



# What We Heard

## RDBN Parks & Outdoor Recreation Services Study

*March 2020*



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## 1. Introduction & Background

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) recognizes the important role of parks and outdoor recreation in the overall quality of life and sustainability of the region. Currently, the Regional District does not formally provide any parks or outdoor recreation services, beyond financial contributions to municipal recreation activities. Existing parks and services in the rural areas are provided primarily by volunteer clubs, Recreation Sites & Trails BC and BC Parks.

In response to increased public demand for outdoor recreation opportunities and challenges, the Regional District has developed the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Services Study (herein referred to as “the Study”). The Study seeks to answer the following questions:

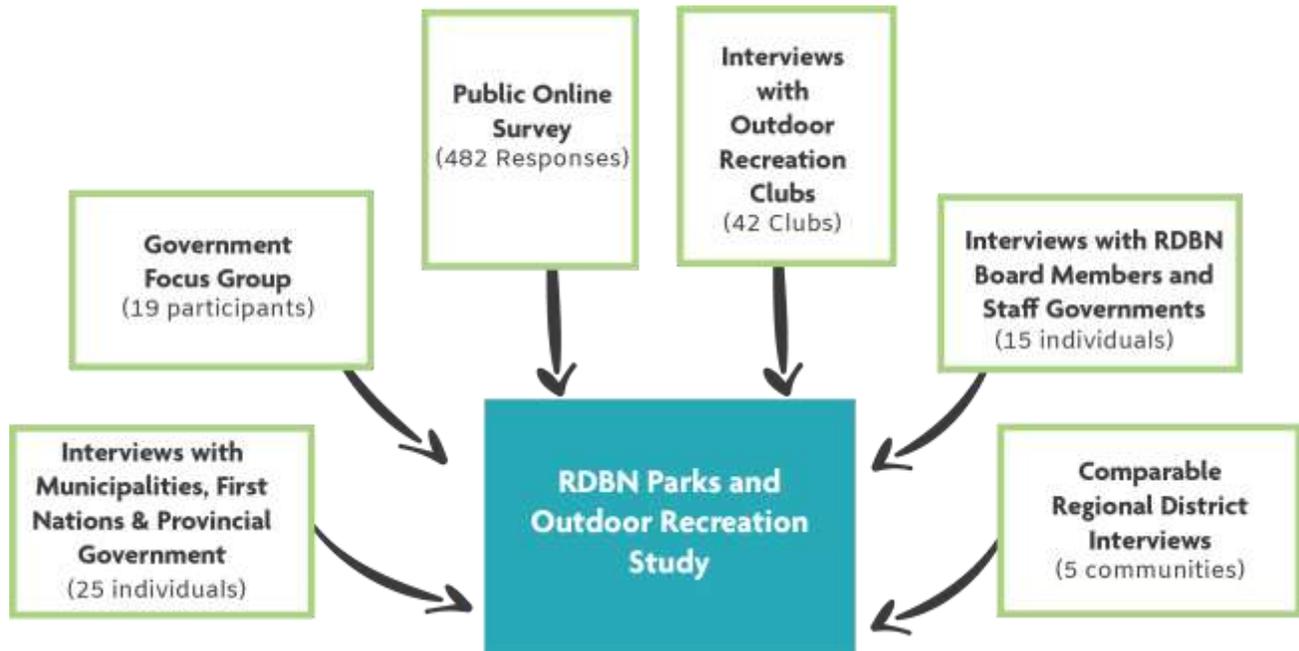
- **What are the outdoor recreation needs and demands across the RDBN? How do needs and demands differ across Electoral Areas?**
- **What is working well for existing volunteer recreation clubs and what are their challenges? How can the RDBN support volunteer clubs without stifling their enthusiasm and autonomy?**
- **What could a parks and outdoor recreation service in the RDBN look like and what would it cost?**

Community engagement was a core component of the Study. The Study began in October 2019 and the primary engagement methods included a public online survey, interviews, and a government focus group. Engagement opportunities provided the chance to hear directly from the people living, recreating and volunteering in communities across the RDBN.

This What We Heard report summarizes the key findings from the interviews with outdoor recreation clubs, the online survey, and the government focus group. Engagement findings will be used to help inform the development of the recommendations for the RDBN Board.

## 1.1 Process Overview

The diagram below illustrates the engagement process that occurred from October to December 2019.



## 1.2 What Was Done

The following engagement activities were completed from October to December 2019:

- I. **Interviews with Outdoor Recreation Clubs (42 clubs – 60 individuals):** The purpose of these interviews was to understand the needs, demands and opportunities for outdoor recreation from the perspective of local volunteers that are currently maintaining and operating outdoor recreation amenities. Interviews were conducted in-person or over the phone and in many cases multiple people from each organization participated in the interviews.
- II. **Public Survey (482):** An online survey was made available from October 28th to November 24th. The purpose of the survey was to understand unmet outdoor recreation needs and opportunities from the perspectives of the general

public. Paper copies of the survey were distributed when requested, though only 2 paper surveys were submitted.

- III. Focus Group Session (19 participants):** The Focus Group provided an opportunity for representatives from local, provincial and First Nations governments as well as tourism and economic development agencies to learn about the “Study” and provide input on how the RDBN can support parks and outdoor recreation throughout the region.

Engagement opportunities were promoted via individual phone calls, meetings, the project website, press release, and social media.

### 1.3 Criteria for Which Outdoor Recreation Clubs were Interviewed

The project team established the following criteria to determine which clubs would be prioritized for an interview:

- The core service of the club must be outdoor recreation.
- Wildlife, hunting and fishing organizations were not prioritized for interviews, as the core functions of these organizations is wildlife conservation and the interests of these organizations are the responsibility of the Province of B.C. and not a related to a service the RDBN could provide.
- Recreation Commissions that focus on managing community halls were originally identified for interviews, but it became clear throughout the process that outdoor recreation was not the core function of these organizations. As a result of this finding not all Recreation Commissions were interviewed.
- Private guides and tourism operators were not interviewed, as the focus of this Study is on meeting public recreation.
- Community associations and advisory planning committees were not interviewed but were notified and updated about the project.
- Visitors Centres and Tourism agencies were not interviewed but were notified and updated about the project.
- Hudson Bay Mountain and Murray Ridge Ski Hill were not identified for interviews under the assumption that they are private businesses; however, Murray Ridge Ski Hill operates as a non-profit organization and should be included in future phases of this project.

The Appendix A includes a list of the 42 outdoor recreation clubs that were interviewed through the process.

## 2. Summary of What We Heard Across Electoral Areas

The needs identified through the engagement process have been consolidated into the seven areas illustrated in the diagram below. These seven needs will guide the development of recommendations for a RDBN outdoor recreation service.



Though the seven common needs were frequently mentioned, there were differences across Electoral Areas that are important to consider. The table below illustrates the magnitude of each need within each Electoral Area.

The magnitude (low, medium or high) is determined by the frequency of comments received regarding each need, the number of established outdoor recreation clubs in the region and the amount of established outdoor recreation amenities and infrastructure in the region. A discussion of the magnitude of need in each Electoral Area is described below on the following page.

Low	Medium				High		
Needs	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Funding for Maintenance & Operations	High	High	High	Medium	Low	High	High
Improve Boat Launches & Water Access	High	High	High	Medium	High	High	Medium
More Volunteers & Volunteer Training	High						
Support Navigating Government Process	High	Medium	High	High	Low	Medium	High
Promotion & Advertising	High	High	High	Medium	Low	Medium	High
Maintain Access Roads	High	Medium	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
RDBN Ownership of Trails & Amenities that Require Government Ownership	High	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium

- Area A has the largest and most established recreation network in the region and clubs are well organized and supported, but clubs lack funding to keep up with maintenance and meet user expectations for expansion.
- Area B has an established and growing outdoor recreation network and those clubs with formal trails and assets are struggling to keep up with maintenance and meet user expectations for expansion.
- Area E does not have any clubs that are solely focused on outdoor recreation. It is likely that many of the Area B clubs have members from Area E. Given the lakes that characterize Area E, boat launches and water access are a priority.
- Area D has very few recreation clubs; however, it has many natural assets, including Fraser Lake and Fraser Mountain, that create potential for recreation opportunities and investment.
- Area F clubs appear to be financially self-sustaining and their use of an umbrella organization to manage multiple clubs (Nechako Valley Sporting Association)

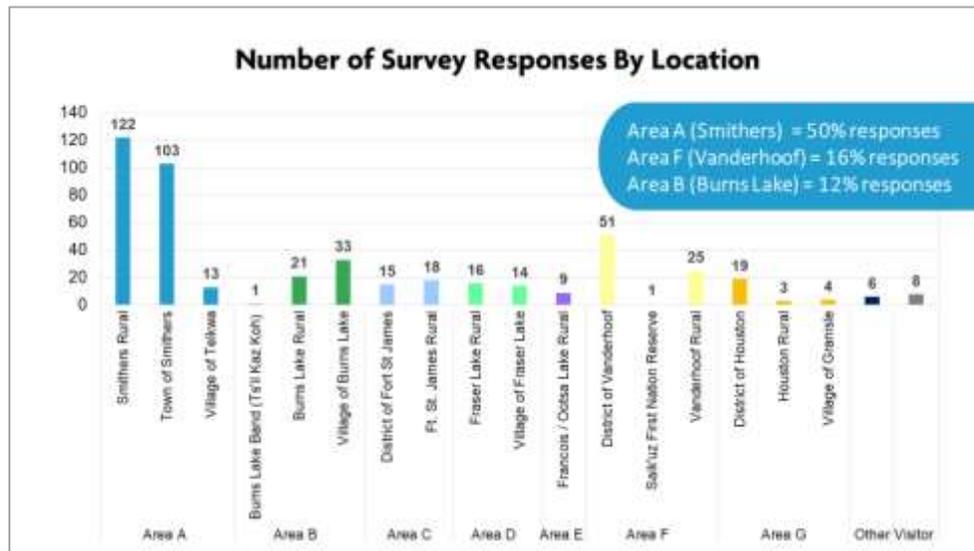
provides for efficiencies in operations. Given the lakes and rivers in the area, boat launches and water access are a priority.

- Area C has a culture of community support for outdoor recreation but volunteer capacity and a small population base pose a challenge. Some clubs would benefit from support navigating government process, while others need funding.
- Area G has a combination of newer clubs and clubs with a long-standing history. Some clubs would benefit from support navigating government process, while others would benefit from funding for maintenances and expansion.

It is important to highlight that just because an Electoral Area has a lower magnitude for a specific need, it does not mean the area has lower potential for developing outdoor recreation amenities. For example, Area D has less of a need for funding for maintenance than Area A because Area A has significantly more established recreation assets being managed by clubs. However, Area D has potential for developing new outdoor recreation infrastructure given the local population base is in close proximity to natural assets, and if outdoor recreation assets are developed and clubs or government become more engaged in maintenance, then maintenance funding may become a bigger priority.

### 3. Summary of Survey Responses

A total of 482 survey responses were received. Area A (Smithers) accounts for 50% (n=238) of the survey responses, followed by Area F (Vanderhoof) with 16% (n=77) of the responses, and Area B (Burns Lake) with 12% (n=55) of responses.



The most common outdoor activities that respondents reported were water-based activities (fishing, boating, etc.), hiking, accessing rivers and lakes, and cross-country skiing.



