



Frequently Asked Questions about the 2008 Vanderhoof Access Management Plan for Forest Recreation

Q: I have never heard of a LRMP or the Vanderhoof LRMP ~ what is it?

A: The Vanderhoof Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) was developed by members of the public and stakeholders within the Vanderhoof community. They were able to negotiate a common agreement on how best to manage the valuable resources on crown land. The Vanderhoof LRMP provides strategic land use guidance for the management of several values on the 1.3 million hectares of crown land within the Vanderhoof Forest District. The LRMP is driven by the conviction that stewardship of natural resources can be improved through integrated resource management that considers all values. Specific resource values identified and managed under this plan include: biodiversity, fish and wildlife, water quality, parks, recreation, tourism, access management, timber harvesting, mining, and agriculture.

All Forest Districts in the Omineca Peace Region, including: Prince George, Fort St. James, Mackenzie, Robson Valley, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John and Fort Nelson have completed LRMP's.

Q: Why haven't I heard of the Vanderhoof LRMP?

A: The development of the Vanderhoof LRMP consisted of an "Open Style", where anyone who was interested could participate. Extensive advertising was done to solicit a variety of public and interested stakeholders. Every meeting since the sign-off of the plan, has been openly advertised as a "public meeting", with anyone welcomed to attend. The LRMP participants that do attend the meetings, represent a wide range of interests and values and do not have a decision making role in land use decisions. Their role is to provide advise and guidance to government agencies and resource managers on the implementation of the LRMP.

Q: As a member of the public, can I become involved?

A: The Vanderhoof LRMP has always been open to the general public and welcoming of new participants; fresh outlook and new perspective is important to the understanding of where land base priorities exist over time. As the Vanderhoof LRMP is a community plan for land use planning, it requires the diversity of community perspectives. Each LRMP meeting regularly attract about 50 interested people.

Q: How does the Access Management Plan relate to the LRMP and why do we need it?

A: The Vanderhoof LRMP provides explicit guidance and expectations around how best to manage access. As such, the Vanderhoof Forest District has been implementing an operational Access Management Plan, with active access control points in various locations through out the district since 1998. The existing plan identifies specific access control points on several roads in various locations through-out the district. With a change in forest management legislation and an increase in road development to support accelerated salvage operations resulting from the mountain pine beetle epidemic, portions of the existing access plan became redundant and ineffective. The plan needed to be updated so the strategic guidance reflects the current land base situation, addressed competing recreation uses and incorporated current pattern of recreation use.



Q: What does this updated Access Management Plan for Forest Recreation do?

The Access Management Plan for Forest Recreation has a straight-forward intent:

“Provide all folks living or visiting the Vanderhoof area with a range of choice for quality public recreation activities and experiences. This is accomplished by identifying areas for specific recreation uses that provides certainty and reduces conflict between recreationists”.

The right to access crown land for recreational activities and resource development is still maintained.. This updated plan is a balance of providing equal opportunities to access crown land while ensuring operational certainty for resource development continues. Some of the highlights of the plan include:

- the management of road densities to maintain the integrity of recreational experiences for both motorised and non motorised uses.
- the identification of the Permanent Road Network that is recommended to be maintained over time to ensure on-going access to various recreation areas.

Q: How was this update to the access management plan done?

The 2008 Access Management Plan for Forest Recreation is the result of collaborative effort that involved stakeholder groups, organised clubs or associations, the general public and government agencies including: the Integrated Land Management Bureau, Ministry of Forests and Range, and Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts. The iterative process was transparent and inclusive to ensure that the diverse cross-section of interests, values and opinions within the Vanderhoof plan area were represented and engaged. Input and information was gathered and received from a variety of sources at a variety of events over a three year period.

Q: This Access Management Plan only benefits Guide Outfitters and is creating more Protected Areas.

Areas on the landbase with Access Management Designations are not protected areas. One of the main goals of the plan is to ensure there was no impact to timber flow or forest development. All resource operations, including forest harvesting, oil and gas, mining, trapping and grazing will continue to occur any Access Management Designation.

The plan is not promoting or providing areas of exclusive use for commercial recreation purposes. All Guide Outfitters and commercial lodge operations must conduct their business in compliance with the plan and follow the same rules as the public.

Q: How will this plan be enforced and implemented?

This updated Access Management Plan is providing policy information on the management of the recreation values in specific Access Management Designations. This is not a legally binding plan and instead will rely heavily on:

- voluntary compliance with the public
- open-mindedness and consideration from the communities
- education and extension to build understanding
- commitment from government agencies
- professional reliance from industry.

As no one party has the sole responsibility for implementation, successful implementation will be a collective and combined effort from all. Feedback and comments are important to the implementation monitoring of the plan over time. Please visit the Vanderhoof LRMP website and click on the feedback link.

<http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/lup/lrmp/northern/vanderhf/index.html>

