

## **ACTION ALERT No. 2 BIGHORN ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Environmentalists, non-motorized interest and some commercial operators are continuing their pressure to have the Bighorn Recreation Area closed to all off highway vehicles including snowmobiles. We must not allow this to happen. We must all continue our letter writing campaign. If you have written already...write again! Spread the word and get ohv and snowmobilers to respond immediately.

- Tell them that the Alberta Wilderness Association's reference to support and success, is not representative to what actually happened at their open houses. Your name on their sign-in sheet does not indicate support for the AWA position. (Click on [www.albertawilderness.ca](http://www.albertawilderness.ca) view the results of the AWA open houses)
- Vote on the AWA website on whether or not you support OHV use in Big Horn
- Tell them we believe in multi-use trails in the Big Horn and that ALL trails should be well designed and managed through seasonal use and snowmobilers are willing to work at doing this.
- The use of two-way designated and possibly groomed trails with sizable destination open areas strategically along the trail and at the end of the trail is often adequate for a pleasurable day of snowmobiling. Looped trails are often effective. Many snowmobilers enjoy long distance destination riding and regularly travel over 100 km per day through a system of connected trails.
- Tell them, we value the wilderness experience and will cooperate with any group that is willing to improve relationships and trail conditions.
- Tell them Alberta must remain open for tourism and the closure of this area will have far reaching consequences.
- Tell them commercial and industrial activities should not be at the cost of less trail for motorized recreation.

### **ACT NOW**

Click here [www.altasnowmobile.ab.ca](http://www.altasnowmobile.ab.ca), click Action Alert 2, Big Horn Advisory, click document library and then download the general recreation questionnaire and the ohv questionnaire. These must be submitted by the 19<sup>th</sup> March. Fill in the general recreational questionnaire and the ohv questionnaire and fax in to 1-888-423-4745 immediately. Your comments are extremely important so fill in the boxes but add your comments and be very clear. Down load the questionnaires and submit them by March 19. Your voice must be heard.

The Alberta Snowmobile Association looks forward to keeping communication open and working in a respectful manner with other user groups to develop a positive and workable access plan. Multi-use is a term we emphasize, however,

“Snowmobile” use is unique in its own right and is often not compatible with other activities due to issues dealing with safety and maintenance of the trail. Snowmobiling is permitted in prime protection under the Eastern Slopes policy and is approved in a variety of different areas including “Wildland Parks”, therefore, having a seasonal snowmobile management plan is essential, and appropriate restrictions considered during the winter. This would address snow cover and the maintenance of the trail, safety, sensitive areas and factual wildlife issues. Rerouting a trail, if necessary, may be possible. Normal snowmobile noise levels and snowmobile use do not affect wildlife in any major way.

Sensitive areas have previously been identified under the Forest Land Use Zones, wilderness areas, ecological and natural reserves when approximately 60% of the Big Horn riding area was closed to snowmobiles. A further 10% was lost through gazetting and closing additional access to areas. Now, a best guesstimate, a further 50% is under threat of closure leaving us about 10% of the area. This is unacceptable to the snowmobile community. We have compensated significantly in the past. We do not consider total closure of areas a management plan, but a movement by “perception” rather than by “fact”.

Restriction does not mean banning of a recreational use and we would appreciate further consideration at the distances and locations of the proposed winter trails. We all need to be involved in a proactive process that deals with the issues and management mechanisms.

This isn't over; it's time to act again!

**Write to Premier Ralph Klein**

Premier Ralph Klein  
307 Alberta Leg. Building,  
10800-97 Ave.,  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B7  
[Calgary.Elbow@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Calgary.Elbow@assembly.ab.ca)

**AND MAKE SURE YOU C.C. THIS LETTER TO:**

**The Honorable Mike Cardinal,**  
Minister, AB Sustainable Resources &  
Development  
Alberta Leg. Building,  
420, 10800 – 97 Ave.,  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6  
[donna.ballard@gov.ab.ca](mailto:donna.ballard@gov.ab.ca)

**Mrs. Debby Carlson,**  
Liberal MLA  
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**Dr. Lorne Taylor**

Minister, Alberta Environment  
Box 878  
1870B 6 Ave., SW  
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 7G8

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**Dr. Raj Pannu,**

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**Hon Mark Norris,**

Minister, AB Economic Development &  
Tourism

Alberta Leg Building, Rm 103  
10800-97 Ave

Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B7

[Edmonton.McClung@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Edmonton.McClung@assembly.ab.ca)

**Hon. Ty Lund**

Minister, AB Infrastructure  
5115 50 St., SE  
Rocky Mountain House, AB  
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**Hon Gene Zwozdesky,**

Minister, AB Community Development  
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