

## Minority Reports May 2002

The recommendations submitted by the Bighorn Advisory Group could not represent the full range of views and concerns at the table. Members of the Advisory Group were offered an opportunity to make minority reports to ensure that their views were clear to the Alberta Government.

### Wanda Sunde

The recommendations for recreational access in the Bighorn area address methods for regulating behavior of all users. It is the impact of specific behaviours of OHV users that divide this group and the public on permissible access. We need to take advantage of this opportunity to modify inappropriate behavior without eliminating OHV access.

### Peter Schmiemann

Throughout this process the OHV community has proactively dealt with issues and strongly supports legislation which balances responsible multi-use access with environmental sustainability of the Bighorn Area.

- 1) The responsible OHV community strongly supports legislation that protects the environmental integrity of the Bighorn area. It is our hope that the legislation will also protect the privilege of responsible OHV access in the entire Bighorn area.
- 2) It is important that the Government provide a very strong statement that responsible OHV use in the Bighorn area (including Zone 1) will be permitted under the restrictions required to meet specific environmental and aesthetic values. It is time for the Government to recognize that responsible OHV recreation is and can be environmentally sustainable along with other managed recreational activities. As well, the Government must recognize the importance of private OHV recreation to Albertans and its value to the Alberta economy.

- 3) This is such a serious issue with the Alberta OHV community because the Bighorn area is the last area left in Central Alberta where OHVing can take place "IN" the mountains. Over the years, comparative areas along the Eastern Slopes of the Central Alberta area have been all closed to OHV recreation.
- 4) There is sincere hope by the OHV community and by those that are willing to work together that, through this process, all levels of Government recognize and support multi-use recreational access and activities in the entire Bighorn area.

Note: Peter has submitted a report entitled, "Off-Highway Vehicle Operator Perspectives and Commitments as Related to the Bighorn Access Management Plan." This report clarifies his recommendations regarding pro-active management of multi-use access in the area.

## **Tamaini Snaith**

Many group members felt that the final recommendations did not adequately address many of the concerns/perspectives that formed the discussion of the advisory group. While we recognize that many issues were irresolvable, we feel that our position with respect to the following four points requires clarification.

### **Supplementary Position Statement 1 re: Wildland Park Designation**

We recommend that the Bighorn Wildland Recreation Area be legally designated as a Wildland Park using the boundaries delineated by the Government of Alberta in 1986. The government publicly promised protection for this area, and the commitment remains outstanding. Wildland Park designation will require a comprehensive management and access plan which will address many of the issues the current process was unable to resolve, and will address the problems of funding, monitoring and responsibility. All traditional/treaty rights must be respected.

This position was supported by at least 5 advisory group members and the original was signed by Glen Semenchuk, Tamaini Snaith, Ken Zelt, Doug Ritchie and Barry Wesley.

### **Supplementary Position Statement 2 re: Regional Environmental Management Strategy**

The entirety of the Bighorn backcountry access management planning area requires a comprehensive biological assessment to identify and document environmental values (including watershed, vegetation, fish/wildlife populations and habitat and First Nations/cultural resources). A coordinated and comprehensive strategy must be put in place for monitoring and managing these values and the cumulative effects of all activities taking place (including industry, recreation etc.) to ensure the maintenance of the values inherent to the area. All traditional/treaty rights must be respected.

This position was supported by at least 7 advisory group members and the original was signed by Glen Semenchuk, Tamaini Snaith, Ken Zelt, Doug Ritchie, Barry Wesley, Lorne Hindbo and Bob Haagsma.

**Supplementary Position Statement 3 re: Industrial Access to the Blackstone-Wapiabi FLUZ**

There should be no surface access for industrial development within the boundaries of the Bighorn Wildland Recreation Area (as delineated in 1986, and includes Prime Protection Zone and a portion of the Blackstone-Wapiabi FLUZ which includes Critical Wildlife Zone). Science overwhelmingly indicates that the loss of our last roadless wild areas such as this one will represent an unrecoverable blow to biodiversity. We do not support any recommendation for roads or industrial access into the Bighorn Wildland Recreation Area. All traditional/treaty rights must be respected.

This position was supported by at least 6 advisory group members and the original was signed by Glen Semenchuk, Tamaini Snaith, Ken Zelt, Doug Ritchie, Barry Wesley and Bob Haagsma.

**Supplementary Position Statement 4 re: Motorized Recreation**

There must be no motorized recreational access to the Prime Protection Zone. Scientific evidence strongly and clearly demonstrates the negative effects of motorized recreation on environmental values (including soils, streams, water and air quality, vegetation, fish and wildlife). For more than 20 years, widespread interpretation of the Eastern Slopes Policy has been that motorized recreation is prohibited in the Prime Protection Zone because the environmental and aesthetic values of this zone must be protected. Motorized recreation may be accommodated and appropriately managed in Zone 5. All traditional/treaty rights will be respected.

This position was supported by at least 6 advisory group members and the original was signed by Glen Semenchuk, Tamaini Snaith, Ken Zelt, Doug Ritchie, Barry Wesley and Bob Haagsma.

*Original statements and signatures forwarded to Bill McMillan for inclusion in official record.*