

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: Nowotny, Chris ENV:EX <Chris.Nowotny@gov.bc.ca>, Kravontka, Colin J ENV:EX <Colin.Kravontka@gov.bc.ca>, Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>, Gat, Vladimira ENV:EX <Vladimira.Gat@gov.bc.ca>, MacKenzie, Sandy A FLNR:EX <Sandy.MacKenzie@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
403-861-2502

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 \(sledblueriver.com\)](#)) 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

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.

Big Blue and Holy Grail

Legend

- 23 km's
- 35 km's
- Feature 1
- Trail

Big Blue 35 km's

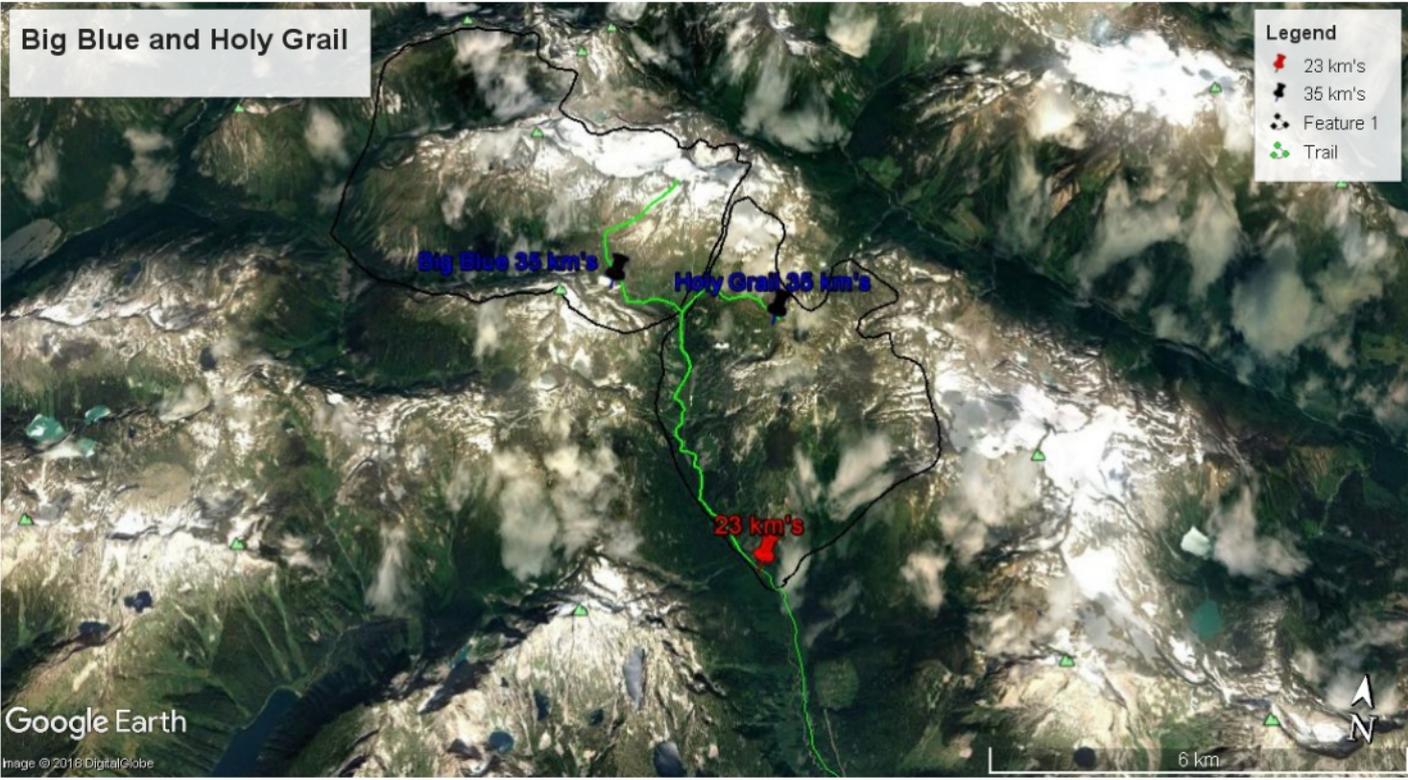
Holy Grail 35 km's

23 km's

Google Earth

Image © 2016 DigitalGlobe

6 km



RE: Blue River Area

From: Ernst, Bevan FLNR:EX <Bevan.Ernst@gov.bc.ca>
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>
Sent: March 9, 2021 12:42:47 PM PST
Attachments: image001.png, BLUE_RIVER_AREAS.kmz, Local_Parks.kmz, Area_Boundaries.gdb.zip, BLUE_RIVER_TRAILS.kmz, image002.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
403-861-2502

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
403-861-2502



Blue River

From: Andy Boughton <info@sledblueriver.com>
To: Tod Haughton <Tod.Haughton@gov.bc.ca>, Haughton, Tod ENV:EX <Tod.Haughton@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 10, 2021 6:11:46 PM PST
Attachments: Big Blue Access.jpg

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

Hi Tod,

I once again have to apologize for the extra workload on this for you. Certainly not our intention.

