

SO, YOU THINK WE CAN RIDE ANYWHERE?

WEST COUNTRY CLOSURE TO OHV AND SLEDS

Non motorized supporters and environmental groups are working very hard on a new campaign to get the Big Horn area designated as a Wildland Provincial Park. That means **CLOSURE TO MOTORIZED RECREATION**. This area stretches south from the Brazeau River down to the Red Deer River and most everything west of the Forestry Trunk Road. Currently under the Eastern Slopes Policy and the Integrated Resource Plan created in the 1980's, this has been policy in the past and now the government is being pressured to formalize the policy and close all trails in this area to motorized users. With successful environmentalist group pressure, closure could be reality by March 2002. **ALL MOTORIZED USERS NEED TO ACT NOW**. Presently there is much motorized activity in the area, including OHV and snowmobiling, and without government hearing from the users, it will result in total closure of the area. This could in fact be the template for the whole eastern slopes. Don't allow this closure to set a serious precedence for future eastern slopes closures.

Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) is publicly attacking the ATV users and specifically the Alberta Snowmobile Association for irresponsible use of the Big Horn Wildland Recreation area. Check out their website at www.albertawilderness.ca. AWA is hosting their own public forums separate from the formal government public forums, dates not yet released.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE GET THE MOTORIZED USERS TO THESE MEETINGS IN LARGE NUMBERS. TELL YOUR CLIENTS, TELL YOUR FRIENDS, TELL YOUR MOTHER. GET THE GANG OUT THERE.

Without trying we will definitely be closed out.

Alberta Wilderness Association meetings are scheduled for:

Sundre – Jan. 8, 2002 at 6:30 p.m.
Sundre West Country Center,
104-2Ave NW
Sundre

Rocky Mountain House – Jan 16
Rocky Community Centre
6:30 p.m.

Edmonton – January 22
Centennial Room Stanley A Milner
Downtown Library
100 St 102 Ave., Edmonton
6:30 p.m.

Calgary – January 29
Awa Hillhurst Room
455 – 12 St.
Calgary NW
6:30 p.m.

Red Deer – Feb 13
Red Deer Public Library 4818-49 St
Red Deer
6:30 p.m.

Nordegg – Feb 14
Nordegg Community Hall
6:30 p.m.

Watch for these sessions and make sure you attend. Don't expect the "other guy" to take care of it.

Write a letter to your MLA and to:

Premier Ralph Klein
307 Alberta Leg. Building,
10800-97 Ave.,
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B7

The Honorable Mike Cardinal,
Minister, Alberta Sustainable Resources and Development,
Alberta Leg. Building,
420, 10800 – 97 Ave.,
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Mrs. Debby Carlson,
Liberal MLA
#201 Legislature Annex
9718 – 107 St.
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1E4

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

Hon. Ty Lund
Minister, Alberta Infrastructure,
5115 50 St., SE
Rocky Mountain House, AB T4T 1A9

Dr. Raj Pannu,
#501 Legislature Annex,
9718 – 107 St.,
Edmonton, AB T5K 1E4

Hon Mark Norris,
Minister, Alberta Economic Development & Tourism,
Alberta Leg Building, Rm 103
10800-97 Ave.,
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B7

Hon Gene Zwozdesky,
Minister, Alberta Community Development
Room 204, Legislature Building,
10800-97 Ave.,
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B7

- Tell them restricted does not mean prohibited and access must be maintained.
- Tell them we have enough protected areas allocated through Special Places.
- Tell them how important it is to keep this area open for snowmobiling.
- Tell them with proper management all recreationalists can enjoy the area.
- Tell them about management of trail and mountain areas in other provinces.
- Tell them about economics and the affects on community tourism.
- Tell them what this area means to you and how unacceptable the loss of access is.

Get your friends and club members to do the same. It all matters! Tell them we have enough protected areas allocated and how important it is to keep this area open for snowmobiling. With proper management all recreationalists can enjoy the area.

Thousands of voices are better than one. Our representative who represents snowmobiling on the Big Horn Planning Committee is Robin Stewart of Rocky Mountain House and Peter Schmiemann is the OHV representative. We thank them for their efforts and dedication in dealing with snowmobile and OHV access and trail issues in this area. It is clear that we all have an uphill battle before us. All need to be very concerned about retaining our access in this area and need to act now. The process will be completed by March and then it is too late.

Act now.