

Bighorn Backcountry Standing Committee

Meeting Summary

Bighorn Backcountry Access Management

January 28, 2021 @ 9:00 **ROUGH COPY**

Zoom Meeting

Don Livingston	Wayne Crocker	Dale Marshall	Jim Duncan
Laura Raivio	Doug King	Adena Earl	Amanda Halawell
Barry Wesley	Ben Curry	Brad Jones	Dave Hockey
Dominik Kmet	Michael Doyle	Grant Santo	Kevin Gagne
Jamie Bruha	Jay Mills	Jeremy Cooper	Kris Heemeryck
Larry Frischke	Lorne Hindbo	Loyal Ma	Lisa Schrader
Eric Brownrigg	Michelle Swanson	Mike Adolph	Paul Radchenko
Rick Artzen	Simon Dyer	Josh Edwards	Dennis Schafer
Morgan Titford	Marla Zapach	Chiara Feder	

Chair

Don Livingston

Welcome/Introduction

Cory Wojtowicz, who has been on the Steering Committee for a long time, has stepped down as Brad Jones with the recreation division will be covering that area and Lisa Schrader looks after much of the south end now. Chiara Feder is going to be main contact as wildlife biologist, replacing Anne Hubbs.

In the Standing Committee, Michelle Swanson is replacing Theresa Laing as County-Alternate. Aliah Knopff was with Fishing and Hunting, but she is no longer able to contribute. Spoke with Phil Lacerte-Rep for Fishing and Hunting about filling that role.

Coal Update

Still a lot of irons in the fire particularly regarding the area within the Bighorn Backcountry. In 2011 two applications were put in around Crescent Falls and Fish Lake, as well as the long standing freehold mineral rights that are in the Wapiabi are still there. Right now there is a lot of info coming in and decisions to be made on what to do with those types of lands. Actual coal exploration itself falls under the Alberta Energy Regulator (AEP) not

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Alberta Environment and Parks. Once something is decided we will get that info out to the Bighorn Backcountry Standing Committee.

When the coal policy was changed it allowed those applications sitting in limbo to be changed to a formal lease. Industry, oil and gas interests in Zone 2 critical wildlife lands were a permitted use in the Wapiabi and were addressed in the original access management plan. Prior interests have expired. Potential industrial interests could be looked at north of Crescent Falls into Vimy. There were concerns raised during the original access management planning team about that, including why is a dozer allowed in but not other motorized that don't produce that kind of damage?

Guides and Outfitters /Hindbo: In favor of the IRPs and would like to see this group be in favor of letting the current government know Zone 1 Prime Protection is exactly that and no industrial activity should be there.

Zone 1 is Category 1 lands. The mountain range is Zone 1, below is Zone 2 and that's the problem. There had been no new coal interests until 2011. Everything in the Kiska/Willson is not in the prime protection zone. IRPs still govern what can happen but there is a PNT on Category 1 prime protection. Zone 2 – Oras Coal

Hiking/Dyer: This issue is moving fast and Environment and Parks is not responsible for the decisions. Surface coal mining is now allowed in the Bighorn whereas six months ago it wasn't? I would like the committee to send a letter regarding consulting this committee and that we are against it. At the very least we should be consulted before the changes.

Livingston: You and your members can write letters, the committee itself cannot write a letter. Looking at some confirmations in the next few weeks.

Eco-Tourism/Zapach: I heard again how this Minister appreciates this committee and there is excellent management throughout the eastern slopes, etc. A broader discussion with this committee is in order and really warranted. I think this needs a bigger discussion and a letter from the business and recreation side.

Livingston: We put this up to the Minister again just prior to this meeting but no decisions have been made yet. We will keep the committee informed as we learn more.

