

Homathko Protected Area

First Advisory Group Meeting

Tatla lake Community Hall

7 PM, December 17, 2002.

Agenda

Parks Overview -- Chris Hamilton, B.C. Parks

Slide Show -- Fritz Mueller, Tatlayoko Resident

Overview of Management Plan -- Dave Neads, Project Co-Ordinator

- Terms of Reference
- Table of Contents (see attached)
- Management ideas, suggestions, concerns

Break-walkabout, view maps, ask questions.

- Management ideas, suggestions, concerns continued

Next Steps

Adjourn

**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR THE HOMATHKO PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN**

FILE:

DATE: October 7, 2002

PROJECT NAME: Homathko Protected Area Management Plan

REGION: Cariboo

PROJECT CONTACTS: Steve Mazur, Regional Manager
Chris Hamilton, Planner
Joanne McLeod, Area Supervisor

PROJECT PURPOSE: To develop a comprehensive management plan for Homathko Protected Area based on community and public involvement that meets the spirit and intent of the CCLUP.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

1. To comply with the Cariboo Chilcotin Land Use Plan,
2. To consult with the public and stakeholders in the development of the management plan.
3. To provide long term direction to public and commercial recreation opportunities in the protected area.
4. To provide strategies for managing the regionally significant wildlife, vegetation, biodiversity, cultural heritage and habitat values in the park.
5. To provide direction on the placement of a single utility corridor to provide access to resources on the western side of the protected area.

PROJECT RATIONALE: The management plan will provide guidance and direction to BC Parks for the long-term protection of the natural, cultural and recreational values in this park. The regionally significant recreation opportunities, increasing interest in commercial recreation, need to provide direction on access through the Protected Area, community interest, and important wildlife values all combine to make this a priority for a management plan. In addition, the importance of the area to First Nations also requires a strong relationship and good Government to Government communications.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. Management will be guided by the principle that the purpose of protected areas are to conserve natural and biological diversity, maintain the ecological integrity essential to a healthy and sustainable environment, and to protect important cultural heritage values and recreational opportunities.
2. The management regime for this new protected area will follow the broad direction provided by the CCLUP and the specific direction on this area.
3. The management plan should, where appropriate, consider strategies developed through the adjacent Subregional Plans.
4. Consistent with the Environment and Land Use Order-in-Council and the direction contained in the CCLUP, all tenures existing at the time of protected area establishment (e.g. guiding, trapping, commercial recreation and grazing) will be honoured.
5. This management plan is without prejudice to any aboriginal rights that may exist and will not limit any treaty negotiations.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED:

There are a number of key management issues to be addressed through the planning process. These issues include, but are not limited to:

- a) Recreation/Tourism
 - i. levels of use (e.g. commercial use limits or not?)
 - ii. types of use (e.g. trails, rafting, snowmobile tours etc)
 - iii. restoration of past impacts
 - v. access (e.g. new trails, hiking/horses, helicopters)
- b) Wildlife and Fish Management
 - i. fish and wildlife habitats (moose, goats, deer)
 - ii. fish and wildlife populations
 - iii. conservation of species at risk
 - iv. monitoring and indicators
- c) Forest health and vegetation management (protection of rare plant communities, use of fire, pests)
- d) Management of cultural heritage resources
- e) Public information
- f) Management of access and adjacent areas

FIRST NATIONS:

First Nations will be consulted on a Government to Government basis. The Alexis Creek First Nation and Homalco First Nation are bands that have an identified interest in the planning area.

PLANNING PROCESS:

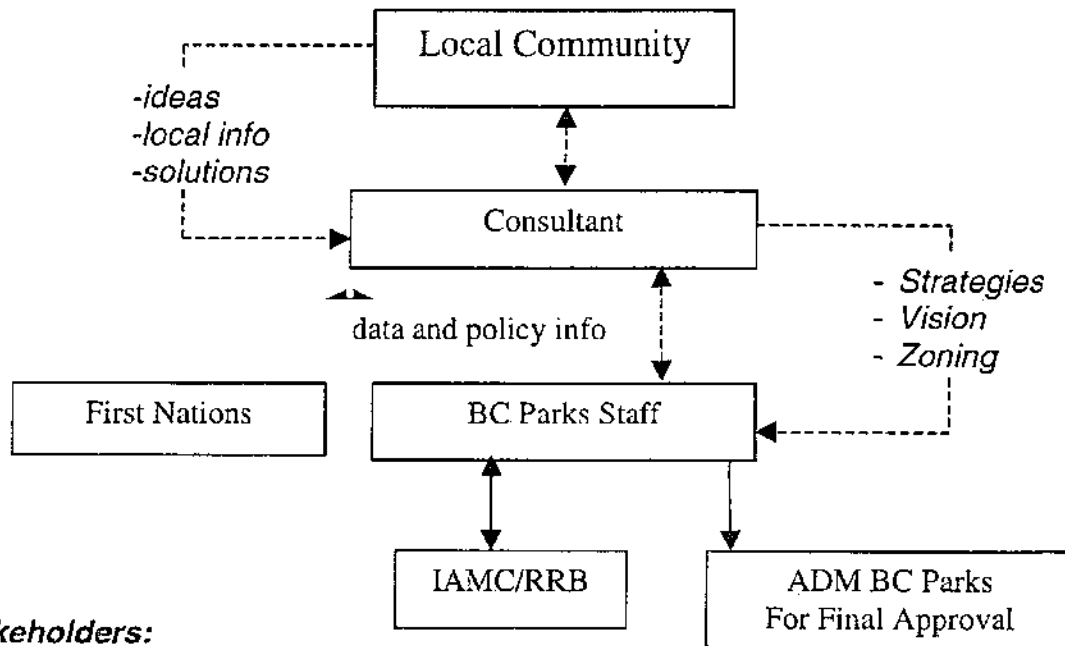
The management plan will be developed through a process facilitated by a contractor, working closely with the Tatla Resource Association, the local community and other stakeholders and tenure holders.

The process will involve two public meetings/open houses. They will be advertised in Williams Lake newspapers and among local community groups. The initial meeting will be used to identify issues and to set out the broad form the plan will take. Resource data and other background information will be presented and new information will be collected where available. After that meeting, the consultant will work on behalf of BC Parks collecting additional information and defining issues in more detail. It is anticipated this will involve a number of individual meeting with stakeholders or groups.

Based on all available data and on the results of the first meeting/open house and individual follow-up meetings, the consultant will produce a draft vision, zoning and key objectives and strategies to address the issues outlined above. The vision, zoning and objectives/strategies will be presented to the community again for their feedback and response.

