respect and be courteous to other users who also want to enjoy the lands you are using.
- Be considerate and honour other's desire for solitude and a peaceful outdoor setting.
- Stay to the right on the trail.
- If you will be using private property contact the land owner(s) for permission.
- Allow for future use of the outdoors, by leaving it better than you found it
- When finished with your campsite, demolish any snow walls or shelters you have built. (See section 6.0 Camping)
- Fill in areas where you have quarried snow blocks.
- Check the weather forecast for your destination. Plan clothing, equipment and supplies accordingly.
- Check avalanche conditions and be able to read weather charts. Avoid slopes prone to avalanche.

IV. Motorized Recreation (Summer)

14.0 ATV, 4-Wheeling and Motor Biking

Stay on managed trails, roads, and routes:

- Ride only where permitted
- Yield the right of way to those passing or traveling uphill.
- Travel slowly when passing cattle on the range
- Avoid "spooking" livestock you encounter.
- Be considerate of others on the road or trail.
- Travel on hard surfaces as much as possible
- Don't travel off road when ground conditions are wet and soft
- Don't travel off hard surfaces in the alpine tundra
- If driving a four-wheeled vehicle, avoid traveling on single-track trails, or on two-track trails that are narrower that your vehicle.
- Stay in the middle of trails to avoid widening them.

- Avoid creating switchbacks, shortcuts, or new paths for others to follow.
- Park or stage only in designated parking areas.
- Avoid traveling on poorly placed existing trails that are causing erosion problems. Trails straight up a hillside can severely erode in a heavy rain or runoff. Descending, contouring trails collect water and can also cause severe erosion.
- Avoid muddy trails, wet areas, or traveling through water holes.
- Do not drive through streams, except at approved crossings.
- Avoid traveling through riparian areas.
- Do not exit off of managed trails onto traveling livestock or wildlife trails if it will disturb the stock. Be sensitive to wildlife trails.
- Accelerate slowly. Avoid spinning wheels/tracks to avoid creating rooster tails. 'Rip and Tear' acceleration causes many times the impact than that of conservative driving.
- Mud bog only in approved, designated areas.
- Hill climb only in designated areas.
- Avoid riding ATVs or trail bikes along beaches, through marshes or in areas where birds nest and breed.
- Obey all posted signs that pertain to wildlife.
- If you encounter wildlife, slow down, leave your engine running and stay on your machine.
- Keep the noise and dust down. Others will appreciate it.
- Think about maintaining your equipment: Keep machines tuned and properly muffled to reduce exhaust and noise.

Avoid Introducing or Spreading Invasive Plants

- Check vehicle undercarriages, wheel wells, and engine compartments regularly for weeds, and before entering and after leaving grassland areas.
- Clean vehicles and equipment by removing mud, dirt, and plant parts after leaving
 grassland areas, or as soon as possible, in a weed-safe site such as a car wash. Do not
 wash your vehicle in streams or waterways to prevent spreading invasive plants
 downstream.
- Use staging areas that are free of invasive plants and be sure to keep them free of invasive plants

If you are traveling during fire season:

• See Section 3.1 on traveling during fire season.

Negotiating terrain

- ATVs / Motorbikes
 - On slick trails, moderate the throttle and use the clutch to gain maximum traction with minimum tailspin.
 - On switchbacks, avoid roosting around the apex of the turn when climbing or brake sliding while heading down which gouges the trail.
 - o Cross streams at fording points only.
 - o Cross streams slowly, at a 90-degree angle to the stream. Walking may be preferable as stream bottoms are often slippery.
- 4-Wheelers / 4x4s
 - o Travel straight up or down a hill or grade.
 - o Cross obstacles at an angle, one wheel at a time.

- o Avoid mud if you can while remaining on the road or trail.
- o Turn into ravines or large depressions at about a 45-degree angle.
- o Cross streams slowly, at a 90-degree angle to the stream.

If you are a commercial recreation operator, land manager, shop or a club involved in managing recreational activities:

- Consult with local stakeholders (e.g., government agencies Ministry of Forests, naturalist groups, conservation interests, First Nations, landowners, etc) on establishing designated mud-bogging and hill climbing areas.
- Use and disseminate these and other best available practices to ensure that your operations are environmentally and socially sustainable.
- Be aware of your operation's footprint, and endeavour to keep it as small as possible.
- Learn what the particular concerns with invasive plants are in your area.
- Ask your local land manager or weed management group for information about avoiding introducing and spreading invasive plants, and provide this information to your clients or members
- Consider organizing volunteers at trailheads during busy times of the year, or when certain weeds are coming to seed, to build trail user awareness and ensure understanding of invasive plant issues.
- If you are a land manager, control invasive plants in your staging areas to avoid their spread onto trails.

