

REGISTRATION, LICENSING AND MANAGEMENT OF OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

One of the avenues available for economic development in the Tourism sector is the development of all-season motorized sports opportunities. Precedents have been established in the eastern provinces and in various states within the US. The proven potential is in the hundreds of millions of dollars when the potential for all seasons sports is recognized. The key is the creation of safe and environmental sustainable opportunities both locally and within the backcountry. Part of the creation of these opportunities is the ability to identify riders of off highway vehicles with the emphasis on those riders who choose to damage the environment or ride in unsafe manners. Currently the only off-road vehicles that are registered within the province are snowmobiles. Currently BC is the only jurisdiction within North America that does not register off highway vehicles.

In 2005 an initiative was completed by the Coalition for Licensing and Registration of Off –Highway Vehicles in British Columbia and the provincial government in providing recommendation for the licensing of off-highway vehicles. This coalition was made up of a variety of user groups, both motorized and non-motorized, and all the recommendations were unanimously supported by all participants. To date none of the recommendations have been implemented by the provincial government including the minimum of basic safety and registration.

In order to take advantage of the potential economic benefits of summer motorized sports tourism the general public is insistent that they be able to recognize or identify any machine that is using the back country for motorized recreation. This is not unrealistic or unreasonable.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the provincial government immediately institutes the registration of off- highway vehicles and explore the options to implement the remainder of the recommendation developed and submitted by the Coalition for Licensing and Registration of Off-Highway Vehicle in British Columbia.