

Re: Zones

From: Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com>
To: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 19, 2020 8:47:42 AM PST
Attachments: image001.png

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Morning,

Thank you for the reply. I am happy to create a formal request once I know the steps.

Creating more zones to open and close is a bigger picture thought that of course would necessitate more consultations etc. etc.

For now, we are truly just hoping for a temporary opening of the Fingers as we have lost much riding area and truly are still pulling ourselves out of the hole from COVID. The additional zone would help to draw some riders from more sensitive zones and as mentioned we would be happy to consider giving up Horse Shoe for the season to offset the footprint of Fingers.

Let me know once you find the next steps. Would be great to try and get this set before holidays start but of course time is indeed getting tight.

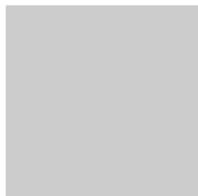
Andy

Andy Boughton

General Manager

BRPPS

s.22



On Fri, Dec 18, 2020 at 1:01 PM Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Good afternoon Andy,

When I pressed for an answer on this issue yesterday I was asked if a formal request had been made for the change, and that the briefing note and correspondence I had forwarded since we began the discussion did not constitute a formal request. Where this is a standing agreement I was told that any socio-economic issues should be negotiated in the establishment of the SMA agreement and that rec sites and trails should be the proponent bringing these to FLNR. I have not been able to reach Sandy since I got this response to take the steps recommended to me, but have sent him email to contact me as soon as possible to sort this out. In discussing the issue with him and the CO service there was some concern about opening and closing different areas due to the uncertainty it creates for compliance and enforcement, and have been advised to avoid these type of short term changes and that if changes are needed it would likely require an re-examination of the SMA as whole. I apologize for the continued delay around this, I had really hoped to have this resolved by now.



Bevan Ernst, MSc, RPBio

Regional Caribou Biologist

Thompson Okanagan Region | Ecosystems Section

Phone (250) 312-6640 | Mobile (250) 318-6929

Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

From: Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com>
Sent: December 15, 2020 3:51 PM
To: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Zones

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Cheers!

On Tue., Dec. 15, 2020, 3:49 p.m. Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX, <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Thanks Andy, I have forwarded this up the food chain to go along with the previous correspondence and am asking for resolution this week.



Bevan Ernst, MSc, RPBio

Regional Caribou Biologist

Thompson Okanagan Region | Ecosystems Section

Phone (250) 312-6640 | Mobile (250) 318-6929

Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

From: Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com>
Sent: December 15, 2020 11:58 AM
To: MacKenzie, Sandy A FLNR:EX <Sandy.MacKenzie@gov.bc.ca>; Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Zones

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi guys,

Spoke with Craig from GS regarding white river yesterday. Not unsurprisingly things are not going well. Due to a variety of issues they will not be completed on time. They are now thinking closer to end of January.

With Finn communications with TMEP not going well regarding Foam, loss of WR, harassment from our protesters at coulees etc. I once again want to push for the idea of a 1 year permit for the fingers. Another thought would be the front side of Petty but I know that one would be a huge stretch.

Once again, I know holidays are coming and timelines get hard for folks so I really want to be proactive on this. The Club needs some good news!

If there is anything I can do to help with the folks that make decisions on these zones please let me know. I am happy to speak with anyone regarding this to see if we can move forward.

I had suggested we could offer up HorseShoe if that helps the plight.

Please let me know where things stand.

Regards,

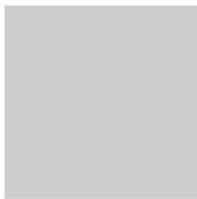
Andy

Andy Boughton

General Manager

BRPPS

s.22



Re: Snowmobile updates

From: Tyre, Jeff ENV:EX <Jeff.Tyre@gov.bc.ca>
To: Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com>
Cc: Chayer, Warren ENV:EX <Warren.Chayer@gov.bc.ca>, Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>, Butcher, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Butcher@gov.bc.ca>, Kravontka, Colin J ENV:EX <Colin.Kravontka@gov.bc.ca>, VARDA <Info@ridevalemount.com>, Doyle, Chris J ENV:EX <Chris.Doyle@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 3, 2021 9:08:41 AM PST

Good morning all, I'm currently ^{s.22} the Project Lead for the Caribou Enforcement Project with the COS. I don't jump into all conversations but I may be able to shed some light on this one.

I can't speak to all the questions as I don't have the local knowledge but I can speak to signage and maps. We've noted throughout the Province that signage and mapping are consistent areas of concern. The COS has a limited amount of signs that we can post in emergency situations and we've identified a need for a significant snowmobile closure sign placement campaign throughout the Province and are engaging FLNRO to take this task on. In addition, we rely heavily on our snowmobile clubs to post signs as they are the best authority on where they should be.

All the signage we have has been purchased by FLNRO.

It would be helpful if you could provide your local caribou biologist (Bevan I believe) and CO Chayer with the number of signs needed, locations and what they should look like (ie simple closure signs or larger signs showing closures).

As far as Park boundary signs go, that is BC Parks realm. Again, bring your site specific concerns forward but you'll need to engage BC Parks. I'm sure CO Chayer has a contact.

Mapping is also an area of concern. There are publicly available closure maps but if people are not accessing them we need to know why and we need to know how to reach the public. Your ideas would be welcomed.

Jeff Tyre
Sgt Cariboo/Chilcotin Zone
Conservation Officer Service

On Mar 3, 2021, at 8:29 AM, Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com> wrote:

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Morning Warren,

Thank you Warren for the information. While we can't directly control where people choose to ride we do feel we can make some improvements with mapping and signage to help keep people riding in bounds.

I am not sure where the sign was that was on the power lines? I don't recall installing that at any time during my time with BRPPS and I don't have any extra signs around so not sure what happened to that.

I do have questions about signage and who is responsible for purchasing and placing them. As a small not for profit our funds are always tight. The past 2 years we have lost much revenue due to logging and of course COVID which does not help us. That said, I will do my best to ensure we have appropriate signage in line with what all clubs would typically do.

We have had some issues with park boundaries. Would that be BC parks we would speak with to ensure there is appropriate signing in the backcountry near our zones?

Areas such as petty and fingers. Are most clubs responsible to sign all areas that fall outside actual riding zones?

We are working on some funding to improve the maps we have of our zones. Over the years, before the our club became more structured with a consistent and involved board, and the addition of a GM, different folks had "tweaked" maps in effort to ensure our zones are better defined. I am trying to find files for the original intention of the zones but that is seemingly difficult. Regardless, our mapping will be greatly improved. Which I hope helps.

Warren, I am happy to discuss this and gain some guidance anytime. It would seem this season riders have been a bit more liberal in where they choose to ride. We do not support this and will do our best to have our zones better defined but I would need some direction, and likely assistance, if we are to be also signing areas for which we are not directly responsible.

Let me know if you have some time near the end of the week or early next to discuss.

Thank you again for the report. These are useful for our team.

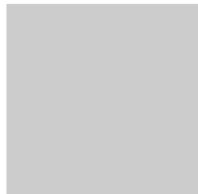
Andy

Andy Boughton

General Manager

BRPPS

s.22



On Wed, Mar 3, 2021 at 7:59 AM Chayer, Warren ENV:EX <Warren.Chayer@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hello All,

I thought I'd quickly update you all as to some observations and findings of recent patrols of the various areas. Early patrols showed good compliance but things have changed a bit recently.

BRPP areas

Recent flight on Feb 27/2021 noted numerous out of bounds travel into the puddles to the west of Ground Hog West. Accessing via the bend in the trail where I know it is signed.

Snowmobilers trying to access GH West via the outdated and illegal road system up from Shannon Creek /Sundt creek/fowler Lake. I believe this is signed at the base of Shannon Creek FSR.

3 riders charged on Feb. 27, 2021 for being in the Finger Bowls as well as some old snow-bike tracks using the area.

Some access into Berry Peddie via the powerline west of Blue river townsite- we used to have a big banner on the power poles but this has not been installed. Can we get this reinstalled.?

Since there is no riding area anywhere close and we all know this is where the caribou predominantly reside this time of year, this is a bit concerning.