Activities/Signage/Enforcement

Recently received an email, pictures and GPS locations regarding some backcountry garbage. In the mid-1990s we assisted the AWA (Alberta Wilderness Association) with a big cleanup in the deep backcountry. A lot of tin can dumps in Blackstone, Wapiabi and Job Lake areas were cleaned up. This fellow that sent the email went through Job, 40 Mile/South Ram, Bighorn/Littlehorn and found large amounts of leftover gear and garbage at some campsites. Some of those sites are outfitters whose operations have changed hands recently, some are items that have obviously been there for a while. There is lots of verbiage out there saying it is motorized users leaving garbage, but this is a reminder that caching gear and leaving garbage behind isn't permitted, and non-motorized users need to follow those rules as well. The amount of garbage and the number of sites involved was a bit of a surprise and more than I expected to see. It isn't just the front country we are having issues.

Enforcement

Basically had issues with OHVs accessing beyond 40 Mile, otherwise a lot of the use has transitioned to more day use. A lot of inexperienced people accessing Abraham, rumors of people falling into Abraham. We added Cline Falls to the patrol circuit. Weekends are busy still and bubbling exponentially the most popular. OHVs and snowmobiles aren't in high use as snow conditions are bad. A lot of fishermen.

Signage

More on Bighorn Backcountry monitoring: <https://www.alberta.ca/bighorn-backcountry-monitoring.aspx>

Three double-vault toilets were installed this fall, 1 at the new Hoodoo Creek parking, one at Coral and one at Pinto. Starting next week 3 being installed at Preacher's Point and Allstones. May get 2 more single vault toilets. Will be getting maintenance contracts together for next summer.

Signage – large order of signage regarding the Abraham lakebed. It will be closed to motorized April 1 – December 1st below the high water mark. Planning to install in early spring to try to avoid people getting stuck out there. Last year was unprecedented for people camping and driving on the lakebed.

Bikepacking Proposal

Presentation by Mountain Biking/Loyal Ma: We have seen unprecedented volumes of people out west and it has caused a lot of stress on all of us. Hoping to explain what we have been doing with bicycles, now people are calling it bikepacking.

Preferred access, equipment, typical trip, camping/accommodation, community and culture, why pay attention? and proposal – *please refer to attached presentation*

*Side notes - E-assist bicycles are extremely popular. Somebody on a bike can travel twice the distance as hiking.

Want to make sure this is on our radar so we can plan accommodations, routes, timing restrictions, and be proactive. See more and more people riding down the trunk road.

Want to assemble information for 3-5 potential loops this summer and standardize the way trails should be to accommodate bike packers, same as hikers but longer distances. Want to come up with a plan.

Q&A – E-assist on the radar for this? Mountain Biking/Ma: I think that e-bikes are here to stay and I've been asking that Environment and Parks form an e-bike policy. In Banff and Canmore only allowed in townsites and on bike trails. In Jasper they are permitted wherever mountain bikes are permitted. In National Parks in the States e-bikes can go where regular bikes can go. I feel the under 500W motor equals non-motorized business in not correct. Need to look at levels 1,2,3.

Livingston: We have had phone calls for this type of adventure. A couple of the spots are the Glacier Trail and Onion Lake trail. Also have seen an increase in usage for hunting. Our current rules state 500W or less it is considered non-motorized. F&W at Nordegg are seeing quite a few people doing the connection of the Great Divide trail to Jasper. Definitely more interest. Biking in and pack rafting out in some areas.

Mountain Biking/Ma: Consensus/objections? Equestrian/King: In principle I agree but sometimes bikers/hikers and horses combining isn't the best. Mountain Biking/Ma: In the regulations we always yield a trail to horses. Equestrian/Mills: We should be able to share those trails easily. Good examples in K-Country where there are combined trails, and they seem to be quite compatible. Mountain Biking/Ma: Would note yielding to hikers and equestrian if we can post a map online and get ahead of this. Equestrian/Mills: The more ways we can help people get into the backcountry the healthier they can be. The only potential problem is the excess speed they go downhill can be a problem with horses.

Livingston: Etiquette side of things from the commercial side was to try to get mountain bikers to put a bear bell on the bike. A lot of bikers didn't like that because it's noisy but they do get moving pretty fast and it allows horses to get off the trails, as well to let wildlife know you are coming.