Respondents were asked to identify challenges that they face when recreating in the region, and the most frequent themes include (illustrated in the diagram below):

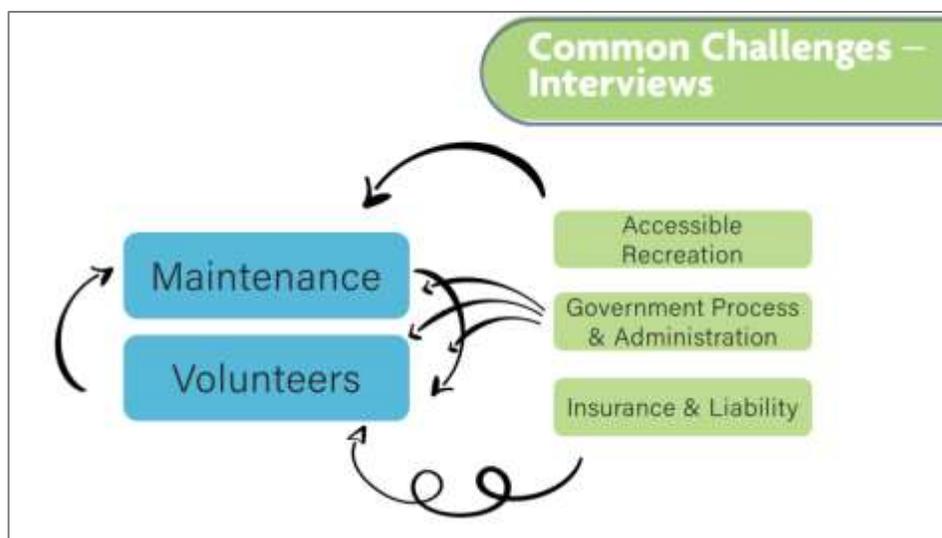
- **Maintenance:** Many trails are not passable due to blow-down and overgrowth.
- **Information & Signage:** There is a lack of directional signage for navigating trails and limited information (both online and print) about how to access recreation areas and trails.
- **Road Access Maintenance:** Access roads are not repaired and the lack of plowing in the winter significantly reduces winter recreation opportunities.
- **Lake/River Access:** There is a lack of parking, docks and beach access at popular lakes and rivers and lake/river access areas are not well connected to the active transportation network (i.e. you have to drive to them).
- **Boat Launches:** There is a lack of boat launches and those that exist are informal and poorly maintained.
- **Age/Ability Friendly:** There are not enough trails and recreation areas that are informal and close to town, fully accessible, and family-friendly.



## 4. Summary of Interviews with Outdoor Recreation Clubs

A total of 42 outdoor recreation clubs were interviewed throughout the process. A detailed list of all of the clubs interviewed is provided in Appendix B. Although each Electoral Area and recreation organization has different needs and cater to a unique population and visitor base, there are a number of common needs and challenges within the RDBN.

The two most frequent themes were the need for **additional funding to support maintenance** and the **need for more volunteers**. Following these themes was a demand for more recreation opportunities that are closer to town and accessible for people of all ages and abilities, a need for **more help navigating government process** and **challenges with the high cost of insurance for hosting events** and **managing and maintaining trail and recreation networks**. These common challenges, and their interconnections, are illustrated in the image below and further described in the following pages.



## Maintenance

Many clubs noted that most grant funding is for new development and maintenance costs are ineligible. Clubs consistently expressed a need for additional funding to support the following maintenance activities:

- **Trail Maintenance:** Interviewees expressed challenges meeting maintenance needs for danger tree removal, tree falling and bucking, hand brushing, and machine-brushing.
- **Maintaining Recreation Infrastructure:** Interviewees noted poor maintenance or a lack of maintenance of amenities, such as: cabins, trail heads, parking lots, outhouses, garbage facilities, signage, boat launches.
- **Equipment Maintenance:** Interviewees explained that equipment maintenance is a high cost that many people don't think about and noted that equipment maintenance isn't eligible for most grants.
- **Access Roads:** Clubs expressed frustration with the lack of plowing of access roads in winter months and poor summer road maintenance. This includes the brushing of roads and a lack of maintenance of boat launches.

In some cases, clubs have common maintenance and equipment needs (for example, snowmobile clubs and x-country ski clubs have similar needs with respect to pre-season brushing to prepare for trail grooming); but in many cases clubs have unique maintenance needs. In addition to this, clubs have a significant amount of knowledge about their maintenance needs and the local contractor supply network and, therefore, clubs wish to maintain the autonomy and leadership they have in making decisions about maintenance.

## Volunteers

Many clubs expressed that the same few volunteers are consistently doing the majority of the work. In many cases, aging volunteers and a small population base were identified as challenges. Some key issues that were consistently raised regarding the lack of volunteers include:

- **Chainsaw Training:** Need for additional chainsaw safety certification to ensure that volunteers meet insurance requirements and minimize risk.
- **Volunteer Recruitment & Capacity:** Desire to increase volunteerism with recreation organizations.
- **Coaches & Trainers:** Need for coaches and trainers in order to keep youth engaged and create a culture of competition. This was particular need in the cross-country ski community, but was also raised from water-based clubs (sailing, kayaking, canoeing) and mountain bike clubs.
- **Funding for Events & Volunteers:** Clubs indicated a need to funding to support events and cover costs for volunteers (accommodation, food, etc.)

- **Finance Management Volunteers:** Clubs expressed challenges finding volunteers with skills in finance.

### Accessible Recreation

Clubs consistently noted the need for new recreation infrastructure that is closer to town, supports active transportation and recreation for all ages and abilities:

- **Active Transportation & Recreation Amenities Closer to Town:** People want to be able to cycle to a nearby trailhead or lake access without getting in a car.
- **Age & Ability Friendly Trails:** People want to be able to bring their kids and grandparents to enjoy trails and recreation areas. The need for beginner-friendly trails was a common theme for mountain biking clubs.
- **Improved Amenities at Trailheads:** People want better maintained outhouses, access, signage, garbage, and maps.
- **Improved Access to Information:** There is a need for more access to information online and promotion of tourism in the region.

### Government Process & Administration

- **Navigating Government Process & Contacts:** Assistance for recreation organizations navigating government process, developing land use agreements, and finding contacts within government.
- **Grant Writing:** Desire for continued and expanded grant writing support
- **Templates for Operational Plans:** Standard templates for operation plans for recreation infrastructure on crown land.

### Insurance and Liability

- **Unsanctioned Trails:** Unsanctioned trails and assets are not legal and cannot be insured for users or volunteers doing maintenance.
- **Insurance Costs & Administration:** Clubs needs to provide liability insurance for users and volunteers and those costs can be high. In some cases, clubs do not fully understand their liability exposure, what their insurance needs are, and how government insurance on Crown land may or may not cover them.

Outdoor recreation clubs were asked to provide ideas for how the RDBN can support them as well as feedback regarding how the RDBN should not get involved.

When asked where the RDBN should not get involved, clubs consistently expressed a desire to avoid the creation of more red tape and to ensure that clubs maintain autonomy and leadership. In addition to this, clubs do not want the RDBN to create services that compete with clubs' services and they do not want the RDBN to dictate who they hire for maintenance contracting.

The infographic consists of five horizontal bars on the left, each containing a suggestion, and a large grey rounded rectangle on the right containing a title. The bars are colored as follows: blue, teal, dark blue, green, and dark green. The grey shape has a white border and a curved edge on the left side.

- Do not create additional red tape or another level of permitting
- Let local clubs take the lead and do not dictate how clubs operate
- Let the clubs control maintenance plans & trail standards
- Do not offer or create services that compete with the clubs
- Do not dictate contractors for maintenance

**Interviews:  
Suggestions  
for Services  
the RDBN  
Should Not  
Get Involved**

## 5. Summary of Focus Group Meeting

On December 11, 2019 the consulting team led a focus group with government representatives. The focus group was held in Burns Lake and was facilitated by:

- Hillary Morgan, RPP MCIP
- Liliana Dragowska, RPP MCIP
- Karin Albert, Parks Planner

A total of 19 people participated, including representatives from the provincial government (8), RDBN (5), partner municipalities (5) and First Nations governments (1). The participants came together to share ideas about how the RDBN can support and enhance outdoor recreation throughout the region. The ideas and questions discussed throughout the day will be integrated into the “Study” to ensure that recommendations are grounded in local realities.

Below is a summary of the topics that were covered throughout the day:

1. Presentation and discussion of “What we heard” through the online survey and interviews with volunteer-based recreation clubs;
2. Overview of recreation service delivery models from comparable Regional Districts throughout BC;
3. Discussion of the pros and cons of different service delivery models in the context of the needs identified through the engagement process and perspectives of everyone in the room.
4. Discussion of opportunities for governments and agencies to work together to advance common parks and outdoor rec goals.

The general consensus from the focus group was that a new RDBN outdoor recreation service should achieve the following:

- ***Support collaboration***, including sharing resources, skills, and finding efficiencies.
- Allow the RDBN to play the role of ***both a facilitator and land owner or tenure holder role***.
- Allow for ***leveraging funding*** (this could mean through grant access or through support from other levels of government).
- A RDBN outdoor recreation service should ***not be 1-size fits all*** and should reflect diverse needs across the region.
- ***Build on club’s enthusiasm and energy***.
- Provide space for ***strategic planning and setting priorities***.
- Create ***certainty for funding and work getting done***.

- ***Address the needs of informal recreation*** (such as boat launches and water access) as well as formal, club-driven recreation.