Caribou and or/tracks routinely noted to west of Coulee's area

Valemount Areas

Chappel has been good except for the long weekend when several tracks were noted below Norbert's Nose and in the meadows that run parallel to the ridge. Caribou tracks at the very entrance to the riding area also noted back on Feb. 14/2021.

Have not ventured to Allan on patrols.

If you have any issues or concerns just call me. Thanks.

Warren

RE: Blue River Powder Packers Illegal Promotion of Snowmobiling in Wells Gray Provincial Park

From: Haughton, Tod ENV:EX <Tod.Haughton@gov.bc.ca>
To: Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com>
Cc: MacKenzie, Sandy A FLNR:EX <Sandy.MacKenzie@gov.bc.ca>, Nowotny, Chris ENV:EX <Chris.Nowotny@gov.bc.ca>, Gat, Vladimira ENV:EX <Vladimira.Gat@gov.bc.ca>, Kravontka, Colin J ENV:EX <Colin.Kravontka@gov.bc.ca>, Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 8, 2021 3:45:03 PM PST
Attachments: image001.png, image002.jpg

Hello Andy,

I really appreciate your quick response to this, and your commitment to improve the club's professionalism with regards to mapping and promotional material. Vladi and I will work with you to assist in whatever way we can. You should have the Park boundary kml file now (I sent it after we spoke on Friday). As for the SMA boundaries, BC Parks doesn't manage those areas but you can find kml and gpx files for them here: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/snowmobile-closures/gpx-download.html>. I believe you've spoken with Bevan Ernst in the past – he's the best person to connect with to ensure your public material aligns with legal riding areas. Thank you for removing the Big Blue map from the website immediately after we spoke on Friday. Unfortunately the mapping that remains up shows the vast majority of Paradise being in the park, as well as a small part of Coulees, so I'll have to ask you to remove or amend those as soon as possible too. Could you let me know when that's been done?

Again, I really appreciate your attention to this and I appreciate your commitment to clarifying legitimate riding areas for your membership and the general public. We'll be in touch soon about any remaining signage at kiosks or elsewhere, and assist with signage, compliance and outreach where we can.

Cheers,

Tod Haughton

Area Supervisor – Thompson Northern Forests
BC Parks | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Cell Phone: 250.319.0271



Honouring Secwepemc connection to the land and their traditions within these territories.

From: Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com>
Sent: March 5, 2021 5:33 PM
To: Haughton, Tod ENV:EX <Tod.Haughton@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: MacKenzie, Sandy A FLNR:EX <Sandy.MacKenzie@gov.bc.ca>; Nowotny, Chris ENV:EX <Chris.Nowotny@gov.bc.ca>; Gat, Vladimira ENV:EX <Vladimira.Gat@gov.bc.ca>; Kravontka, Colin J ENV:EX <Colin.Kravontka@gov.bc.ca>; Michelfelder, Volker ENV:EX <Volker.Michelfelder@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Blue River Powder Packers Illegal Promotion of Snowmobiling in Wells Gray Provincial Park

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hello all,

We seem to have two email strings in play on this so I did want to be sure I replied to his one as well. As mentioned I simply cannot apologize more for issues we have with the mapping in this area. I am embarrassed to review the park boundaries provided by Todd with our current map, especially for Big Blue. Prior to receiving this email I had started applying for some funding to improve our maps as I understood them to not be perfect but I am not sure I truly appreciate just how off a couple of them actually are. I have a big picture plan in place to review and fix all of our zone maps including recommended digital strategies for our riders to know exactly where they are. In light of this email I will certainly be moving that project to the forefront of our projects. I did call Todd immediately and we had a conversation about what was needed and he suggested he will help in any way possible. I truly appreciate the support.

As mentioned I had already started reviewing our information but had a hard time finding what the actual original lines are for our areas. Using Big Blue for example I don't seem to have any information showing what was initially agreed upon. I will keep hunting but if anyone had some ideas of where this information might be stored on the government side that would be greatly appreciated.

I believe the mapping we have is fairly outdated and has not been reviewed in sometime. There was no purposeful intent to expand our zones past what was originally negotiated. Based on quick chats with current board members I think it is a case of various folks over the years tweaking this line and that for whatever reason without really comparing it to the park boundaries. I intend to fix this asap and ensure our riders have the appropriate information. Once again I apologize for this on behalf of myself and BRPPS. It is not acceptable. I have worked hard to improve our professionalism and reputation with all stakeholders involved and consider this an embarrassment and indeed a set back to that progression.

With your help we will do better. With our help we hope the riders will be more respectful of the zones and ride within our limits.

I will be in touch with our progression as we move forward.

Andy Boughton
General Manager
BRPPS

s.22



On Fri, Mar 5, 2021 at 2:03 PM Haughton, Tod ENV:EX <Tod.Haughton@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hello,

It's recently come to our attention that the mapping included on your website ([Sled Areas in Blue River, BC - Snowmobiling Blue River - Powder Packers \(sledblueriver.com\)](http://SledAreasinBlueRiverBC.com)) promotes riding opportunities in Wells Gray Provincial Park, particularly in the Big Blue, Paradise and Coulees areas (there is a particularly egregious example below).

These areas include important caribou habitat and are closed to snowmobiling by virtue of the Park Act. Contraventions under the associated Regulations are liable to fines up to \$200 000 per offence, per day. This would apply to anyone riding in the Park, and by extension, those agencies promoting that activity.

Please respond with a plan to remove this mapping from your website, trailhead signage and promotional material; to replace it with accurate maps that clearly identify park boundaries and illegal riding areas; and to inform your membership and the visiting public of the existing errors in mapping.

Thank you. Feel free to contact me anytime if I can provide clarification on any of the above.