Radchenko: Do you know some of the trail connections and campsites yet? Mountain Biking/Ma: Hoping to do that this summer. Crescent Falls, Bighorn/Littlehorn, Wapiabi Gap to George Creek, Bighorn Dam, Onion Lake, Siffleur to Whiterabbit. Trunk road for those who are not quite as adventurous. Only looking at identifying 4-6 for this summer and then look at more in the future.

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Radchenko: In talking about demographics and activity, scenery. With the right analysis it could effect that part of the trail planning. We have that data.

Mountain Biking/Ma: I have reached out to Rocky, I will be in touch with you (Radchenko).

Bruha: It would definitely give a lot of people the ability to access an area with e-bikes. Have you seen an overabundance of people getting in where they haven't before? Yes and have seen a slow reaction by the government. Right now in my little bike shop 70% of all bike sales are e-assist. They are here to stay. They are just going to get better and have longer ranges.

Great Divide Trail

Presentation by Josh Edwards and Dave Hockey: Involved with Alberta Hiking Associations – work with groups across the province, one being The Great Divide Trail Association. It is one of the most active groups.

Please refer to attached presentation

*Side notes - Discussion about growth and recognition of the trail. Trail runs from Waterton 1100 km up to Kakwa. The Great Divide Trail (GDT) is non-motorized only, specifically for hikers and equestrian users. Alberta contains 650 km, over 450 km in BC. Energy for trail designation fell off and then picked back up in 2013. It is a Canadian non-profit registered charity with focus on promoting and protecting the GDT.

Maintenance is as often as allowed. Here today to talk about how the trail travels through this area. Specifically talk about the Pinto Creek horse camp area and campsite area. Want to ensure that in this area we have responsible access and means of managing waste from hikers. One of the major gains is that we have had successful equestrian assistance where we can. Partnered up to remove garbage.

Pictures on the presentation are of work that has taken place in the Bighorn area. Want to focus on water and waterways, protection of species. We believe by building and maintaining trails focused on foot traffic this will focus usage crossing water. If posted properly people with inherently follow the rules. Our ask? See slide

You can go on our [website](#) as well at <https://greatdividetrail.com/trip-planning-resources/maps/>
If open to full screen you can load a GPS track.

Livingston: Equestrian use from up Cline River to Pinto and then to Michelle Lakes, mostly sheep hunters into Michelle. The GDT starts in the national park at Owen Creek. All are currently on the Bighorn Backcountry map as non-motorized.

Hiking/Dyer: This could become the most well known hiking trail in Alberta and increasing backcountry camping in alpine near Cataract Pass could create impacts. GDT: The website traffic and interest is growing phenomenally. Want to ensure everyone has that wilderness experience.

Mountain Biking/Ma: As for use of the trails, bike packers in the States, a lot of them are doing this trail down to Mexico. The Great Divide mountain bike trail does have a similar corridor. GDT: We work well with all user groups, if there are small sections where we can use the trail together we have the awareness of that and work together. Mountain Biking/Ma: Pinto Lake is an area being biked now. Livingston: What is currently marked as Pinto Creek trail on your map is not, and when Loyal refers to Pinto Lake Trail it is up the Cline River. We have to consider needs, official parking at Owen Creek and jurisdictionally it involves Banff and Jasper National Parks.

Equestrian/Mills: Is part from the Icefields Parkway? Livingston: Not actually part of the designated trail. Sunset Pass is the most heavily used trail to get into Pinto from Banff.

GDT: We have a partnership agreement with RSTBC. Parks Canada won't let us clear the trail that goes through the national park right now. Working to get maintenance approval.

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Radchenko: Cataract Creek going up to White goat and up to Cataract Pass? I was aware of a study identifying signature trails and was this one of them? GDT: I have seen some studies but there were some inaccuracies. Radchenko: It is a Tourism product, and there is an easy step to talk to Tourism.

