

History of ATV Management Initiatives 1981 - 2018

Brief Overview: This is a concise list of surveys, consultations, commissioned papers, reports and studies undertaken to address the need for ATV Management in our Yukon Wilderness.

SUMMARY NUMBERS

- # of surveys on ATV management: 6
- # of consultations to date: 5
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Historical ATV Survey Results

1981 Government contacted resident hunters

- 1800 responded
- 85.6% wanted ATVs restricted in some manner
- 43% wanted their use eliminated entirely

1997 Government contacted resident sheep hunters • 105 of 187 responded •

79% gave comments as follows

26% wanted ATVs banned,

39% wanted them restricted,

14% felt they could be used to manage hunters in crowded areas

2008 Fish and Wildlife Management Board asked, "Should there be controlled access routes and/or elevation restrictions for ATVs to protect habitat?"

- 163 responded to this questions
- 88% supported ATV restrictions

2010 Trails Only Yukon Association undertook a door-to-door random survey of residences in the Whitehorse area to gauge support for designated ATV trails.

- 713 people were contacted in 20 areas of Whitehorse
- 71% supported Designated trails
- 13% expressed no opinion
- 16% were opposed

2011 Data Path Systems Survey: 275 households randomly selected

Question: Do you support the creation of legislation/regulations:

- 1.) To exclude off-road vehicles from specific types of land or habitats? 87% yes
- 2.) To restrict the growth of trail networks in sensitive areas? 84% yes
- 3.) To have certain areas designated as access routes only? 82% yes
- 4.) To close trails or overused areas as necessary 69% yes

**May 1-3, 2015 :Trails Only Yukon Association Survey on ATV Management
Lions Trade Show (217 people surveyed)**

* Dr. Gary Ewert, former Director of Statistics Branch YG. states that this survey is an accurate and reliable reflection of public opinion. The questions are direct, the partici-

pation is from the general population and the individuals signed their names and gave contact information.

- 1) Is there a legitimate place for responsible ATV use in the Yukon?
Yes 92.6% No 4.1% No response or unclear response 3.2%
- 2) Do you agree that ATVs need to be managed in our wilderness?
Yes 94.5% No 1.8% No response or unclear response 3.7%
- 3) Should we protect some wild places from ATV use for future generations?
Yes 97.2% No 0% No response or unclear response 2.8%
- 4) Do you believe that education on responsible use of ATVs is important?
Yes 99.5% No 0.5% No response or unclear response 0%
- 5) Do you believe effective enforcement is important?
Yes 91.7% No 3.7% No response or unclear response 4.6%
- 6) Should ATV's be licensed and registered for effective enforcement?
Yes 79.3% No 15.2% No response or unclear response 5.5%
- 7) Do ATVs belong in sensitive wetland and alpine areas?
Yes 5.5% No 87.1% No response or unclear response 7.4%
- 8) Do you agree with pro-active legislation that protects from ATV damage?
Yes 85.7% No 7.4% No response or unclear response 6.9%
- 9) Do you agree that we need to move quickly on this issue?
Yes 91.7% No 5.1% No response or unclear response 3.2%

Additional Consultations, Reports and Responses

1986: Select Committee of the Legislature **Report on Renewable Resources**

Recommendation: Ban on use of ATVs and 4x4s in remote areas recently made accessible by new roads and restrict them in areas of sensitive environments.

Response: none

1988: Report: **Access -related Impacts of Backcountry Roads to Wildlife**

Recommendation: use of designated trails

Response: government restricted hunting instead

1988: Yukon Fish and Wildlife Branch: regulations passed to restrict use of ATVs in southern part of Ruby Range to "Designated Trails." (follow valleys + stay below alpine)

Response: successful in that sheep populations in the area remained open to hunting and did not have to be put on permits as in other areas with unrestricted ATV access.

1997: YG Dept. of Renewable Resources commissioned report: Off-road Vehicle Use in the Yukon by Dave Loeks.

Recommendation: range of actions before the problem grows to become serious and much more difficult to manage.

Response:

1.) **Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board**(YFWMB) established an Access Management Working Group who:

2.) contracted Loeks to do a follow - up study

2000: Study: Off- road Vehicle Use and Issues in the Yukon released

Recommendations: 5 approaches from extreme of "Doing Nothing" to comprehensive land use planning with ORV Management and warned that "the most important lesson from other jurisdictions was that it is too late once off-road vehicle impacts

have been allowed to become serious.”

Response: nothing was done

2000: YFWMB Access Management Working Group commissioned Clayton White to write : Report on ORV Management Strategies, Activities, Successes and Failures in Other Jurisdictions (Alberta, BC, Saskatchewan, Alaska..)

Recommendations: Amend Wildlife Act to better address habitat and access management issue

Response: ?

2000: YG Fish and Wildlife Branch contracted K.A. Hayes - report: Moose in Yukon's Coast Mountains: Observations and Local Knowledge from Long-time Area Residents

Results: increased access and all-terrain vehicles were factors most frequently brought up by all interviewees re primary causes of population declines.

Response: ?

2003: YFWMB response to Hon. Jim Kenyon, Minister of Environment proposal to manage off-road vehicle use in the Yukon;

Paper: A Proposal to Develop a Legislative Framework for Managing Access in the Yukon's Wilderness

Response:?