BC Parks will work with the consultant to ensure that all relevant regional and provincial stakeholders are notified of the planning process and that the plan reflects broad provincial policies and perspectives.

Planning Process Flow Chart:



Stakeholders:

The following list of specific stakeholders will be sent letters inviting them to participate in the plan.

Some of the stakeholders in the area include:

Communities of Tatla Lake, Tatlaoyko,
Tatla Lake, Nimpo Lake, Chilanko
Forks, Alexis Creek and Williams
Lake
Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society
Cariboo Communities Coalition
Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism
Association
West Chilcotin Tourism Association
Tsi Del Del
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
BC Snowmobile Federation
Williams Lake Snowmobile Clubs
Guide Outfitters

Naturalists
Trappers
Commercial Recreation permit holders
Federation of BC Naturalists
BC Floatplane Owners Association
BC Wildlife Federation
Ministry of Forests (Alexis Creek)
Land and Water BC
Commercial and public trail riders
Resident hunters
Backcountry Horsemen of BC
Ranchers

TIMEFRAME:

The final draft management plan will be completed by March 31, 2002.

WORKPLAN/PROCESS SCHEDULE:

October 2002	Interagency Management Committee, Regional Resource Committee and BC Parks Headquarters approve Terms of Reference. BC Parks works with consultant and First Nations.
November/December 2002	Letters sent to stakeholders. Invited to first meeting/open house.
January/February 2003	Individual meetings. Consultant develops vision, objectives and strategies and zoning. BC Parks meets with consultant and First Nations to review very rough draft.
February/March 2003	Second meeting/open house to review vision, zoning and objectives and strategies. Final draft plan.
April/May 2002	RRC and IAMC review final management plan Plan forwarded for Assistant Deputy Minister approval/sign-off

Steve Mazur, Regional Manager
Cariboo Region

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	
Plan Highlights	
1.0 Introduction.....	
1.1 Management Planning Process	
1.2 Background Summary.....	
1.3 Relationship with Other Land Use Planning	
1.4 Management Issues.....	
2.0 The Role of the Protected Area.....	
2.1 Provincial and Regional Context	
2.2 Significance in the Protected Areas System	
2.3 Protected Area Roles.....	
2.3.1 Conservation.....	
2.3.2 Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.....	
2.3.3 Cultural Heritage.....	
2.4 Vision Statement.....	
2.5 Relationship with First Nations	
2.6 Protected Areas Zoning.....	
3.0 Natural and Cultural Heritage Values Management	
3.1 Introduction.....	
3.2 Land Uses, Tenures and Interests	
3.2.1 Access Management.....	
3.2.2 Existing Tenures, Alienations and Encumbrances.....	
3.2.3 Adjacent Land Use.....	
3.3 Water.....	
3.4 Vegetation	
3.5 Fish and Wildlife Management	
3.6 Cultural Heritage.....	
4.0 Outdoor Recreation Opportunities and Management	
4.1 Introduction.....	
4.2 Outdoor Recreation Opportunities and Facilities	
4.3 Commercial Recreation Opportunities	
5.0 Communications	
5.1 Introduction.....	
5.2 Interpretive and Management Messages.....	
6.0 Plan Implementation	
6.1 High Priority Strategies.....	
6.2 Task or Project Strategies	
6.3 Ongoing and Monitoring Strategies.....	

From the Recently Approved Itcha Ilgatcho Park Management Plan:

Under the Wildlife and Fish section....

Objective:

- To manage for the habitat needs of all species by providing a range of natural habitats and functional integrity between these habitats, both inside and adjacent to the park.

Strategy:

- Ensure long-term monitoring of wildlife populations inside the park and co-ordinate this monitoring with areas outside and adjacent to the park.

Under the Cultural Heritage section....

Objective:

- To protect and preserve archaeological values and resources within the park

Strategy:

- Work with First nations to incorporate Traditional Use Study information into park management

Under land and resource tenures section....

Objective:

- To manage tenures to meet the conservation role of the park and the obligation to established uses

Strategy:

- Authorize; by park use permit, the continuation of pre-existing tenures and commercial activities including trapping (with trapline cabins), guide outfitting and grazing. Allow the use of firearms and snowmobiles, within specified areas, for trapline management by the registered trapline holder and authorize this in permits. Permits should be issued only for those tenures that existed prior to October 1994.

Overall Vision

- Wilderness? Level of Development? Main focus of park, front Vs back mix?

Zoning

- Types? One? Several? Summer Vs Winter use?

Access

- Controls? New access? Removal of access?
- Access Corridor
- Access to lands beyond?
- Access to park through private property? ✓

Existing Tenures

- Grandfathering? Date of October 1994.
- Levels of use? Static? Increase? Carrying capacity?
- Existing compatibilities? Grazing and hiking? Horses and ATV's?
- Rules and regulations? Changes?
- Adjacent lands, management. Buffer areas?

Water

- Quality, other issues?

Vegetation

- Fire
- Beetles
- Inventories?

Fish and Wildlife

- Species? Species at risk? Hunting? More or less?
- Strategies?

Cultural Heritage

- First Nations/access/TUS/protocols
- Historical sites/Waddington Road or?

Tourism

- Infrastructure/trails, helicopters/horses/buildings
- Existing
- Carrying capacity
- New tenures?
- Relations with recreation

Recreation

- Trails
- Maintenance of trails
- New trails
- Advertising?

Public Profile

- High, medium, low?

HOMATHKO PROTECTED AREA
First Advisory Group Meeting
Tatla Lake Community Hall
December 17, 2002 – 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present:

Dave Needs, Project Coordinator ^{s.22}
Glen Davidson, BC Parks G.Davidson@gems8.gov.bc.ca ^{s.22}
Joanne McLeod, BC Parks Joanne.McLeod@gems2.gov.bc.ca ^{s.22}
Chris Hamilton, BC Parks
Alex Bracewell
Sally Mueller
Colleen Harris
Connie Bracewell
Fritz Mueller ^{s.22}
Dave King ^{s.22}
Audrey King ^{s.22}
Mike King
Sahnte Evans ^{s.22}
Lorelee Sutton
Joe Schuk
Calvin Schuk
Walt Foster ^{s.22}
Lee Butler
Eric Hatch ^{s.22}
Peter Shaughnessy ^{s.22}
Joe Cortese ^{s.22}
Jeanie Fell
Carol Satre ^{s.22}
Henry Lampert
Wayne Biffert ^{s.22}
Bev Frittenburg Bev.Frittenburg@gems3.gov.bc.ca ^{s.22}
Chris Schmid C.Schmid@gems5.gov.bc.ca ^{s.22}
Anton Forster ^{s.22}
Richard Jones
Lynda Price, Ulkatcho NRC ^{s.22}
Elder Maddie Jack
Betty Squinas

Janet Cammidge, Secretary ^{s.22}

Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.
Introduction and purpose of meeting outlined by Dave Needs.