V. Motorized Recreation (Winter)

15.0 Snowmobiling

- Stay on managed trails within designated snowmobile areas.
- Ride only where there is adequate snow cover, where young trees and plants are not visible.
- Avoid traveling over waterways, whether snow-covered or not: unburned fuel and oil causes damage to waterways at spring thaw.
- Avoid wildlife; be sensitive to the life sustaining needs of wildlife and livestock. In deep snow, stay clear of animals so that noise and close proximity do not add stress to animals struggling to survive.
- Always be on the lookout for skiers
- Be considerate of others on the trail and keep to the right.
- Yield the right of way to those passing or traveling uphill.
- To minimize harmful emissions, keep your engine in tune and use only recommended and certified fuels, lubricants, and additives.

VI. Hunting and Fishing

16.0 Hunting

- Avoid shooting in areas containing cattle
- Staying on established trails and routes reduces the impacts of hunting. Travel only on areas open to your type of vehicle.
- Respect and be courteous to others who also want to enjoy the lands and waters you are using. Set an example of courtesy for all.
- When driving, be especially cautious around horses, hikers and bikers. Pull off to the side of the road or trail and let them pass.

- As you travel, comply with signage. Honour all gates, fences and barriers that are there to protect our natural resources, wildlife and livestock.
- Know the local laws and regulations for hunting.
- On private lands, be sure to obtain the owner or land manager's permission to cross or use their lands.

17.0 Fishing

- While traveling to your fishing spot, stay on existing trails and routes to reduce impact.
- Cutting switchbacks and taking shortcuts can destroy vegetation and cause erosion, affecting aquatic habitat.
- On water areas, travel only on areas that are open for your type of boat or motor.
- If fishing with a boat, always launch at a designated launching ramp. Backing a vehicle on a riverbank can damage the bank and cause erosion.
- Dispose of unwanted or tangled fishing line and nets properly as they can be lethal to fish, marine mammals, birds and reptiles.
- Leave aquatic plants and animals in water as they may die if removed.
- Know the limits and legal length of fish you intend to catch. Know all fishing regulations and carry proper licenses.
- Return undersized, oversized or unwanted fish to the water as soon as possible. Practice "catch and release."
- Take only what you need. Leave some fish for others and for breeding.

47

Attachment 1: Process Terms of Reference

Phase I: RMS West Cranbrook Consultation Process Terms of Reference (January 2003)

The goal of a Recreation Management Strategy (RMS) is to identify, at a landscape level how recreation should fit into the mix of resource values and existing uses on the Crown land portion of the land base.

The objective is to resolve existing recreation related conflicts, protect resource values and identify new opportunities to expand public or commercial recreation.

The desired outcome is to provide certainty on the land base for all interests. Note: industrial activities such as mining, logging and ranching are not affected by this planning process.

The product is a zoning plan for recreation activities that is supported by all interests and users.

The main focus is on the type of access and the level of development. Decision points centre on resolving conflicts between non compatible recreation activities (eg. motorized and non motorized uses), conflicts with wildlife (eg. ungulate winter range) and conflicting uses (eg. community watersheds).

Process will

- determine appropriate and compatible recreation activities
- provide a balanced range of recreation opportunities
- reduce conflicts while increasing user and investor certainty on the land base
- provide guidance for commercial recreation interests
- promote environmental stewardship and sustainability

Principles

- The Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan Implementation Strategy (KBLUP-IS) provides the strategic principles for the RMS.
- The RMS will examine the range of recreational activities on non-park Crown land.
- The process will bring forward and review all pertinent and available past information and other legally established information, eg: Access Management Areas (AMA), Vehicle Access Closures (VAC), Ungulate Winter Range (UWR), etc.
- The process will use scientific, technical and anecdotal information from a broad spectrum of stakeholders and government agencies. The range of resource values, interests and uses will be considered
- The process will rely upon extensive stakeholder consultation to provide recommendations to government. Agreement amongst all stakeholders will be encouraged to ensure a broad base of support. The intent is to encourage all

- stakeholders to provide focused, discussion resulting in a high level of support and shared accountability for the success of the plan.
- For areas of no agreement, the project team will document and provide final recommendations to government.
- First Nations will be offered involvement in the process and will be provided opportunities for review and comment as discussions progress.
- Existing commercial recreation tenures will continue in accordance with their approved management plans however any tenure changes will be guided by the approved RMS plan.
- The approved RMS plan will be utilized to provide guidance, information and objectives for addressing applications for new recreation tenures and revisions to existing recreation tenures.