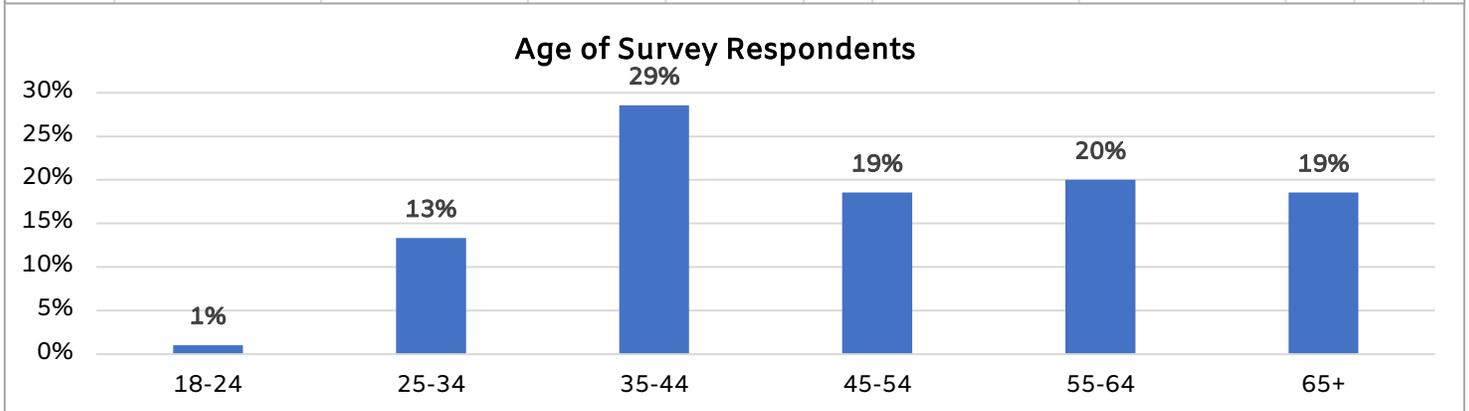
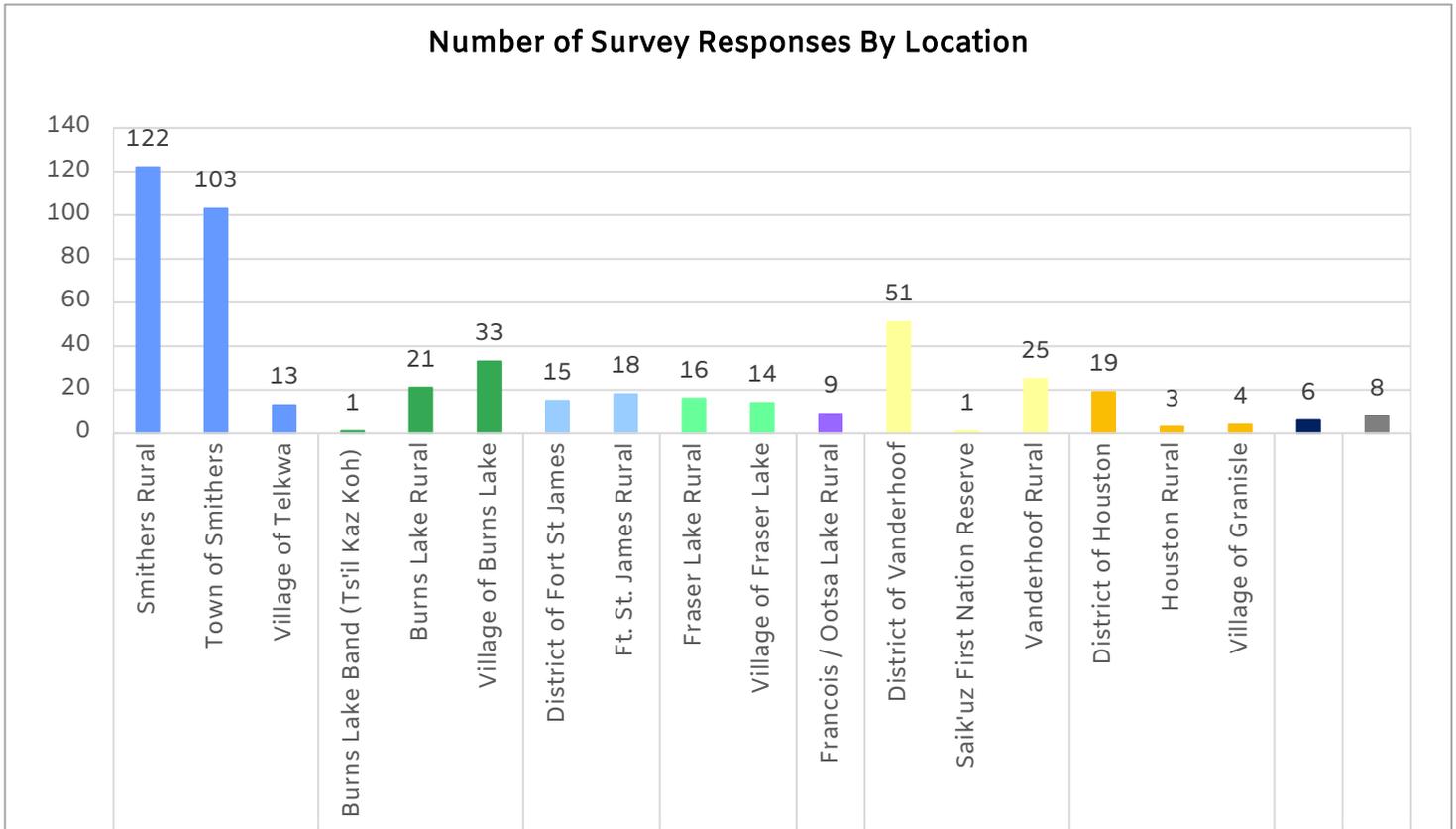
Based on the focus groups discussion, there was general consensus that the project team should consider the following risks in undertaking this work:

- Clubs have limited capacity and ***we need to design a service that support clubs and doesn't add more to their plate.***
- ***Picking and choosing who gets what is challenging and could become political.***
- The ***low population density and tax base*** is a limiting factor in creating a new service for the region.
- Creating funding for maintenance will create employment opportunities in communities and ***government procurement policies may limit the ability to hire local contractors.***
- Maintenance isn't sexy and the ***RDBN may be perceived as creating a redundant service.***

# Appendix A – Detailed Summary of Survey Results

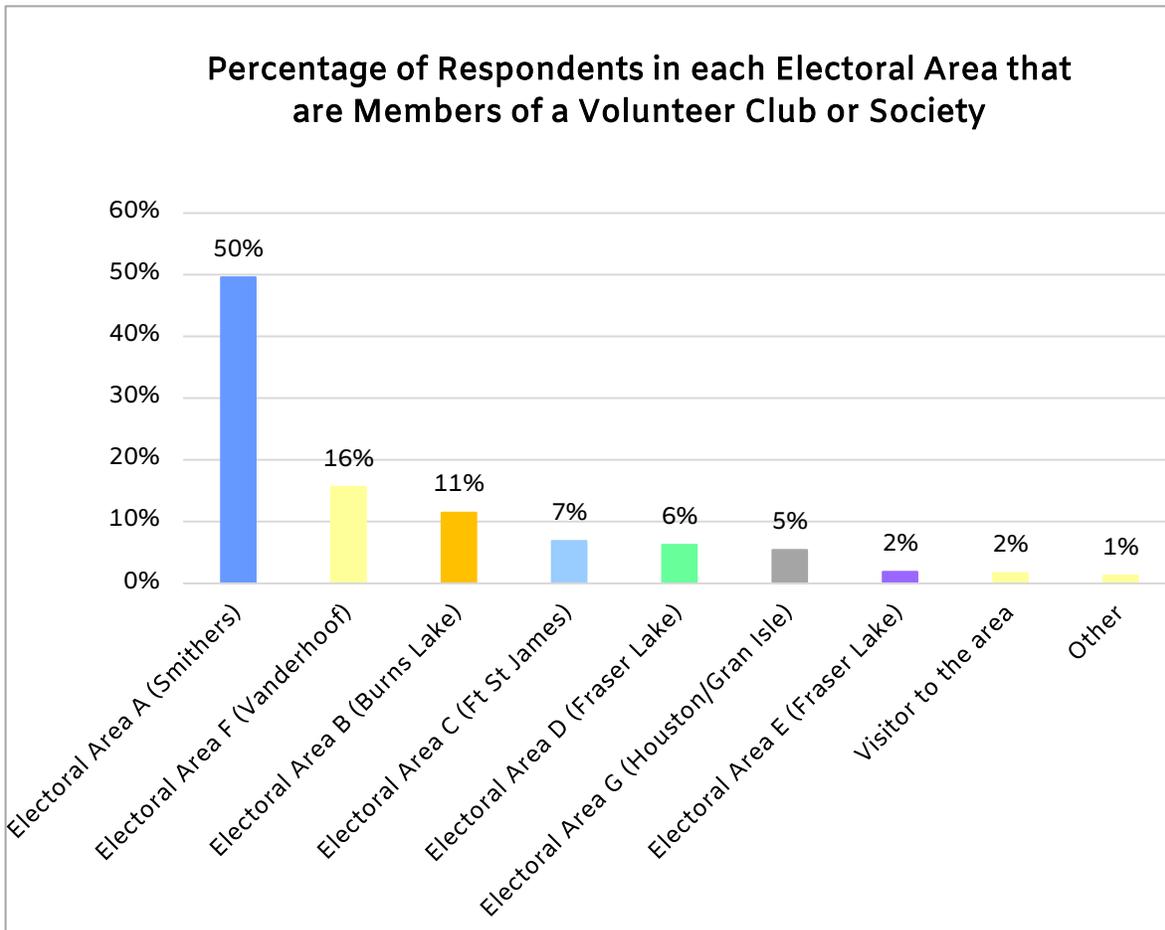
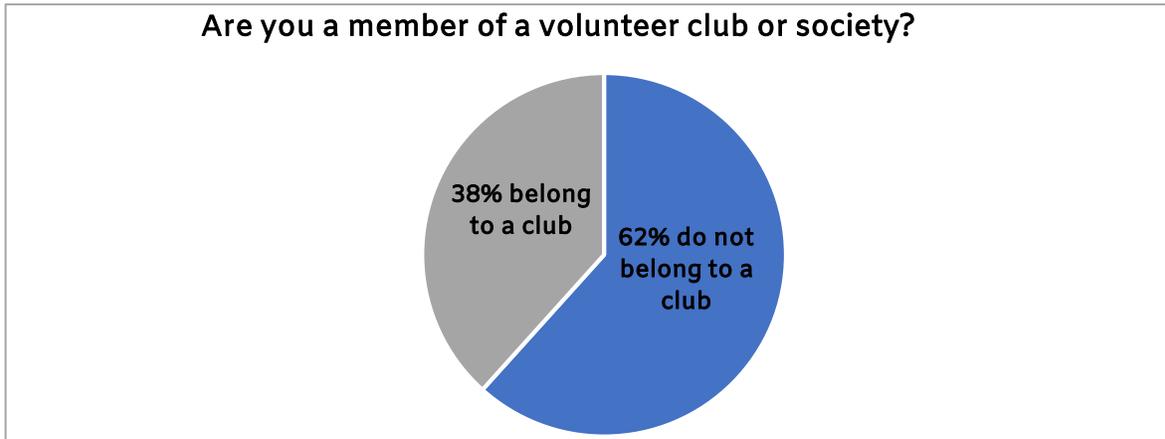
## A-A.1 RESPONDENTS

A total of 482 survey responses were received. Area A (Smithers) accounts for 50% (n=238) of the survey responses, followed by Area F (Vanderhoof) with 16% (n=77) of the responses, and Area B (Burns Lake) with 12% (n=55) of responses. The survey responses reflect a range of age groups from 35 years old to over 65 years old; however, those under 24 years of age are not represented by the survey.

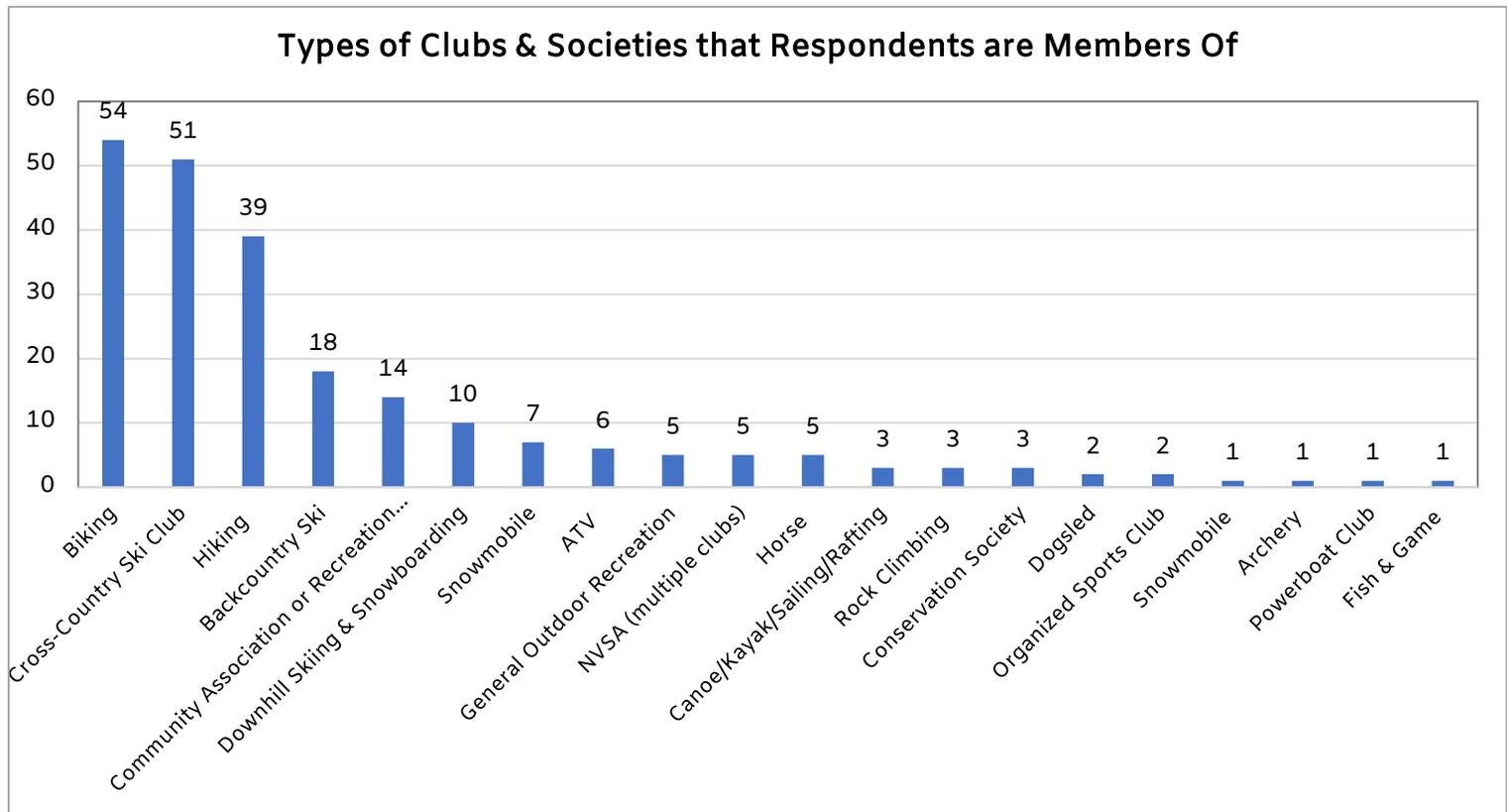


### A-A.2 PARTICIPANTS IN CLUBS

184 respondents belong to a volunteer club or society, while 298 respondents do not. Respondents from Electoral Area A (Smithers) have more participation in clubs and volunteer societies than other Electoral Areas. Fifty percent of respondents from Electoral Area A reported being a member of a club, compared to 16% in Area E and 11% in Area B.