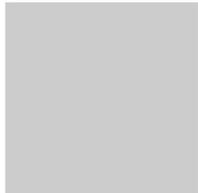
I have attached just quick view of what we would be looking for with respect to access to Big Blue.

I did not denote the actual riding zone as yet as I still need to find the historical boundary but with the park line and the large red area being Caribou closure I will be able to to be sure the zone is well within limits. Based on the attached do you feel it will be possible to get an access corridor to the zone? It really does just travel alongside the park boundary. It is also worth noting that this zone can only be accessed on perfect days and closer to the end of the season so the numbers of folks that are going that way are truly very low. I somewhat know the area and I do think it is possible that with a solid digital outline and a couple of simple signs we can keep folks riding within the corridor to gain access. Simply because once you would hit the corridor there really are not many other places to go and no other real reason for going to that part of the park boundary.

Anyway, do let me know what we can potentially do to set something up. I understand it is not your responsibility but we are continually running into zone issues (we have been down 2 zones all season this year with one more to be lost soon due to logging) and losing another zone is tough for us. Anything I can do to help solve this please just let me know.

Andy

Andy Boughton
General Manager
BRPPS
403-861-2502

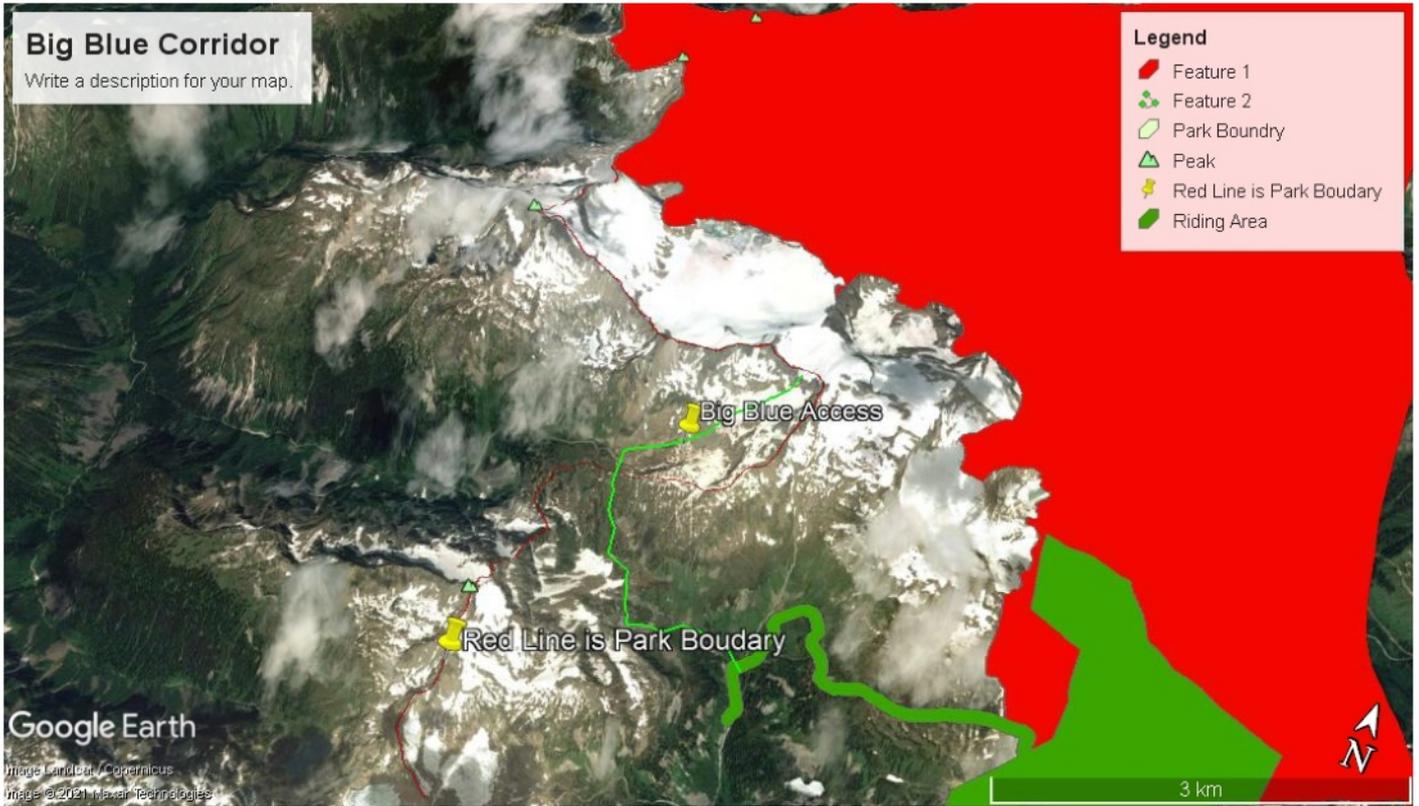


Big Blue Corridor

Write a description for your map.

