

**BIGHORN BACKCOUNTRY
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING**



FEBRUARY 3, 2022

9:00AM – 12:00PM

Online Meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

Don Livingston	Loyal Ma	Barry Wesley	Michael Doyle
Wayne Crocker	Dom Kmet	Paul Radchenko	Jeremy Cooper
Laura Raivio	Neil Radcliffe	Simon Dyer	Jim Turner
Stephen Shenfield	Brad Jones	Suzanne Comfort	Julia Wachowski
Hal Jeske	Lorne Hindbo	Ben Curry	Robyn Rush
Dennis Schafer	Vinton Lovell	Adena Earl	Rick Artzen
Ian Stuart	Grant Santo	Jordan Northcott	Dale Marshall
Jamie Bruha	Rod Burns		

Item #	TOPIC
1.	<p><u>Enforcement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most popular spot for bubblers is the new Hoodoo Creek parking but Cline is popular for viewers now as well. People parking along the highway near the steep access road there. A few anglers observed the last couple of weeks but not volumes like last year. - Conservation officers and Fish & Wildlife officers have patrolled into 40 Mile cabin. Complaints of OHVs accessing while restricted. COs patrolled into Hummingbird on snowmobiles. Minimal OHV tracks and bad snow conditions. - COs have prioritized Snow Creek area. Additional patrols into Park have found recreation users are utilizing the shelter and toilet. - Crescent Falls continues to be a main stop for bubblers. Continual cycle of people through Crescent and Abraham.
2.	<p><u>Recreational Management Plan Around Nordegg</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Map shared with group - Proposal submitted for the Snow Creek area to resurrect trails that were previously used for mountain biking and proposed trails on Black Mountain. - Sunde Forest Products and Weyerhaeuser coming back into the area. Grant money may be available through the Forest Resource Improvement Program for this joint proposal. - Ties in with prior planning for trail integration with Nordegg community - Non-motorized and geared towards Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking/fat biking. Ties in with current non-motorized FireSmart trails around Fish Lake and Goldeye Lake. - Geared towards keeping OHVs from entering Bighorn First Nations. - This plan integrates all recreational uses on the landscape in close proximity to Nordegg. Non-motorized around Snow Creek and Goldeye, motorized at the Bighorn

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	<p>Dam. Looking at motorized connection with Nordegg via south of the river with the ability to use the trunk road, motorized trails and multi-use trails at Nordegg and the Rail Trail, increase motorized trails to the north. Harvesting will be taking place north of Snow Creek in the next 5 years and this is the chance to take advantage and maybe get some trail work completed at the same time.</p>
3.	<p><u>Snow Creek Trail Changes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mulching to open existing trails that used to be groomed for cross country skiing. Need to widen to allow for fat bike and snowshoe usage at same time to avoid multiuser conflict. - Submissions for First Nations consultation have been completed for Hwy 11 corridor work. Removing OHV trails from the map that are grown over, dead end into non-motorized areas or lead directly into the Bighorn First Nations. - Looking at adaptive trails for handicapped riders and facilities.
4.	<p><u>Trails Act Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On December 8 the Trails Act went through third reading, received Royal Assent and is now an Act. Key component to the Act is that it basically provides the ability to establish trails outside of the PLUZ and manage those trails. - Trails that are new to the system will have to be added through a trail management plan. - Outside of PLUZ we will have the same set of rules as within where we can establish a trail and can designate the type of use of that trail. The biggest difference is that unlike in a PLUZ where you can only go on a designated trail with a conveyance, outside of the PLUZ you can still go where you want, but the designated trails set will be able to be managed. Allows the flexibility to manage all types of trails. - Designation and protection of trails allows greater certainty of recreation use of trails which should help tourism ventures. - Trails in the PLUZ currently showing as temporarily closed will be included going forward with the other designated trails under the Trails Act. They may be reassessed in the future to determine if they should continue to be part of the provincial trail system. - Look at consultation with this group for areas outside of Bighorn Backcountry with the Trails Act.
5.	<p><u>OHVs / Equestrian in Panther Area</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns around OHV access to Klein Lake. Outcome – there is no change in access, no OHVs allowed up to Klein Lake. - Concerns around allowing OHVs on the Panther Road with the pilot project. Outcome - OHVs will be allowed on that road and other road portions contained in the pilot project for at least another year, then an evaluation will take place. No issues at Cutoff and Hummingbird with shared road usage.
6.	<p><u>Bikepacking Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing to inventory around Nordegg/Snow Creek, YaHa Tinda, 40 Mile. Wanting to go up Sunkay/Wapiabi. - Would like to replace picnic table on Glacier and see a garden throne at the large overnighting spot. - Possible trail rerouting at Sentinel Creek on the Pinto Lake trail.
7.	<p><u>FOESA Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cut trees at some of the campgrounds to allow for access of the bigger camping units.

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- Ten new toilets going in along the Trunk Road.
- AGM cancelled. Meeting with GOA taking place April 8 2022.
- Membership was up to 6000 (1500 families) people and looking like we will exceed that again this year.

8. Open Floor
- New bear lockers listed with GPS locations on 2022 Bighorn Backcountry brochure.
 - Camping Pass – next step is to come up with a user-based survey.
 - FOESA collecting user data on their new website.
 - When doing work on new parking lots/toilets need to be aware of artifacts. Conditions set in place for anything that may be uncovered.
 - Request to look at alternate drainage for Ranger Creek Random Sledding Area access.
 - Funding planned for James Lake trail work.
 - Would like to visit possibility of potential habitat logging in R11 in area around North Ram and potential tie in with trail system at Joyce Creek.

Action Items	Description	Assigned To:	Due Date
1.	Speak with Alberta Transportation about possible arrangement to plow out corridor staging areas.	Don Livingston	2022
2.	Look into and revisit scope of the standing committee.	Don Livingston	June 2022
3.	Glacier trail garden throne at area used for overnighting – take across over the ice?	Hal Jeske/Loyal Ma/Don Livingston	Winter/Spring 2022
4.	Send out updated list of reps and contact info	Laura Raivio	Feb 2022
5.	Look at alternate access to Ranger Creek Random Sledding Area	Don Livingston/Michael Doyle	2022