Hiking/Dyer: Whitegoat was a place no one was going and now it's gotten more public and popular. That route is the busiest chunk of the Whitegoat now. GDT: Whitegoat is pristine area and we want to keep it that way. Actually currently in conversations and is my understanding that we cannot even camp in that area. Want to work with Alberta Parks to keep hikers where they need to be.

Santo: Trying to determine if there is any way to legally let any mechanical implement in to get rid of deadfall on those trails. Will get back to you.

First Nations/Wesley: Have you contacted the Stoney First Nations? You are right on our Stoney trail. All the trails in the Bighorn are Stoney trails. Time you know the human history in this beautiful landscape, we always forget that important piece of information. Advise that you contact us, this will be good for us too as we still practice our traditional culture there. This type of thing needs to be consulted with us, strongly advise that you need to connect with our Stoney people.

GDT: Would definitely like to connect with you. Stoney-Nakoda have been contacted regarding naming the pass.

Livingston: Pinto Lake definitely has long Stoney ties, also the McKenzies and Raivios historically outfitted up MacDonald Creek.

Action: Raivio - Connect GDT and First Nations/Wesley with email addresses (completed Jan 28/21)

Equestrian/Mills: Is GDT looking for a consensus for partnering or naming? Down the road yes.

Crown Land Vision & Sustainable Rec Engagement

Bruha: The online survey for this ended January 15th.

PowerPoint was presented. On November 26th the Crown Land Vision was announced that initiated a public survey on Sustainable Recreation and Partners and more detailed conversations with key stakeholder groups. Since that time we have met with about 15 groups. The public survey asked for input on items like willingness to pay, support of partnerships, put out a discussion guide in a more detailed way. Sent discussion guides to the key stakeholder groups who understand the costs of being on these trails.

The crown land vision engagement consisted of 3 main parts. 1. Longer term was to look at the overall system including Parks and public lands. 2. Sustainable funding and partnerships. 3. Focusing on outcomes and reducing red tape. The survey was released November 26, 2020 and ended January 15, 2021. Really broad representation from the public and types of groups. Hikers, equestrian, paddlers, OHV users, bikers, it showed the people were responding from varied activities. Age range was 18-65 with a reasonable even split. We sent letters to all the indigenous communities stating that if a fee were established there would be an exemption for Status.

Generally the response was in support of fees. Stayed fairly consistent. Platform commitments were specific to OHV and camping fees, but it's pretty clear that non-motorized are interested in a fee system to support their activities. Key around partnerships is we need to have clarity of liability. Occupiers Liability Act puts a higher duty of care, we need to ensure what that means to users. When on a trail users take on an onus of liability.

Wrapped up engagement, working on policy in the background. If this goes ahead we need a fee collection system. Existing registry system, RELM system have been suggested. At the beginning disbursement could be through grants. The public would need to be informed through strategic communications if fees move ahead.

Input on how to best implement?

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Q&A – Equestrian/King: In terms of the fees, it is interesting from the equestrian on how low the fee was that people wanted to pay.

Bruha: We heard a lot of responses – I already pay taxes, just try to keep me off it, I would pay a fee to use and generally good support for user fees. Heard keep it affordable – don't exclude people because they can't afford the fees.

Equestrian/King: If paying fees there is going to be a lot higher expectations and you are going to have to spend a long time getting people used to it. Equestrian/Mills: If equestrian pay there will be the expectation that whatever they are paying will go back into equine trails/maps, etc. Membership could be collected by the Alberta Equestrian Federation (AEF) and managed by the AEF to ensure it goes back into those trails.

Bruha: There are also other associations, are you suggesting that if we mandate fees that each of these groups collect the fees?

Equestrian/Mills: People join the AEF for insurance, there could be an additional fee put on as part of their membership.

Hiking/Dyer: What are the possible mechanisms to collect fees is AEP thinking, by vehicle registration, a pass? Hiking association supports fees and it sets expectations. Bruha: Are the majority of hikers camping as well? Hiking/Dyer: Day hiking much more popular but it is both, depending on access. Bruha: Camping and OHV fees noted so far, but shouldn't limit ourselves to this. Hiking/biking could be looked at.

