Chapter 7: Access Management

[This chapter is incomplete]

Access management: managing or identifying access to trails or priority planning areas for recreational trail use and tourism business development; it means coordinating access to trails with all other users on the land base; it doesn't mean access only for trails use to the exclusion of others; it's a means to enhance communication about access. It's related to the concept of hot-spot pilot projects, as well as priority planning areas.

Access management plans should:
- Guide management with objectives for specific areas
- Determine acceptable activities and developments
- Determine the limits of acceptable change
- Monitor area conditions and recreation experience opportunities
- Coordinate with adjacent areas and uses

Lessons and Implications from a review of other recreation access management plans (Jeremy Ayotte), the needs are as follows:
- Clear vision
- Government level commitment, and capacity and funding
- Clarity of roles
- Strong community engagement, and champions (leadership)
- Technical capacity
- Adaptability and shorter planning time frames
- Predictable ongoing funding
- Consensus model is consistently preferred
- Community based model preferred; inclusive

Proposed process for access management planning (from Larch Hills non-winter use):
- Create a local planning advisory group – stakeholders, orders of government
- Study the historic and current situation – various mechanisms to get input
- Site or field review of every trail – current condition, use, environmental impacts
- Develop foundational stewardship priorities – what is desired over time?
- Draft environmental and recreational quality measures – how to monitor over time
- Identify specific land management and recreational issues to address – location, issue, proposed action
- Assess and designate each existing trail – for appropriate long-term use, closure/restoration, or area-wide zoning
- Project future trail and land management needs – develop planning recommendations
- Develop strategic recommendations – short, medium and long term, responsibility
- Develop draft trail advisory terms of reference – to ensure implementation

It was raised that access management also may require enforcement capacity; others noted that information and signage has gone a long way to achieving compliance with access management plan objectives. Good information and signage should be a key component of this strategy.

The template in Appendix 4 *Agreement with other sectors template* could be used for the development of access management plans.

**Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy
Agreement with Other Sectors (and Access Management)
Draft Template as at October 2, 2015**

Preamble: ideally, these agreements with other sectors on priority planning areas, or access management plans, are "quasi-land use plans" that are created in a joint planning process. The implicit objective is to build relationships with all users of a specific geographic area, be open and up front about recognizing multiple uses on the land, and encourage communication. The intent is to build these agreements by consensus; however, there is no requirement for any right holder to participate and therefore ultimate authority rests with the right-granting order of government.

This template is proposed to cover the minimum content of what would comprise an agreement.

Location: what is the name of the area? Add brief description of scope/scale. Include a map, directions to general area, how it is accessed.

Purpose: what is the purpose of the agreement? What are the objectives of the agreement? Draft:

- Purpose of this agreement is to outline joint management to ensure accommodation of rights, values and interests
- Acknowledge rights, interests and values within the area
- Identify communication needs and expectations

Background: include the following details:

- Describe trails are in the area, the uses, and the general timing of their use?
- Are trails authorized? Are they accurately mapped?
- Is there a trail stewardship group in place?
- Existing plans – what resource management zones of the Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP apply to this area? Recreation or Tourism? What other relevant plans address trails in this area? Any local resource use plans (LRUPs)?
- First Nations rights, traditional use, interests, place names – share non-sensitive information
- Other?

Rights, interests and values, legislation: who has rights, interests or values in the area? Which orders of government have legislative authority? Who needs to be part of this agreement? (All rights holders or interest groups should be invited to participate, however some rights holders may decline due to limited interest or impact on or from trails.)

Organization	Rights	Interests, values	Legislation	Comments
Splatsin	Asserted title and rights to use land and resources			
Adams Lake Band				
Neskonlith				

Organization	Rights	Interests, values	Legislation	Comments
Little Shuswap Band	Traditional use Interests in land and resources Accommodation agreements			
Provincial government	Grants rights		Numerous	MFLNRO, MOE, MOTI, other
Federal government				DFO, Indian Reserve lands
Local government				Regional districts, municipalities
Forest licensee	Timber harvesting			Licence ___, expires ___
BC Timber Sales	Timber sales			
Other forest tenures	Timber harvesting			e.g., woodlot, small scale salvage, tree farm licence, community forest
Range licensee	Access to grazing			
Guide outfitter	Licence to guide			
Commercial tourism				
Trapper	Licence to trap			
Water user	Water rights			
Licences of occupation	? various ?			
Trail use group X		ATV, UTV trails		
Trail use group Y		Snowmobiling		
Trail use group Z		Backpacking		
Shuswap Tourism		Future backcountry tourism business opportunity		
Private land				
Stakeholder		e.g., environmental organizations		
User		?		
Interest group		e.g., environmental organizations		

Proposed Future Use of the Area (years to decades)

- Is trail use proposed to expand? New uses, new seasons?
- For industry sectors, what are future plans to utilize the area? 1, 5, 10 or 20 years?
- What are the factors affecting your sector's future plans (e.g., stumpage rates, mineral commodity prices, demand for cedar, etc.)
- What is the potential future tourism business potential in the area?

Commitments: the following comprise the key content of the agreement

Communication
- Annual meeting, whether perceived it is needed or not
- Field trip (up to two annually, winter or summer activities) to understand

New developments requiring government authorization
- Communicate with all parties to this agreement BEFORE applications for tenure, authorization or permit is made to government (even if formal consultation will follow)

Operations not requiring government authorization
- Notification of all parties to this agreement will be made before the following activities proceed: (e.g., road maintenance, silviculture work, trail maintenance)

Zones on maps
- If applicable, identify "go/no-go" zones on maps where certain activities are agreed to occur or not occur (e.g., no new trails in some particular polygon)

Dispute Resolution clause
- If attempts to resolve disputes amongst the parties to the agreement are unsuccessful, follow up with: Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy governance body? MFLNRO Rec Sites and Trails?

Contacts
- The following are the key contacts for liaison…

Other specific content to consider (for more specific areas, e.g., access management plans or Hot Spot Pilots):
- Insurance for trail user groups (noted as a requirement for any group using Forest Service Roads)
- Safety commitments
- Fire hazard abatement (noted as too specific; compliance with regulations overrides this)
- Signage
- Hazardous material in building trails
- Environmental management of trails considerations
- Trail steward identified
- Enforcement – any mechanisms, or is it relationship-based, or default to a CO or NRO?
- Resourcing and financial commitments or contributions and budget
- Special considerations

Timelines
- How long is this agreement in place, does it expire

Signatures