

November 15, 2005

The Golden Backcountry Recreation Access Plan has been approved by government for 3 years now. The plan came about after local volunteer stakeholders attended over 30 meetings to discuss and largely agree upon patterns of recreational use in the Golden area in order to maintain valuable recreation experiences, promote and manage tourism, and manage our impact on important wildlife habitat. The plan does not affect forestry operations.

Our Golden Backcountry Recreation Advisory Committee (GBRAC) is mainly composed of sector representatives, and meets regularly to monitor and recommend required changes to the plan to the Integrated Land Management Bureau of the B.C. Provincial Government. Recently, the committee has been discussing the West Bench area – from Canyon Creek north to Quartz Creek, in an effort to consider what is required so the plan can best reflect public and commercial recreational and other concerns.

The GBRAC Terms of Reference requires that all sectors work together to recognize and respect everyone's recreational needs, and work to balance key values. For the West Bench, our committee membership, to date, is as follows:

**Committee Sector**

Public Ground Motorized Sector  
Commercial Ground Motorized Sector  
Public Non Motorized Sector  
Commercial Non-Motorized Sector  
Commercial Aerial Motorized Sector  
Habitat Protection; Sport Fishing and Hunting Sector  
Environmental Protection Sector  
Forest Industry Sector  
Parks Canada Sector  
GBRAC Local and Regional Government Sector  
Guide-Outfitter  
Kicking Horse Mountain Resort  
Golden Nordic Ski Club  
Alpine Meadows Lodge

**Representative**

Garry Habart / Randy Baun  
Wayne Houlbrook  
Bruce Fairley / Marvin Lloyd  
Bernie Schiesser  
Greg Porter / Rudi Gertsch  
Andy Pezderic  
Ellen Zimmerman  
Tahl Lunoch  
Ken Schroeder  
Jon Wilsgard / Ron Oszust  
Wilf Boardman  
Arijan van Vuure  
Jeff Dolinsky  
Irv Graham

We welcome you to contact any of our committee representatives to discuss our work to date, or the ongoing discussions regarding the West Bench. The web site address for the plan is <http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/kor/rec/gbrap.htm>, where you can view the plan, post comments and see past GBRAC meeting minutes.

Please remember that while we agree for the most part on how and where we recreate, there are key areas where we have to continue to work together to find solutions.

The GBRAC are unanimous in recognizing:

- The Golden area is likely to continue to experience growth in recreation.
- That by working together now, we can more effectively deal with future issues.
- We must maintain the local recreation experiences we all seek.
- Tourism in the backcountry is important, and should be developed in consideration of other values.

Sincerely,

The Golden Backcountry Recreation Advisory Committee