Staging Area/Trail Adoptee/Marshall: Who will want to buy a membership for FOESA if they have to buy a trail pass? How will that effect our organization? Bruha: There is a risk to people not wanting to buy both. We would get secure funding from fees which would be able to then replace the funding you may be missing out. Would you be able to maintain your organization structure with free memberships if the funds were replaced?

Staging Area/Trail Adoptee/Marshall: Hard to know the numbers without some kind of a membership to keep track of it. Membership works very well for this. Bruha: Want to keep talking to you about this. Would be the same as the Alberta Snowmobile Association for example, same effect. Do not see that as a big risk as long as we are able to generate the money. How do we ensure that your groups thrive with this in place? It is high on the radar to address groups like yourselves and we don't want put you in a worse place.

Equestrian/Mills: Mandatory fee to government is no incentive to join an organization. Membership \$5 and then you advertise that you will get additional funds from government?

Equestrian/King: There won't be volunteers anymore, so there goes the partnerships.

Bruha: Recognize partnerships are critical to this. Like the idea of having a lower amount in order to attract membership and that makes sense.

Equestrian/King: Previous Summer Motorized rep figured they had 1-2% of the quads in the province in membership. I think in general you can run through the associations but best volunteer as well. How is funding in the States?

Bruha: Recreation and trail related fees are highly variable across North America. In one state, anyone entering Crown land has to have a fee/buy a pass. Almost any way you can think of to collect recreation related fees its being used somewhere.

Action: Raivio-Email everyone asking for additional thoughts and questions based on the presentation. Will compile and send results. (Completed Jan 28/21 and Feb 2/21)

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Bighorn Dam Issues

Went to TransAlta in the fall to locate places for toilets and they actually said don't bother, we are going to close it down to the public. Met with TransAlta again just before Christmas and they expressed that they have had concerns for a while. With the extensive usage this summer, more vandalism, verbal abuse, etc, they proposed to put up a gate at the highway if County approved, and keep people out.

So Environment & Parks created a proposal and reclamation plan that we gave to them before Christmas for their thoughts. We want to close off areas at the dam site itself. The unprecedented usage around the dam site, even when the designated trails were closed, was happening causing problems. Proposed to fence off down below the dam and around the hoodoos with a rail fence. Around the teepee monument, proposing to fix that itself, the erosion there and around the powerline, putting in a fence and gate to prevent public usage but still allow TransAlta and First Nations access. TransAlta also has riprap and plan to do some reclamation on trails that cut across the dam itself. Install fencing in the areas that are not too steep and reclamation of OHV ruts.

Proposed to commit to some heavy education and signage with TransAlta. TransAlta does have the right to restrict all public from that area. We are at 2 strikes rights now, so if we do not take steps now to get the public to act appropriately it won't work out. Proposing to do the fencing by April and then not allow any OHVs there when the main designated trail systems are not open. You can trailer in to have with you while camping and trailer to other places, but no unloading and usage there while trails are closed. We do have a bit of money to do that reclamation and then will have to look at the plan from 2013 next and formalize the camping. Will have an enforcement presence and recreation engagement presence out there.

Meeting next week with TransAlta to see if we can go forward.

Trapping/Cooper: Can we get the TransAlta information out on paper and give people a heads up? Livingston: Our thoughts are to have a fairly aggressive social media campaign and brochures, presentations to get the message out. No one realizes that everything on the east side of that road consists of drains, etc. that get damaged. Saw last year that social media definitely pushed more people there and we do need to corral activity at that site. Education beforehand is a major part of the plan.

Existing signage and enforcement has not worked for the last few years we need to take next step.

Mountain Biking/Ma: Would like to see information crafted by staff and put on the Bighorn Backcountry site, and then the user groups and take it from there to disperse.

Livingston: Exactly – we want to put something there to link to.