Overview of the role of BC Parks and the planning process outlined by Chris Hamilton, BC Parks.

Colleen Harris asked who is going to be held responsible for maintaining the trails.

- The ranchers will continue to have to maintain the trails. The Land Use Act says grazing may continue. Brochures may be produced for tourists/visitors that indicate horses and cows may be encountered in the areas the trails go through. Horses, ATV's, snowmobiles, motorbikes not allowed unless you want them to be. This must be specified in the plan. If it's part of your business (ranching, trapping,) use of ATVs etc. may continue.

Joe Schuk made a point that without industry you have nothing. Mining and logging should be allowed.

- Discussion about access followed. One road is allowed through the protected area; just have to decide where you want it to go; consider other values: fish and wildlife, archeological, guiding, etc. Find the road with the least impact on the other values. The purpose of the road would be for resource extraction.

Why would you not wait until you know where the resource is before identifying a road?

- Three corridors should be identified; only one may be built so find the most logical place. Discussion around this issue. The Land Use Plan says that a corridor will be identified. Where it might go if it did get built.

Mike King pointed out where the mineral claims are on the maps; fresh claim as of this year; other claims. Discussion.

- Figure out where we don't want roads to go; don't worry about where industry wants to go; need access management plan; what triggers building a road – we don't want to get involved in deciding when; link to subregional plan; if you were only allowed to build one road it limits access to other areas; could have more if community wants; Ottarasko was previously identified to access mining; Louis Bertiolles also wanted to go up Razor Creek; identification of the corridor is what is important, not what happens on other side.

Sally Mueller presented a slide show with pictures mostly of the Tatlayoko valley and the mountains.

Dave Needs provided an overview of the management plan. Now getting into a working session with terms of reference, table of contents, objectives and strategies, larger issues to be discussed.

Alex Bracewell had comments regarding the difference between protected area and park; does this go to a Class A Park or stay as a protected area.

- Any amendments to the Park Act must be approved by a majority in the legislature where in a protected area an Order In Council can be signed by

just one person. A Park would have security; an OIC flexibility. Reference to Bowron Lakes Park – very conservative; before CLUP; Homathko could be put in the new class of park.

Jeanie Fell wanted clarification that if this is a Park we can still have grazing etc. going on.

Lynda Price asked who is going to monitor the park/protected area; what's the future of BC Parks, rangers, management, monitoring of areas.

- Less and less government staff, more partnerships with communities; still a core function of government is to monitor, with emphasis on partnerships.

Lynda asked who is going to manage; how is the process going to look for management.

- No reason we can't make recommendations regarding management and monitoring. Discussion around preparation, building capacity of community, career opportunities. The plan sets out objectives, creative ways to monitor, implement, Parks will assist in training.

There may be written or verbal submissions. Following this a review by the community. Changes made and then passed on to government. The community writes the plan, it's reviewed by government, then to Regional Resource Board for approval.

Mike King asked about the traditional use policy.

- Grandfathering is what is going to take place here ; grandfather from October 1994, existing use is covered. Increase of use needs to be discussed. How much expansion takes place. Joanne McLeod suggested we have to establish the existing use. The grandfather permits should have been developed before this process starts and what the existing level of use is as of October 1994. Some of the uses may be changing as the community develops. Tsylos has become very restrictive, no new permits, so don't limit possibility of increasing economic activity; small number/high dollar tourists that are guided might be preferable to bus tours for instance.

What is the vision? Where do we want to go in five years; ten years.

Alex Bracewell states that capacity will identify itself; trying to limit or set plateaus now might be too limiting; if problems identify themselves then solve the problem.

Fritz Mueller: Limits of acceptable change – identify to fit in with vision statement – generalized statement might be useful which might identify conflicts.

Backcountry tenures post 1994 – where do they fit?

- They don't apply in the protected area/park. Park Use Permits can be issued; should be part of the discussion. Reference to Bowron Lakes Plan. Authorize by Park Use Permit ... Allow the use of ... where and how much and what other uses/activities – strategic – let Joanne work out the details.

Walt Foster: Commercial tenures specifically say you have to get a park use permit if operating in a park.

- Negotiate through BC Parks. Conditions for use in PUP.
- Two ways of looking at the plan/strategies: economic development; wilderness. Need increased infrastructure for economic development.

Who is the audience that is going to read the report and utilize it?

- That's partly up to us but would include the Ministries (Parks, Forestry), agencies, and we can limit exposure after that by the way it's distributed. After it becomes policy, Parks staff use it for long term direction for management; primary accountability document; defines conflict, use, etc.

Colleen Harris asked why did you feel there should be a plan for this area?

- If we don't want a plan we won't have to have one; Joanne can then interpret the protected area use as she sees fit.

Colleen Harris had concerns around the range use plan process.

Dave King suggested that as we're using a public resource, the public has a say in how it's used.

8:45 p.m. break.

9:20 p.m. reconvened.

Dave Neads suggested that as a way to move forward we self select a smaller group of 7 or 8 people, maybe go through the TRA, need someone from NRC, Tourism etc. Concerns about recreation, access, etc. The park itself is actually quite minimal, activity is either above or on the lake. We should plan to meet in January.

Peter Shaughnessy thinks it makes sense for the TRA to be involved; would be happy to put the TRA forward as a conduit.

The TRA is set up to do it, however would not strictly be a TRA activity, open to anyone. Should have the Cattlemen present as well. Suggestion the TRA may be the vehicle to gather the community together; continue after the new year to try to get a handle on some of these issues and then get back to the larger group. If anyone wants to be on the subgroup send Dave an e-mail, we'll pick a date; the TRA has offered to coordinate. Dave's phone number is s.22 mailing address s.22

Discussion regarding date and time of next meeting. Next meeting to be Thursday, January 9, 2003 at 5:00 p.m., Tatla Lake Community Hall. Discussion at that time to be around vision, recreation issues, follow up – where do we go from here. Draft guidelines.

Walt Foster believes all tenure holders should have the ability to get a firearms permit in their tenure.