Respondents are members of a variety of clubs and societies. The three most common types of clubs that respondents belong to are bike clubs (n=54), cross-country ski clubs (n=51) and hiking clubs (n=39).

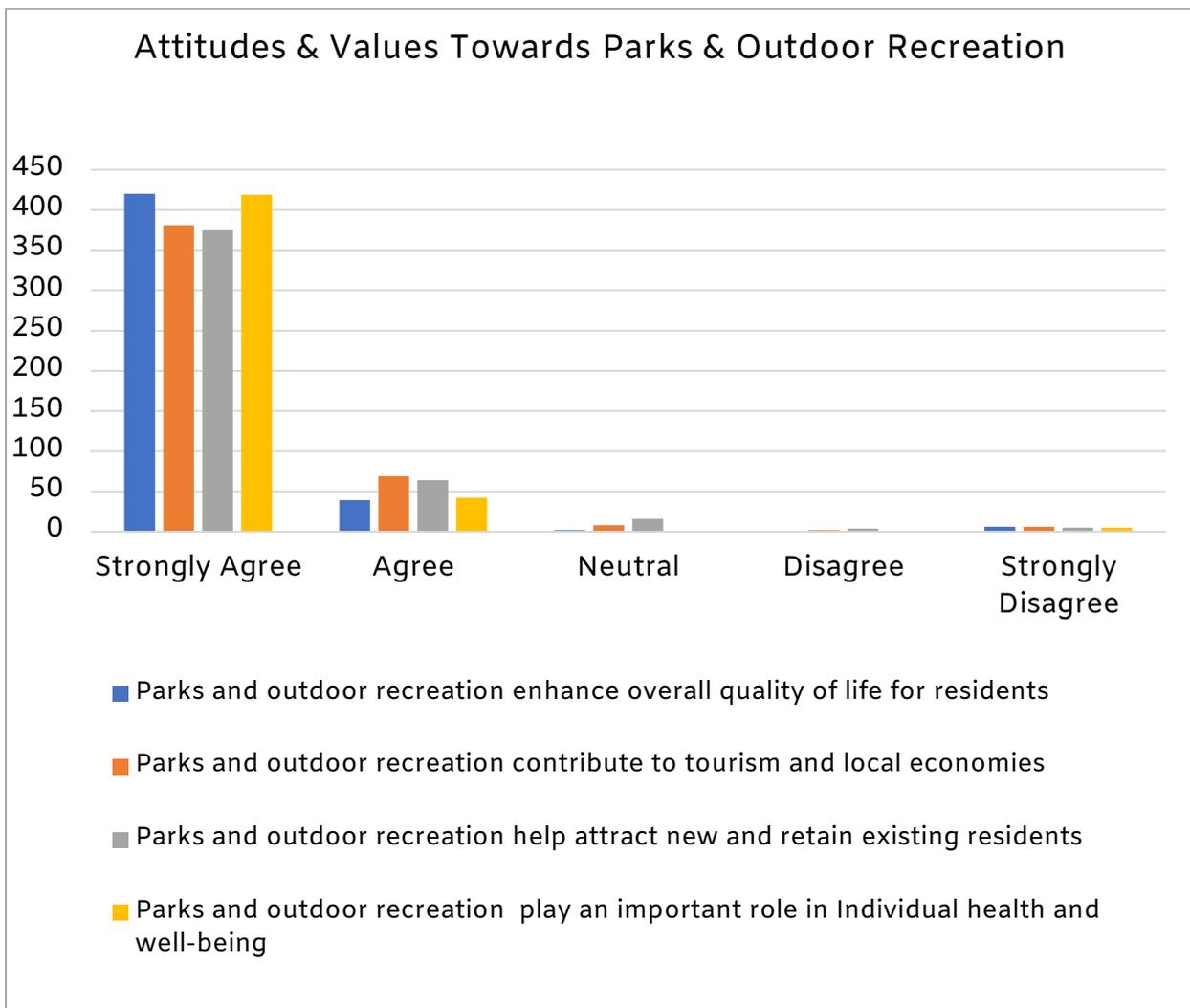


### A-A.3 ATTITUDES & VALUES TOWARDS OUTDOOR RECREATION BY ELECTORAL AREA

With the exception of a few outliers, respondents across all Electoral Areas strongly agreed or agreed with the following statements:

- Parks and outdoor recreation enhance overall quality of life for residents
- Parks and outdoor recreation contribute to tourism and local economies
- Parks and outdoor recreation help attract new and retain existing residents
- Parks and outdoor recreation play an important role in Individual health and well-being

This demonstrates that people who filled out the survey generally value parks and outdoor recreation.



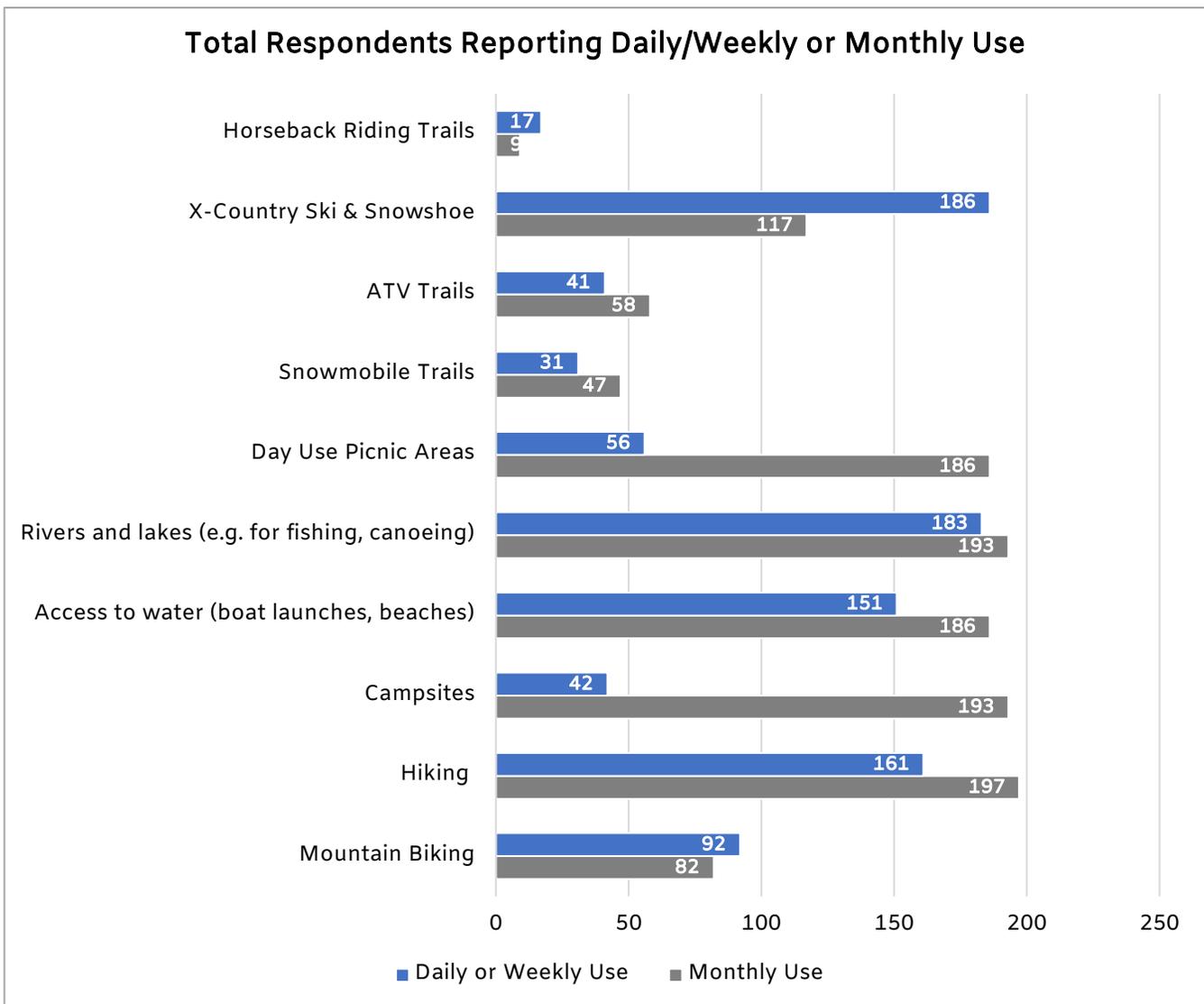
## A-A.4 OVERALL FREQUENCY OF USE FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION AMMENITIES

Respondents reported that they participate in the following outdoor recreation activities on a **daily or weekly** basis (during the season it is available):

- 1) X-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing (39% respondents indicated daily or weekly use)
- 2) Rivers and lakes (38% respondents indicated daily or weekly use)
- 3) Hiking (33% respondents indicated daily or weekly use).

Respondents reported that they participate in the following outdoor recreation activities on a **monthly** basis (during the season it is available):

- 1) Hiking (41% respondents indicated monthly use)
- 2) Rivers & Lakes as well as campsites (40% respondents indicated monthly use)
- 3) Access to Water and Day Use Picnic Areas (39% respondents indicated monthly use).



These findings cannot be used to generalize about the popularity of each outdoor recreation activity, but the information does tell us that x-country skiing, hiking and water-based activities are frequently used by respondents.

Other outdoor recreation activities that were reported include:

- 92 respondents (19% of total) reported mountain biking on a daily or weekly basis;
- 41 respondents (8.5% of total) reported using ATV trails on a daily or weekly basis; and
- 31 respondents (6.4% of total) reported using snowmobile trails on a daily or weekly basis.

#### A-A.5 CHALLENGES WITH EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

The most frequently reported challenges for existing parks and recreations areas captured in the graphic below and described in detail in the following pages.



##### 1) Maintenance of Trails and Camping Areas (n=86)

- The most frequently reported challenge with maintenance is fallen trees and overgrowth on hiking and biking trails. Respondents noted that volunteers cannot keep up with the amount of maintenance required.
- Many respondents indicated that there was too much reliance on volunteer groups for trail maintenance.
- Other general maintenance themes include comments regarding: garbage, outhouses being dirty and vandalism.

## 2) Information and Signage (n=37)

- Lack of directional signage makes it difficult to find trailheads and navigate trail systems safely.
- Lack of comprehensive and up to date maps.
- Online mapping is improving, but in some cases trails advertised are not maintained.
- Trail marking needs to be improved in some areas.

