

Bighorn Backcountry Access Management Plan

Monitoring Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose:

As representative users of the Bighorn Backcountry, provide advice and assist Sustainable Resource Development Environment and Parks in implementing, monitoring assessing, and developing operational plans to manage access in the Bighorn Backcountry, as per the Bighorn Backcountry Access Management Plan document. The Bighorn Backcountry Access Management Plan document has formed the foundation of The Forest Public Land Use Zones of the Bighorn Backcountry brochure document, which outlines both the plan document plus identifies specific trail and map information.

Mandate:

The Bighorn Backcountry Access Management Plan Monitoring Group will consist of a Steering Committee and a Standing Committee.

The Bighorn Steering Committee will use the recommendations of the Standing Committee balanced with all other aspects of the area, and develop steps to implement improved management of the area.

The Bighorn Standing Committee of the Bighorn Backcountry Access Management Plan Monitoring Group will provide advice and recommendations regarding access management in Bighorn Backcountry to Sustainable Resource Development Environment and Parks for decision by the Clearwater Area Manager. The advice and recommendations should be in a timely manner to allow departmentally-approved decisions and adjustments to occur for the next season of operation.

The Standing Committee may also participate in implementing many access management mechanisms of the Bighorn Backcountry Access Management Plan document.

The Recreational Trail Monitoring process is a tool that may be used by both the Steering Committee and Standing Committee as a means of measuring the success of access maintenance and management on specified trails.

Scope of Steering Committee:

The Steering Committee will consist mainly of government staff responsible for implementing management of the Bighorn Backcountry Access Management Plan.

- The Steering Committee will be responsible to review data and information of various aspects of the land base, including access monitoring data assessments and inventory, advice of the standing committee, and any other linked resource information of the land base including fire, wildlife, fish, soils, water, ecological, and any other land use

Commented [JT1]: Desire for both georeferenced digital maps & paper maps.

Commented [JT2]: Update to be more concise & clear. Maybe change reference if brochures are consolidated in the Annual Rec Guide.

Commented [JT3]: Implementation of Access Management Plans for the Public Landuse Zones.

Commented [JT4]: Interest to expand the scope of the BHSC to planning for the West Country. The BHSC could be the first stop for consultation. Consideration around representation on the BHSC if expanded mandate.

Commented [JT5]: This statement should be an important part of this document. Leave this in.

Commented [JT6]: Update

Commented [JT7]: This section should include provisions for review of Access Management Plan (annually) and other long-term planning. Alignment with reviews and direction from Regional Planning.
*Onboarding for new members and annual review of ToR.

Commented [JT8]: This Rec Trail Monitoring has not been utilized much if at all previously.

Commented [JT9]: Update this language to support of use of new and available monitoring tools and technology. There should be a process here to inform decision making around trails. Don't want to be onerous on the user groups. Move this to procedural provisions.

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information of the area.

- The Steering Committee may make decisions on temporary timing restrictions and closures in emergent situations. All decisions made by the Steering Committee will be communicated to the Standing Committee within a timely manner, with follow-up in future Bighorn meetings. ~~The decision to temporarily open or close trails within any season will be incumbent upon the results of decisions made by the Steering Committee.~~
- Monitoring Assessment and inventory programs plans or modifications to those programs plans will be ~~implemented~~ approved by or through the Steering Committee.

Commented [JT10]: Move to scope.

Scope of Standing Committee:

As representative users of the Bighorn Backcountry, the Standing Committee may:

- ▲ Provide a mechanism for stakeholders to contribute to the implementation of the Bighorn Backcountry Access Management Plan.
- ▲ Make recommendations regarding, and participate in, education and communication initiatives for the community and stakeholders regarding the Bighorn Backcountry Access Management Plan.
- ▲ Assist in the further development and implementation of an assessment ~~a monitoring~~ process, including participation in data collection and interpretation.
- ▲ Make recommendations for trail status:
 - Type of use (foot, equestrian, motorized, multiple, other)
 - Season of use
 - Permit conditions
 - Evaluations of current (baseline) status and future desired status
 - —
- ▲ Assist with development of trail and facility, and reclamation standards.
- ▲ Review trail conditions and recommend priorities for maintenance.

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~~Provide input regarding proposals and results of surveys or monitoring work commissioned by the department in connection with access management plan implementation in Bighorn Backcountry Access Management Plan reference document.~~

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- ▲ Provide recommendations regarding proposals and recreation planning within the Bighorn Backcountry and public lands within Clearwater County.

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- ▲ Make recommendations for development of staging areas, and designated camping- ~~and/or staging areas~~ in accordance with the Bighorn Backcountry Access Management Plan.