Clearwater Country/Duncan: We went through whole process in 2013, can that become part of the solution? Livingston: Proposing to take the extensive plan from 2013 as a place to start, in 2017 Greg Nelson also worked to retrofit that plan. Our intention is to have that in place for the next year and the build the year after. This year is to halt the improper usage and get the education out there.

First Nations/Wesley: TransAlta has authority over the Crown to close the gate? Livingston: It does. Under the water development license they do have the ability to control public access. They are at the point where that is not something they want to do, and we really need to react and curb that behavior that's causing those issues. First Nations/Wesley: We need to educate the province right from the top. Livingston: Opportunities to have more trails in there, need to show that people can be responsible. Need to have some hard barriers and mitigation just to put that to bed.

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Guides & Outfitters/Hindbo: Fair if TransAlta and AEP come up with the absolute boundaries where people and OHVs cannot go, period. If that is fenced off then we can decide where things are acceptable. Livingston: If TransAlta is okay with us moving forward with this, that is our plan. One area that really concerns them is right below the dam because that is where people are parking and going through the existing fence itself. Have a meeting with TransAlta next week and can hopefully go forward.

Trappers/Cooper: Is there some agreement in place to protect any investment you put in there? Livingston: Have looked into putting a notation or something similar to protect infrastructure investment.

Winter Non-Motorized/Adolph: This is a good opportunity to represent public interests and create some buy in.

Livingston: There is almost another level of defiance around Crown land usage – it doesn't mean you can do whatever you want. Opportunity for education.

Update since the date of this meeting: TransAlta has accepted our remediation proposal and we will be moving forward this spring as soon as ground conditions allow.

Tershishner Trails

Went and looked at the system south of Crescent at the Hwy 11 junction. 2 ½ miles from highway the trail is in horrid condition with extensive braiding and rutting. Sign of lots of 4x4 trucks, side x sides, OHVs, braiding up to 50 m wide. Spoke with Dennis Schafer with the Bighorn Heritage ATV Society (BHAS) and representative for Summer Motorized about the condition. Once past those 2 miles the trail is in higher elevation and in way better condition. Would like to propose that we do not have that trail open this summer for motorized so that damage doesn't continue until we can get that section fixed. The sections that are damaged have a very good possibility of a bypass around it. When that trail was made we just followed what the existing clearances were.

Change the timing on that section for now?

First Nations/Wesley: I was hunting in there over the summer and the trails are in bad shape. Have photos. Some of those ruts are deeper than my height. That's where I usually go to do hunting and other cultural activities, agree to maybe keep it closed for a while and let it heal itself up.

Livingston: BHAS hasn't had an ability to get in there for a while and if we can do some rerouting and a proper connection to the road, and have a crossing at the Bighorn Dam road, we have some funding now to deal with this.

Cutoff / Sundre Forest Products – Logging / Staging

Mentioned before that Sundre Forest Products (SFP) is moving into harvesting sequence and the ability to have them do the clearing on the Cutoff Creek original PLRA. Possibility through R11 if there is need for habitat improvement or firesmart. No decisions made about the clearing and design of the PLRA, we are going to put a design together to bring forward.

Guides & Outfitters/Hindbo: West Fraser willing to build an equine camping area at Dewey's old camp. Is it possible to have an equestrian-only site that OHVs couldn't use? Is it feasible to build a PLRA that only a certain user group could use? Livingston: It is possible but what about the person that wants to hike in, backpack in, drive in and walk from there? What about all those other non-motorized users. In the scope there are all those other users. Would it be possible to separate all the non-motorized from motorized users? There's abilities but need to get reasonable buy-in. Guides & Outfitter/Hindbo: If I want to go with my OHV for the weekend I would like to camp at the top end. Livingston: Another thing on our plate is to utilize the Parks' design folks to see what type of design we can come up with.

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Equestrian/King: We never get everything we want, but there aren't that many places for equestrian. If doing camping stalls please make large enough for living quarters/horse trailers.