## 3) Road Access Maintenance (n=30)

- Lack of maintenance and low design standards on access roads (grading, only 4X4-friendly, etc.) for popular trailheads.
- Lack of winter plowing on access roads limits potential for backcountry skiing opportunities.

## 4) Lake & River Access (n=27)

- Lack of parking, docks and beach areas at popular lakes and rivers.
- Desire for improved access for pedestrians and cyclists via multi-use path networks as well as for vehicle access.
- Some respondents commented about crowding and litter at lakes that are developed for public access.

## 5) Boat Launches (n=26)

- No boat launches exist or there is a lack of boat launches at popular lakes and rivers.
- Many of the existing boat launches are not being maintained and require improvement.

Other common themes regarding challenges are outlined in the table below.

Theme (n=# of times theme was reported)	Frequent Comments
Age and Ability-Friendly Activities (n=18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of wheelchair access</li> <li>• Desire for more beginner and kid-friendly mountain biking and walking/hiking trails</li> <li>• Need for play structures for children</li> <li>• Not enough recreation areas and trails that are close to town and family-friendly</li> </ul>
General comments about a desire for more outdoor recreation amenities (n=17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desire for more trails for hiking, biking, walking and running and for more variety of trails (i.e beginner, intermediate, advanced)</li> <li>• Desire for more campsites</li> </ul>
Campsites closed or too crowded (n=12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campsites should have a longer season (they open to late and close too early)</li> <li>• Popular campsites are often full on long weekends</li> <li>• Desire for more enforcement to address people “holding” campsites by parking their trailer mid-week for use on the weekend and people camping for weeks or months at the same site.</li> </ul>
Environmental Damage (n=10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Littering (garbage, beer cans, toilet paper, etc.) near lakes and rivers</li> <li>• Quality of water in lakes and rivers (impacts of industry, farming, etc.)</li> <li>• Lack of bridges over fish-bearing watercourses creating damage from ATVs</li> </ul>
Conflict between Motorized and Non-Motorized (n=10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complaints that motorized activity damages trails (i.e. create mud and rip up trails) and disturb non-motorized users</li> </ul>
Parking (n=9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desire for more developed parking areas at popular outdoor recreation areas (trailheads, lakes, climbing areas, etc.)</li> <li>• Some comments noted safety issues when the lack of parking forces people to park on shoulders of backroads that may have erosion, rock falls, etc.</li> </ul>
Safety (n=9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of dedicated roadside pull-outs, especially in the winter months for backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, etc.</li> <li>• Poorly maintained infrastructure and blow-down/hazard trees posing safety hazards</li> </ul>
More amenities in existing outdoor recreation areas (n=8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desire for more outhouses and garbage cans at campsites and trailheads</li> </ul>
Cycling for transportation and accessing outdoor recreation amenities (n=7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most outdoor recreation areas require vehicle access and a safe bike path (separated from the highway and roads) that connects different destinations could allow more travel to outdoor recreation via bicycle.</li> <li>• Desire for a trail between Smithers and Telkwa</li> </ul>

Other (n=10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examples of private property owners blocking or limiting access to public land.</li> <li>• Conflicts between recreation users and industry as well as recreation users and wildlife.</li> <li>• Lack of dog-friendly outdoor recreation areas.</li> </ul>
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#### A-A.6 IDEAS FOR RDBN INVOLVEMENT IN PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION

The survey included an open-ended question that asked respondents if they had any additional comments or suggestions for the RDBN to consider regarding parks and outdoor recreation needs and opportunities. Many respondents included suggestions for how the RDBN should get involved in parks and outdoor recreation service provision. Below is a summary of key themes and ideas that were provided.

The top three comments supported the RDBN providing more funding for maintenance, improve access to water, and more financial assistance for clubs that provide maintenance service. There were also many comments about the desire for more recreation amenities (rather than just maintaining what currently exists), supporting Cycle 16 and improving and maintaining roads that provide backcountry access.

Theme	# Comments
Fund maintenance	20
Water Access/Boat Launch/Docks	19
Financial assistance to clubs	18
More parks, trails and recreation amenities	14
Support Cycle 16	13
Improve access roads to backcountry	13
All ages and abilities	9
Improve promotion and advertising	8
Improve parking and facilities at recreation access points	5
Improve and maintain First Nations historical trails	4
Manage motorized recreation to reduce impact on non-motorized users	4
Link up trail systems	4

# Appendix B – Club Profiles



# Who We Heard From - 42 Clubs Interviewed

## Electoral Area A

1. Bulkley Backcountry Ski Society
2. Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board
3. Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club
4. Bulkley Valley Intensive Motorised Association
5. Bulkley Valley Kayak and Canoe Club
6. Bulkley Valley Quad Riders
7. BV Backpackers
8. BV Outdoor Recreation Society (BVORS)
9. Cycle 16
10. Round Lake Community Association
11. Silvern Trails Society
12. Smithers Mountain Bike Association
13. Smithers Snowmobile Association
14. Tye Mountain Trail Society
15. Northwest Backcountry Horsemen
16. Bulkley Valley Bowmen

## Electoral Area G

1. Houston Mountain Bike Association
2. Houston Hikers
3. Lions Society
4. Granisle Boat Club
5. Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club
6. Morice Outdoor Recreation Society
7. Houston Snowmobile Club

## Electoral Area E

1. Colleymount Recreation Commission
2. Francois Tchesinkut Recreation Commission
3. Tweedsmuir Recreation Commission

## Electoral Area B

1. Omineca Ski Club
2. Lakes District Outdoor Recreation Society
3. Burns Lake Mountain Bike Association
4. Burns Lake Snowmobile Club
5. Decker Lake Recreation Commission

## Electoral Area C

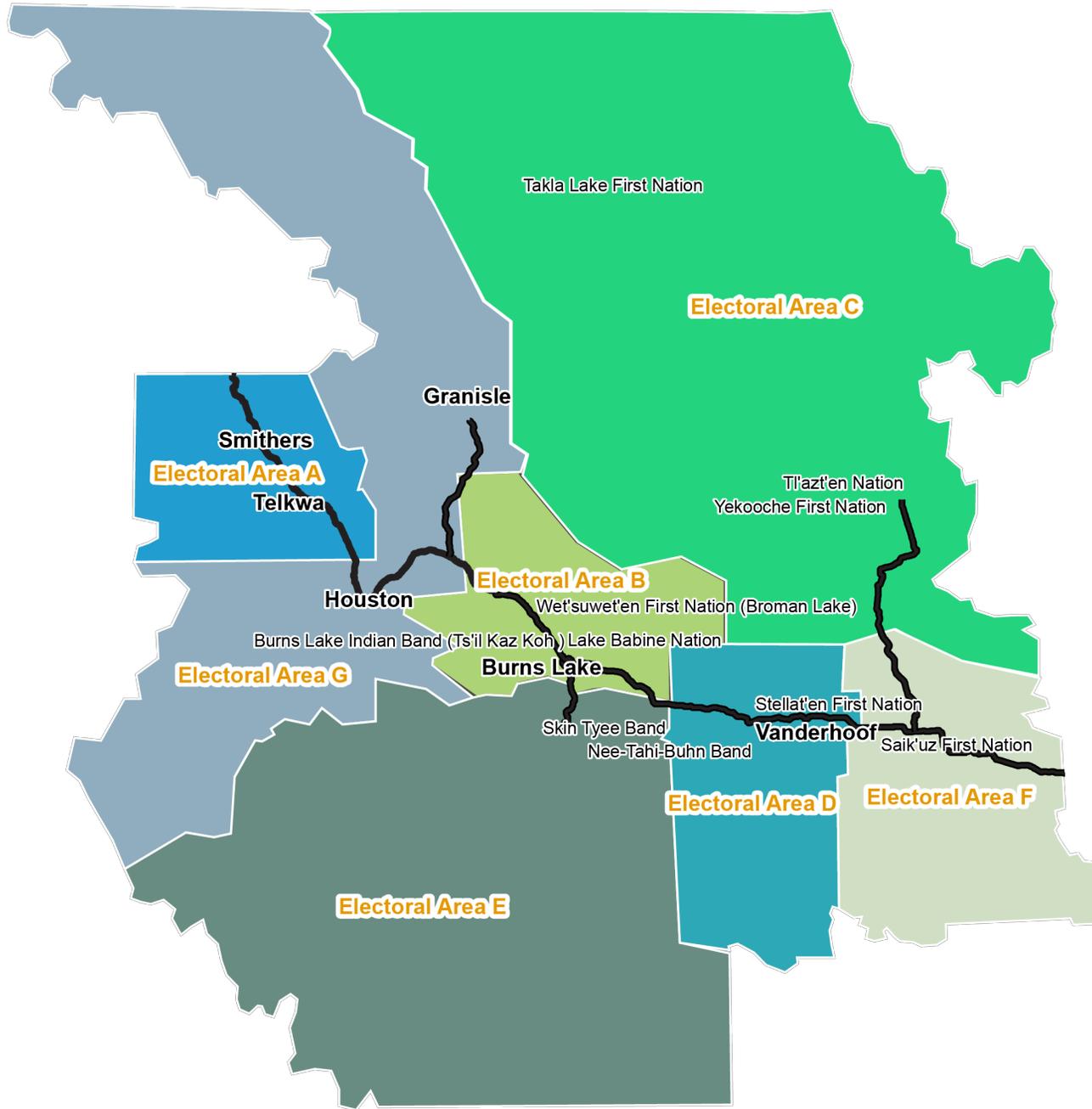
1. Fort St. James Snowmobile Club
2. Fort St. James Rock Climbers
3. Stuart Lake Sailing Club
4. Fort St James Sled Dog Association
5. Stuart Lake Nordic Society
6. Rip n' the North - FSJ

## Electoral Area D

1. Fraser Lake Saddle Club
2. Rip n' the North Mountain Bike Club – Fraser Lake

## Electoral Area F

1. Vanderhoof Fish and Game Club
2. Nechako Valley Sporting Association (includes the Nechako Nordics Ski Club, Vanderhoof Fish & Game Club, Handgun club, trap shooting, archery and big bore range)
3. Braeside Community Recreation Association



# Electoral Area A Interviewed Club Profiles

## Smithers Mountain Bike Association

**Year in Operation:** 10 years  
**# of Members:** 577  
**Average Membership Fee:** \$35  
**Annual Volunteer Hours:** 1500+  
**Core Services:**



- The Smithers Mountain Bike Association is a group of volunteers who support the Bulkley Valley's mountain bike community through trail development, trail maintenance and events
- ◆ The management of mountain biking trails and activities in four trail networks on Hudson Bay Mountain: The Bluff Recreation Site, the Ptarmigan Road Recreation Trails, the Piper Recreation Site and Backdoor a non-sanctioned destination trail from the top of HBM to Town.

**Land Ownership:** 3 Partnership agreement with RSTBC. MOU (hand shake agreement) with the local chapter of CN for the parking lot and trail head of the Bluff trail network.

**Users:** Predominantly locals 339 adult members, 98 families (167 adults, 71 children), ages 3 -70. Increase in visitor of the trail.

**Umbrella Organizations:** Mountain Bike BC

**5 Year Vision:** Vibrant mountain bike culture with well-maintained trails in the

## Smithers Snowmobile Club

**Year in Operation:** 46 years  
**# of Members:** 200  
**Average Membership Fee:** \$140  
**Annual Volunteer Hours:** 900+



### **Core Services:**

- ◆ Five areas with groomed trails under agreement with RSTBC, grooming report provided on the club website for the Big Onion 20km north of Smithers; The Dome 25km North of Smithers; Microwave 19km southeast of Telkwa; Harold Rice Recreation Area 30km west of Smithers; and Sinclair 28km Southeast of Telkwa.
- ◆ Promote responsible safe use of snowmobiles and enhance local economy through trail and recreational asset development.