Consultation Process

- Publicly advertised open house to orient interested groups and individuals in the purpose and what we hope to achieve
- Individual meetings with all stakeholder clubs/associations to explain process, gather specific input, issues identification and stakeholder mapping of areas of current use/interest
- 1st workshop with all stakeholders to discuss and scope the main issues/concerns by Landscape Unit (Overview of entire district)
- Subsequent workshops to discuss and seek resolution/recommend direction on all identified issues; zone and map land base for various types of recreational access. (Zones will centre on Motorized vs. Non-motorized in Summer and Winter); review of past recreation access decisions (AMA's, FPC Sec. 105, other enactments) and suggest suitable areas for new recreation based economic opportunities.

Decision Making

- Table consensus recommendations and areas of non-agreement are forwarded to appropriate government agencies for review and comment on a meeting by meeting basis.
- Agency comments reviewed and addressed through the Inter-Agency Management Committee or sub-committee are either incorporated into the draft plan or rationales are provided for their exclusion.
- A 21 day public review period to capture comments from the general public.
- MSRM compiles input and prepares rationales.
- RMS meeting to advise table representatives of plan recommendations.
- MSRM Regional Director forwards plan to Minister for decision.
- Consideration for establishment of legal management objectives.
- Implementation and amendments (as required) determined through an Advisory Committee.

Final Objectives/ Products

- Maps identifying agreed upon areas of use
- Identification of suitable areas for commercial recreation

• Identification of management needs, eg. public info, legislation/regulations, enforcement, etc.

Phase II: Government Policy Direction for Completion of the Cranbrook West Recreation Management Strategy (December 13, 2004)

- 1. The Plan will provide strategic direction for summer and winter recreation access and will include objectives and summer and winter zoning maps. This will direct agency decision-making and recreational activity, both public and commercial.
- 2. Motorized access zoning will be established to minimize potential environmental impacts (e.g. degradation of alpine areas). Impacts on social (e.g. hiking trails) and cultural (e.g. archaeological sites) values may also determine the pattern of zoning.
- **3.** The potential zones in the summer plan include: Non-Motorized, Motorized-hard surfaces only, Motorized temporal restrictions, Motorized, Intensive Motorized. Four access zones will be utilized for the winter plan. They are: Non-motorized, Motorized road corridors only, Motorized temporal and Motorized.
- **4.** Where the plan does not provide specific recreation access zoning, it will provide strategic direction in the form of objectives.
- **5.** Existing legislated closures will be maintained however, some limited changes to VAHCs may be considered providing their viability for reducing impacts on wildlife is not compromised.
- **6.** The impacts of recreation activity on industrial operations and the impacts of industrial operations on recreational activity will be considered in preparing the plan...
- **7.** Landscape units comprising the Rocky Mountain Trench will be included in the plan.
- **8.** The summer and winter plans will be informed by advice from a qualified biologist and Government will provide a biologist to assist in plan completion.
- **9.** The plan will consider agreed upon direction achieved in the RMS to date.
- **10.** Stakeholders are expected to strive for consensus recommendations, identifying any areas of disagreement for decision by Government.
- 11. Stakeholders are expected to achieve consensus using facilitated interest based discussion and negotiation that is informed by science. MSRM will provide an independent and neutral facilitator to support the process.
- 12. MSRM is committed to implementing stakeholder recommendations within their policy and financial limitations provided they are delivered within the RMS policy context and government agency concerns are addressed. MSRM is also committed to final implementation and monitoring of the plan with stakeholder participation.
- **13.** Future recreation access management decisions by Government agencies will be integrated into the plan implementation and monitoring process.
- **14.** The plan will provide for a balance of recreation opportunities.

Attachment 2: RMS West List of Participants

Many people participated in the RMS process, some extensively. The commitment of time and energy of participants to the final plan is acknowledged and appreciated. The list of Recreation Stakeholder representatives and their alternates is provided below. A full list of participants is also provided.