2003: YFWMB: released booklet: “Down the Road: The Effects of Roads and Trails on Wildlife” compiled by Meagan Christie.

Recommendations: - mitigation steps to reduce impacts

- de-commissioning of roads and trails if no longer used for intended purpose or if they are damaging to the environment

Response: ?

2004: YFWMB released “What We Heard” (results of 400 questionnaire forms)

Recommendation: none to minister but instructed working group to develop work plan to make region-specific recommendations, involve local people and developed management strategies for specific areas

2007: Lake Leberge Renewable Resources Council, Yukon Fish and Wildlife

Branch, Ta'an Kwach'an Council investigation: “Assessing the Impacts of Increasing Use by Off-road Vehicles on the Dall's Sheep Population and Their Habitat on Pilot Mountain.”

Study Findings:

Access: Trail cameras on two of the five access trail for 7 weeks - 95 ATVs + close to 200 people on these two trails alone.

Harvest Facts: from 1989 to 1999 harvest exceeded maximum level of 4% as stipulated in Sheep Management Plan.

Proposal: Limit ATV use to areas below tree line

Response: proposal rejected by YG

Result: sheep population put on hunting permit system

Fall 2008: YFWMB: Initiative entitled “ Yukon Fish and Wildlife - a 20 -20 Vision

Result: 88% of respondents were in favour of some restrictions or controlled access for ATV in order to protect habitat

Response: ?

2009: Yukon Legislative Assembly: established all party "Select Committee on the Safe Operation and Use of Off-road Vehicles

Questionnaire sent out to all households + online format + presentations to committee made by organizations and individuals at open house meetings

2011 Report of the Select Committee on the Safe Operation and Use of Off-Road Vehicles submitted to legislature

Recommendations - 14 in total - number 14 deals with environmental matters and reads as follows:

That, off-road vehicle legislation and regulations provide for the ability to mitigate environmental damage and cumulative negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and fish habitats. Ensure that legislation and/or regulations provide for the ability to restrict the growth of trail networks in sensitive areas, to close trails in overused areas as necessary, to exclude off-road vehicles from specific land or habitats, and to have certain areas designated and access roads only.

Response to Select Committee Report: action taken on requirement of helmets + registration and licensing on highways.

Legislative changes made to allow minister to close areas for 90 day period but no practical action taken on recommendation 14 as of yet.

Further Work

2012/13 Yukon Conservation Society : Grant from YFWMB to liaison and form working group on ATV Management (YCS Executive Director Christina MacDonald facilitator)

ORV Alliance formed consisting of : YFGA, YCS, WTAY, YCS, YORRA (Yukon Off-Road Riders Association), KSA (Klondike Snowmobile Association)

Consensus: groups supported recommendation 14 from Report of Select Committee + designed and published posters and pamphlet to promote wise use of ATVs plus forwarded recommendations to YG

Result: ?

2013 TOYA: asked by Ministers Cathers and Dixon to submit list of Targeted Areas needing immediate ATV management action

Report of Targeted Areas with short history of each area + appropriate action needed submitted to an Interdepartmental Working Group

Result: ?

2015: Territorial Off-road Vehicle Consultation by Dept. of Energy Mines and Resources (EMR) April 24th to June 22nd

January 2016 EMR booklet: A Summary of COMMENTS ON OFF-ROAD VEHICLE REGULATIONS

411 responses from public plus written feedback from a variety of organizations.

Consistent Message :

- 1.) We need proactive, comprehensive ATV Management for the Yukon Wilderness
- 2.) We need registration and licensing of ATVs to enable effective enforcement
- 3.) Most Yukoners feel YG is taking too long to develop the ORV regulations

Results: ?

Dec. 2017: EMR Facilitated Two Day Workshop on ATV Management Issues ORV Workshop Dec.5th and 6th 2017

* **Dots referred to below** were stickers given to representatives to place on written initiatives they felt were of most importance

Day 1 (First Nations) highest priorities:

- a.) Work in partnerships with communities and First Nations (40 dots)
- b.) Strong Education Approach (40 dots)
- c.) Co-manage with First Nations and YG (19 dots)
- d.) Protect sensitive areas (19 dots)**

Summary Statement: FN WANT TO PARTICIPATE

Day 2 (Boards and Councils, RRCs, LACs and NGOs) highest priorities

** Registration and licensing absolutely #1 priority before any initiatives - unanimous agreement (foundational to successful BC Experience)*

- a.) Identify areas that should be permanently closed (49 dots)
- b.) Manage and control access (stop proliferation) (31dots)
- c.) Require Yukon - wide registration (make it easy) (27 dots)
- d.) Stay out of alpine (49 + 20 = 69 dots) ***

Summary Statement: WE NEED TO DO THIS

February 2018 Summary of ORV Workshop distributed to participants
Results: ?

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* Information on consultations, reports and responses taken from An Annotated History of the ATV Issue from 1981 - 2013 compiled by Manfred Hoefs
www.trailsonly.ca/downloads/annotated_history_of_atv.pdf

* Info. from 2013 summarized by Vern Peters