**Land Ownership:** Agreements with the Province of BC, RSTBC and BC Parks.

**Users:** 10 – 70 years old, diverse and growing. Many out of towners, terrace, Vanderhoof, Burns Lake in early season, many from Alberta later in the season.

**Umbrella Organizations:** Partnership with Avalanche Canada for safety information

**5 Year Vision:** Grow the membership ;Maintain access to the established areas, and Maintain groomers.

## Bulkley Backcountry Ski Society

**Year in Operation:** 10 years  
**# of Members:** 100  
**Average Membership Fee:** \$30  
**Annual Volunteer Hours:** 460+ (maintenance)  
**Core Services:**



- ◆ Manage Hankin Backcountry ski area and are responsible for the ploughing road access in the winter months and maintain 2 cabins
- ◆ Maintain skylark cabin and rentals at Ashmen Ridge;
- ◆ Provide maps and information for back country ski areas within the Bulkley Valley.

**Land Ownership:** Partnership agreement with RSTBC for Hankin Ski Area. Skylark Cabin at Ashmen is a LOC with the Province.

**Users:** In 2018 over 3000 uses were counted through the gate at Hankin Ski Area. Many locals, includes tourists and regional residents. Majority of Hankin users are between 20-40 years old, not many kids, and lots of active retirees.

**Umbrella Organizations:** Federation of Mountain Clubs of Canada

**5 Year Vision:** Continue to maintain and develop Hankin;Develop a ski cabin at East Boulder;Develop access and cabins to new back country ski areas with alpine focus;50% more members;Develop new strategic plan for organization.

## Bulkley Valley Backpackers

**Year in Operation:** 40 years  
**# of Members:** 85  
**Average Membership Fee:** \$5  
**Annual Volunteer Hours:** 350+  
**Core Services:**

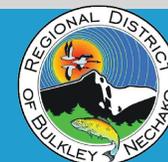


- ◆ Organizing activates every Sunday ranging from Easy to difficult in all four seasons;
- ◆ 32 Trails to maintain – Minimum 3 trail work bees a year, plus individual members maintain specific trails and areas. 50km of interface trails;
- ◆ Regular clearing of deadfall with focus on Seymour ridge;
- ◆ Maintenance of website and georeferenced PDF on the website for ease of public access to trails.

**Land Ownership:** Partnership agreement with RSTBC for the management of 32 trails as listed in the Bulkley RAMP.

**Users:** Majority of club members are between 60-70 years old part of original membership. Some new comers to community join to get barring's on hikes and access to mountains in the area.

**5 Year Vision:**Maintain weekend outings as a group activities; Increase the ability to keep trails open and clear;Increase awareness of the trails available in the valley and grow the membership and get young people involved;Explore putting all the trails on trail forks.



# Electoral Area A Interviewed Club Profiles

## Bulkley Valley Nordic Centre

**Year in Operation:** 40 years  
**# of Members:** 600-800  
**Average Membership Fee:** \$37 membership \$124 season pass  
**Annual Volunteer Hours:**



### **Core Services:**

- ◆ BVCCSC has a [comprehensive Management Plan 2019-2021](#) available on their website;
- ◆ Maintain and operate the Nordic and biathlon facilities with over 52 km of groomed trails; operation equipment and maintenance expenses;
- ◆ Offering and promoting cross-country skiing skill development programs for children, youths, adults, racers and biathlon athletes; and;
- ◆ Organizing and hosting cross-country ski and biathlon race events.

**Land Ownership:** Partnership agreement with RSTBC; Licence of Occupation 6408004 for 7.15 ha. The Club and Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest Corporation have a [memorandum of understanding](#) .

**Users:** Large demographic of Children, families and individuals all ages.

**Umbrella Organizations:** BC Cross Country Association and Nordiq Canada

**5 Year Vision:** Continue operations and follow the 5 year management plan laid out.

## BV Quad Riders

**Year in Operation:** 5 years+  
**# of Members:** 35  
**Average Membership Fee:** \$50  
**Annual Volunteer Hours:** 160+



### **Core Services:**

- ◆ Promote responsible quad riding and user safety on existing trail systems;
- ◆ maintain the following trail systems: The Dome and Telkwa Pass. We also manage Jonas Creek Recreation Site located at 19 km on the Telkwa FSR.

**Land Ownership:** Partnership agreement with RSTBC for four areas.

**Users:** Older demographic forms the group average 70-80 yrs old, people interested in working on trails.

**Umbrella Organizations:** ATV BC

**5 Year Vision:** Lack of leadership in new members – not sure if they will exist and be able to maintain current recreation areas.

## Tyee Mountain Trail Society

**Year in Operation:** 13 years  
**# of Members:** Board  
**Average Membership Fee:** No Fee  
**Annual Volunteer Hours:** 100+



### **Core Services:**

- ◆ Pack 40 km of free cross country trails on Tyee mountain – On private land and crown land;
- ◆ Maintain the trails in summer (brushing) and winters (packing and track setting) with a small volunteer base. Many volunteers from the Hislop and fir road community;
- ◆ Maintain access trail heads from Babine Road and Hislop Road (access through private land).

**Land Ownership:** Partnership agreement with RSTBC for Tyee Mountain Ski Trails. Informal agreements with a few land owners, one does not want public on or through their land.

**Users:** Trail network used by neighbourhood in the Hislop and Fir Rd and locals from Smithers and Telkwa - all seasons. Skiing, walking and biking.

**5 Year Vision:** Purchase of a new small snow cat on tracks for grooming; Being able to keep access to trails open.

## Round Lake Community Hall

**Year in Operation:** 98 years hall (~12 year RSTBC)  
**# of Members:** 50  
**Average Membership Fee:** \$10  
**Annual Volunteer Hours:** ~80 for the Rec site

### **Core Services:**

- ◆ Hall operates a beach with dock and Bulkley Valley Recreation Site with Trails, 3 outhouses and a group tenting place, interest in remote sites off moose mountain rec reserve and protected them, falls and quick hills;
- ◆ Coordinate community recreation services, programs and activities in the Quick and Round Lake area. The purpose of Association is to make the Quick and Round Lake Area a better community to live in through community participation and involvement.

**Land Ownership:** Partnership agreement with RSTBC for the Bulkley Valley recreation site, and 3.2 acres Round Lake Community Association owns land.

**Users:** Neighbourhood users, visitors, and hall users.

**5 Year Vision:** Community Hall will be strong as a music venue, keeping a good facility for rural residents to gather; Increase membership; Continue to serve community with outdoor activities.



# Electoral Area A Interviewed Club Profiles

## BV Outdoor Recreation Society



**Year in Operation:** 16 years

**# of Members:** Board

**Average Membership Fee:** Trails by donation

**Annual Volunteer Hours:** 120 – (2000hr in 2019)

### **Core Services:**

- ◆ Manage, maintain and develop Canyon Creek Cross Country Ski Trails (800 hec) including the new day use cabin built in 2019;
- ◆ Mission statement includes enhancing recreation opportunities for residents in the Bulkley Valley. Work as liaison between public and government to conserve non-motorized opportunities for recreation.

**Land Ownership:** Partnership agreement with RSTBC for Canyon Creek Ski Trails.

**Users:** All ages and attractive for families with young children – no fee

**5 Year Vision:** Buy new grooming equipment for the trails; Grow trail network to include the alpine loop.

## Bulkley Valley Kayak and Canoe Club



**Year in Operation:** 21 years

**# of Members:** 45-55

**Average Membership Fee:** \$20 membership \$20 Tatlow Falls Key

**Annual Volunteer Hours:** 320+

### **Core Services:**

- ◆ Main services are maintaining access to Tatlow Falls and maintain Tatlow falls as a community recreation facility – Access road and gate, Lease agreement, picnic tables, fire pit and wood, outhouse, stair to river side and sauna;
- ◆ Platform for people to get together with shared interested in White Water – Facebook group- email list;
- ◆ Hosting events annual Tatlow fest in the spring. Pool session for teaching and coaching kayaking skills and building white water community.

**Land Ownership:** Lease agreement with private land owner.

**Users:** Demographic core users are 30-40, 20% of members under 25 yrs. of ages.

Mostly locals, Fishermen and non-paddling community members purchase memberships for Tatlow. Events and high water draw out of towners from PG, Terrace, Cariboo.

**5 Year Vision:** Focus on Tatlow falls and providing access and increase participation in the sport. Creating a task team to investigate securing long-term access with the land owner to Tatlow Falls through purchase of land and donation to government body.

## Northwest Backcountry Horsemen



**Year in Operation:** 20 years

**# of Members:** 85

**Average Membership Fee:** \$45 + insurance

**Annual Volunteer Hours:** 1300+

### **Core Services:**

- ◆ Operate Coalmine Camp – Back Country horse camp with a club house, covered picnic shelter, 8 Horse stables, horse infrastructure, RV camp sites and 15km of trails currently maintained;
- ◆ Development and maintenance of horse-riding trails.

**Land Ownership:** Active lease with a private land owner up the Telkwa Coalmine Road- Coalmine camp. 5 acres of private land with 15km of trails currently developed. Member only camp. In discussion with RSTBC regarding development of Horse trails on crown land adjacent to the Coalmine Camp.

**Users:** Families, youth through horse camps, and 50% of membership over 60 years old.

**Umbrella Organizations:** BC Backcountry Horsemen

**5 Year Vision:** Continue to develop the Coalmine camp and adjacent trails; Continue to increase membership; Promote the Coalmine camp and begin to open it up for public rentals i.e. weddings, more camps.

## Bulkley Valley Bowmen



**Year in Operation:** 35 years

**# of Members:** 80

**Average Membership Fee:** 10 /\$20 Family \$70 BCAA Insurance

**Annual Volunteer Hours:** 6 hours each member + lawn maintenance

### **Core Services:**

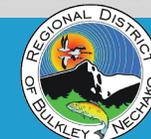
- ◆ The [Bulkley Valley Bowmen](#) enthusiastically promotes the sport of archery. Family-oriented recreation activity through the maintenance of the Archery grounds and facilities;
- ◆ Provide events (Regional tournament end of April with over 250 registrants from around the province), junior Olympian program May – July, and family-oriented programming;
- ◆ Maintain over 4km of wheelchair accessible trails adjacent to the Bulkley River – used by non-members.

**Land Ownership:** Town of Smithers Lease the land for \$1

**Users:** 80 members, 30% under the age of 16, and lots of family memberships.

**Umbrella Organizations:** BC Archery Association

**5 Year Vision:** Facility would be self-sustaining through rentals; Plan for indoor archery facility that can be rented out for events at the fairgrounds. (Construction \$200,000, \$170,000 materials, \$130,000 in volunteer labour – over 4-5 years).



# Electoral Area A Interviewed Club Profiles

## Cycle 16 Trails Society



**Year in Operation:** 4 years+  
**# of Members:** 810 lifetime members  
**Average Membership Fee:** \$15  
**Annual Volunteer Hours:**

### **Core Services:**

- ◆ Vision to development of a paved path, separate from the highway, linking Telkwa, Smithers and rural areas, for the benefit and enjoyment of locals and visitors. Three phases: phase 1 - Bulkley River to Laidlaw Rd, phase 2- Experimental farm to Telkwa, phase 3- overpass on Highway 16 east of Babine Lake Rd.
- ◆ Cycle 16 fundraising for development of the trail.

**Land Ownership:** Advocating for RDBN to take ownership of the linear park.

Negotiated private land ROW for private land crossings.

**Users:** Members of cycle 16 are predominantly from Smithers, Telkwa and the outlying area.

**5 Year Vision:** Phase 1 of the trail being constructed, and the group working on phase 2; Cycle 16 would be in a trail management role for the development and maintenance.

