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September 5, 2006
Darryl Johnson, Program Manager
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
8660 Bears paw Dam Road N.W.
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Re: Winter Motorcycle Riding Restrictions in McLean Creek FLUZ

On behalf of the southern Alberta off-road motorcycle community, this letter is a request to rescind the winter motorcycle riding restrictions in McLean Creek FLUZ. The restrictions appear arbitrary, without foundation and result in no clear benefits that we are aware of. They restrict access unfairly for one user group and, with the recent trail closures in Ghost/Waiparous, result in greatly reduced recreational winter land access for southern Alberta off-road motorcyclists. We respectfully request the change in usage rules to be effective December 1, 2006.

Off-road motorcycles are permitted in McLean Creek Forest Land Use Zone from May 1 to November 30 only, yet tracked snow vehicles and OHVs weighing less than 450 kg (1000 pounds) and having three or more floatation tires are allowed year round. Numerous members of the off-road motorcycle community have researched and inquired as to the purpose of these rules. To date, neither our research nor SRD's have been able to explain reasons for banning off-road motorcycles during this period. Our research has found the ban to **not** be supported by Alberta wide legislation nor specific regulations. With the exception of the new winter access rules specifically applied to areas of Ghost/Waiparous, we are not aware of other FLUZ or non-FLUZ areas that also have this motorcycle restriction.

We know of no impacts that off-road motorcycles create that hikers, quads and snow-machines don't also cause. Listed below are some possible explanations and refuting arguments;

Rutting Impacts to Snowmobile Trails

Off-road motorcycle riders mostly prefer to ride single-track that is too narrow for snowmobile use. Avid snowmobile riders do not frequent McLean Creek due to poor or absent snow conditions and the deep ditches and ruts caused by summer rain erosion. We believe that no snow trail grooming has occurred in over 10 years. Further, quad tires also rut and groove snowmobile trails. Therefore we find this reason to be well meaning, but not of any practical value in protecting snowmobile trails. We have discussed lifting

the McLean Creek motorcycle ban with the Alberta Snowmobile Association (ASA) and they do not object to this request.

Erosion Minimization

Our experience riding in McLean Creek shows that wet summer conditions create far greater erosion damage potential for all users than frozen winter conditions. During winter boggy areas, wet areas, and stream crossings on designated trails can be crossed without creating water impacts.

Animal Habitat Disruption

We are not aware of any animal habitat impacts caused by off-road motorcycles that are not also caused by other winter trail users.

In summary, we respectfully request the winter access ban on motorcycles in McLean Creek be rescinded due to its seemingly arbitrary application and lack of apparent benefits to the FLUZ. Please respond to this letter at your earliest convenience to let the off-road motorcycle community know SRD's position. I can be reached at (403) 818-5054 to discuss this request.

Best regards,

Dean Cockshutt
Land Advocacy Director, RMDRA

CC; Rick Blackwood, Area Manager, ASRD
Darryl Copithorne, Director, Alberta Off-Highway Vehicle Association
Randy Rodman, Southern Regional Director, Alberta Snowmobile Association
Glen McKean, President, Calgary Motorcycle Club
Terry Elynuik, Calgary Quad Squad
Bob Bolton, Crowsnest Pass Quad Squad
Bob Read, President, KMA Racing
John Bader, Director, Lethbridge Motorcycle Club
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