

This information is intended to communicate what we know or believe we know about our riding areas from a dirt bike perspective. Some of the information is based on fact and some is based on hearsay in an attempt to confirm it as fact.

OHV Area Status Report – General Policy Concerns

April 21, 2005

Organization

- AOHVA is an umbrella organization that has responsibility for the provincial policy issues and less responsibility for the individual riding areas. It is the responsibility of the individual clubs in each region to look after their own riding areas and call in the AOHVA for assistance. **AOHVA is not looking after your riding area if you are not doing so yourself!**

New developments (since March, 2005)

- On Saturday, April 9, 2005 Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) rolled out its vision of the Ghost Access Management Plan (GAMP) for May, 2006 implementation.

GAMP Basic Points

- Of the thousands of kilometers of trails and roads in Waiparous, only the following estimates will remain available to OHV users under GAMP;
- Less than 40 km of truck trails
- 30 km of bike only trails. Little to none is estimated to be single track.
- A few hundred km of quad trails that bikes can also use. Quad trails means double track.
- With some insignificant exceptions, the entire south and west regions are closed to OHV use.
- Random camping access is severely restricted and SRD would not provide numbers on available camping sites.
- The plan is based on questionable or completely absent science.
- There is no written plan to review.
- There are three sessions planned during the summer (May 14, June 11 and Sept 17) where OHV supporters involved in the original process can "negotiate" back their trails. SRD has offered to be our advocate against the ranchers, equestrians and outfitters.
- What possible incentive do outfitters, ranchers and equestrians have to negotiate with OHV users now that they have it all in their hands?
- **The process ends September 17, 2005 regardless if we are satisfied or not!**

What does this mean for motorized users and random campers?

- This is a serious attack on OHV use. What happens in Waiparous will flow to other OHV areas like Livingston, Porcupine and Indian Graves shortly.
- Displaced users from Waiparous will seriously damage McLean and Clearwater in as little as one season.
- Hunters will not be able to go off the designated trails with quads and trucks
- Weekend competition for random camping sites will be fierce.
- **Where GAMP goes, Porcupine, Livingston and Indian Graves will follow.**

What can you do?

Contact any SRD officials at (403) 297-8800 to get more information. Understand the issues and offer suggestions. Do not abuse them.

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Areas of Concern;

- The intervention and change process needs to be identified immediately (i.e. how do we get official approval to get Club mapped single track into Management Plans?)
- The legal options need to be explored for 1) either changing or blocking the various uncontrollable processes, 2) obtaining timely, truthful information. Does Alberta have some type of freedom of information act that will force SRD to come clean on GAMP?
- Motorcycle and Moped Industry Counsel (MMIC) need to continue to pressure the Alberta Gov't to start moving forward with the OHV trail sticker program. This is a program where a small fee is collected from all riders for trail access rights (like a Banff Park pass) and up to 70% of the fee goes back into trail maintenance. Other provinces are using the system successfully. Alberta is among only a few hold-outs.
- An Alberta wide trail system is being proposed. Work is in progress (contact Barry Harper; Quad Squad, <http://www.cnpquadsquad.com>).
- Communication and education programs are under way through numerous organizations. A lot more work needs to be done to reach riders and communicate the critical issues.
- Develop a plan to maintain and address water issues on the trails. Will need to be handled by individual clubs in their own riding areas.
- Petition Alberta Gov't to provide more funding to SRD for communication and enforcement. (work in progress by Alberta Snowmobile Association, AOHVA)
- Riders need to continue with an aggressive councilor and reeve contact program, especially since we have a new Minister of Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) who may listen to our concerns with greater interest than the previous minister.
- Lobby SRD to include trail inventories supplied by OHV groups. Once SRD accepts the concept, we can worry about what trails to include later.

Primary Contacts

- Glen French, President, Quad Squad. <http://www.cnpquadsquad.com/>
- Darryl Copithorne - AOHVA Bike Rep,
- Cal Rakach, AOHVA President, <http://www.aohva.com/>

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OHV Area Status Report – Ghost / Waiparous

April 21, 2005

Lead Responsible Organizations

- Rocky Mountain Dirt Riders Association

Current Management Plan Name;

- The Ghost / Waiparous area does not have a management plan currently in place. It is considered Green Zone crown land where forestry operations are allowed. OHV use is loosely governed under the OHV Act embedded in the Motor Vehicle Act [hyper-link to be provided].
- MD of Bighorn.