## Bulkley Valley Intensive Motorized Association



**Year in Operation:** 13 years  
**# of Members:** 19  
**Average Membership Fee:** \$20  
**Annual Volunteer Hours:** 100+

### **Core Services:**

- ◆ Develop an Intensive Motorized Area, with camping as set out in the Recreational Access Management Plan (RAMP). A place set aside on crown land in the Bulkley Valley area for all off road vehicles to legally enjoy their intensive motorized recreation. Mud Bogging, Hill Climbing and Touring Scenic View Points are all points of interest.
- ◆ Work with RSTBC to navigate government process for recreation area establishment.

**Land Ownership:** In permitting stage of development for an RSTBC agreement

**5 Year Vision:** Have the land secured, all development plans complete and trail development started for a BV Intensive Motorized Use Area.

## Silvern Trail Society



**Year in Operation:** 6 months  
**# of Members:** 17  
**Average Membership Fee:** \$10  
**Annual Volunteer Hours:** 25 to date

### **Core Services:**

- ◆ Maintain and improve neighbourhood trails including: Hurlings to Tobbagan; Creek; bike trail glacier gulch; Trail to Twin falls.
- ◆ Manage trails for motorized and non-motorized use;
- ◆ Promote trial-based recreation in the neighbourhood.

**Land Ownership:** Informal network through crown land and private land.

**Users:** Neighbourhood users.

**5 Year Vision:** Maintenance of existing trails and development of new trails as desired and identified by the neighbourhood.

## Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

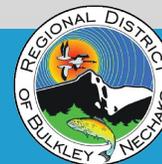
**Year in Operation:** 28 years  
**# of Members:** 7 – 12 board members  
**Annual Volunteer Hours:** 420+

### **Core Services:**

- ◆ CRB facilitated the Summer Recreational Access Management Plan (RAMP) for the Bulkley LRMP February 2013;
- ◆ As part of the conservation plan the Telkwa Mountains Recreation Access (TRAMP) Management Advisory Group is updating and formalizing the access management plan. The BVCRB supports and encourages this work;
- ◆ Established values for recreation access that are referred to in the planning documents and available on the CRB's website;
- ◆ Hold a data base of all recreation trails (private or crown Land) within the Bulkley Valley. The CRB has been working on making this information available to the community through an online resource.

**Agreements with Government:** The BVCRB has a terms of reference and has some agreements with the provincial government regarding their existence and role in monitoring the Bulkley Forest District.

**5 Year Vision:** Continue to monitor the LRMP, RAMP and assist in the development of the Winter RAMP.



# Electoral Area B Interviewed Club Profiles

## Burns Lake Snowmobile Club



**Year in Operation:** Late 1970s

**# of Members:** ~35

**Average Membership Fee:** \$75 Standard membership

**Annual Volunteer Hours:** 1,000+

**Core Services:**

- Promote safe snowmobiling and ATVing;
- Organize events: Poker rides and drag races; guided trail rides (annual Telkwa Pass guided ride); avalanche training;
- Maintain and operate a building and storage and trails with brushing and tree clearing on trails through volunteers and contracts funded by grants;
- Partner with other users such as the motocross users on a motocross track development.

**Land Ownership:** The club's building is on Crown land through a free licence of occupation, and 34 km of trail designated by RSBTC under a partnership agreement.

**Users:** All ages, locals and visitors.

**Umbrella Organizations:** British Columbia Snowmobile Federation

**5 Year Vision:** More members and club rides and events; Summer motocross events; Extended trail to provide access to more terrain.

## Lakes District Outdoor Recreation Society (LORS)



**Year in Operation:** 2002

**# of Members:** 44 concerned citizens with 9 active executive officers

**Core Services:**

- LORS mandate is to maintain, enhance and develop our local recreation sites, trails and established Provincial Parks;
- Oversee and coordinate a maintenance contract for 28 RSTBC sites and 2 provincial parks;
- Hire a contractor annually from mid-May to mid-September (trails are not maintained in the winter). Contractor is responsible for: cleaning and stocking outhouses, weed eating, lawn mowing, maintaining boat launches, good public relations, user counts, minor upgrades (i.e painting).

**Land Ownership:** Agreement with RSTBC and BC parks.

**Users:** 85% from Burns Lake and the surrounding region.

**5 Year Vision:** New volunteers; Continue to operate as they are and be able to oversee the maintenance contract.

## Burns Lake Mountain Bike Association (BLMBA)



**Year in Operation:** 2005

**# of Members:** 200 riders/hikers/dog-walkers.

**Average Membership Fee:** \$40 per adult; \$30 per youth; \$120 per family

**Annual Volunteer Hours:**

**Core Services:**

- Trail Advocacy Society, a local riding club/association, and Tourism Operator for the trails on and surrounding Boer Mountain, 10 minutes north of downtown Burns Lake;
- Build and maintain trails, organize and oversee Weekly Work Bees;
- Instructions for bikers of all levels (15 certified coaches, three are Level 2
- Organizing and hosting events and clinics: Babes in Balance, Bike Camps, Adult Competitions and Lessons, Spirit of the North indigenous-youth focused event, Big Pig Mountain Bike Festival;
- Cleaning and stocking outhouses in the riding area.

**Land Ownership:** Two land use agreements: 160 acres of private land on lease from the Burns Lake Community Forest which comprises the Burns Lake Bike Park section. The other is a 4000-hectare area on and around Boer Mountain in partnership with RSTBC.

**Users:** Out of country, region as well as local (40% local, 30% BC, 20% elsewhere). All ages.

**Umbrella Organizations:** International Mountain Bike Association and Mountain Bike BC

**5 Year Vision:** Smooth road to the summit; Continue to keep recruiting new volunteers; Contract out less glamorous maintenance; Continue events and work bees (pride of ownership).

## Omineca Ski Club



**Year in Operation:** 1927

**# of Members:** 220

**Average Membership Fee:** Adult \$100; Youth \$70; Child \$50; Senior \$90; Family \$195; Snowshoe Only \$40

**Annual Volunteer Hours:** 3,000 +

**Core Services:**

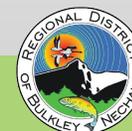
- Maintaining and developing cross country trails (over 27 km of trail);
- Training coaches;
- Operating a woodlot to generate revenues for the club (club has exclusive right to harvest though AAC is so low they are not able to harvest right now);
- Organizing and hosting social and competitive events: annual ski race, provincial-level biathlon, women's retreat weekend, ski lessons for kids and a "rookie day" for adults, Omineca Amazing Relay (fun biathlon event).

**Land Ownership:** Mix of club-owned land, leased Crown land and RSTBC designated site.

**Users:** Predominantly members (except for events)

**Umbrella Organizations:** Cross Country BC (CCBC) and Cross Country Canada (CCC)

**5 Year Vision:** Focus on members and volunteers; Better "brand identity" for the club.



# Electoral Area B Interviewed Club Profiles

## Decker Lake Recreation Commission

**Year in Operation:** 1947

**Core Services:**

- Use has changed over the years: in the past there was more x-country skiing, skiing, swimming lessons, etc.) now the focus is on in-hall recreation;
- Hosting events and fundraisers: art show, card playing tournaments (weekly), harvest market.

**Land Ownership:** Commission owns the Hall – has beach front area across from hall.

**Users:** Local residents and seniors.

**5 Year Vision:** New volunteers involved; More craft and food-focused events that will draw a crowd.

## Colleymount Recreation Commission

**Year in Operation:** 1934 (hall was built), incorporated in 1987

**# of Members:** 25

**Average Membership Fee:** No fee

**Core Services:**

- Operating and maintaining the community hall and rentals
- Organizing and hosting events (Christmas bizarre and February snowmobile poker ride)
- Indoor recreation (i.e. Yoga on Thursdays)

**Land Ownership:** Commission owns the land.

**Users:** Mostly Seniors

**5 Year Vision:** Don't really want any change. We would do more but there is a lack of interest. Most people in Colleymount are retired or only live here in the summer months.



# Electoral Area C Interviewed Club Profiles

## Rip n' the North Mountain Bike Club (Fort St James trail system)



**Year in Operation:** 10 years  
**# of Members:** 15 in FSJ  
**Average Membership Fee:** \$15/year  
**Core Services:**

- Maintaining and building trails in the Fort St James (~30 to 50 km of trails), Fraser Lake and Vanderhoof Area;
- Trail clearing and maintenance (this is done informally);
- Advocating for land use agreement. A draft agreement is underway to take over maintenance of the mountain bike trail network in FSJ;
- Spearheaded the creation of the FSJ Bike Park which is now maintained by the District of FSJ.

**Land Ownership:** None yet, but they are currently drafting an agreement with BC parks to take over maintenance of the mountain bike trail network in FSJ.

**Users:** Trails are predominantly used by locals, Fort St James Highschool Mountain Bike team uses the FSJ trails.

**5 Year Vision:** More signage; Greater community support; Annual event that draws mountain bikers from the region and take advantage of the close proximity of trails to community services.

## Fort St James Snowmobile Club



**Year in Operation:** Informally since 1972, but formalized as a Society in 1996  
**# of Members:** 125  
**Average Membership Fee:** \$25/member and \$50/family  
**Annual Volunteer Hours:** 3000 hours = \$41,550/year at minimum wage rates

### **Core Services:**

- Maintaining and grooming 360 km of 4-season trails as well as outhouses and picnic tables used by snowmobiles, ATVs, horses, hikers and x-country skiers;
- Hosting events (poker rides);
- Currently building a new clubhouse;
- Promotion through maps (print and Avenza), brochures and Facebook, advocating for keeping trails clean with pack it in/out.

**Land Ownership:** The trails are designated through an agreement with RSTBC. The club own the property the clubhouse is on.

**Users:** Regular users are mostly local, but during the Dogsled races people come from as far as Whitehorse. Trails are used by people of all ages.

**5 Year Vision:** Continue to improve outhouses, picnic tables, etc.; ATV campsite on Whitefish Trail up the Stuart Lake; Kitchen in the clubhouse to offer food on-site for events.

## Stuart Lake Nordic Society



**Year in Operation:** Started in the 1980s  
**# of Members:** ~70 active trail users  
**Average Membership Fee:** \$0  
**Annual Volunteer Hours:** 1000 hours/year = \$13,850/year @ min wage  
**Core Services:**

- Promoting Nordic skiing by maintaining trails and keeping membership fees low;
- Setting and maintaining trails on Stuart Lake and Murray Mountain.

**Land Ownership:** Maintenance agreement with RSTBC.

**Users:** Local residents. Mostly older adults and elementary school-aged kids.

**Umbrella Organizations:** Nordique Canada

**5 Year Vision:** Include x-country ski lessons in physical education for students in elementary and highschool; More involvement with other regional clubs; Combined downhill (Murray Mtn) and Nordic membership/pass and better promotion/integration with the downhill skiing at Murray Mountain.

## Fort St James Rock Climbers



### **Core Services:**

- There is no formal climbing club, just a community of climbers;
- A lot of improvements in FSJ come from the Prince George Alpine Club (locally there has not been a consistent group to justify creating a formal club).

**Land Ownership:** All climbing areas are within Mt Pope Provincial Park.

**Users:** Local residents and surrounding areas (predominant users are from Prince George). Routes range from beginner to advanced, though the lack of information and signage may deter beginners.

**Umbrella Organizations:** PG Alpine Club

**5 Year Vision:** A more established club or a club integrated into existing clubs; More integration into the community with youth and beginner-friendly routes.



# Electoral Area C Interviewed Club Profiles

## Fort St James Dogsled Association



**Year in Operation:** Early 90's

**# of Members:** 15

**Average Membership Fee:** No Fee

**Annual Volunteer Hours:** ~1,000

**Core Services:**

- Organizing local, regional and international dog sled races, family-oriented sled-dog events, and races for skijoring;
- Maintaining trails, including marking a safety trail on Stuart Lake with reflectors every 100 m;
- School rides with Nak'albun Elementary School.