- Discussion. Permits on a special basis for trappers, ranchers, Parks has waived restriction on firearms in the past; permits cannot be issued for a restricted weapon.

Peter Shaugnessy: Term of management plan?

- Plan should have a ten year life span; can make it fifteen; annual review; write in the plan to meet once a year to keep up to date on what's been happening.

Suggestion from Chris Hamilton that people go to the BC Parks website to see other plans in effect for ideas and strategies.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 hours to January 9, 2003, 5:00 p.m.

Homathko Park Meeting
Thursday January 9, 2003

Discussion Points for Park Management of Public Recreation and Wilderness Tourism

Givens - non-negotiable

1. Recreation and wilderness Tourism activities managed to ensure ecological integrity of the park
2. Hunting and fishing continue, subject to regulations
3. Existing commercial activities (e.g. guiding, trapping, recreational guiding) will be recognized with a Park Use Permit
4. Impact Assessments for any development
5. No logging, mining, hydro-electric development, ski hills, or resorts
6. *Park Act* and *Park Act Regulations* apply

<i>STATUS QUO</i>	<i>INCREASE USE</i>	<i>DECREASE USE</i>
<p><u>Objective: Maintain existing use patterns, no new usage allowed.</u> (Some "clean up" of existing situations such as access to be done.)</p> <p><u>Implications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No expansion of existing commercial operation 	<p><u>Objective: Increase use of the Park for public recreation and Tourism</u></p> <p><u>Implications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of existing operations and the creation of new opportunities 	<p><u>Objective: To reduce public and Tourism use of the Park over time and return it to a more pristine state.</u></p> <p><u>Implications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradually reduce the number of permits and use over time

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new landing sites or use of the shoreline on the West side of Tatlayoko Lake • Parks management to remain low key, no new permits, no expansion of trails or routes. • Current grazing and agricultural rights to be maintained • Current access agreements to be enforced • Wildlife protection to remain, current levels of hunting, fishing allowed, no increases. • Current levels of public use encouraged • No Advertising of park, no attempt to attract more visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote new campsites and facilities along the western shore of Tatlayoko Lake. • Parks regulatory control more apparent • New access may be negotiated • Increased access for grazing and agricultural activities may be possible • Carrying capacity to be established to ensure mandate of B.C Parks is not compromised • New signage, both locally and on the highways • Broader communication, perhaps a web site, promotional advertising • Increased infrastructure in the Tatla area to house tourists using the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradually reduce access for grazing and other agricultural activities • Trail maintenance to be discontinued • Reference to the Park to be available only on the Gov't web site • Gradually step down commercial permits for trail and beach access
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<p>PLUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little expense • Familiar use patterns • Little risk to park values • Little direction to Ministry decision makers 	<p>PLUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates a planned approach for change, which has community support and buy in. • Increased economic activity, jobs, • More diversified local economy • Increase demand for government services and revenues • Gives direction to Ministry decision makers 	<p>PLUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreases risks to park values • Decreases costs • Gives direction to Ministry decision makers
<p>MINUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reactive, not proactive • No flexibility; doesn't allow for changing context. • Leaves decisions about change up to the political process 	<p>MINUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in lifestyle patterns • Increase risk to park values • Social disruption • Possible increase in community conflict • Increases costs of administration, monitoring and enforcement. 	<p>MINUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced economic activity • Difficult to enforce • Possible increase in conflict
<p>OTHER</p>	<p>OTHER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of new zones? • Traditional use • CoManagement? • New uses? Snowmachine trails and access? • New ATV access? • New or refurbished Hiking Trails? 	<p>OTHER</p>

HOMATHKO PROTECTED AREA
Second Advisory Group Meeting
Tatla Lake Community Hall
January 9, 2003 – 5 p.m.

MINUTES

Present:

Dave Neads, Project Coordinator ^{s.22}
Sahnte Evans ^{s.22}
Lorelee Sutton
Walt Foster ^{s.22}
Eric Hatch ^{s.22}
John Willis ^{s.22}
Lawrence Michalchuk michalchukl@dfo-mpo.gc.ca ^{s.22}
Jody Pettit ^{s.22}
Joanna Knight
Lynda Price ^{s.22}
Maddie Jack
Fritz Mueller ^{s.22}
Connie Bracewell
Dave Clarke ^{s.22}
Leet Mueller
Alex Bracewell
Henry Lampert
Shannon Sim

Janet Cammidge, Secretary ^{s.22}

Meeting called to order at 5:15 p.m.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to decide where do we want to go; objectives and strategies. There are three possibilities: status quo, increase use, decrease use. There are six non-negotiable items (see list) and the three broad categories. Status quo means maintain as is; increase use – a little or a lot – economic generator; or decrease use. They are not exhaustive and can be added to.

Alex Bracewell: Feels this leaves decisions about change up to the political process and would that mean no group would have input.

- There's always that risk.

Discussion on the status quo option. Is that a way we want the park managed?

Alex Bracewell: Status quo just fine with me.

What are some of the implications?

John Willis: Not going to be a lot of room to control predators if we just leave it the way it is or to manage increase in fish and wildlife populations.

- Under the status quo option this group would be saying no increase of camp sites or landings. Right now there's no plan – there's a separate discussion of protected area vs. park. No guidelines for Parks to manage. Status quo means existing use levels would remain.

Sahnte Evans: Could we get a baseline of what the status quo is.

Eric Hatch: The current level of use – two commercial use operators (horseback trail riding); grazing; recreational hunters.

- 1994 is the baseline for use. Whatever you were doing in 1994 would be the benchmark.

Walt Foster: Doesn't feel this would be appropriate.

Eric Hatch: Information on level of operation today would be on file.

Fritz Mueller: Could mix and match.

Eric Hatch: Combination would be more appropriate.

Walt Foster: Continue to operate and develop would be appropriate; doesn't want to see restrictions on level of use. Some more definition is required; difficulties with overlapping tenures.

Eric Hatch: Levels of use and conflicts that exist – this group could discuss.

- Level of use of 2002/2003; that then becomes the benchmark rather than 1994.

Walt Foster: Include five year development plans (of operators). Our boys are starting to develop outdoor recreation in this area. Intentions of limiting liabilities.

- Two issues; current use including five year plan; new development; new operators, businesses, new trails.

Dave Clarke: Transportation corridor remains the same; may not need new trails.

Eric Hatch: Feels there is room for increased activity, the opportunity should be there for new businesses.

Dave Neads: Restrict access to trails or beef up existing trails?