Proposed Management Plan Name;

- Ghost Area Management Plan (GAMP)

Areas of Concern;

- No management plan effectively means the area is ungoverned due to the lack of clearly communicated usage rules. This is bad for all users. A management plan is needed to prevent further degradation of the area. We support a plan being implemented.....if it includes dirt bike specific concerns. i.e maintaining single-track access.
- The new management plan (GAMP) is being prepared for May, 2006 launch that is based on a designated trails system that has had little if any single-track input.
- Lack of consultation with users. Focus groups may get an opportunity to comment on the plan individually with no opportunity to get together on common issues. “Divided we fall”.
- GAMP seems to conflict with the Forest Management Plan (i.e. logging plans) for the area, which may further delay release of GAMP.
- We have not been allowed to see the written plan. How can we know for sure what the impacts are?

Implications to Riders;

- Under the proposed plan riders can use designated trails only. If caught off the designated trails, a serious fine could result. Races may only be held on designated trails.
- The only designated trails currently are those accessible by quad. No single track has been included!
- The GAMP should contain lots of good stuff as well (control of random camping access, frolic zones, “bogging” restrictions, etc.) to protect the area from further degradation.

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Advocacy Actions

- RMDRA has been provided the opportunity to join AOHVA as the bike reps on all public meetings on GAMP. Addressing single track issues is our primary focus. We have met with SRD on two separate occasions to insert ourselves into the process, get educated and emphasize the importance of including single track trail delineation into the plan.
- To date RMDRA has offered to supply single track GPS data for inclusion to GAMP, but we have not made a formal request. A strategy to do so is underway.
- RMDRA has purchased a digital map of the area on which to overlay single track coordinates. Trail delineation with GPS is being organized.
- RMDRA executives have written letters to MLA's.
- Participate in the GAMP review process.
- Participate in the Ghost clean-up day (Sept. 17, 2005).
- Work with SRD to develop and distribute education materials.

Primary Opposition

- Outfitters, ranchers
- Alberta Wilderness Association
- Ghost Watershed Alliance Society

Volunteers Needed!

- MLA letter writing
- Trail delineation. RMDRA is attempting to obtain grant money for trail mapping. Once we get the program detailed, we will provide a loner GPS to riders wishing to help. Contact Brent Kroeker, RMDRA Race Director at <http://www.rockymountainidirtriders.com>

Additional Information;

- See next page.

Primary Contacts

- Darryl Copithorne - AOHVA Bike Rep,
- Cal Rakach, AOHVA President, <http://www.aohva.com/>
- Dennis Kaltenbruner, RMDRA President, <http://www.rockymountainidirtriders.com>
- Dean Cockshutt , RMDRA Vice President, <http://www.rockymountainidirtriders.com>
- Mike Richter, RMDRA Land Advocacy Director, <http://www.rockymountainidirtriders.com>

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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](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>
- [map link to be provided]

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OHV Area Status Report – McLean Creek

April 21, 2005

Lead Responsible Organizations

- Rocky Mountain Dirt Riders Association

Current Management Plan Name;

- The McLean Creek area is considered a Forest Land Use Zone (FLUZ) and is governed under the Forest Recreation Regulation Sections 8-13. [info link to be provided]
- MD of Foothills

Proposed Management Plan Name;

- No new management plan is under consideration for McLean Creek.

Areas of Concern;

- McLean is already managed as a FLUZ, so no new rules are proposed. The biggest challenge is organizing ongoing stewardship by the user community and ensuring that unacceptable impacts do not occur.
- It may be a surprise to most riders, but under the FLUZ, only the trails shown on the trail map are legally rideable. In practice SRD does not seem to have any problems with non-designated trail use in McLean because the map is so out of date. A new map showing more trails is needed.
- McLean Creek is rapidly degrading and if GAMP is implemented, it is possible that users forced out of Ghost, may create accelerate impacts at McLean.
- Kelly dykes are an effective deterrent for random camping and truck access. Can this control technique be used more in McLean and other areas?
- The winter riding restriction appears arbitrary.

