



These signs are going to meet you as you go to Ghost / Waiparous starting May, 2006. It's not too late to help limit them.

On Saturday, April 9, 2005 Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) rolled out its vision of the Ghost-Waiparous Access Management Plan (GAMP) for May, 2006 implementation. It was a closed session which included only the 37 original participants in the process started back in 1988. Representatives from AOHVA, RMDRA and AURS attended on behalf of the motorized community. GAMP primarily addresses objections raised against OHV use (bike, truck, quad) and random camping access in Ghost-Waiparous.

GAMP Basic Points

- GAMP is an anti-OHV plan. Only OHV users got access limits.
- Equestrians, for-profit outfitters and ranchers had no restrictions placed on them and were not even mentioned in the roll-out. They have the run of Waiparous.
- GAMP is based on a designated trail system. No more free-riding. **Either you are on a designated trail, or you are riding illegally.**
- It all boils down to the map of trails that SRD has proposed be used to limit access. The map has been mailed to the 37 participants and is restricted from being copied.
- Of the thousands of kilometers of trails and roads in Waiparous, only the following estimates will remain available to OHV users under GAMP;
 1. Less than 40 km of truck trails
 2. 30 km of bike only trails. Little to none is estimated to be single track.
 3. A few hundred km of quad trails that bikes can also use. Quad trails are double track.
 4. With some insignificant exceptions, the entire south and west regions are closed to OHV's.
 5. Random camping access is severely restricted and SRD would not provide numbers on available camping sites. Random camping will only be allowed where a sign specifically allowing random camping is posted.
- The plan is based on questionable or completely absent science.
- There is no written plan to review.
- There are three sessions planned during the summer (May 14, June 11 and Sept 17) where OHV supporters involved in the original process can "negotiate" back their trails.
- **The process ends September 17, 2005 regardless if we are satisfied or not!**

What does this mean for motorized users and random campers?

- This is a serious attack on OHV use. What happens in Waiparous will flow to other OHV areas like Livingston, Porcupine and Indian Graves shortly.
- Displaced users from Waiparous will seriously damage McLean and Clearwater in as little as one season.
- Hunters will not be able to go off the designated trails with quads and trucks.
- Weekend competition for random camping sites will be fierce.

What can you do?

- Contact any SRD official at (403) 297-8800 to get more information. Understand the issues and offer suggestions. Do not abuse them. Ask to view the trail map to see for yourself the OHV limits.
- Write a letter to your MLA, the Minister of SRD or local and city newspapers.
- Numbers Count. Join an OHV advocate organization, Rocky Mountain Dirt Riders Association or Alberta Off Highway Vehicle Association, find out what we are doing and volunteer to help get our trails back.
- Help map out trails. We'll supply a GPS and training (RMDRA).
- Act responsibly on the trails. Stop when you meet non-OHV users. Take off your helmet and say hello.
- Use trail legal equipment (spark arrestor, lights and license plate). Keep your machinery well maintained and free of oil or fuel leaks.
- **Water quality impacts are the biggest issue. Keep out of streams, wet areas, bogs and meadows.**
- Do not harass wildlife or livestock. Close gates and fences behind you.
- Keep a safe distance from camps.
- Respect the Land.

It's Easy!

Contact Information

The Honorable David Coutts (Sustainable Resource Development)

420 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97th Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

- A new Minister that we can provide facts to and make a difference.

The Honorable Gary Mar (Community Development)

320 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97th Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

- A new Minister that hopefully will recognize the established trail systems that were in Don Getty Wildland Park.

The Honorable Clint Dunford (Economic Development)

103 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97th Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

- This Minister should recognize OHV activity as a valid source of Alberta tourism income.

Links to addresses for MLAs can be found at:

<http://www.rockymountaindirtriders.com/land.html>

Letter writing tips and land advocacy information

<http://www.rockymountaindirtriders.com/land.html>

Organizations

Rocky Mountain Dirt Riders; <http://www.rockymountaindirtriders.com>

Alberta Off Highway Vehicle Association; <http://www.aohva.com>

Alberta United Recreationists Society; <http://www.aurs.org>