John Willis: There is a process for access.

Dave Neads: What guidance should Parks management be receiving? Existing trails adequate; upgrade of trails? All the Land Use Plan did was grandfather existing use with 1994 baseline. Eight years later, where do we go?

Fritz Mueller: Trail system that exists is deteriorating because of tree growth.

Eric Hatch: Review process for new operators doesn't dovetail with BC Parks. Parks makes its own designations.

Fritz Mueller: Someone may face two review panels.

Lynda Price: Just for the record, some of the Ulkatcho people used to live in the Tatlayoko area. Wants to take map back and review with these people to identify what areas were used/traditional use/gravesites. Wants to ensure those areas are protected.

Dave Neads: Traditional areas separate from traditional use?

Lynda Price: Gathering and use sites at northern end of Tatlayoko Lake. Wants to try to get more information from the elders.

- Whatever maps and information that's available is accessible. Overlapping of four traditional use areas. Over the next month or so will be meeting with individuals; any information needed. Are there areas of contention on

the west side of the lake? Are there any issues with business development; grazing issues.

Alex Bracewell: Doesn't feel there's any conflict; if problems arise deal with them, everything seems to work fine right now.

Lynda Price: Trying to come up with ways to protect water quality.

Walt Foster: In this area doesn't think there's going to be a conflict with water quality issues; addressed in grazing management plans; ranchers are going to have to become educated. Park management should be consistent with grazing management plan. Re: Alex's point – Walt doesn't have a problem with status quo so long as businesses can follow their five year plans. If Park Use Permits are issued no problem with status quo for first 5 years; review, then see what's happening.

Dave Needs: Status quo for five years; new development would be on hold pending review.

Walt Foster: New development to happen very slowly.

Connie Bracewell: States her parents have managed the trails up to Potato Mountain. Other people use the trails but don't maintain them, in fact call and ask if the trails are open. Lot of work keeping the trails open.

Discussion.

Dave Needs: What happens when a Park Use Permit has to be issued?

Walt Foster: The folks that have been grandfathered should be able to continue to use the tools they have been to maintain the trails. Because of the park/protected area if there's more use the responsibility should be shared with ranching, trail rides, commercial operators.

Discussion:

The more shared responsibility the less control.

Eric Hatch: Is there a review process every five years?

Dave Needs: Yes.

John Willis: For example, the Tweedsmuir Management Plan; things have changed.

Dave Needs: Could have an annual review.

Walt Foster: Appropriate to have annual review to tweak things.

Dave Needs: Five year period where existing plans/activity remain and see how things develop?

Dave Clarke: Are these plans registered anywhere? With Land & Water?

John Willis: Wildlife management; fish management fluctuates a lot. Would rather leave the management with the wildlife branch, not Parks. Maybe some things don't change in five years, but wildlife does. Flexibility.

Dave Needs: There's a certain level of activity out there; when Parks Use Permits get issued, are there some areas that need tighter guidelines? Hiking clubs, recreational users, any of those kinds of issues.

Eric Hatch: Don't think those issues exist.

John Willis: Pressure from new use to traditional use in certain areas.

Lawrence Michaichuk: Have to watch that; the closure of areas leave the management aspect with the people that use it – flexibility – keep options open.

Eric Hatch: Should have a forum for dealing with conflicts of use and review.

Connie Bracewell: Communication with other operators in order to make living.
Fritz Mueller: Review process should be set up so new plan comes to the group.
Traditional and existing use.

Lynda Price: NRC wasn't a part of the Tweedsmuir Plan and having difficulty getting access to traditional use areas. That's why they want to have input in this plan; want to be a part of it, if we don't indicate what we want we won't get it.

Walt Foster: Any change should happen slowly. Gives opportunity for people who are developing their businesses to do so.

Dave Needs: Quality wilderness experience – objective; need a carrying capacity; trail maintenance, time management guidelines.

Walt Foster: Not a lot of new opportunity without affecting existing opportunities.

Dave Needs: What about new access to the alpine; could there be opportunities. How many access points are there now that people use? Two, three major horse trails.

Walt Foster: Really nothing on Westbranch.

Dave Needs: If those were to be mapped with some maintenance around them?

Alex Bracewell: Has issue with identifying trails – doesn't want to do it – conflict.

Dave Needs: Identify the two main trails and keep the remainder off limits to public. Those other trails should be part of your management plan.

Discussion.

Walt Foster: Those trails will be defined and on a map that Parks has. It's unrealistic to think you can carry on without identifying the areas you're going to use.

Dave Needs: How much of a profile do we want – website, highway signs, ferries, brochures – or keep it very low profile.

Fritz Mueller: Can the commercial operators promote the protected area?

Dave Needs: Do we want a higher profile? Low key? Communications issue.

Fritz Mueller: How much is public non-commercial/commercial use.

Dave Needs: This is just advice to government – high profile or low profile. Make a conscious decision about the direction to take.

Fritz Mueller: Doesn't think the infrastructure is here.

Eric Hatch: Demand isn't here. Status quo should continue here as well.

Dave Needs: Don't advocate that government promote this region?

Recommendation from the group about how to promote the area?

Eric Hatch: Generally promoting your own business, operating in this area.

Connie Bracewell: Thinks anyone with interest in the Jamieson area is here. Keep it low key and the way it is.

Joanna Knight: Comments from tourists – low key – they love it the way it is.

6:35 p.m. Break for coffee then discussion on access corridor.

6:50 p.m. reconvene.

Dave Needs: Couple of guidelines; maintain quality experience – maintain status quo. Short term goal – go slow, annual review; leave as untouched as possible. Capacity beyond present use.

- May be areas of protected area that are close to being fully utilized.

- Access corridor issue – they want some kind of recommendation from the group. In Order In Council, “The Minister shall identify an access corridor.” Can dodge the issue or be proscriptive and state where a corridor(s) can go.

Alex Bracewell: They say ‘shall’, do they say when.

- No time frame.

Fritz Mueller: Can we do it when there’s an application.

Dave Neads: Someone will identify a corridor if we don’t.

Lynda Price: Don’t want to repeat Waddington Expedition’s experience!

Dave Clarke: Feels it would be redundant for this group to identify a corridor when we don’t know where a mining company wants to go or bring out.

Walt Foster: Now have an opportunity to have some control. Can say this is where it can go and we can live with it. If you wait then you’re being reactive instead of proactive.

Lorelee Sutton: If you leave it for them to decide they’ll take the path of least resistance and they could take the whole thing.

