

Leah Volkmann

From: Lirette, Daniel FLNR:EX <Daniel.Lirette@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 20, 2021 8:46 AM
To: CRD Mailbox; corporateservices@williamslake.ca; cityhall@quesnel.ca; district@100milehouse.com; clerk@wells.ca
Subject: Engagement Request: Proposed Wildlife Act Motor Vehicle Prohibition above 1700m in Cariboo Region except on existing roads and trails
Attachments: Cariboo_Proposed_MVP_Above_1700m.pdf

Good morning,

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), Cariboo Region, is proposing to implement a motor vehicle prohibition under the *Wildlife Act* above 1700m except on existing roads and trails. The proposed *Wildlife Act* regulation would expand on elevation-based motor vehicle regulations first implemented in the Okanagan Region in 2012 and Thompson Region in 2014.

With ever increasing numbers of all terrain vehicles in BC, the primary objectives for the proposed regulation are to promote ethical ATV and motor vehicle use in high elevation areas, reduce environmental impacts of off-trail ATV and licenced vehicle use in sensitive alpine habitats, and reduce potential disturbance of wildlife in high elevation areas. The regulation change is not intended to impact responsible use of ATVs and licenced vehicles on existing roads and trails, nor impact use of motor vehicles in support of industrial activities.

Proposed regulation:

Prohibit use of motor vehicles (including ATVs and electric bicycles) above 1,700 m elevation throughout the Cariboo Region except for use on existing roads or trails.

Existing roads and trails are defined as:

- (a) a road or trail with a paved surface,
- (b) a cross-country or downhill ski route marked in a ski area by the owner of the ski area,
- (c) a road used for logging or mining,
- (d) a road or trail used for access to fences, power lines, wind generators or communication towers, or
- (e) a trail on which there is no vegetation except on a strip that, if present, can be straddled by a 4-wheel vehicle;

Additional information is contained in the attached engagement summary. FLNRORD is requesting feedback from stakeholders regarding the proposed regulation and would be happy to meet to address any questions you may have in this regard.

Please feel free to contact me for additional information or pass on to others that may be interested.

Regards,

Daniel Lirette, R.P.Bio.

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Proposed *Wildlife Act* Regulation Amendment

Implement Region-wide Motor Vehicle Closure Above 1700m Elevation (except on existing roads and trails)

Proposed Regulation Change

FLNRORD is proposing to implement a region-wide motor vehicle closure (excluding snowmobiles) above 1700 metre elevation, except on existing roads and trails. Under the *Wildlife Act*, existing roads and trails are defined as: a) a road or trail with a paved surface, b) a cross-country or downhill ski route marked in a ski area by the owner of the ski area, c) a road used for logging or mining, d) a road or trail used for access to fences, power lines, wind generators or communication towers, or e) a trail on which there is no vegetation except on a strip that, if present, can be straddled by a 4-wheel vehicle. If the regulation is implemented, it would take effect in July 2022.

Background

Over the last several decades, ATVs and UTVs have become more numerous in British Columbia. The use of ATVs, UTVs, and licenced vehicles in high elevation areas can lead to degradation of sensitive alpine habitat and ecosystems that are slow to recover from disturbance. To protect alpine habitat from off-trail motor vehicle use, Region 3 (Thompson) implemented a region-wide motor vehicle closure above 1700m elevation in 2014.

Rationale

FLNRORD Cariboo Region is proposing to implement a region-wide motor vehicle prohibition (excluding snowmobiles) above 1700 metre elevation to protect sensitive alpine habitat and ecosystems. This proposal would align with the region wide elevation closure for motor vehicles currently in place in Regions 3 and 8. The use of motor vehicles above 1700m will continue to be allowed on existing roads and trails which should minimize conflict with existing activities.

The proposal to implement a region-wide motor vehicle closure above 1700m was generally supported at the 2017 Cariboo Region Wildlife Advisory Committee meeting. Further Consultation with stakeholders, including industrial stakeholders, will be required to move forward with this proposal.

If this regulation change is implemented, it will render several existing access closures redundant. Provided this regulation change proceeds, FLNRORD will consider removal of the Taseko-Chilko Lake ATVs and Snowmobiles for Hunting Closed Area (Map E9), the Potato Mountain Motor Vehicle Closed Area (Map E11), and the Valleau Creek Motor Vehicle Closed Area (Map E12).