

Valemount to Blue River Winter Recreation Area



Winter Recreation Opportunities



Introduction

The map shown encompasses 700,000 hectares of Crown land in which the Valemount to Blue River Winter Recreation Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP) has been developed. This management plan provides direction for sustainable winter recreation with a particular focus on the sensitivity of mountain caribou. The SRMP area is within the claimed traditional territory of the Simpcw First Nation (North Thompson Indian Band).

Management

- **VARDA** – a non-profit community organization - represents commercial and non-commercial interests from Valemount to Blue River. Their role is to promote sound backcountry etiquette, patrol and collect user fees, and participate in planning for sustainable management of the area.
- Fees are used for maintaining and improving facilities and trails.
- Passes are available on-site, or by contacting VARDA at 250-566-4817.



Emergency Information

- You are in avalanche terrain. Be educated and prepared.
- Current avalanche conditions are available from the Canadian Avalanche Centre (CSAC) at 1-800-667-1105 or www.avalanche.ca
- In an emergency, contact the Valemount RCMP at 250-566-4466 or 911 (cell coverage is unreliable).

Mountain Caribou

The Valemount-Blue River area is "home" to the Mountain Caribou, a species at risk. These elusive mountain dwellers seek forage, protection from predators and isolation in the high elevation forests. Concern for the future of these animals has resulted in the closure of some areas to any winter activities (refer to map). Signs will be posted at key access points into the riding areas. You can assist in protecting these animals by following a few simple rules:

- Obey signs and stay out of the Closure Zones
- Respect caribou and their habitat. Do not approach them or follow their tracks
- If caribou are close, try to go around them at a safe distance or move away slowly until you are out of sight. Make every effort to minimize disturbance.

Only with your cooperation and adherence to these guidelines can there be continued use of these snowmobile areas.

Enforcement

It is your responsibility to be familiar with the winter activities allowed in various parts of the SRMP area before you visit. Failure to comply and cooperate can lead to fines, equipment seizures, and ultimately the closure of areas to everyone.

Don't let unethical recreationalists ruin opportunities for the rest of us to enjoy. Channel your concern into the Observe, Record and Report program. Observe any suspicious activity. Record your observation on paper. Report the violation to the Clearwater Conservation Officer Service. Violators can be reported 24 hours per day 7 days a week by calling 1-800-663-9453 (WILD). Criminal activity such as theft can be reported to the RCMP.

Backcountry Etiquette

- Notify someone of where you are going, when you are leaving, and when you will be returning
- Stay on the trail and within designated snow-play areas only
- Do not harass wildlife
- Respect heli-skiing activities. Do not remove stakes or park in landing areas
- Do not move, remove or destroy information signs
- Respect other users and help them when in need
- If you pack it in – pack it out. Parts & garbage included.



Acknowledgements

The Valemount to Blue River Winter Recreation Sustainable Resource Management Plan is a collaborative effort by a number of government ministries, stakeholders and public organizations. Acknowledged are the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, the Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association, Timberline Snow Goers, Mike Wiegels Heli-skiing, Canadian Mountain Helicopters, Valemount Snow Patrol, Backcountry Snowmobilers, Terracana Ranch Resort, Blue River Powder Packers, Thompson Nicola Regional District, Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association, Village of Valemount, the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, the Ministry of Land and Water British Columbia and the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection.