Discussion.

Do we want them to go across or down the whole thing?

Dave Neads: A principle could be to impact the least.

Lynda Price: Wildlife habitat areas would need to be protected. Can say we want to keep it away from those areas.

Henry Lampert: Guidelines around where and how to put a road; process, guidelines.

Sahnte Evans: What guarantee do we have that they’ll follow our recommendations?

Dave Neads: We can identify a route with the least impact or we can duck the issue altogether.

Alex Bracewell: Can we ask the mining companies to identify possible access routes.

Fritz Mueller: Who are the players determining the access route? Mining companies? Apart from us.

Dave Neads: Forestry is not involved. Back to ‘94 – now a broader issue – can duck the issue – can say where it could go.

Fritz Mueller: Does the mining industry have to approve where we say it goes?

Dave Neads: This group is driving the bus. We can make the recommendations and the ministry has to go with it.

Alex Bracewell: All we’re giving them is recommendations; they can do whatever they like with it.

Walt Foster: Now is the time to exercise control; parameters.

Dave Clarke: Amendments to Land Use Plan to take care of omission.

Specifically for oil and gas industry, which is then agreed to with mining and forestry. Shouldn’t go there ahead of time.

Eric Hatch: Agrees with Alex. But also important to at least identify where it should not go because of possible impacts to many of us.

Connie Bracewell: States that Joanna Knight and Jody Pettit expressed to her they do not want access in there.

Lynda Price: Thinking about the mine and its impact on the lake and rivers we're trying to protect. We've got this little strip we're trying to protect but what are they going to be doing up there? What are these mines going in there for? Where do we get the information about some of the plans for up there.

Dave Neads: There's been stuff staked up there but nothing really viable. Political issue.

Lynda Price: Reference to Kootenays re pollution issues from mines. What is this plan going to be used for? There's more to it than just a management tool for BC Parks. We need to know what these plans are going to be used for.

Dave Neads: Mines are beyond the protected area. Mining industry says no protected area can restrict access to mine area, which is why they're pushing for access corridor to be identified.

John Willis: Probably could identify areas where you don't want a road to go right away.

Henry Lampert: Lot of changes to mining regulations; kind of out of our hands; it's a concern but it's out of our hands.

Lynda Price: What price do we pay to extract resources?

Walt Foster: It's important to remind ourselves why we're here; it's our responsibility to plan.

Fritz Mueller: Parks came to Fritz and indicated all protected areas must have a plan.

Alex Bracewell: Basically gold mining that would be going on up there.

Dave Neads: Depending on market conditions they may or may not mine.

Lorelee Sutton: Concerned about road going down west side of lake and up Ottarasko.

Fritz Mueller: Doesn't feel there's a threat re road down west side of lake.

Eric Hatch: Feels there is a threat re bridges and up Ottarasko

Dave Neads: There are two sides here: One is leave it and other to say where we don't want a road.

Fritz Mueller: Can we say strongly to Parks this group doesn't want to identify a road. Can we change the requirements we're being asked to work with. Leave it until there is a request for access.

- We can't refuse access.

Sahnte Evans: Could we say we understand the need for blanket access but could someone look at the map and see why we're taking this stance; terrain etc.

Dave Clarke: Is there anyone here who would be opposed to specific access in specific areas.

Eric Hatch: Certainly should tie together areas where the road should not go.

Discussion about shared use – road would not be deactivated. Once it's opened to mining, it's open to everyone. Couldn't say it's just mines; could be just industrial use.

Dave Neads will be talking to everyone individually and do a draft report. Then we'll reconvene to discuss it. Dave will show maps and that's an opportunity to identify no access.

Alex Bracewell: Recommends language be very specific.

Henry Lampert: Seconds that. Touched a little on wildlife protection; should we have Fish and Wildlife or Parks regulate it. Wants some discussion.

Dave Neads: Thinks Wildlife not Parks would manage.

John Willis: Parks manages Tweedsmuir – problems.

Dave Neads: Will check into that.

Eric Hatch: Parks tends to manage more conservatively than Wildlife.

Dave Clarke: Wants to see a Game Warden in Tatla Lake.

Dave Neads: Any other comments? Will talk to people individually. Circulate a draft late February, early March. Then reconvene.

Lawrence Michalchuk: Feels it would be beneficial to state where we don't want a road, but leave an area where they could. If you don't want a road down the west side of the lake then say it. You shouldn't care how it affects the mining company, just say where you don't want access to go.

Date for next meeting: Wednesday March 5, 2003. Same place and time.

Meeting adjourned to Wednesday March 5, 2003, 5:00 p.m., Tatla Lake Hall.

Concluded at 7:45 p.m.

HOMATHKO PROTECTED AREA
Third Advisory Group Meeting
Tatla Lake Community Hall
March 26, 2003; 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present:

Dave Neads, Chair
Janet Cammidge, Secretary
Joanne McLeod, BC Parks
Jim Sims, Williams Lake Field Naturalists
Walt Foster
Bob Sagar
Sandy Hart
Connie Bracewell
Katie Schuk
Joe Schuk
Alex Bracewell
Colon Harris
Bob Flinton, Cariboo Communities Coalition, Forest Licensees
Charyl Flinton, Cariboo Communities Coalition
Rudy Dürfeld, Cariboo Communities Coalition, Mining
Deborah Kannegiesser
Chris Hamilton, BC Parks
Lorelee Sutton
Sahnte Evans
John Evans
Eric Hatch
Lori King
Jen King
Fritz Mueller
Lynda Price
Elder Maddie Jack
Tanya Cooper
Eric Whitehead

Call to order – 5:05 p.m.

There have been three different sets of comments received so far. The comment period will be over April 11, 2003. In order for comments to be included in the final document they must be in writing. No strict agenda tonight. There are two main areas for discussion: the use of trails; proposed boundary between natural and wilderness zones marked on the map; higher level of use in the 'natural' zone. Discussion. If you're in a wilderness area vis a vis no trail upgrade or trail upgrade. Need discussion.

Walt Foster asked for clarification of tonight's minutes.

Sandy Hart: You talked about a route down the main valleys.

Dave Neads: Level of use vision?

Sandy Hart: Likes notion of a wilderness trail, leaving it pretty wild. Not for motorized vehicles. Unless there's a maintenance program there won't be a trail.

Walt Foster: Regarding tenure holders – requires some trail work/maintenance.

An annual thing. Should be provision to do work with a chainsaw.

Sandy Hart: Agree. Define 'route' – allow upgrades.