Tod Haughton

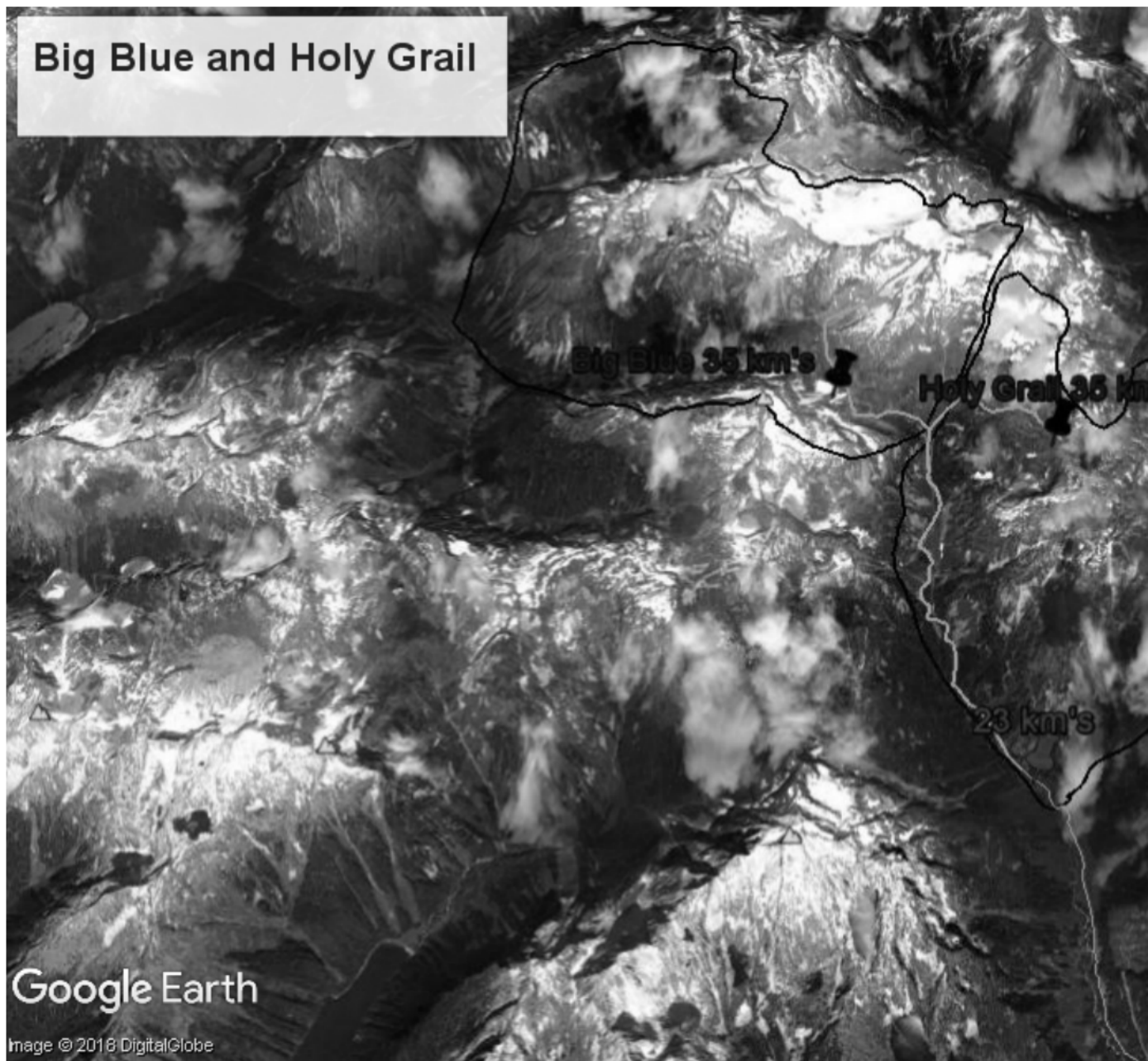
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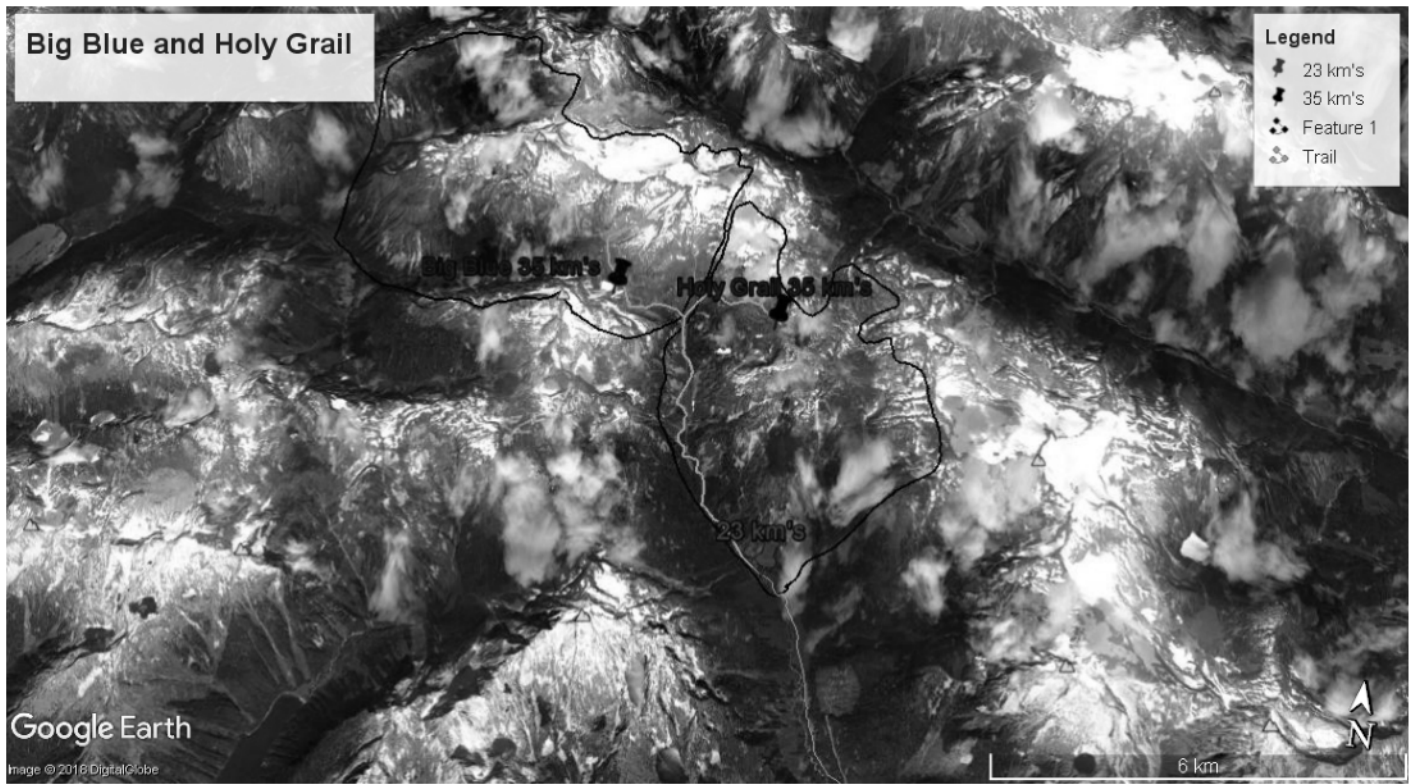


BC Parks

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Big Blue and Holy Grail





RE: Blue River Area

From: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX s.15
To: Andy Boughton, Haughton, Tod ENV:EX
Cc: MacKenzie, Sandy A FLNR:EX, Gat, Vladimira ENV:EX, Nowotny, Chris ENV:EX, Kravontka, Colin J ENV:EX
Sent: March 9, 2021 12:42:47 PM PST
Attachments: image002.png, BLUE_RIVER_TRAILS.kmz, BLUE_RIVER_AREAS.kmz, Area_Boundaries.gdb.zip, Local_Parks.kmz, image001.png

Good afternoon Andy,

The current boundaries of SMA areas and motor vehicle closures are available for download on Data Bc by searching snowmobile (<https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/snowmobile-management-areas-access-management-areas-ama> and <https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/snowmobile-management-trails-access-management-area-ama>, and also thought the caribou recovery closures website (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/snowmobile-closures/gpx-download.html>). I have pulled out from those larger datasets the applicable ones around Blue River as well as local park boundaries and have attached them as KMZ as well as a geodatabase (that will need to be unzipped before it can be read) that can be used by mapping software. These files can be used to put accurate maps that are consistent with the legally established boundaries on your website.



Bevan Ernst, MSc, RPBio

Regional Caribou Biologist

Thompson Okanagan Region | Ecosystems Section

Phone (250) 312-6640 | Mobile (250) 318-6929

Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

From: Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com>

Sent: March 9, 2021 8:44 AM

To: Haughton, Tod ENV:EX <Tod.Haughton@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: MacKenzie, Sandy A FLNR:EX <Sandy.MacKenzie@gov.bc.ca>; Gat, Vladimira ENV:EX <Vladimira.Gat@gov.bc.ca>; Nowotny, Chris ENV:EX <Chris.Nowotny@gov.bc.ca>; Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>; Kravontka, Colin J ENV:EX <Colin.Kravontka@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: Blue River Area

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Morning all,

Paradise and the Coulees have been updated on the website. They are not pretty but the boundaries do not overlap with the Park.

I have instructed our booth attendants to not give out printed maps for those areas, and we will not distribute area maps.

Todd, I will have a look at where a corridor makes sense for Big Blue. It would be a very slim section that would allow access to the area so hopefully we can work on something so we can keep the area. While only skilled riders can even gain access it truly is a beautiful area and a great feature for our community.

I will send off a file soon and we can start from there.

Let me know if there is anything I am missing. I will update the BRPPS board as well.

Andy

Andy Boughton
General Manager
BRPPS

s.22

On Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 3:56 PM Haughton, Tod ENV:EX <Tod.Haughton@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi again Andy,

Glad to hear you're working on funding to improve the digital mapping. As for the physical signage, we're certainly willing to help, however it does present a couple challenges for us as an agency. We manage the park, and don't have any authority over the other closures or SMA designations, so we'd be stepping outside our lane a bit. That said, if it helps ensure compliance with the Park Act, we will do what we can.

Let's touch base later this week or next to discuss this, and also the Big Blue corridor – if you have some map or (ideally) GIS file to identify it, that would be a good start.