	D Challallallana D	. J A14	4
	Recreation Stakeholders Representatives a	na Aiterr	nates
Affiliation	Organization Name		Contact Name
Wild. Rec.	Kimb. W/Life & Wilderness Club (KWWC)	Rep.	Andy Balcom
TCT Rec.	Trans Canada Trail	Rep.	Al Skucas
Agriculture	Kootenay Livestock Assoc.	Rep.	Andy McDonald
Hunting/Fishing	E.K. Wildlife Assoc.		Andy Pezderic
Comm Hunt/Fish	Southern BC Guides & Outfitters	Rep.	Anna Fontana
Comm Hunt/Fish	Shadow Mtn Outfitters	Alt.	Astrid/Tim Faiers
Local Gov't	City of Cranbrook	Rep.	Alan Gordon
Mot. Rec.	Kootenay Roads & Trails Assoc	Alt.	Bill Boswell
Arch. Rec.	Cranbrook Archery Club	Alt.	Bob Faiers
Local Gov't	RDEK	Alt.	Bob Whetham-Planner
Trapping	BC Trappers Assoc.	Rep.	Bob Wright
Mot. Rec.	Creston Valley Quad Squad	Rep.	Brian Davies
Environmental	Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund	Alt.	Carmen Purdy
Comm Hunt/Fish	Bull River Outfitters	Alt	Brian Charlton
Environmental	EKES-Elk Valley	Alt.	Casey Brennan
Arch. Rec.	Cranbrook Archery Club	Rep.	Darrin Brown
Nonmot. Rec.	Backcountry Skiers	Rep.	Daryl Calder
Snowm. Rec.	Cranbrook Snowmobile Club	Alt.	Dave Miller
Nonmot. Rec.	EKBC	Rep.	Dave Quinn
Seniors	Seniors	Rep.	Dave Reeves
Comm Hunt/Fish	Can. Mtn View Paradise	Alt.	Dean Roe
Mot. Rec.	Bull River All Terrain Club	Rep.	Don Charlton
Hunting/Fishing	Cbk Rod & Gun Club	Rep.	Earl Tatlow
Hunting/Fishing	Cbk Fish & Game Club	Rep.	Ed Swanson
Agriculture	Kootenay Livestock Assoc.	Alt.	Elliot Pighin
Environmental	Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund	Rep.	FJ Hurtak
Horse Rec.	Koot. Backcountry Horsemen (KBH)	Rep.	Fred Kyte
Fish.Rec.	St. Mary's Flyfish	Rep.	Gary Gates
Koocan. Rec	Lake Koocanusa Advisory Commission	Alt.	Gordon Ambrose
Mot. Rec.	ATV/BC	Alt.	Gordon Galloway
Mtn. Bike Rec.	Kootenay Freewheelers (MtnBikes)	Rep.	Gordon Vogell
Local Gov't	RDEK	Rep.	Heath Slee-Director "B"
Comm Economic	Cbk Chamber of Commerce	Rep.	Jeanette Sissons
Comm Economic	TASK, Kimberley Alpine Resort	Rep.	Jikke Stegeman
Huts Rec.	Purcell Hut Association	Alt.	Jim Campbell
Environmental	EKES	Rep.	John Bergenske

Recreation Stakeholders Representatives and Alternates			
A (C'11''	O construction Name		Control None
Affiliation	Organization Name	D.	Contact Name
Agriculture	Grasmere Range Users Cbk Fish & Game Club	Rep.	Karen Barton
Hunting/Fishing		Alt.	Keith Hebert
Mot. Rec.	Kootenay Roads & Trails Assoc	Rep.	Ken Bedell
Snowm. Rec.	Cranbrook Snowmobile Club	Rep.	Ken Philpot
Hunting/Fishing	E.K. Hunters Assoc.	Rep.	Larry Hall
Env.Grassland	Grassland Conservation Council	Alt.	Leanne Colombo
Huts Rec.	Backcountry Hut Operators Assoc	Rep.	Margie Jamieson
Env.Grassland	Rocky Mtn Trench Society	Rep.	Maurice Hansen
Local Gov't	City of Kimberley	Rep.	Mike Dodd
Local Gov't	RDEK	Rep.	Mike Kartasheff-Dir "C"
Local Gov't	RDEK	Rep.	Norman Walter-Dir "E"
Env. Naturalist	Rocky Mtn. Naturalists	Rep.	Peter Davidson
Local Gov't	RDEK	Rep.	Peter Ross-Director "A"
Hunting/Fishing	EK Trail Houndsmen Assoc.	Rep.	Remi LeClerc
Koocan. Rec	FOLKS	Rep.	Rex Holley
Mot. Rec.	Kootenay Quad Club	Rep.	Rick Hammond
Hunting/Fishing	E.K. Wild Turkey Federation	Rep.	Rob Bishop
Mush. Rec.	Koot Mushroom & Berry Pickers	Alt.	Rob Stevely
Local Gov't	City of Kimberley	Alt.	Ron McRae-Mayor
Local Gov't	City of Cranbrook	Alt.	Ross Priest-Mayor
Fish.Rec.	E.K. Flyfishers	Alt.	Russel Trand
Mot. Rec.	ATV/BC	Rep.	Sarah Johnston
Hunting/Fishing	Moyie Lake Gun Club	Rep.	Sean Abram
Comm. Rec.	Wilderness Tourism Assoc.	Rep.	Shannon Langley
Comm Hunt/Fish	Paradise Outfitters	Alt.	Sheldon Reed
Hunting/Fishing	EK Trail Houndsmen Assoc.	Alt.	Todd MacDonald
Hunting/Fishing	BCWF/EKWA	Rep.	Tom Blom
Mush. Rec.	Koot Mushroom & Berry Pickers	Rep.	Tom McDougall
Comm Rec	Guide Outfitter/Bull River	Alt	Vince Cocciolo