Dave Neads: Funding source?

Sandy Hart: Allow provision for it, doesn't have to be done; tenure holder responsibility.

Walt Foster: Inconsistencies regarding trails/routes.

Eric Hatch: What our options should be in the future – could be desirable to have a trail – don't want to rule it out at this point.

Walt Foster: Would like to have limited permission on tenure to use an ATV to transport downriver.

Chris Hamilton: If you have a Wilderness Zone then no motorized vehicles.

Generally grandfather ATV use for ranchers, snowmobiles for trappers.

Walt Foster has range for horses down to Scimitar Creek, could tenure allow ATV use. Concern regarding no grazing/grazing.

John Evans: ATV use grandfathered for ranchers.

Eric Hatch: Questions.

Chris Hamilton: Park use permits are permits. Tenures are trappers, ranchers.

Commercial backcountry is permit. Grandfather ATV for ranchers, snowmobiles for trappers.

Charyl Flinton: ATV/snowmobile existing trails before designate as park can continue.

Chris Hamilton: It's prohibited unless they're signed open for snowmobiles/ATVs.

If you want Wilderness there's no use for ATVs. General patterns of use.

Dave Neads: Didn't put in a table showing all the existing use.

Alex Bracewell: Questions regarding a chainsaw use to upgrade a trail.

Chris Hamilton: Seems there's a vision about a Wilderness area but need to clarify level of use part of the vision: Most restricted designation.

Eric Hatch: Where did the Wilderness designation come from?

Dave Neads: Explains. Discussion. Is this or not a Wilderness zone?

Chris Hamilton: There are 5 zones: intensive recreation – natural environment – wilderness recreation – wilderness conservation – special feature zone. Options here would be natural or wilderness zone.

Walt Foster: Could designation be changed later on?

Chris Hamilton: Yes and no. Try to keep a plan for a minimum of 10 years.

Seems like the community wants to keep the opportunity for development. Need to decide what the park looks like 50 years from now.

Eric Hatch: Trying to pick up information and decide how to feel about zones. Not prepared for some of these issues right now.

Alex Bracewell: Under the protected area – is it the park – zone – wilderness zone.

Chris Hamilton: Basically a park in all but name.

Alex Bracewell: Feels natural barriers prevent access so no need to call it a Wilderness zone.

Chris Hamilton: Need to be clear about what goes on in the zone; level of use; development; upgrade facility.

Sandy Hart: Feels a need for a trail; wants a rough route for people to use and enjoy.

Charyl Flinton: Refers to activity matrix on page 13 (page 10).

Eric Hatch: Natural zone throughout area (re: Alex's comment).

Lori King: What would the advantage be of having the most restricted area?

Sandy Hart: Can be specified other ways. Likes the concept of a wilderness zone.

Dave Needs: What filters does BC Parks use – emphasis on levels of use.

Sandy Hart: What is too much of a trail to be in the wilderness zone.

Dave Needs: Level of emphasis – horses, then cableways, then what.

Chris Hamilton: If you increase the levels of use, you start to pass the threshold. Where's the threshold. Talks about Bowron Lakes Park – different zones and levels of use. The Itchas/Ulkatchos zone designations. Winter and summer levels of use and types of use.

Lorelee Sutton: Provision for road – if the road goes in isn't it going to be more accessible. Would like to be able to walk on a marked trail but doesn't want campgrounds, bridges, motorized vehicles. When the access road goes in wouldn't it open up the area.

Bob Sagar: Doesn't want to see more than a trail; no buildings; no resource corridor for power/gas lines.

Jim Sims: Confused re trail – trail with no development; camp on gravel bars.

Discussion – can't provide this backcountry recreation opportunity unless you helicopter in. If trail goes in then it becomes a natural zone.

John Evans: What is the trail standard in a wilderness zone.

Chris Hamilton: It's a threshold for use and development.

John Evans: Can you back from a natural zone to a wilderness zone.

Chris Hamilton: Why change your mind, what's your vision?

John Evans: If we find the use and development is too much can we rezone.

Discussion. Established patterns of use are extremely hard to change. Type of trail should be decided. Based on what type of trail then that can lead to a certain kind of zoning. A wilderness zone will accommodate a trail. Route vs. trail – don't be ambiguous about what kind of trail you want – say what you mean – be very specific. Define in better terms what your vision is.

Eric feels the 'natural' zone gives us all our options – not a lot of difference in them.

Discussion re: ATV access in natural zone; vision around levels of development in each zone. Air access difference in wilderness/natural zones. Issue here is how do you see the area managed down the road – how specific – how open.

Sandy Hart favours the wilderness zone as it conveys the ethic for level and type of use.

Bob Sagar: More possible to downgrade than upgrade zone; move from wilderness to natural rather than the other way.

John Evans: Once the damage is done it can't be brought back – start as wilderness.

Walt Foster: Tends to agree – if tenures are grandfathered it will probably accomplish the access issues.

Alex Bracewell wants to see boundary between Wilderness and Natural moved.

Lynda Price would like to update people on her discussions in their community.

Dave Neads: What is a route, what is a trail, natural vs. wilderness zones. Dave will try to write something around the trail issue. What is the vision a hundred years from now. What level can trails be built to. Two different views here – if we can solve the trail issue, the two designations can exist. The zoning will not affect trapping, grazing, guide outfitting. No new grazing tenures in the park. If it's not grazed now it won't be grazed. Dave will try to clean up and straighten out the language; more specific about trails.

Do people want to move the boundary. The wilderness zoning should not affect Alex's use – 5, 10 years from now the zoning will give direction to future developments. A natural zone could allow more development than a wilderness zone.

Joanne McLeod offers to provide information re activities in natural or wilderness zones. BC Parks Zoning document defines the zones and activities.

6:15 p.m. – break.

6:25 p.m. – reconvene.

Lynda Price, Ulkatcho: Following last meeting went back to the community; met March 13 and interviewed some of the elders connected to this area. March 10, Susie Squinas from Squinas family, has traditional territory around Hook (Patterson) Lake; grave sites in the area; very large family of 10 girls, 1 boy; numerous children, grandchildren. Utilized Tatla/Westbranch areas. March 13 – Sally (Mueller) gave a slide presentation. Frank Sill was on his deathbed. Were able to interview some of the elders. Eagle Lake Henry raised Edward Sill. Sills are large family of the Ulkatcho Den. Elder Peter Alexis's aunt Mary was married to Eagle Lake Henry. Used the area for seasonal gathering, hunting. March 19 – Edward Sill – he said he still remains in the area; is Eagle Lake Henry's brother. Has a house on Tatlayoko Lake. Identified area. Has following concerns: should be no roads built; old logging road has had an impact on the area re road hunting. Identified traditional use, grave and spiritual sites. Was unhappy about some of the traditional areas being developed, etc., using his trapping area. Felt the protected area was a good idea. Just lost his older brother (Frank) so unable to attend the meeting. Many other elders from Towdystan/Kleena Kleene area were not interviewed as yet. They wanted to be involved in the ongoing management of the area. Concerned re not getting the referrals.