And ideally, let's get the Paradise and Coulee maps removed or improved prior to discussing next steps.

Thanks again Andy. Lots of work to do and I appreciate your attention to it.

Tod Haughton

Area Supervisor – Thompson Northern Forests

BC Parks | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Cell Phone: 250.319.0271



BC Parks

Honouring Secwepemc connection to the land and their traditions within these territories.

From: Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com>

Sent: March 8, 2021 9:28 AM

To: Haughton, Tod ENV:EX <Tod.Haughton@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: MacKenzie, Sandy A FLNR:EX <Sandy.MacKenzie@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Blue River Area

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Tod,

I have been constantly thinking about how we can improve things up the North Blue Valley.

As mentioned I am applying for funding to work on our site for the areas, much better mapping and a professional that knows GIS, maps and apps to help us better inform our riders.

While I firmly believe digital is the only real way to be successful I did wonder about a large sign that we could put out at ~20km which would have the Big Blue, Grail, Paradise zones defined as well as Park, Caribou and Section 58 closures.

If we did feel that was a good idea is that something Parks might help with?

Also, on review of Big Blue the entry that has been traditionally used does skirt just inside of the park. Would there be away to apply for a corridor for just that small section?

Andy

Andy Boughton

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BRPPS

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Sent: March 10, 2021 5:34:25 PM PST
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Thank you so much Bevan,
These will indeed be helpful.

Andy
Andy Boughton
General Manager
BRPPS

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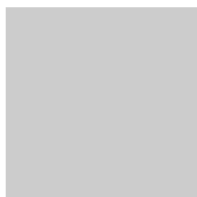
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Tod Haughton

Area Supervisor – Thompson Northern Forests

BC Parks | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Cell Phone: 250.319.0271



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General Manager

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To: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 11, 2021 2:21:28 PM PST
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png

Thanks Bevan, this is really helpful.
Tod

From: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: March 9, 2021 12:43 PM

To: 'Andy Boughton' <info@sledblueriver.com>; Haughton, Tod ENV:EX <Tod.Haughton@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: MacKenzie, Sandy A FLNR:EX <Sandy.MacKenzie@gov.bc.ca>; Gat, Vladimira ENV:EX <Vladimira.Gat@gov.bc.ca>; Nowotny, Chris ENV:EX <Chris.Nowotny@gov.bc.ca>; Kravontka, Colin J ENV:EX <Colin.Kravontka@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Blue River Area

Good afternoon Andy,

The current boundaries of SMA areas and motor vehicle closures are available for download on Data Bc by searching snowmobile (<https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/snowmobile-management-areas-access-management-areas-ama> and <https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/snowmobile-management-trails-access-management-area-ama>, and also thought the caribou recovery closures website (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/snowmobile-closures/gpx-download.html>). I have pulled out from those larger datasets the applicable ones around Blue River as well as local park boundaries and have attached them as KMZ as well as a geodatabase (that will need to be unzipped before it can be read) that can be used by mapping software. These files can be used to put accurate maps that are consistent with the legally established boundaries on your website.



Bevan Ernst, MSc, RPBio

Regional Caribou Biologist

Thompson Okanagan Region | Ecosystems Section

Phone (250) 312-6640 | Mobile (250) 318-6929

Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

From: Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com>

Sent: March 9, 2021 8:44 AM

To: Haughton, Tod ENV:EX <Tod.Haughton@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: MacKenzie, Sandy A FLNR:EX <Sandy.MacKenzie@gov.bc.ca>; Gat, Vladimira ENV:EX <Vladimira.Gat@gov.bc.ca>; Nowotny, Chris ENV:EX <Chris.Nowotny@gov.bc.ca>; Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>; Kravontka, Colin J ENV:EX <Colin.Kravontka@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: Blue River Area

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Morning all,

Paradise and the Coulees have been updated on the website. They are not pretty but the boundaries do not overlap with the Park.

I have instructed our booth attendants to not give out printed maps for those areas, and we will not distribute area maps.

Todd, I will have a look at where a corridor makes sense for Big Blue. It would be a very slim section that would allow access to the area so hopefully we can work on something so we can keep the area. While only skilled riders can even gain access it truly is a beautiful area and a great feature for our community.

I will send off a file soon and we can start from there.

Let me know if there is anything I am missing. I will update the BRPPS board as well.

Andy

Andy Boughton
General Manager
BRPPS



On Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 3:56 PM Haughton, Tod ENV:EX <Tod.Haughton@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi again Andy,

Glad to hear you're working on funding to improve the digital mapping. As for the physical signage, we're certainly willing to help, however it does present a couple challenges for us as an agency. We manage the park, and don't have any authority over the other closures or SMA designations, so we'd be stepping outside our lane a bit. That said, if it helps ensure compliance with the Park Act, we will do what we can.

Let's touch base later this week or next to discuss this, and also the Big Blue corridor – if you have some map or (ideally) GIS file to identify it, that would be a good start.

And ideally, let's get the Paradise and Coulee maps removed or improved prior to discussing next steps.

Thanks again Andy. Lots of work to do and I appreciate your attention to it.

Tod Haughton

Area Supervisor – Thompson Northern Forests

BC Parks | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Cell Phone: 250.319.0271



BC Parks

Honouring Secwepemc connection to the land and their traditions within these territories.

From: Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com>

Sent: March 8, 2021 9:28 AM

To: Haughton, Tod ENV:EX <Tod.Haughton@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: MacKenzie, Sandy A FLNR:EX <Sandy.MacKenzie@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Blue River Area

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Tod,

I have been constantly thinking about how we can improve things up the North Blue Valley.

As mentioned I am applying for funding to work on our site for the areas, much better mapping and a professional that knows GIS, maps and apps to help us better inform our riders.

While I firmly believe digital is the only real way to be successful I did wonder about a large sign that we could put out at ~20km which would have the Big Blue, Grail, Paradise zones defined as well as Park, Caribou and Section 58 closures.

If we did feel that was a good idea is that something Parks might help with?

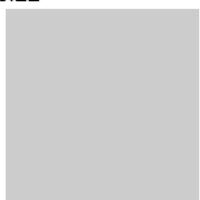
Also, on review of Big Blue the entry that has been traditionally used does skirt just inside of the park. Would there be away to apply for a corridor for just that small section?

Andy

Andy Boughton

General Manager

BRPPS



Re: Blue River Area and BRPP

From: Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com>
To: Haughton, Tod ENV:EX <Tod.Haughton@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: MacKenzie, Sandy A FLNR:EX <Sandy.MacKenzie@gov.bc.ca>, Gat, Vladimira ENV:EX <Vladimira.Gat@gov.bc.ca>, Nowotny, Chris ENV:EX <Chris.Nowotny@gov.bc.ca>, Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>, Kravontka, Colin J ENV:EX <Colin.Kravontka@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 15, 2021 4:09:57 PM PDT
Attachments: image001.png

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Tod,

I am happy to meet whenever works for the group.

Just let me know and we can go from there.

I will look around for agreements regarding Big Blue. It has always just been part of the zones we access up the North Blue Valley. I understand the mapping was not correct but I will see if I can find something in our agreements regarding the zone.

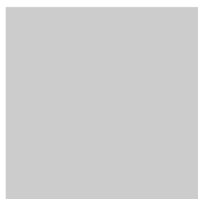
Andy

Andy Boughton

General Manager

BRPPS

s.22



On Thu, Mar 11, 2021 at 3:51 PM Haughton, Tod ENV:EX <Tod.Haughton@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hello Andy,

The mapping that is currently up on your website is accurate from a Parks' perspective, and I really appreciate the work you've put into that (I can't speak to the caribou closures or other agreements). It's also great to hear that the booth attendants are informed and the club board will be updated, again, thanks for getting that taken care of so quickly.

I received your map showing the proposed Big Blue Access Trail through Wells Gray, and I will take some time to discuss it with our caribou biologists and compliance officers. I can't find any agreements related to Big Blue – it doesn't seem to show up in any databases - so I'm not clear on the history there. If you have anything related to that area that might help I'd really appreciate it. I understand that your riding areas have been restricted lately and we'll do what we can to help.