Participants		
Affiliation	OrganizationName	Contact Name
	Friends of Lk Kooc. (FOLKS)	Al Chard
Recreation	Koot. Backcountry Horsemen (KBH)	Al Johnson
Agriculture	Waldo Stock Breeders	Allan Edwards
Local Gov't	City of Kimberley	Attn: City Councillors
Recreation	Grasmere Recreation Society	Barry Barton
Local Gov't	MLA-East Kootenay	Bill Bennett
Comm Hunt/Fish	St. Mary's Flyfish	Bill Cairns
Retail Sales	Cranbrook Motorsoprts	Bill Hatch

Participants Participants		
Affiliation	OrganizationName	Contact Name
Recreation	Kootenay Quad Club	Bill McKim
Comm Hunt/Fish	Sheep Mtn Outfitters	Bob Cutts
Hunting/Fishing	E.K. Hunters Assoc.	Bob Janzen
Agriculture	Waldo Stock Breeders	Bob Marcer
Forestry	Tembec Industries Inc.	Brian Dureski
Mining	Kootenay Placer Assoc.	Brian Kostiuk
Recreation	Total Outdoors	C. Shewen
Agriculture	Kootenay Livestock Assoc.	Cam McDonald
<i>-</i>	Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting	Cori Barraclough
Recreation	Can. Rockies River Expeditions	Craig Campbell
First Nations		Curtis Wullum
First Nations	KKTC	Dan Gravelle
First Nations	St. Mary's Band	Dan Wigle
Hunting/Fishing	Fernie Rod & Gun Club	Dave Fantuz
Recreation	Koot Mushroom & Berry Pickers	Dave Haley
Recreation	Kokanee Country Snowmobiles	Dave Kriese
Trapping	BC Trappers Assoc.	Dave Lancaster
Hunting/Fishing	Cbk Rod & Gun Club	Debbie Henning-Pres
Recreation	Koocanusa Business Assoc.	Dennis Kerr
Recreation	Grasmere Recreation Society	Dick Crosson
Recreation	Kbly Backcountry Users	Don Davies
Recreation	Kimb. W/Life & Wilderness Club (KWWC)	Don McNamar
Recreation	Elk Valley ATV Club	Donald Patterson-Pres
Agriculture	Pickering Hills Grazing Assoc	Donna Morrison
Agriculture	McDonald's Ranch	Doug McDonald
Recreation	BCSF	Doug Williamson
Hunting/Fishing	E.K. Big Game Club	Ed Swanson
Recreation	Kootenay Quad Club	Frank Robinson
Comm Hunt/Fish	Purcell Wilderness Outfitters	Gary Hansen
Recreation	Bull River All Terrain Club	Gary Mitchell
Media	Daily Townsman	Gerry Warner
Agriculture	McDonald's Ranch	Glen McDonald
Recreation	Kimb. W/Life & Wilderness Club (KWWC)	Glyn Killins
Recreation	Motor Cross	Gord Yee-President
Public	Wotor Cross	Gordon Rae
Gov't Province	Ministry of Forests	Greg Anderson
	•	Harlan Bradford
Agriculture Pagragian	Kootenay Livestock Assoc. Koocanusa Business Assoc.	
Recreation		Harry & Betty Huisman
Comm Economic	Kbly Chamber of Commerce	Hazel Libscher
Environmental	Mark Creek Recovery Program	Helen Sanders
Recreation	Koot. Backcountry Horsemen (KBH)	Herb Janzen
Comm Economic	Rural Economic Dev't Commission	Jane Carlson
First Nations		Jim Beare