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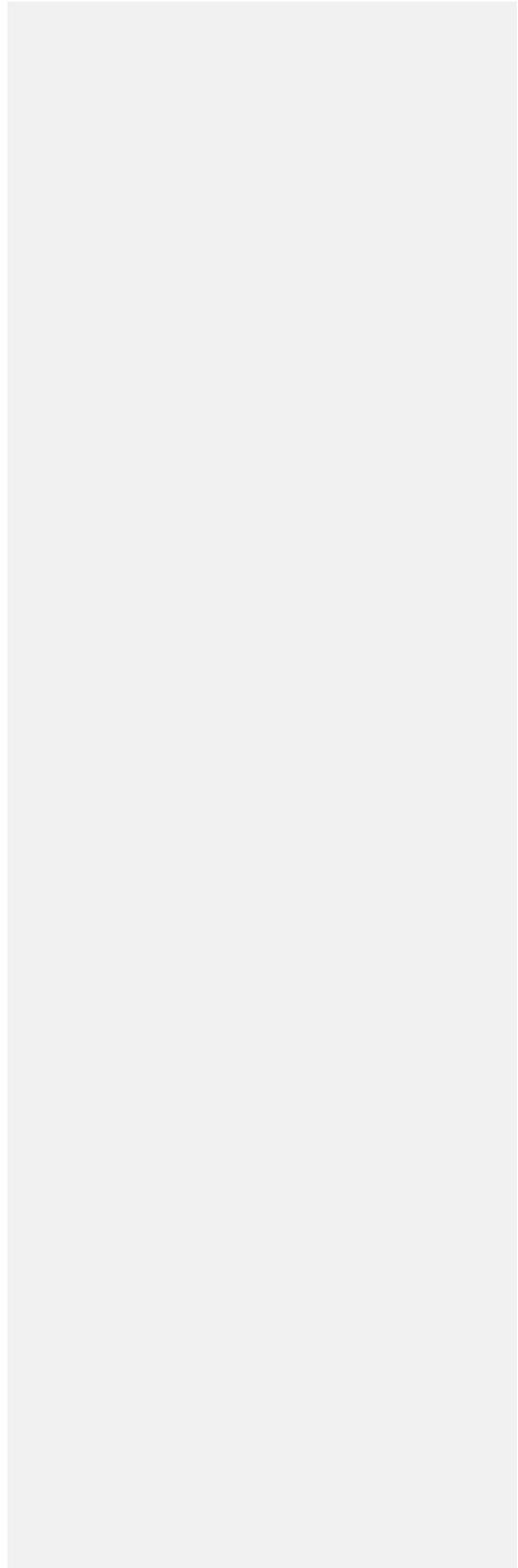
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- ▲ Participate in the development and maintenance of current and future trails and staging areas for the betterment of all recreational users and the environment, in accordance with the Bighorn Backcountry Access Management Plan. It is not anticipated that many new trails are required at this time, however some portions may

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| need to be relocated to more stable ground.



Membership:

- ▲ The Bighorn ~~Backcountry Monitoring Group~~ Committee will consist of two components:
 - Steering Committee – consisting of government staff;
 - Standing Committee – consisting of public members as representatives of various users of Bighorn Backcountry, and selected department staff ~~including Clearwater Area Manager (Chair), Area Wildlife Biologist, and a Land and Forest Division Land Management Officer.~~
- ▲ Membership of the Standing Committee should be sector-based consisting of a representative chosen by, if available, a provincial club or association. Representatives should include a primary individual and an alternate. These representatives ~~will should~~ not represent individuals or organizations, but will should represent their ~~user community~~ sector as a whole.

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- ▲ Membership may be somewhat open, but the desired size of the Standing Committee should be a manageable size ~~between ten to fifteen persons~~, small enough to discuss details of the access management plan.
- ▲ Opportunities will be provided for the addition of new members or alternates to the Standing Committee based on expression of interest, or review of sector based representation and acceptance by the department.
- ▲ Members who feel that they are no longer able to participate in good faith, on the basis of the Terms of Reference, are expected to voluntarily withdraw from the membership. Failing that, the department reserves the right to dismiss committee members who do not abide by the Terms of Reference.
- ▲ Members are expected to show respect for each other's time and personal integrity. Respect means listening carefully with the intent of clearly understanding what the other is saying before responding. It means treating one another with professional cordiality and deference, even if there is a disagreement over stated positions on an issue. Members are expected to participate in good faith, in agreement with the intended purpose of the group. Members should be prepared and willing to work with others ~~to achieve the committee's stated objectives of the Mandate and Scope of the Steering Committee and Scope of the Standing Committee.~~

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Meetings:

- ▲ The Clearwater Area Manager or his designate will chair meetings of both committees.
- ▲ Meeting schedules will be defined by each respective committee.
- ▲ Meeting summary notes will be taken of all meetings highlighting such matters as the areas of discussion and assignments of tasks to be undertaken by individuals or organizations.

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- The location of meetings will be determined based on agreement by each respective committee.

Procedural Provisions:

- The Standing Committee will strive to operate by consensus to provide constructive recommendations to the ~~Clearwater Area Manager~~ Steering Committee. Consensus is defined as a decision-making process in which all parties that are involved ~~agree-~~ can accept the final decision or, in the case of the Standing Committee, recommendation. Consensus decision-making does not mean that all parties are completely satisfied with the final outcome.
- If consensus cannot be reached after ample discussion, a vote may be taken with the results of that vote forwarded with the advice given to the Clearwater Area Manager Steering Committee. The views of dissenting voters will be presented with the vote results.
- Standing Committee members will not publicly represent any views of the committee other than the recommendations that have been clearly made and recorded through the committee process.
- It is the role of alternate Standing Committee members to be well-informed of the business of the Standing Committee. They may not vote in discussions at the table while attending if the primary representative is present.
- Subcommittees of the Standing Committee may be formed to address particular issues or to perform specific tasks. These subcommittees will be formed and the composition determined by consensus of the Standing Committee. At least one member of a subcommittee must be a Standing Committee member. The subcommittee will report to the Standing Committee.
- Application to make a presentation to the committee shall be made through the committee chairperson to have the item considered to be included on the meeting agenda.
- It is the chairperson’s responsibility to manage the time of the committee effectively and afford equitable time for all representatives (but may limit the time of any representative so that all representatives can address issues).

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Funding:

The department ~~may will~~ fund approved meetings costs including such items as meeting room rental, refreshments, advertising, and/or mail-outs. There will be no honorariums or travel subsistence for members to attend meetings.

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Funds for implementing actions will be based upon the department’s approved budgets, and upon any partnership agreements developed through or by the department.