We're currently planning to update boundary signage in Wells Gray, and I think it'd be good idea to have a chat between us and our Senior Park Ranger. We have some time tomorrow afternoon (Friday the 12th) but unfortunately don't overlap again until the week of the 22nd. Would you like to propose some times/dates that work for you and we'll find something that can accommodate everyone?

Thanks Andy, looking forward to discussing things again.

Tod

Tod Haughton

Area Supervisor – Thompson Northern Forests

BC Parks | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Cell Phone: 250.319.0271



BC Parks

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Subject: Re: Blue River Area

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Let me know if there is anything I am missing. I will update the BRPPS board as well.

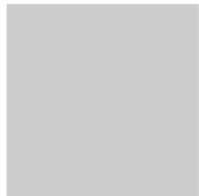
Andy

Andy Boughton

General Manager

BRPPS

s.22



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Thanks again Andy. Lots of work to do and I appreciate your attention to it.

Tod Haughton

Area Supervisor – Thompson Northern Forests

BC Parks |Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Cell Phone: 250.319.0271



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From: Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com>

Sent: March 8, 2021 9:28 AM

To: Haughton, Tod ENV:EX <Tod.Haughton@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: MacKenzie, Sandy A FLNR:EX <Sandy.MacKenzie@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Blue River Area

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Tod,

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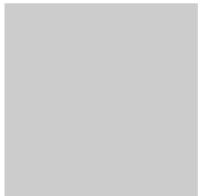
Andy

Andy Boughton

General Manager

BRPPS

s.22



Bullet points

From: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EXs.15
To: DeGroot, Leo FLNR:EX
Sent: April 1, 2021 1:52:27 PM PDT
Attachments: image001.png

s.22 Only have bullet points at this stage, will get set up and start collating data on historic surveys and patterns of habitat use to supplement with what information we do have.

- After completing surveys of the Groundhog were informed by local pilot that he had not observed caribou track in the Berry Peddie area during previous compliance and enforcement flights, as well a high-altitude transit flights over the area on other contracts.
- Historically animals have moved from areas north of Blue River drainage into the rolling forests of the Berry Peddie plateau. Since 2013 surveys there have been a minimum of 20 animals observed on the plateau, with 29 observed in 2019 and 40 in 2020.
- The entirety of the Berry Peddie area was surveyed and only a single group of 4 bulls were located with a complete absence of any caribou sign, including old snowed in tracks, .
- The area north of the Blue River Drainage was surveyed and a group of 21 caribou were observed in the North Blue River drainage in an area where caribou have not been observed in any surveys since 1995.
- The area the animals were located in have been shown through historic telemetry to be used during spring and summer months.
- Due to Covid pandemic Heli-ski operations in Blue River were suspended this year, potentially for the first time since the establishment of Mike Wiegele Heli Skiing operations. Snowmobiling has continued in the area under SMA agreements.
- The drastic change in the distribution of resident caribou could indicate that in years of heli ski operations they area being displaced from their desired habitat by heli-skiing operations.
- Additional data should be collected to determine the if the relations ship is causal or a coincidence.



Bevan Ernst, MSc, RPBio

Regional Caribou Biologist

Thompson Okanagan Region | Ecosystems Section

Phone (250) 312-6640 | Mobile (250) 318-6929

Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

Rationale

Based on reports from local Conservation Officers during snowmobiling compliance and enforcement flights that there was relatively little evidence of caribou in the Berry Peddie plateau a survey flight was conducted to confirm the absence of caribou in the area. A short flight confirmed that caribou were mostly absent from the Berry Peddie plateaus and were located in the North Blue River Drainage. The most obvious difference between this winter and previous years is the absence of heli-skiing due to the Covid pandemic. Due to its proximity to Blue River and terrain the North Blue River drainage typically experiences extensive heli-skiing use. It is therefore reasonable to infer that the change in habitat use by resident caribou is due to the change in disturbance pressure from heli-skiing. Historic information on caribou habitat use is compiled and potential further steps are proposed.

Background

The Berry Peddie plateau is located south of the Blue River drainage and has been historically used as winter range by caribou who spend their summers in the upper North Blue River drainage and in the south east of Wells Gray provincial park (Fig. 1). The Berry Peddie differs from other nearby caribou winter range in that there are not larger alpine peaks above the sub-alpine forests used by caribou during the winter. As a result, there is no desirable heli-skiing terrain in the area, and a motor vehicle prohibition prevents use of the area by local snowmobile clubs. In recent years the plateau has been as many 40 animals have been observed south of the Blue River on the plateau, accounting for approximately 30% of the total Wells Gray South caribou population. Due to the rolling topography and the abundance of scattered openings caribou can easily move around the plateau and on typical years the area can become saturated with caribou tracks, making it difficult to distinguish separate groups unless there has been enough recent snowfall to bury all previous tracks. The North Blue River drainage has multiple recreational users with several permitted snowmobiling areas within the valley, and the entire area surrounding the community of Blue River (including the North Blue drainage) are tenured for heli-skiing by Mike Wiegele's.



Figure 1. Area of interest in the vicinity of Blue River, BC. Hatching indicates blocks used to differentiate areas of occupation, solid fill shows snowmobile management areas. Note that the entire area is under heli-ski tenure.

Results

The survey flight confirmed reports that there were significantly less caribou in Berry Peddie than previous years. The entire area was covered and only a single group of four animals were observed in Berry Peddie (Fig 2). The location of the observation is the same area where a group of adult bulls have

been observed in previous surveys. Aside from this group the plateau was devoid of any evidence of caribou use including snowed in tracks and beds. When caribou were confirmed to be absent from Berry Peddie the survey flight was extended to search the North Blue River drainage and the Eastern border of the park to account for the approximately 35 “missing” caribou (Fig. 2). There were slightly higher numbers of caribou observed along the park border, and a total of 21 caribou observed in in a sub drainage southwest of Amnesty Peak.

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Figure 2. Flight lines and caribou observations from March 31, 2021 survey of area.

Historic Habitat Use

No caribou have been observed within the North Blue River Drainage during late winter census surveys since 1995, apart from a single on observation of four animals in 2019 on the westerns side of the valley near the height of land and border with Wells Gray provincial park (Fig.3). The lack of observations in this area has not been due to a lack of previous survey effort. In recent years there has been conflict between a local snowmobile groups and a backcountry tourism operator. To address the operators complaints around disturbance to caribou in the vicinity of her tenure the North Blue River drainage has received increased survey scrutiny, and is opportunistically assessed whenever other aerial surveys are occurring in the area, as well as the compliance and enforcement flights that occur in the area.

GPS tracking collars have been deployed on animals in the area in between 1997 and 2004, and again between 2018 and 2019 (Fig 4). This data shows that the North Blue is frequently used during the calving and summer periods, with individuals moving into the Berry Peddie during the early winter period, and returning to the North Blue at the end of winter. The date of movement into Berry Peddie is typically between late October and mid November, with the exception of a single individual(144) who moved between the different areas in July of 2002 before settling within the park (Table 1.). There is greater variation on the timing of return to the North Blue River, ranging from mid February to early May (Table 2), however the majority of the time this movement occurs between mid March and April. It is there fore possible that the observed distribution at the time of survey is within the natural variation of their habitat use, however the anecdotal reports for a lack of caribou in the Berry Peddie were first noted at the beginning of March 2021, and in years where there were early movements back in to North Blue, other collared animals remained in Berry Peddie until a more typical return time to North Blue.

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Figure 3. Historic late winter caribou census observations.

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Figure 4. Historic GPS collar locations showing areas of caribou use by season. Note that symbol size differentiates different individuals.