Participants		
A CC'1'		
Affiliation	OrganizationName	Contact Name
Dagnation	Cbk & Dist Search & Rescue	Jim Dezall
Recreation	Recreational Canoeing Assoc of BC	Joe Selby
Recreation	East Kootenay ATV Club	John Kobza
Comm Economic	Cbk Economic Development	John Sheenhan
Recreation	Horse Council of BC	John Solly
110010411011	Cbk & Dist Search & Rescue	Judy Bertalanic
	Cok & Dist Search & Research	Judy Bertainine
Comm Economic	Cbk Chamber of Commerce	Karin Penner
200000000000000000000000000000000000000	Con Chamber of Commerce	Ken Miller
Recreation	ATV/BC	Ken Sumanik
Environmental	Kbly Nature Park Society	Kent Goodwin
Ziiviioiiiieittai	Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal	Henr Goodwin
Environmental	Partnership	Kenton Andreashuk
First Nations	KKTC Tobacco Plains Band	Kris Payne
Recreation	East Kootenay ATV Club	Lance Elliott
Comm Economic	Kbly Economic Dev. Commission	Larry Haber
	Lk Koocanusa Business Assoc.	Linda Kerr
Hunting/Fishing	Fernie Rod & Gun Club	Mario Rocca
First Nations		Mark Thomas
Recreation	Cranbrook Archery Club	Martin Cloarec
Comm Hunt/Fish	Gallant Fishing Tours	Marty Chadney
Comm Hunt/Fish	Rocky Mtn High Outfitter & Guides	Marty Lightburn
Recreation	Grasmere Recreation Society	Mary Munro
Recreation	Koot. Power Boat Assoc.	Maurice Robins
Comm Hunt/Fish	Angling Guide	Michael Lavah
Recreation	Purcell Adventure Tours	Mike Dolighan
Land Use	E.K. Land Use Coalition	Mike Sosnowski
Recreation	Mtn High Hikers Assoc	Mike St. Jean
Hunting/Fishing	Traditional Bowhunters of BC	Monty Evin
Recreation	E. Kootenay Outdoor Club	Nak Nakahara
		Nancy Henderson-
Local Gov't	City of Kimberley	consultant
Gov't Province	Ministry of Forests	Neil Shuttleworth
Agriculture	Waldo Stock Breeders	Noreen Thielen
Comm Hunt/Fish	St. Mary's Flyfish	Pat Daniels
Recreation	Elk Valley Ski Touring Assoc.	Patrick Gilmar
Comm Economic	Rural Economic Dev't Commission	Penny Chard
Environmental	Kbly Nature Park Society	Pete Moody
Comm Economic	E.K. Residents Land Use Coalition	Peter Cunningham
Recreation	Kootenay Freewheelers (MtnBikes)	Peter McConnachie-Pres
Recreation	Creston Valley Quad Squad	Phil Bainbridge
Public		Raeshelle Pickering
Forestry	Galloway Lumber	Randy Byford

Participants Participants		
A CC11	O construction Name	Control Name
Affiliation First Nations	OrganizationName	Contact Name
	Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council	Ray Warden
Recreation	W . M . 1 0 D . D' 1	Rick Lowe
Recreation	Koot Mushroom & Berry Pickers	Rick Olson
Gov't Province	Land and Water BC	Robin Fawcett
Retail Sales	Cranbrook Motorsports	Roland Oliynyk
Recreation	East Kootenay ATV Club	Ron Hoesing
Recreation	Rocky Mtn. Riders Club	Rose Seifried
Recreation	Baynes Lk Parks & Rec Society	Sarann Press
Hunting/Fishing	Cbk Fish & Game Club	Shane Hendrickson
Hunting/Fishing	EK Trail Houndsmen Assoc.	Shane Hoyt
Recreation	Baynes Lk Parks & Rec Society	Shiela DeLuca
Local Gov't	Baynes Lake Fire Dept	Stan Doehle
	Cbk Snowmobile Club	Susan Woods
Recreation	Grasmere Women's Institute	Suzanne Hoszouski
Recreation	Ross Range & Reclamation	Tim Ross
Hunting/Fishing	E.K. Wild Turkey Federation	Wayne Rudrum
Gov't Province	Water, Land & Air Protection	Wayne Stetski
Hunting/Fishing	Moyie Community Assoc.	Wayne Stone
Recreation	Kbly Rocky Mtn Riders	Wence Kadlec
Recreation	Kimb. W/Life & Wilderness Club (KWWC)	Wendell McLeod
Local Gov't	MLA-Col. River/Revelstoke	Wendy McMahon

Attachment 3: Stakeholder Table Transmittal Letter (March 5, 2005)

RMS STAKEHOLDER TRANSMITTAL LETTER

CRANBROOK WEST RECREATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STAKEHOLDER TRANSMITTAL LETTER

March 5th 2005

George Abbott Minister of Sustainable Resource Management Parliament Buildings Victoria BC

Dr. Minister Abbot.