Legend

- Feature 1
- Feature 2
- Park Boundry
- Peak
- Red Line is Park Boudary
- Riding Area



Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus
Image © 2021, Maxar Technologies

BRPP Notes

- Early March 2021, sledders were ticketed in Big Blue in an area that showed up as legal riding on BRPP mapping.
- BRPP mapping showed legal riding in the park in Coulees (small), Paradise (significant) as well.
- Emailed and discussed with club, club removed Big Blue and changed maps for Coulees and Paradise, informed booth attendants not to give out maps and updated board
- Club was provided park mapping (BC Parks) and SMA boundaries and trails (Bevan)
- BRPP requested an access trail through the park to Big Blue
- No Big Blue documents or history shows up, Bevan didn't know about it
- Coulees also has a trail in the park, on a logging road for a short distance – probably not at concern
- BRPP requested help with signage (money)
- SMAs are being renewed this year. ^{s.13}
- ^{s.13}
- Andy Boughton is the head of the club currently (president?) info@sledblueriver.com
- Will meet with Andy to discuss soon (March 11), he also wants “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.”
- Does Coulees need an LOA?
- SMA's south to north: Coulees (accessed from Murtle Parking), Horseshoe and Paradise, then Big Blue (all accessed from North Blue)
- SPR Vladi talked to Andy on Friday March 19, 2021 and sent him email with existing “No snowmobile” signs in the 4 riding areas adjacent to Wells Gray and asked him about areas where people could enter park and suggestions where we could instal more signage
- Meeting planned for March 24, 2021 with Tod, Vladi and Andy to discuss boundary signage

Teams Meeting with Andy March 24, 2021

Really appreciate the work so far

Gilbert Smith (redsands), Interfor (foam)(white river)

How season went

Signage with Vladi

20km sign

Club does a Groundhog caribou perimeter patrol every Weds or Thurs, closed for a week if they seen caribou or tracks, Bevan allows them to close one side or the other if need be. They don't chase existing sledders.

Partnership is only for Finn Creek, otherwise it only donations, trying to get PA's set up for the others

Coulees LOA?

Maxwell access trail

s.22

Wants more zones (but not the same) Trout Lake does that, so they can close ones for caribou and move folks around (caribou are collared in Trout Lake)

Logging in caribou habitat frustrates,

Russell Crichlow has a sledding biz in Revy (River safari) his phrases s.22
s.22

Big Blue Access, history of big blue (riders in park mid-week)

(tell Bevan afterwards, do up a summary)

“smashed up”, need a “reset of new snow” - phrases

Need map of their zones, riding areas are zoned

Finn is important, TM was going to take away parking lot – Finn: Roman Zenner for ROW, Steven

Licensees: logging always takes longer than they say,

Media,

COS are frustrated with Petty and Fingers, lots of logging there too which frustrates riders, how come logging, wiegele says no caribou in Fingers... fingers is close and fun

Goal when everyone set up SMA's was 90% compliance (Andy says Warren says that). They average 8000 riders days per year, he feels they don't have 800 rider days out of bounds

Riders in area are 15-20% club members... they have over 100 members, season pass holders are all members of the club, represents 13% of riders

% gps:

** if there's a media thing, tell Cos to tell him re media

They have a FB page and Instagram

No euro's sled. Rider numbers were good last year.

Andy is on the varda board

That one trail

Big blue decision by August, they're funding dependant from sledding stores, etc. it's a fall thing. Their opening date is usually -Dec 1, can be open to April 15 but usually close by Easter, if they can't groom they can't charge.

They only have four roads, if licensees take two it's hard, if they take Finn then the club would probably close.

Everyone in Blue River wants to go riding every day.

s.22

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.

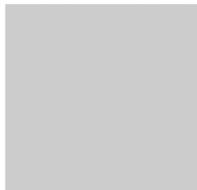
Andy

Andy Boughton

General Manager

BRPPS

403-861-2502



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



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Tod Haughton

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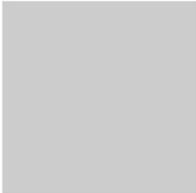
Andy

Andy Boughton

General Manager

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BC Parks