Table 1. Timing historic timing of movement into Berry Peddie plateau

ID	Year	First Date In Berry Peddie
BP1	2018	Nov 06
BP2	2018	Nov 11
87	1996	Oct 29
90	1997	Nov 16
96	1997	Nov 03
144	2002	Jul 10
157	2003	Nov 20
158	2004	Oct 28

Table 2. Historic timing of movement into North Blue drainage

ID	Year	First Date in North Blue
BP1	2018	Apr 12
BP1	2019	Mar 16
BP2	2018	Apr 25
BP2	2019	Mar 31
87	1996	Oct 01
90	1997	May 08
96	1997	May 09
144	2002	Apr 10
144	2003	Feb 12
157	2003	Apr 14
158	2003	Apr 20
158	2004	Feb 24

Next Steps

Despite the novelty of this observation it is not evidence that caribou are being displaced from desirable habitat by heli-skiing. Due to a lack of active collars deployed in this area there is not way of knowing if the caribou had completely avoided leaving the North Blue River valley, had a minor change in the timing of their seasonal movements, or were displaced from Berry Peddie by some other factors. To determine if the lack of heli-skiing is responsible for the observed shift in caribou habitat use the event would need to be replicated. This could be achieved by agreement to delay the initiation of helicopter activities in the valley until beyond the typical November movement period and assessing if the caribou leave the area after the start of heli-skiing operations. The ideal method to assess the movement of affected animals would be to deploy GPS tracking collars on a subset of animals in the area. Due to the timing of this observation the acceptable timing window for collar deployment is disappearing as development of calves in pregnant cows increase the risk of adverse effects or mortality in the capture process. In additions if the heli-skii operator can not be convinced to delay operations in the North Blue River drainage then no additional evidence on the impact of heli-ski operations in the area will be gained. An alternative method would be to conduct periodic high altitude over flights searching for evidence of caribou in the valley beyond their typical timing of moving to Berry Peddie. The drawback to this approach is that caribou are more likely to be utilising lower forested habitat during this period,

increasing the chance of missing evidence of occupation and yields less data with increased uncertainty. In both strategies there is the confounding effect of assessing disturbance by helicopters, when helicopters are used to capture animals or survey the area. Rapid deployment this spring would increase the time between helicopter-based capture and the focal disturbance by helicopters.

RE: Berry Peddie North Blue

From: Gordon, Steve M FLNR:EX <Steve.Gordon@gov.bc.ca>
To: Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca>, Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>, DeGroot, Leo FLNR:EX <Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca>, Zimmerman, Kathi ENV:EX <Kathi.Zimmerman@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 6, 2021 10:34:51 AM PDT
Attachments: image001.png

If the animal care issues can be addressed, this presents a unique opportunity. Might be worth seeking some statistical/ scientific study design advice to determine if the results could be statistically robust enough to enable publication, but from a resource management/ sector management perspective this opportunity is compelling.

SG

Steve Gordon, MSc., RPBio.
Habitat Manager
Wildlife and Habitat Branch
Resource Stewardship Division
(250) 739-8386

From: Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 6, 2021 9:45 AM

To: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>; DeGroot, Leo FLNR:EX <Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca>; Gordon, Steve M FLNR:EX <Steve.Gordon@gov.bc.ca>; Zimmerman, Kathi ENV:EX <Kathi.Zimmerman@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Laroche, Russ FLNR:EX <Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca>; Muter, David FLNR:EX <David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Berry Peddie North Blue

Thanks for the summary Leo. Still need a recommendation today.

I situation is not perfect but we will likely never be in this situation again.

As long as we can manage the animal care concerns my recommendation is to be bold and jump on the opportunity.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On Apr. 6, 2021 9:30 a.m., "DeGroot, Leo FLNR:EX" <Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Thanks for the details Bevan! Just so it is clear to everyone, the proposal is to collar 10 caribou this week as an opportunistic emergency project, correct Bevan? I know we discussed last week, just wanting to confirm. If so, I do have a couple comments:

- By rushing this through we may not be properly assessing against all the other project proposals for this fiscal
- We may be on the verge of being too late for captures, considering pregnancies and general firmer / crusty snow with greater risk of injury
- We may have missed the Covid window by next winter, so would need the heliski operators to avoid skiing in certain areas to replicate. Maybe no need to rush as a replicate could be any year?

We could have a call to discuss further?

Leo

From: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 6, 2021 8:57 AM

To: DeGroot, Leo FLNR:EX <Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca>; Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca>; Gordon, Steve M FLNR:EX <Steve.Gordon@gov.bc.ca>; Zimmerman, Kathi ENV:EX <Kathi.Zimmerman@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Berry Peddie North Blue

What I was able to pull together over the weekend around the Blue River caribou.

FW: Berry Peddie North Blue

From: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX s.15
To: Thacker, Caeley FLNR:EX
Sent: April 6, 2021 11:39:17 AM PDT
Attachments: image001.png



Bevan Ernst, MSc, RPBio
Regional Caribou Biologist
Thompson Okanagan Region | Ecosystems Section
Phone (250) 312-6640 | Mobile (250) 318-6929
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

From: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX

Sent: April 6, 2021 8:57 AM

To: DeGroot, Leo FLNR:EX <Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca>; Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca>; Gordon, Steve M FLNR:EX <Steve.Gordon@gov.bc.ca>; Zimmerman, Kathi ENV:EX <Kathi.Zimmerman@gov.bc.ca>

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FW: Berry Peddie North Blue

From: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX s.15
To: Surgenor, John FLNR:EX
Sent: April 6, 2021 3:26:03 PM PDT
Attachments: image001.png



Bevan Ernst, MSc, RPBio
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Sent: April 6, 2021 8:57 AM

To: DeGroot, Leo FLNR:EX <Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca>; Peel, Darcy E FLNR:EX <Darcy.Peel@gov.bc.ca>; Gordon, Steve M FLNR:EX <Steve.Gordon@gov.bc.ca>; Zimmerman, Kathi ENV:EX <Kathi.Zimmerman@gov.bc.ca>

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Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

Re: Patrols

From: Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com>
To: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 12, 2021 1:19:58 PM PDT
Attachments: image001.png, image001.png

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Whom it may is just fine.
Thanks!

On Mon., Apr. 12, 2021, 1:18 p.m. Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX, <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Ok will draft up a letter, is there anybody I should be addressing it to or just a “to whom it may concern”?



Bevan Ernst, MSc, RPBio

Regional Caribou Biologist

Thompson Okanagan Region | Ecosystems Section

Phone (250) 312-6640 | Mobile (250) 318-6929

**Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural
Development**

From: Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com>
Sent: April 10, 2021 10:33 AM
To: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Patrols

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Thank you again for the help.

I am hoping to submit this request on Wednesday April 14.

Thanks!

Andy Boughton

General Manager

BRPPS

s.22



On Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 10:50 AM Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com> wrote:

Thanks!

We had approximately 7 closers over the past 2 years due to the patrols. As you know we close, wait a week, re check and make a decision. Looks like 2 times we remained closed longer than a week.

I wouldn't worry about making the note too elaborate. I am sure the letter with just your name at the bottom will go a long way!


Andy

Andy Boughton

General Manager

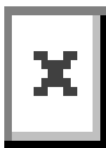
BRPPS

s.22



On Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 9:37 AM Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

That sounds like a reasonable request, I should be able to pull something like that together. Do you have any of the information that you could share on when patrols occurred over the last couple years and the instances where they have resulted in change to reduce disturbance to caribou that I can point to as positive examples? How did the patrols go this year? Was there never any caribou sign observed on the patrols? I know that the collared female spent most of her time in the Salmon Lakes area, and saw them during a survey within a couple hundred metres of some sledgers. Also worth noting that there were a large number of caribou observed in the North Blue drainage on the east side of the valley so should give riders a heads up to keep an eye out for them potentially wandering into Holy Grail during this last week of riding.



Bevan Ernst, MSc, RPBio

Regional Caribou Biologist

Thompson Okanagan Region | Ecosystems Section

Phone (250) 312-6640 | Mobile (250) 318-6929

Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

From: Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com>
Sent: April 1, 2021 4:02 PM
To: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Patrols

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Bevan,

Hope all is well and you have some great plans for the long weekend.

I have a favor to ask. Pure favor.

I am going to apply for a grant for next year to help with our caribou patrols. As we know they are important but they are also very costly for the club.

As a not for profit organization we might qualify for the North Thompson Foundation Grant. I am going to try and see if we can get a grant to cover the patrols, or at least a portion of the patrols.

I will be writing the grant to express the importance of the patrols and our societies history of performing the patrols etc. in support of the caribou recovery program for the province.

I thought it might help to have a quick letter, signed by yourself, to highlight the importance of the patrols.

