



Bear Creek Recreation Site Response to Issues Briefing Paper

1. **Issue:** There is insufficient funding to pay for education, enforcement, rehabilitation, and implementation of sustainable trails (2009 work budget is \$1.45 million).
 - **Action:** MTCA and OTRA have been aggressively seeking grants
 - Secured \$15,890 tourism grant from RDCO
 - Have \$150,000 from MTCA
 - Have applied for \$130,000 JOP funding for trail closures
 - Have applied for \$367,000 RinC funding for trail implementation
 - Have applied for \$264,000 JOP grant for area fencing, Aspen TH, and Jackpine Flats TH.
 - Expecting \$36,000 or more in NTC funding.
 - **Action:** OTRA has initiated a fund-raising campaign.
2. **Issue:** Past practices have impacted water quality through sedimentation and contamination.
 - **Action:** OTRA has instituted a voluntary moratorium on events until sustainable trails are implemented.
 - **Action:** Education and signing has been implemented to deter cross-country riding. Eventually, all riding will be on designated routes only.
 - **Action:** As sustainable routes are being built, non-sustainable routes are being closed.
 - **Action:** Range fencing has been installed to keep cattle out of Bald Range Creek.
 - **Action:** Funding has been sought to close and rehabilitate severely eroded trails in Bald Range Creek.
3. **Issue:** Water quality and source water protection are key resource values in the Recreation Site
 - **Action:** Major streams, including Bald Range Creek will be bridged to protect water quality.
 - **Action:** Trails will be planned to minimize the number of major stream crossings.
 - **Action:** Existing road infrastructure will be utilized where possible to cross major streams.

- **Action:** Bogs, wet areas, and riparian areas will be avoided to the extent practicable or mitigated with puncheon, boardwalk, or other engineering structures.
 - **Action:** Non-sustainable trails are being closed as sustainable trails are being built.
 - **Action:** Rider education is occurring which stresses resource protection and staying on existing routes.
 - **Action:** Seven watershed education signs were erected in 2008 on roads and trails leading to Bald Range Creek.
 - **Action:** Additional toilets are planned to help address sanitation issues.
 - **Action:** A monitoring plan for the area is being developed.
 - **Action:** A contract for independent water testing is being developed.
4. **Issue:** OHV noise is affecting the quality of life for Rose Valley residents.
- **Action:** OTRA and MTCA have implemented a 96dbA sound requirement and education and sound testing is occurring. Sound doubles for every 3 decibels and many OHVs are currently at 99-102 decibels.
 - **Action:** Sound testing will be conducted to determine the level of noise intrusion at the residences.
 - **Action:** OHV planners have identified the major sources of noise.
 - a) **Issue:** Sound is generated by riders hillclimbing on Tolko's gravel pit on Bear Main.
 - **Action:** OTRA and MTCA are working with Tolko to effectively close off this pit to riders.
 - b) **Issue:** Sound is generated by riders hillclimbing on Bald Range.
 - **Action:** Funding has been sought to close and rehabilitate the Bald Range grassland.
 - c) **Issue:** Sound is generated by riders hillclimbing at the Lower Pits.
 - **Action:** These hillclimbs are scheduled to be closed in 2009.
 - d) **Issue:** Sound is generated by riders congregating and warming up at the Lower Pits.
 - **Action:** The Lower Pits is scheduled to be closed and relocated to the Aspen Trailhead which is approximately 1km farther up Terrace Main and away from the residents.
 - **Action:** Trails are being designed to disperse the riders out of the Upper/Lower Pit areas and into the more remote areas of the Recreation Site.
 - e) **Issue:** Sound is generated by OHVs riding on Bear Main.
 - **Action:** The first-ever Bear Creek trail map identifies Bear Main as an FSR and closed to OHVs without liability insurance.
 - **Action:** Signing will be erected on Bear Main to educate riders of this requirement.
 - **Action:** Volunteer Trail Rangers are performing education and are discouraging the use of Bear Main.
 - **Action:** A corridor trail will be built to connect the Upper Pits and Lower Pits (Aspen TH). This will significantly reduce the need to ride on Bear Main.

- f) **Issue:** Sound is generated by the use of trails on the lower slopes of Snowsell and Blue Grouse.
- o **Action:** Funding has been sought to close these trails.
 - o **Action:** Additional trails are being planned and built to lead riders away from these areas.
5. **Issue:** Commercial interests have safety and liability concerns about OHV use on Forest service Roads (FSRs) and road permit roads.
- **Action:** The Bear Creek interim map provides information on which roads are FSRs and the rules for using them.
 - **Action:** Trails are being designed and developed to access areas by trail rather than by road.
 - **Action:** Trails that cross major roads will be signed with “Yield” signs.
6. **Issue:** Changing traditional use patterns and behavior is a monumental education task.
- **Action:** The project is being implemented using the proven success tools of the 4Es- Engineering, Education, Enforcement, and Evaluation.
 - **Action:** A grant has been secured to develop a comprehensive Bear Creek web site to provide accurate, relative, and current information.
 - **Action:** The Bear Creek interim trail map has been printed and this clearly spells out the rules, regulations, and expected behaviors.
 - **Action:** A volunteer Trail Ranger program has been developed to provide information and education. They also provide a visual reminder that the area is being managed.
7. **Issue:** The Recreation Site has a variety of wildlife concerns.
- **Action:** A registered professional biologist (RPBio) has been retained for consultation on this project.
 - **Action:** Any nests, dens, or unusual wildlife sightings/activity are reported to the RPBio.
 - **Action:** Trail density through the Bald Range fawning area will be reduced.
 - **Action:** The Bear Creek interim map provides information on wildlife values.
8. **Issue:** There is no way to enforce the rules and regulations.
- **Action:** The project is being implemented using the proven success tools of the 4Es. Experience has shown that if Engineering and Education are well-planned and implemented, the need for Enforcement is significantly reduced.
 - **Action:** Volunteer Trail Rangers provide education on the rules and regulations.
 - **Action:** A meeting with MTCA, OTRA, RCMP, and Compliance Officers is being set up to coordinate enforcement efforts.
 - **Action:** The District Recreation Officer (DRO) has patrolled the site and has the authority to issue vacate orders.
 - **Action:** A process is being developed to enable the Trail Rangers to collect violation information, send it to the DRO, and then the DRO then issues the vacate orders.