Please find attached the Recreation Management Strategy (RMS) for Cranbrook West that local stakeholders have developed. We feel that we have been successful in our mission to create a recreation management strategy that provides for different recreation opportunities, respects all land users, and promotes environmental stewardship.

We have reached agreement on the issues that we have been addressing in the plan including those that were the most controversial. All user groups agree that conservation of the extremely high wildlife values and recreational opportunities in the East Kootenay are a priority. This requires some restrictions in sensitive areas such as alpine, riparian, ungulate winter range and grasslands while maintaining access across the landscape for recreational users. All of us are committed to environmental stewardship and responsible recreation through promotion and implementation of a Recreational Code of Ethics. Expedited establishment of a means for identifying and educating off-road users particularly nonresidents in essential to successful implementation and enforcement. All groups involved are committed to jointly supporting implementation of the RMS. We expect all Government agencies to follow the plan once approved.

Only two issues remain that we agree government needs to resolve. These comprise less than 1% of the area we have been dealing with. Those of us that are concerned with them will be providing you with perspectives on these issues. They include recreational use in Mause creek and mid-elevation grasslands.

Our agreement and success is contingent on the development of a strategic plan for the Rocky Mountain Trench¹ that involves representation of all user groups within 3 years after plan approval. This plan must provide operational direction to address critical issues such as:

- Restoration and improving the condition of grasslands;
- > Protection of wetlands and riparian areas;
- > Protection of endangered species and old growth;
- ➤ Road density;
- Protection and enhancement of ungulate winter range;
- > Access for recreation and industry;
- > Implementation of intensive use areas.

¹ Defined within LU's 30 to 37.

Substantial commitments have been made in the RMS by all recreation groups. It will not be possible to sustain and continue to respect these commitments unless the issues associated with other uses are addressed in an operational Trench Plan.

Another issue that requires urgent attention is the need for a coordinated initiative to address the noxious weed problem in the Trench. If Government does not invest in solving the noxious weed problem the outstanding environmental, social and economic values in the Trench will be drastically diminished.

We look forward to your response to our recommendations and will be proceeding with our joint commitments to implementation immediately. We request your approval of the RMS on or before May 1st 2005.

We look forward to government investment in implementation of the RMS as it has required enormous personal investments of time and energy (over two years) from all stakeholder groups. This agreement has set the stage to get beyond the protracted conflicts that have plagued government and the community in the past. A significant Government financial commitment to implementing the RMS and developing the Trench plan is essential.

Respectfully submitted:

Original signed by

S. Johnston (ATV/BC), B. Davies (Creston Valley Quad Squad), FJ Hurtak (Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund), B. Dureski (Tembec Ind), L. Hall (EK Hunters Assoc), T. McDougall (Koot. Mushroom & Berry Pickers), R. Bishop (EK Strutters), B. Boswell (Koot. Roads & Trails Assoc), L. Colombo (Grassland Conservation Council), D. Quinn (BC Backcountry Assoc), J. Campbell (Purcell Huts Assoc), S. Langley (Wilderness Tourism Assoc), A. Balcom (Kimberley Wildlife & Wilderness Club), N. Walter (RDEK Area E Director), E. Tatlow (Cranbrook Rod & Gun Club), J. Bergenske (Wildsight/EKES), R. Holley (Friends of Lake Koocanoosa), T. Blom (BC Wildlife Fed), F. Kyte (Koot. Backcountry Horsemen), B. Faiers (Cranbrook Archery Club), M. Clourec (Cranbrook Archery Club), A. Gordon (City of Cranbrook), R. Olson (Koot. Mushroom & Berry Pickers), D. Miller (BC Snowmobile Fed), K. Philpot (Cranbrook Snowmobile Club), P. Davidson (Rocky Mountain Naturalists), R. LeClerc (EK Trail Houndsmen Assoc), D. Morrison (Koot. Livestock Assoc), D. Calder (Purcell Hut Society), G. Gates (St. Mary's Fly Fishers), S. Abram (Moyie Lake Gun Club), M. Hansen (Rocky Mtn Trench Natural Resource Society), J. Sissons (Cranbrook & District Chamber of Commerce), R. Hammond (Kootenay Quad Club)