I think something simple that essentially states you support the idea of the patrols and feel they are necessary for the success of our operation and that of the recovery and protection efforts.

Would not likely have to be more than a paragraph supporting our efforts.

If we received funding we might even be able to increase the patrols and look at other areas if you felt we should be patrolling them as well.

The more funding we can receive the more we can put in to mapping, website development and general wayfinding efforts to keep our riders in the designated zones. I have also applied for a grant to work on our wayfinding efforts. I am not sure if it will be successful as the grant was well over subscribed. If we are successful with the NT grant I would divert the funds used for the patrols to improving the way finding in the event that our other grant is not approved.

Ultimately, we do our best to find funds and the move operational income towards priorities for the club. Our major priority now is looking at way finding and working with our riders to understand they need to respect the boundaries for the caribou and parks.

The grant is due April 15. Again, I think a paragraph or 2 (max unless you want to add more) should be fine. I am guessing should be on letterhead if possible.

Please let me know either way.

I appreciate you consideration Bevan.

Andy

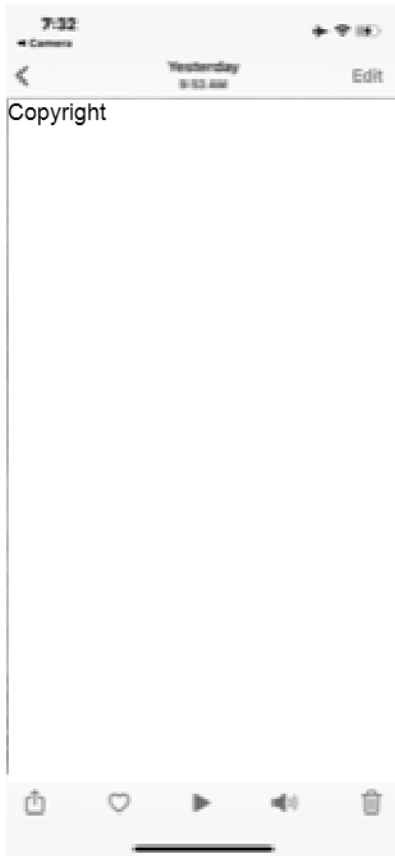
Andy Boughton

General Manager

BRPPS

s.22





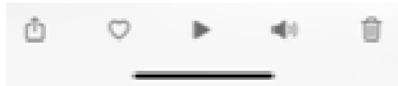
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FW: Secwepemc Caribou Data and Concerns

From: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX s.15
To: Wiebe, Heather I FLNR:EX, DeGroot, Leo FLNR:EX, Lachance, Genevieve E FLNR:EX
Sent: April 15, 2021 5:00:46 PM PDT
Attachments: IMG_1902.jpeg, Caribou Leg #1.jpeg, DSC05149.jpeg, DSC03331.jpeg, image001.png, DSC02053.jpeg, IMG_1948.PNG, IMG_0040.jpeg, IMG_1947.PNG

Probably should have forwarded this in the first place,

This is the email string that led to this.

I appreciate all possible support if Genevieve is available. I will Have the local rec guy s.22

s.22 to rec sites and trails since they manage the backcountry tenure. They said they don't manage rec or caribou values though so we need to figure it out.



Bevan Ernst, MSc, RPBio

Regional Caribou Biologist

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Phone (250) 312-6640 | Mobile (250) 318-6929

Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

From: MacKenzie, Sandy A FLNR:EX <Sandy.MacKenzie@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 14, 2021 3:08 PM

To: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: Secwepemc Caribou Data and Concerns

Hi Bevan.

Hope all is well. Kerri Jo Fortier (Simpw First Nation) contacted me about snowy mountain and concerns expressed by s.22 over caribou and the impacts of sledding. See the email stream below. I spoke with s.22 who in turn spoke with s.22. Both suggested I talk to you. Let me know your thoughts. Perhaps a chat over the phone once you've digested this. Thanks Bevan.

Sandy MacKenzie

District Recreation Officer

Headwaters Recreation District

687 Yellowhead Hwy.

Clearwater BC V0E 1N2

Work# 250-674-4615

Cell# 778-208-7085

Fax# 250-587-6790

Email: sandy.mackenzie@gov.bc.ca

Web page: <http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca>

From: Kerri Jo Fortier <NRD.Manager@simpw.com>

Sent: April 14, 2021 1:46 PM

To: MacKenzie, Sandy A FLNR:EX <Sandy.MacKenzie@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: Secwepemc Caribou Data and Concerns

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Sandy,

Are you able to provide Simpwc any information as to the concern below?

What is the current relationship with Snowy Mountain Lodge?

Has any complaints been filed before by them? If so, how were they addressed?

Thank you for looking into,

Kerri Jo

From: George Lampreau <CouncilGeorge.Lampreau@simpcw.com>

Sent: April 14, 2021 12:07 PM

To: Kerri Jo Fortier <NRD.Manager@simpcw.com>

Subject: Fwd: Secwepemc Caribou Data and Concerns

Hello Kerri jo. This lady is having some trouble with snowmobiles in the closed areas around blue river . She has photos of the caribou tracks and sped tracks and it sounds like she has tried to have conversations with blue river power packers and other to no avail. Can I get hunter to have her contact you to see if we can help ?
George

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Hunter Lampreau <wildlife@qwelminte.ca>

Date: April 14, 2021 at 11:11:00 AM PDT

To: Tina Donald <Fisheries.Manager@simpcw.com>, George Lampreau

<CouncilGeorge.Lampreau@simpcw.com>, Rhonda Kershaw <G2G.Coordinator@simpcw.com>

Subject: Fwd: Secwepemc Caribou Data and Concerns

Fyi - more information about the blue river caribou herd previously discussed. I'll be responding when timely about our roles of campfire leadership and governance on these issues.

Get Outlook for Android<<https://aka.ms/AAb9ysg>>

From: Snowy Mountain Lodge <info@snowymountain.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 10:50:38 AM

To: Hunter Lampreau <wildlife@qwelminte.ca>

Subject: Secwepemc Caribou Data and Concerns

Hello Hunter,

Please accept the attached photos as a small sample of the Caribou Data that I have collected over the
s.22 These photos are taken in the North Blue River Valley during Feb and April 2021.
There are more presence this year than in the past few seasons-

Our 10 year trail camera data shows regular occupation in the valley until it opens for public snowmobiling November 15th and it shows that the North Blue River Valley is a Mountain Caribou Nursery.

The latest acute interception of recreational snowmobiling was over the past few days. The area closes to public snowmobiling tomorrow but the Caribou try and persist in a this key habitat despite the calendar of allowed their allowed occupation set out by BC's Caribou biologists.

My short term recommendation is that efforts are made to communicate to the Blue River Powder Packers snowmobile club that public snowmobiling be suspended until these acute interceptions of cows and calves and occasionally bulls can be investigated and reviewed in context of Mountain Caribou Recovery efforts.

Longer term- I will provide my data collection of Mountain Caribou to help support management efforts governed by Secwepemc people. I have a mountain of documents, photos and videos that curate the government data collection, government published science research, campaign This goes back thirty years and some of the original data collection projects for Wells Gray Provincial Park that used telemetry collars.

I don't bother reporting these events to BC anymore- they ignore my emails. The feds already ordered the BC government to re-do a better plan and the situation has been ignored. You are the only people I have to tell that cares.

We can support a field trip to the lodge for any of your members at anytime- perhaps assist with immersion into the Caribou nursery- Covid 19 Work Safety Protocols in place.

Thank you,
s.22

This is a tiny sample of my photo data and all of these images are taken of the population that occupies the eastern edge of Wells Gray Park, Straight Creek and the North Blue River Valley.

[cid:C20C202E-C454-4262-89D1-B9CC10119D62@GalaxyBroadband.ca]

[cid:FE385594-0D22-4CB1-9CDC-79365BCA3DCB@GalaxyBroadband.ca]

[cid:A568DBA1-AC03-4768-8CAA-26D75D8790C5@GalaxyBroadband.ca]

[cid:1D7961E1-CA70-4C84-B2E9-C5851E5F301C@GalaxyBroadband.ca]

[cid:D2AE0043-DF2A-4EB0-B9EF-B74DE2199406@GalaxyBroadband.ca]

[cid:625B6A42-CC81-4D81-AC37-EB73993865B2@GalaxyBroadband.ca]ou nursery for your land guardians.

