

Ghost/Waiparous Information

In 1988 the Ghost River Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) directed that an access management plan be developed for the Ghost/Waiparous area and be presented to the Government of Alberta. Topics to be addressed in the [Ghost/Waiparous Access Management Plan](#) (GAMP) are:

- Establish a designated trail system with restrictions, closures and penalties
- Manage random camping
- Limit access points, develop reservation system
- Implement user fees and conditions

In 2002 and 2003 the Government launched a web site and conducted several information sessions to inform the public of the GAMP process. In early 2003 a voluntary survey was conducted to which 389 responses were received. The majority of participants in this survey were OHV enthusiasts who also used the area for other interests. A further 200 people were asked to participate in a random telephone survey. The majority of these participants were non-users of the area. Despite that, the phone survey results were given more weight than that of the voluntary survey. In 2003 several isolated sessions were also held with individual stakeholders to provide input into the process.

One more information session is planned to involve public participation at an undisclosed future date as well as additional stakeholder meetings. The government intended GAMP to be in force by the May long weekend of 2005. Recent information indicates that date is unlikely to be met BUT the implementation of the GAMP is imminent! The focus of GAMP is to limit OHV access and control random camping.

Please join a local OHV club. We desperately need your membership to effectively represent the OHV community. Write a letter to your M.L.A. and send a copy to the Hon. Ralph Klein, the Hon. David Coumts, Min. of Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) and the Hon. Gary Mar, Min. of Community Development.

Government Contacts

Hon. Ralph Klein <http://www.gov.ab.ca/premier>

M.L.A.s at the Alberta Legislature <http://www.assembly.ab.ca>

Alberta Provincial Ministries <http://www.gov.ab.ca/home/index.cfm?page=25>

Sustainable Resources and Development <http://www.gov.ab.ca/home/index.cfm?Page=61>

Community Development <http://www.gov.ab.ca/home/index.cfm?Page=41>

Land Access Information Sites

Ghost/Waiparous Plan under development <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/regions/southwest/ghost>

View ongoing process for Ghost/Waiparous Access

C5 Access Plan under development <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/regions/southwest/c5>

View ongoing process for Porcupine Hills, Livingston, Crowsnest Access

Bighorn Access Plan in effect <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/regions/southwest/bighorn>

View an existing access management plan

OHV friendly Sites

Canada Coalition for Access and Stewardship <http://www.canadacoalition.org>

Alberta Off-Highway Vehicle Association <http://www.aohva.com>

Alberta United Recreationists Society <http://www.aurs.org>

Rocky Mountain Dirt Riders Association <http://www.rockymountaindirtriders.com>

Second Gear Club <http://secondgearclub.com>

Points to Stress in Communications

- Describe what your interests are in the Ghost/Waiparous area.
- If your activities are family related, emphasize that.
- If you use the area for multiple uses, all the better, e.g. hiking, horses, hunting, random camping, climbing, etc.
- Make a distinction between responsible users and irresponsible and illegal activities, e.g. garbage, parties, drunks, raves, etc.
- Point out that Alberta's Sustainable Resources and Development (SRD) needs funding and manpower to properly monitor and enforce existing laws.
- OHV enthusiasts inject a large amount of money into the local economy. A recent study by the Department for Economic Development indicated that the OHV market helped contribute 1 billion dollars to Alberta's economy and helped support 12,000 jobs in 2002.
- Emphasize that when there is competition between conflicting user groups for trails, the OHV users usually lose, that is inequitable.
- Non-motorized user groups have more options and destinations available to them than OHV users do.
- Point out that McLean Creek (the only other local OHV area) is already seasonally restricted access. That doesn't leave us with many options in the Calgary area when it's "Chinooking". (Some trails that are designated seasonal in the Bighorn Access Management Plan are only open for 2 months of the year).
- We've already essentially lost some trails in McLean Creek over the last couple of years that have been ruined by the clear cutting timber harvest.
- If the plan insists on segregating users, will we be able to cut well engineered parallel trails to access the same destinations? Not likely.
- This area is multiuse and most groups already get along except for the commercial outfitters, who want exclusive access for their businesses; however, this is PUBLIC land.
- The plan needs to recognize the different needs within the OHV group.
- Acknowledge that OHVs have an impact on the environment, if you can, indicate what you personally do to minimize impact and emphasize the need to EDUCATE users of the area..
- There are references to safety concerns in the surveys, ask what these are specifically?
- Ask what studies support the claim that OHV users are contaminating water courses and compromising spawning areas.
- One of our goals is to improve a generally poor public image, if you have a quiet quad or maybe even a quiet bike, say so, if you don't you are part of the biggest complaint that the public has about dirt bikers/quad riders, think about it.
- Be reasonable and acknowledge that change is necessary in the interest of the environment and continued fair access by all users
- Spell check or get someone who can spell to proof read your letter
- Ask for a response
- **ABOVE ALL BE RATIONAL, DON'T EMBELLISH OR OVERSTATE POINTS, STICK TO THE FACTS, BE VERY CAREFUL WITH EMOTIONAL STATEMENTS AND AVOID MAKING ACCUSATIONS.**