CC

Premier Gordon Campbell
MLA Bill Bennett
MLA Wendy McMahon
Minister DeJong, Minster of Forests
Minister Van Dongen, Minister of Agriculture
Minister Barisoff, Minister of Water Land and Air Protection
Ken Gorsline, Regional Director MSRM SIR
Scott Benton, Regional Director, WALP
Phil Zacharatos, Regional Director, MoF
Steve Carr, Regional Director, LWBC

Attachment 4: Letter from KKTC

Ktunaxa Kinbasket Treaty Council Ktunaxa Kinbasket Tribal Council 7468 Mission Road, Cranbrook, BC V1C 7E5

Telephone (250) 417-4022 1-800-324-4118

Fax (250) 489-2438

Ken Gorsline Regional Director, Southern Interior Region, Resource Management Division, MSRM 1259 Dalhousie St., Kamloops, B.C. V2C 5Z5

Dear Ken:

RE: Cranbrook West Recreation Management Strategy (RMS)

We understand that you are quickly approaching the deadline of April 8th for submitting the RMS plan and that you require some direction from us on how to deal with Ktunaxa consultation and accommodations requirements.

The Ktunaxa suggest that we adopt an approach as follows.

- That regional MSRM staff submit the RMS for the April 8th deadline with the provision that the plan is approved subject to further consultation with the Ktunaxa to accommodate Ktunaxa interests and concerns in the planning area.
- That further consultation will be done within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) recently signed between MSRM and the Ktunaxa.
- That we are in agreement with the Plan wording which clearly states that further consultation is needed.

I hope that this proposed approach clarifies our recommendation. Please contact Ray Warden, KKTC Lands and Resources or myself if you have any further questions on this matter.

Sincerely yours

Dan Paradis,

Manager, Lands and Resources

'AKISONUK

LOWER KOOTENAY

ST. MARY'S

SHUSWAP

TOBACCO PLAINS

Attachment 5: Draft Terms of Reference for the Cranbrook (West) Backcountry Recreation Advisory Committee (CBRAC)

Mission Statement

To seek maintenance of the balance of social, environmental and economic opportunities which are inherent in the Cranbrook West Backcountry Recreation Management Strategy (RMS). 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 liaise with government primarily through the Regional Manager, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management or his/her designate. For operational implementation issues, liaison may also occur directly with other government agencies or corporations as required.

It is the role of the CBRAC 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.
- Providing sound recommendations to proponents and government consistent with approved plan management direction and objectives. 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,
- 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.

Membership

• Membership of the committee shall be comprised of individuals with a diversity of experience and expertise.

- Government in equal partnership with the Cranbrook West RMS stakeholders shall decide which sectors are members of the committee.
- Sector representatives (and alternates) are to be chosen by their sector and are accountable to their sector to fairly represent their interests.
- Government representatives are ex-officio members of the Committee acting as resource persons and working with the Committee to ensure that its objectives are met.
- MSRM will be the first Chair of the Committee until such time as the Committee elects a new Chair. The Chair position shall be reviewed annually and re-elected if necessary, by the membership.
- Members of the committee shall not receive remuneration from government 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.

Committee Structure

- Committee will be comprised of representatives of interest based stakeholders in the areas being discussed
- It is recommended that government retain the role similar to GBRAC (admin support, facilitation, mapping)
- Commitment from dirt ministries to provide technical expertise as required

Executive responsibilities:

- Call and arrange meetings
- Notify committee members of the time and place and meetings

Roles and Responsibilities of Committee Members

Each member is expected to:

- Help to establish RMS annual workplan goals and objectives and ways to achieve them;
- Ensure familiarization with the approved RMS objectives;
- Attend scheduled meetings and serve on sub-committees when requested;
- Respect the rights and opinions of other committee members.
- Declare when a potential for conflict of interest exists.
- 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.
- Meeting agendas will be determined in advance in consultation with all Committee members and will be adhered to.
- The committee shall invite area specific stakeholders to meetings where required, or refer relevant issues to the larger stakeholder group at large for input.
- Meeting will be open to interested parties and the public.
- 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 RMS 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 there may occur open discussion between committee members, which may not necessarily be 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. The committee shall be
 kept informed of the final disposition of each recommendation, particularly if a
 government decision differs from an RMS recommendation.
- There are two types of recommendations that can come from the RMS:
 - 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).
 - Those that occur on an adhoc basis, due to proposals from proponents or other immediate circumstances.