Implications to Riders;

- McLean will come under increasing user pressure as they are forced out of other areas. Mitigating plans need to follow for McLean very soon.

Advocacy Actions

- RMDRA are working on a McLean Area Stewardship Plan to attempt to unite the ranchers and fish friends with the OHV community.
- RMDRA has purchased a digital map of the area on which to overlay single track coordinates. Trail delineation with GPS is being organized.

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- RMDRA executives and others have written letters to MLA's.
- Organize a McLean clean-up day (June-July, 2005).
- Work with SRD to develop and distribute education materials.
- Appeal to SRD to remove the winter riding restriction for 2005/2006.

Primary Opposition

- **None identified. Riders are their own worst enemies!**

Volunteers Needed!

- MLA letter writing
- Trail delineation. RMDRA is attempting to obtain grant money for trail mapping. Once we get the program detailed, we will provide a loner GPS to riders wishing to help. Contact Brent Kroeker, RMDRA Race Director at <http://www.rockymountaindirtriders.com>

Additional Information;

Primary Contacts

- Darryl Copithorne - AOHVA Bike Rep,
- Cal Rakach, AOHVA President, <http://www.aohva.com/>
- Dennis Kaltenbruner, RMDRA President, <http://www.rockymountaindirtriders.com>
- Dean Cockshutt , RMDRA Vice President, <http://www.rockymountaindirtriders.com>
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OHV Area Status Report – Porcupine Hills / Livingston / Indian Graves

April 21, 2005

Lead Responsible Organizations

- Lethbridge Motorcycle Racing Club (Porcupine Hills)
- KMA and Over The Bars Club (Porcupine Hills)
- Quad Squad (Livingston, Indian Graves and Castle)

Current Management Plan Name;

- The Porcupine Hills area is crown land and not under any management plan currently. OHV use is governed under the OHV Act embedded in the Motor Vehicle Act similar to the current situation in Ghost/Waiparous.
- **A management plan similar to GAMP is on its way soon.**
- MD of Ranchlands

Proposed Management Plan Name;

- To be included under the new Livingston/Porcupine Hills Plan, currently known as the C5 Forest Management Plan. Implementation of the new plan is speculated to be one year out.

Areas of Concern;

- Porcupine Hills is not closed for 2005 by SRD.
- The MD has listened to ranching and for-profit outfitter interests and is on-side with closure of the areas to OHV use.
- The Beaver Creek Drainage Study, under development for 3 years by MD of Ranchlands, Alberta Environment and others, will be the key information document for Livingston/Porcupine Hills Management Plan.
- If these are federally funded plans, where is the info located, what is the roll-out protocol, timing, etc. Need a lot of details here.
- No OHV reps have been included in the study.
- Appears as though OHV use has been targeted versus a comprehensive review which includes animal use and impacts.

Implications to Riders;

- Three motorcycle races are scheduled for the area in 2005 and as far as SRD is concerned the trails remain open just like previous years. Riders can use all trails and there are no designated trails....this year.

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- Potentially, we have a one year window to get the trail mapping done and oppose or modify the Area Management Plan.

Advocacy Actions

- LMC is organizing trail delineation with GPS. Contact John Bader at jbader@telusplanet.net
- Local clubs have been very pro-active by postponing races due to wet trail conditions.
- The Race Organizers Code of Ethics was used by the organizer (Bob Reed) and SRD was very impressed.
- The Livingston event this year will be a family and provincial / municipal government fun ride followed by a scrambles race. Only trail legal bikes will be allowed and trail conditions will be documented before and after the events. Contact Brenda Pearson for more information.
- We need to analyze the Beaver Creek study and determine the implications to OHV use.

Primary Opposition

- MD councilors, outfitters and local ranchers
- AWA
- Mistakis (group involved with the Livingstone/Oldman/Dutch Cr. drainage issues)

Volunteers Needed!

- MLA letter writing is urgently needed by the Lethbridge riders.
- Lethbridge clubs need to get together and get organized.
- Trail mapping. Contact John Bader,

Additional Information;

- Livingston Management Plan info - **Nothing available!**
- Beaver Creek Drainage Study Info

Primary Contacts

- Cal Rakach, AOHVA President, <http://www.aohva.com/>
- Dennis Kaltenbruner, RMDRA President, <http://www.rockymountainindirriders.com>
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