Dave Needs: Once the families have been talked to the information can be included in the plan.

Chris Hamilton: Will complete a plan; four First Nations groups will need to be consulted. That process might take longer. That process is between the Ministry and First Nations, government to government.

Lynda Price: We'd like to have something in the plan.

Have any archeological sites been identified in the protected area.

Fritz Mueller: BC Hydro archeologists have identified about a dozen sites on the west side of Tatlayoko.

Next: Discussion on access corridor issue. Believes there's a level of agreement. Order In Council "must allow" - how it came about - where - don't want to identify a road at this time.

Discussion.

Walt Foster: It's an opportunity to exercise control. 3% of the area would be over 1000 acres. Walt thinks we should identify the corridor as well.

Bob Flinton: Why the number in the letter - CCLUP - potential access to the coast - thought it was a good area for a protected area - don't want to limit what might go on there - Energy & Mines meeting (March 25) - some mining potential up there - one in 100,000 claims results in a mine. Needs to be in the park plan as well as the LUP.

Rudy Durfeld: Was part of the discussion at LUP. Access and access required for certain things. Hasn't seen resources identified beyond but there may be. Agrees the OIC stay as part of the plan. Need mechanism in the plan to put corridor through there.

Walt Foster: This protected area is in the valley bottom. Relatively limited development above that; resources beyond can be accessed from the coastal area. Maybe boundary between natural and wilderness zones could be the access route.

Discussion around through the entire thing or across; along the perimeter. Isn't access from one side to the other the intent. Intent when it was written wasn't from side to side. Discussion of meaning of Act. Two basic issues here: do we identify or not; incorporate OIC. Purpose of plan was to get some security around access/corridor. Put the exact wording of the OIC in - this is the legal direction - identify the perspectives from community and mining; plan should identify those perspectives. Also add if something gets taken out then add it somewhere else.

Discussion - intent of CCLUP - corridor. Slightly different views here. If we include the OIC in the plan; mining not forestry issue; if an application it triggers; community's expectation. Identify the areas where the corridor should NOT go.

Discussion. Where are the highest value areas where no corridor can go. Is it sufficient to describe those views. Resource use - not mining or forestry. First Nations people must identify their sites. Description of once someone makes an application - mechanism for deciding - OIC describes process - this advisory group could be part of interagency meeting - explore other alternatives before going through the park - what are the triggers - leave the number out. There's a corridor - not to be located right now - this group and government get together to

discuss. As long as the OIC is in the maximum level of disturbance doesn't need to be in there. No point in putting a number on that.

Is this a corridor or corridors; or is there one corridor and that's it.

Future upgrading.

Established corridor then side corridors? Future upgrading takes place as required. Does upgrading include expansion or a fork. Should identify areas of high value where corridor should not go.

Eric Hatch: Not go anywhere north of Nude Creek.

Fritz Mueller: Nowhere north of Waddington Canyon.

Sandy Hart: Community strongly opposing the Ottarasko corridor.

Add appendix – supplementary information – community perspectives on access – and the Coalition and the mining community.

Walt Foster: Identify as much of this area as a wilderness zone as that gives more significance to our concerns re access corridor.

Eric will be the point guy to Dave on areas where the community doesn't want a corridor to go.

7:25 p.m. – break.

7:35 p.m. – reconvene.

Third theme tonight is access to the protected area. Short discussion on different ways to access the protected area. The Conservancy has property at north end of lake but should probably not be the main access – across lake; south end; westbranch side.

Walt Foster: On Westbranch side motorized vehicle access is limited from locked gate at Middle Lake. Hikers OK. Not practical to establish a route around Walt's property. Walt would be comfortable with people on foot contacting him but no motorized access.

Totally up to Walt what he wants on the website. Walt not on web; public access to here; access corridor should be the river. He wouldn't tell anyone they couldn't walk through; if the plan says the water is the access (canoe from Middle Lake) – discussion – Charyl's advice is to put nothing in – leave it out. "Access from Mosely Creek side is blocked by private property."

Two ways on Tatlayoko side – hike along the beach through NCC – down the lake via Bracewell's. This is information to be on the website – website is the primary source of information.

NCC asked not to feature the route across their property. There's no right of way across the NCC property to the old road on west side of lake. There's boat access or Big Creek at the south end of the lake. Don't make reference to NCC property – put in long term vision for access. Should have provision for trail on south end. Homathko, Big Creek and Chessy Creek – all have to be crossed. Impassable at certain times of the year. If they want access, contact Bracewells for current information.

Westbranch: Access blocked by private property. East side – go down towards Bracewells. Access by boat across the lake; add usual warnings re winds and

wilderness lake. Or "public road ends at Middle Lake." Helicopter access is available to designated areas. No realistic access from the south.

Walt concerned about no fire protection – Joanne will discuss fire management plans with Walt.

Alex Bracewell: Doesn't care for wording around advisory committee – needs permit, licence and tenure holders – also Williams Lake Field Naturalists and Cariboo Coalition. No point in listing everybody – should be anyone who wants to be involved. Don't identify anyone – goes by mailing list.

Charyl Flinton: Vision statement needs to be reviewed re access – consistent with our discussion tonight. Utility access corridor to be identified – should be part of vision statement. Could be there's still no resource corridor.

This is not the end of the process. More discussion; wording on trails, access issue, access corridor.

Joanne McLeod will distribute BC Parks zoning framework, information on natural zones, wilderness zones, possible real differences between the two.

Mountain biking – should we be allowing mountain bikes on the west side of the lake; do we want bikes there at all?

Alex Bracewell: There's another access between Sahnte's and Len Evans.

Sahnte says that's not correct. Alex says it's a road access designation to the west side.

Part of long term strategy? Short term – south end or boat – in the future – identify or apply to the NCC for right of way – if that's the best way to get into the park. Strategy.

Sandy Hart wants to discuss mountain biking with Dave Neads.

Main meeting ends at 8:20 p.m.