**Land Ownership:** None

**Users:** All ages (small children to seniors)

**Umbrella Organizations:**

**5 Year Vision:** Growing to include more family involvement and small kennels (growth in shorter laces and smaller kennel racing); Growth in skijoring; More community engagement in dog care.

## Stuart Lake Sailing Club



**Year in Operation:** 1980s

**# of Members:** 20

**Core Services:**

- 1 week summer sailing camp for kids;
- Maintain and operate a clubhouse on Crown land;
- Organize up to 2 trips a year up the lake;
- Promote non-motorized water-based recreation;
- Club has 3 boats that they maintain for use by members (BC sailing provides more boats for the sailing camps).

**Land Ownership:** Clubhouse is located on Crown land (right-of-way).

**Users:** Kids participate in the sailing program and adults who own a boat.

**5 Year Vision:** Continue summer sailing camps; Establish a local trainer to continue lessons beyond the camp dates; More sailboats on the lake.

## Additional Organizations Not Interviewed

Murray Ridge Ski Hill



# Electoral Area D Interviewed Club Profiles

## Rip n' the North Fraser Lake



**Year in Operation:** 10 years

**# of Members:** 3 in Fraser Lake

**Average Membership Fee:** \$15/year

**Core Services:** Developing and maintaining the multi-use trail network (biking, hiking on Mouse Mountain and Fraser Mountain.

**Land Ownership:** Within the District of Vanderhoof.

**Users:** Dog walkers, hikers, high school students, tourists, x-country skiers, all ages.

**Umbrella Organization:** Fraser Mtn and Mouse Mountain are within City limits

**5 Year Vision:** A club that can circulate their maintenance schedules and continue receiving funding, more growth in Fraser Lake, finished destinations that we can promote (signage, insurance, quality trails), and bike camps in each community for all ages and abilities.

## Fraser Lake Saddle Club



**Year in Operation:** Since 1961

**# of Members:** 40

**Average Membership Fee:** \$10 non-riding \$30 single-riding member \$50 family

**Core Services:**

- Operating and maintaining horse facilities, including an outdoor riding arena, 4-5 box stalls and “learn to” barn, 2 outhouses, a clubhouse and an announcer’s booth;
- Organizing horseback riding events, community gatherings and fundraisers: play days, trail rides, dances, etc.;
- Offering lessons and hosting competitions (“gymkhana”) and fun days for kid;
- Providing infrastructure for horses travelling through town as needed.

**Land Ownership:** Club’s infrastructure is on private property.

**Users:** Family friendly, all abilities of riders.

**Umbrella Organization:** Horse Council BC.

**5 Year Vision:** More participants to enjoy the volunteer efforts, upgrades to the facilities, more people involved and maintain the family-feel.



# Electoral Area E Interviewed Club Profiles

## Francois Tchesinkut Recreation Commission

**Year in Operation:** 1926

**Core Services:** Operating the Francois Lake Community Hall: rentals (weddings, meetings, etc.), hosting seniors coffee groups, fundraisers, etc.

**Land Ownership:** The Commissions owns the land and building that the hall is on.

**Users:** Local, rural community, all ages.

**5 Year Vision:** Maintain the hall so it can be used; Increase seniors activities.



# Electoral Area F Interviewed Club Profiles

## [Nechako Valley Sporting Association](#)



**Year in Operation:** 1940

**# of Members:** 300+ members

**Average Membership Fee:** Single 1 year membership \$40; Single 3 year membership \$100; Family 1 year membership \$55; Family 3 year membership \$100; \$5 gate key deposit.

**Core Services:**

- Maintain and operate 190 acres west of Vanderhoof where they have a clubhouse, x-country ski trails, trap range and a shooting range;
- Maintains Water Lilly Lakes x-country ski area (~40 km of dog-friendly trail); club grooms the trail intermittently as they require a lot of snow to be groomed and used;
- NVSA is an umbrella organization that administers (shared costs of insurance, space, promotion, etc.) the following local clubs: Archery; Hand Gun; Big Bore Range; Trap Shooting; Nechako Nordics X-country skiing & Biathlon (8 km groomed, 3 km of which are lit); Vanderhoof Fish & Game Club;
- X-country ski school program (each student gets 4 lessons each if the school pays \$10/student/PAC). Fee covers equipment and storage;
- Hosting fundraisers and events including: Shots for Cancer (clay shoot with 100-120 participants), 3 D Archery Shoot (~100 participants), Spirit of the North X-Country Race (~300 people), Biathlon BC Cup every 2 years (~75 competitors), x-country running (high school team uses NVSA venue), Regional Biathlon competitions (1/year ~50 participants), Archery Target Event at the Fall Fair (~150 participants).

**Land Ownership:** The Club has a lease with the Crown for 190 acres of land.

**Users:** Primarily local people - Nechako Nordics club is known regionally in the x-country ski community.

**Umbrella Organizations:** Biathlon BC, XC Canada, Nordique Canada, X-Country BC and Archery BC

**5 Year Vision:** Canoe Circuit in the Demonstration Forest is complete; Water Lilly trails improved and better maintained; Mountain biking is more involved in group activities (more beginner trails); Potential for summer mountain bike trails at Water Lilly and the canoe circuit.

## [Rip n' the North Mountain Bike Club Vanderhoof](#)



**Year in Operation:** 10 years

**Average Membership Fee:** \$15/year

**Core Services:**

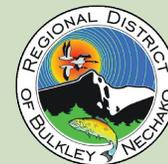
- Developing and maintaining the non-motorized multi-use trail network (biking, hiking, running, snowshoeing, skiing, etc; No horseback or motorized)) and bike park behind the Vanderhoof Museum;
- Building and maintaining trails.

**Users:** Locals frequent the trails - all ages, lots of kids use the skills training bike park. Promoted on Trail-forks so mountain bikers from out of region use the network as well.

**5 Year Vision:** A club that can circulate their maintenance schedules and continue receiving funding; More growth in Fraser Lake and Fort St James; Finished destinations that we can promote (signage, insurance, quality trails); Bike camps in each community for all ages and abilities.

## [Additional Organizations Interviewed](#)

Braeside Community Recreation Commission



# Electoral Area G Interviewed Club Profiles

## Morice Outdoor Recreation Society (MORS)



**Year in Operation:** 2004 and officially incorporated in 2008

**# of Members:** 15

**Average Membership Fee:** No Fee

**Core Services:**

- Working with RSTBC to designate Barrett Hatt and Vallee Lake as non-motorized rec sites with a 4-season trail network;
- Developing and maintaining infrastructure and trails at Barrett Hatt and Vallee Lake (2.9 km hike to lookout and viewing platform at Vallee Lake with a boardwalk over the marsh).

**Land Ownership:** Working on agreement with RSTBC.

**Users:** People from nearby communities use the site as well as local schools and summer camps (i.e. bible camp at Dunalter and Salvation Army at Vallee Lake). Good, easily-accessible family hike.

**5 Year Vision:** More involvement and leadership from younger people; Barrett Hatt and Vallee Lake are a focal point for hiking in the region; Complete agreement with RSTBC.

## Morice Nordic Ski Club



**Year in Operation:** 1987

**Annual Volunteer Hours:** ~1,000 hours/year

**Core Services:**

- Maintaining Morice Mountain non-motorized Rec Site that is over 6,000 ha with multi-use trails, including biking, hiking, horseback riding, snowshoeing and x-country skiing (~50 km of non-alpine trail and 14 km of snowshoe trail) and Campground maintenance;
- “Ski library” offers free x-country ski rentals for members and \$10 for non-members;
- Host the Morice Mtn Challenge – a mountain running race event (80 people participated in 2018).

**Land Ownership:** Partnership Agreement with RSTBC

**Users:** All ages, but it is hard to keep teenagers engaged in Nordic skiing. Mostly local, but starting to see regional and out-of-region visitors.

**5 Year Vision:** Cabins on the lake, backcountry ski cabins, etc.; Grow the Morice Mountain Challenge and other events; Establish a community forest over the club’s operating area to raise funds for operations (maintenance, coaching, etc.) The community forest would follow best practices in forests management and cutting would be limited (focus would still be on offering a wild/natural place for recreation); Club won’t define itself as a x-country ski club and will instead be focused on all non-motorized uses.

## Houston Hikers



**Year in Operation:** 19 years

**# of Members:** 5 board members

**Core Services:**

- Devoted to promoting Houston and the surrounding area as a hiking destination for tourists, as well as promoting hiking as a form of recreation for locals;
- Website development, main asset of the group with geo referenced PDF’s [www.Houstonhikers.ca](http://www.Houstonhikers.ca) ;
- Promoting, maintaining and developing multi-use – hiking, nordic skiing, quad riding, horseback riding and more.

**Land Ownership:** Partnership agreements with RSTBC over some of the trails.

**Users:** Locals, regional tourism and visitors, website tracks visits and shows regional and international people viewing.

**5 Year Vision:** Continue to slowly grow and maintain the trails in the Houston TSA

## Houston Mountain Bike Association (HMBA)



**Year in Operation:** 2 years

**# of Members:** 30

**Average Membership Fee:** \$25 individual; \$15 Youth; \$65 Family

**Annual Volunteer Hours:** 172 hrs

**Core Services:**

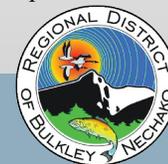
- Operate and maintain 9km of Downhill trails, this included beginner Green trails to Black technical riding areas;
- Educate and build a mountain bike community and culture in Houston;
- Seek funding to develop the mountain bike trail network as a recreation resources in Houston.

**Land Ownership:** Partnership agreement with RSTBC for Mount Harry Davis.

**Users:** Families and women; Generally new to the sport users; Bikers, walkers, fat bikers, trappers, hunter; Locals and visitors alike.

**Umbrella Organizations:** Member of IMA (\$250 annual)

**5 Year Vision:** Maintain and sustain the trails – max out at 15km of trail; Complete the Green line from top to bottom and develop the Skills family riding hub.



# Electoral Area G Interviewed Club Profiles

## Granisle Lions Club



**Year in Operation:** Lions 1968 Campground 44 year

**# of Members:** 12

**Core Services:**

- Operate Lions Beach Campground – 23 camp sites, 6 with power, a playground and docking facilities. May long to September long. Collect fees, garbage and maintain, outhouses;
- Other services include: provide the Lifeline Services and Helping Hands, lend medical equipment, organize the Granisle days parade, light up the park event, collect eye glasses and hearing aids to assist in supporting BC Kids Camp, sell ice in the community, distributing Christmas hampers, organize annual dog walks, own and operate apartment building, sort and collect bottle recycling, BBQ for fathers bay fishing derby.

**Land Ownership:** Lease land as a LOC from the Crown – 10 year lease.

**Users:** Busy camp site with regional and visitors from afar.

**Umbrella Organizations:** Vancouver Lions Club.

**5 Year Vision:** Continue operation with additional RV site with power provided.

## Granisle Power Boat Club



**# of Members:** 100+

**Average Membership Fee:** \$250 + \$5 every foot over 25ft

**Core Services:**

- Own, operate and maintain the dock infrastructure: floating docks and berths in the Marina;
- Work with the Village that owns the anchors and boat ramp;
- Provide security in the nights during the summer months;
- Ham Radio operator and boat rescue volunteers.

**Land Ownership/Leases and Agreements with Government:** Agreement and partnership with the Village of Granisle

**Users:** ¾ of the marina is boat club and long term seasonal moorage, ¼ is daily, weekly and monthly moorage sold by the General Store. Locals, Burns Lake, Houston, Smithers, Alberta, Terrace, Clinton, Chase, PG, 100 Mile House, Telkwa, Vancouver's during the summer months.

**5 Year Vision:** New marina infrastructure.

## Additional Organizations Not Interviewed

Houston Snowmobile Club



*\* The information in these profiles is based off interviews hosted in the fall of 2019. There may be inaccuracies in the information.*