[cid:A0D98EB7-0C17-449B-AD55-5BE330DFDB76@GalaxyBroadband.ca][cid:CCB6F53C-6CB0-473F-BBFC-C135A73AC31F@GalaxyBroadband.ca]

Snowy Mountain Lodge

info@snowymountain.ca<mailto:info@snowymountain.ca>

s.22

RE: Simpcw call tomorrow

From: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX s.15
To: Wiebe, Heather I FLNR:EX, Lachance, Genevieve E FLNR:EX
Cc: DeGroot, Leo FLNR:EX
Sent: April 16, 2021 1:07:39 PM PDT
Attachments: image002.png, image003.png

Hi Guys,

Just a little debrief if you were interested. s.22

s.22 and brought up that they had dealt with the in the past with the same outcome, big claims coming in but never getting any of the supporting evidence promised. So they are no longer concerned about the email she sent them, Apparently this round she had some pictures of caribou, which led to the point that if she is getting close enough to caribou for pictures she is disturbing them, as well as the point that if the snowmobile overlap with her tenure is disturbing caribou then they are in the area and her activities are also likely to be disturbing caribou. We did end up going down several discussion paths about Blue River caribou and snowmobiling. First and foremost they would like to see greater consequences of non-compliance, both for individuals and the club. I did mention that the fines for violations defined in the wildlife act so that the point where that would need to be changed and we just can't set arbitrary punishments ourselves. Simpcw is going to want to have discussion with Blue River club which the rec office is setting up. Did end up discussing observations of caribou not moving out of heli area this year and they are wanting more info collected that can show heli influence and even recommended the same strategy that we needed up leaning towards of getting MW to change pattern of use to see if we can show causal relationship. The topic of game cameras and camera trap grids came up and Simpcw is very interested in getting one set up, proposing that they would like to cost share and be partners in establishing one. I made no promises that we make that happen, and pointed out is very expensive process but they are interested in what the cost would be. I am going to forward on that info to them once I have it. I can see from the spreadsheet that our budget was 110k for the Itchas but that notes cost share with parks and UBCO. On the whole was much more positive than I anticipated and Simpcw interested in working together moving forward for monitoring and management in the future.



Bevan Ernst, MSc, RPBio

Regional Caribou Biologist

Thompson Okanagan Region | Ecosystems Section

Phone (250) 312-6640 | Mobile (250) 318-6929

Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

From: Wiebe, Heather I FLNR:EX <Heather.Wiebe@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 15, 2021 4:22 PM

To: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>; Lachance, Genevieve E FLNR:EX <Genevieve.Lachance@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: DeGroot, Leo FLNR:EX <Leo.DeGroot@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Simpcw call tomorrow

Hey all,

Bevan, Genevieve has reached out to Simpcw and they were indeed on that call we discussed.

Genevieve is going to look for time for you two to connect prior to your 11am tomorrow.

If possible, and makes sense, perhaps Genevieve could attend the 11am call for continuity. I'll leave that up to you guys.

Thanks for the call Bevan, and thanks for the flexibility Genevieve.

hw



Heather Wiebe (she/her)

NxNW Team Lead

Omineca Region

BC CARIBOU RECOVERY PROGRAM

Vision: Conserving and recovering British Columbia's caribou through excellence in integrated resource stewardship.

Phone: 778-916-4005



Re: Snowy Mountain

From: Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com>
To: s.22
Cc: Meeks, Roger FLNR:EX <Roger.Meeks@gov.bc.ca>, MacKenzie, Sandy A FLnr:Ex <sandy.mackenzie@gov.bc.ca>, Kravontka, Colin J ENV:EX <Colin.Kravontka@gov.bc.ca>, Warren ENV:EX Chayer <Warren.Chayer@gov.bc.ca>, Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>, s.22
MacKenzie, Sandy A FLNR:EX, Chayer, Warren ENV:EX
Sent: May 8, 2021 1:07:22 PM PDT
Attachments: 20210424_171053.jpg

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi^{s.22}

Thank you for the update.

I included Colin and Warren on this as well as they would be more involved with the fact that the area is closed? I also CC'ed Bevan to keep him in the loop.

Most of you know that BRPPS has reached out many times over the years to try and build a positive relationship with^{s.22} and Snowy Mountain.^{s.22} and very much want to see all businesses in the area succeed.

Despite our efforts we have been continually harassed by^{s.22} with an escalation of encounters this season.

This is noteworthy as she is not meant to be in operation. We have made our frustrations very apparent.

I would suggest that there are 2 distinct issues. All season^{s.22} on Crown Land with abandon. Evidently this is still occurring and BRPPS does not feel this issue has been adequately addressed. We certainly do not need to point out what would happen if a group of snowmobilers went to the cabin for an evening. In addition, she is now accessing an area on a snowmobile that is currently closed to all recreation. We are not to operate past April 15 and we fail to see the reason how she is able to access the area.

We have exercised great patience over the years while she continually wrote letters and waged a campaign to remove our riders and the community from the North Blue valley. This patience has ended. Something must be done. We feel that as the target of her campaign we must be made aware of your actions. While it has been pointed out that some discussions have occurred it is important that we understand the situation. A precedence has indeed been set when we see snowmobilers publicly shamed in the media for violating closures. I see no reason why the actions being taken to address this land use violation should be equally publicized.

I will reiterate once again that BRPPS supports the closures being patrolled and violators stiffly warned or ticketed. We are not supportive of this occurring to only one group of users while others so flagrantly disregard the rules.

I would think the above points of contention would be enough to generate concern. Which brings me to my final point. I have attached a photo I took about 3 weeks ago when I was closing our North Blue trail head.

This sled is at the 3km mark just past the White River turn out.^{s.22}

^{s.22} They leave their sleds and toboggans in the woods all season. Evidently they are now abandoning gear there all summer. Our forests are not snowmobile parking lots and I personally am disgusted that they would think this is acceptable.

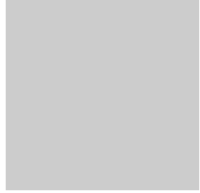
If^{s.22} is going to the cabin on your orders to begin the process of removing herself from the area I do apologize for the tone of the email and I applaud your efforts as she is not someone anyone is now willing to support.

If she is not we must see action. We are inherently linked to this by her letter campaign to remove us from the valley. We have a right to be made aware of the outcome. I would argue the outcome of discussions with her should be public knowledge as she is the one effectively attacking a major economic driver for the town.

At a minimum we need to be assured that our business is being protected. This is not an unreasonable request.

Regards,
Andy
Andy Boughton
General Manager
BRPPS

s.22



On Sat, May 8, 2021 at 11:18 AM Jamie <s.22> > wrote:
s.22 from snowy mountain lodge is heading up north blue valley with a snowmobile today in the closure.

On Mar 22, 2021, at 10:20 AM, Jamie <s.22> > wrote:

Personally i feel this is an ongoing problem that has been put on the back burner. s.22
s.22 and putting people in danger. We have tried to be nice and help her in the
past but at this point someone has to confront her and if you don't someone else will. Enough
is enough

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 22, 2021, at 9:50 AM, s.22 > wrote:

we parked at km 3 of the north blue trail. After we just finished loading. there
was 6 of us chatting and s.22 drove up fast one her snowmobile. There was no
way she could stop so we all jumped out of the way and then as she past she hit
the throttle roosting everyone that was there. if anything went wrong someone
could have been severely injured.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 22, 2021, at 9:42 AM, Andy Boughton
<info@sledblueriver.com> wrote:

Hi once again Roger,
I have included s.22 in the email. He was on the trail when s.22
was on route to the cabin and is a bit upset with her conduct.
I thought I would just let him make a formal statement for you.
Thank you for your attention to this seemingly never ending issue.
Regards,
Andy
Andy Boughton

General Manager

BRPPS

s.22



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s.22