Staging Area/Trail Adoptee/Marshall: Suggest leaving it like it is as a multi-user at far end of Cutoff. If you come with multi-users in your group then you can both be there.

Trapper Access

Request from one trapper to have timing changed for trapline access outside of the regular season. Currently motorized access is given for 2 weeks prior to October 1 (opening) until March 31. We do have provisions to do Temporary Field Authorizations (TFA) for legitimate reasons to go in otherwise. Rocky and Sundre trapper locals met and decided timing was adequate and to leave as is.

These guidelines have been in place since 2002 based on recommendations from the trappers who were currently operating in the FLUZ's established in 1986. .

Open Floor

Equestrian/King: There were some construction issues on the wagon trail and will meet with AEP.

Equestrian/Mills: One question on the old Panther trail. Objective of the new trail was to take the trail out of the river – that old trail is still open and still active. Should we give some thought to blocking access on that old river trail? Should we be trying to get them out of the river and onto the new trail?

Schrader: We have not been on that trail for a few years but I have heard from some users that the trail is not useable for wagons anymore. But this summer we can go and take a look to determine this.

Guides & Outfitters/Turner: I would like to be on the committee if one is formed regarding wagon trail there.

Trappers/Cooper: When we get into planning camping/staging areas for trails, a reminder that for winter access the trappers are out there in the winter and have bait stations, traps, etc. there. Need to consult with the trappers so plans aren't looking at locations that are used for bait stations or traps. Livingston: That's right, more and more people walking and hiking around, and these areas are actively trapped. They are walking their dogs off leash and there could in a lynx or wolverine set nearby.

Action: Raivio - Add trapper information to brochure/website

Trappers/Cooper: I read on Facebook about people using goats to pack into the backcountry – then the sheep foundation mentioned concerns about diseases, etc. from domestic goats. Livingston: Nothing currently in legislation but is on the radar, more so with goats than llamas.

Feder: We are quite concerned and working actively to address this concern. The article came out around Christmas and got a lot of attention. We are working with the people involved to address the problem. There is an education piece missing regarding goats and domestic sheep, people aren't aware of the disease transmission possibilities. Upgrading education around this.

First Nations/Wesley: On the south side of the Bighorn Dam we still have corrals and log cabins. If you can let groups know not to take anything from those areas as those are ancestral grounds. Before our reserve was at its present location, our people lived on both sides of the river.

Sometimes when our people are out there praying, hikers/explorers come upon them. Those types of things need to be mentioned during education to give the people praying their privacy. Some groups come ask for permission to come into the Stoney ground hiking. Maybe we need to get back to this tradition so this way my people know who is out there enjoying the mountains. We find garbage, tarps and junk coming down the rivers so it should be looked into.

More on Bighorn Backcountry monitoring: <https://www.alberta.ca/bighorn-backcountry-monitoring.aspx>

Livingston: Would like points on some of those sites across the river. Want to come up with signage to put at the sites with the history.

Winter Non-Motorized/Adolph: Questions from guides and ice climbers around 2 O'Clock Creek and the falls. No trespassing as posted on the Bighorn. What are the rules there?

First Nations/Wesley: We are neighbors. If you want to take groups up there you can get a hold of myself, follow protocols and ask for permissions to walk across for the hikes. Takes a little bit of communication. Best contact is Barry Wesley 403-846-8781 or email: barryw@stoney-nation.com

Livingston: A number of years ago this access was identified as a concern. Ice climbing is technically on the reserve land. Have people park at Siffleur, go across the Provincial Rec Area and pop out at the climb itself. Gave this to Parks a few years ago and there are plans to expand parking at Siffleur. Potentially that trail can be on the books as well. **Action: Livingston - Will be chatting internally with Parks and First Nations about that.**

Winter Non-Motorized/Adolph: Would like to provide this info on the ice climbers Facebook page.

Winter Motorized/Doyle: What about the funding for OHV trails? Livingston: AOHVA did get \$500,000 and how they decide which clubs get it is up to them. We do have a bit of funding to do the James Pass as well.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021