



BC Conservation Officer Service

Access Management Compliance and Enforcement Program (AMCEP) June Report

*Compiled by Conservation Officer Patricia Burley
June 1-30, 2012*



Alexander Creek AMA, overlooking Summit Lake

Introduction

The June Access Management Compliance and Enforcement Program (AMCEP) Report is the second report for the 6 month period completed by Conservation Officer Burley. Although June was not a month filled with great weather, it still gave time for CO Burley to work on a number of reports, project plans, orientation, training and the development of the AMA newspaper. The following are some highlights from the previous months work time.

Aside from Access Management Area work, CO Burley has other responsibilities to conduct when working in the East Kootenay's. The CO's receive calls almost daily from the Report All Poachers and Polluters Call Centre with regards to injured or problem wildlife. During the month of June bears were moving in and around the Fernie area more than normal. When there are bears or other wildlife in close proximity to people's residents, the CO's receive a number of calls with people's concerns, complaints and questions. Some time was spend patrolling areas of Fernie that have had reoccurring garbage attractants left out for bear (s) to visit. Pictures were taken and addresses were documented. One call out that CO Burley assisted on was with the capture of a female calf elk that was swept away from the cow in the Elk River. The calf was only a couple weeks old and would not have survived on its own. She had washed up on the side of the dike near Coal Creek. CO Deboon was able to lasso her and brought her to the truck where they transported her to a wildlife rehabilitation farm for a safe recovery (fig 1). A livestock verification had to be conducted during June in Alexander AMA. Sometime's wildlife such as cougars, bears and wolves prey upon grazing livestock. The CO's are responsible to verify if a predator had in fact killed the animal or if it had died on its own.



Figure 1: Calf Elk rescued from Elk River in Fernie.

Family Fishing Weekend took place June 15-17. Every year on Father's Day Weekend, people can fish the lakes and rivers in BC without an angling license; all regulations still apply and have to be complied with. CO Burley patrolled Alexander Creek and Grave Prairie AMA's during that weekend and found that the Sparwood Rod and Gun Club had their annual 3D archery shoot. A large group of people had camped in Grave Prairie for the whole weekend. CO Burley donated

a fishing rod for one of the youth prizes. It looked like a fun family event and CO Burley was happy to chat with a number of the participants. CO Burley continued to patrol the Elk River which opened on June 15, but the fishing opportunities were not the greatest for people because of the high water. Grave and Summit Lake were also checked where some anglers were contacted.



Figure 2: Horseback riders contacted in Grave Prairie.

The gates were opened on June 15th for Wigwam Flats access roads (Rocky Ridge and road off of the Ram FSR). Alexander Creek and the East Flathead had some roads that opened as well in June. CO Burley conducted a quad patrol in Wigwam Flats AMA and contacted 13 ATV's in the area. 6 of the ATV's were in non compliance with the Wildlife Act; operating a motor vehicle in a closed area. 1 violation ticket and 2 warnings were issued to the operators in the group (fig 3). Time was spent educating the whole group on the AMA's in the area since they said they live and recreate in the East Kootenay's all the time.



Figure 3: Closed trail in Wigwam Flats AMA that is being abused. During June, 1 violation ticket and 2 warning tickets were issued in this area.

Outreach and relationship building was developed with the Elkford ATV Club, Fernie Rod and Gun Club and the Area A Planning Committee. CO Burley attended all three meetings which gave her the opportunity to meet and greet with many of the community members. The Access Management Area's and the program were discussed. She had brought the draft AMA Magazine with her so she could get feedback from people who recreate in the area on a normal basis. People seemed to be pleased with what they saw of the draft document so far. Some corrections had to be made on each map which set the printing date back. The Newsprint will be 16 pages including AMA's, Motor Vehicle Hunting Closed Areas, BC Recreation and Trails near Elkford and Teck Mining Closures. The printing takes place in Calgary where they take 2-3 weeks to finish printing. Mid August is the new target date to have the magazine available to the public. CO Burley was able to get a couple patrol days in with some East Kootenay locals that have lived in the area their whole life. This was a big benefit to CO Burley to have such detailed orientation from some dedicated passionate community volunteers.



Figure 4: Weary Creek Recreation Trail sign built by the volunteers in June by the Hornaday Wilderness Society. Upper Elk Valley AMA.



Figure 5: June 28 Upper Elk Valley AMA. The sign on the tree to the right gets ripped down every year. 7 new signs were posted in the area that patrol day.



Figure 6: Sheep Mountain AMA, dirt bike park just south of Elko. The issue had been addressed to CO Burley a number of times. ATVs and dirt biker use the old sand pit to play in. It is used by all ages and families. The sand pit is located within the AMA; no motorized use allowed. The issue has been brought to Habitat Biologist Doug Martin to assess. Currently, no enforcement action has been made. Most people CO Burley has spoken to using the sand pit are aware it is within the AMA, but they tell her that is the only motorized dirt bike park people use in all of the East Kootenay's.

Statistics

Access Management Area (AMA) Patrols	Patrols Conducted	Hours on Site	Contacts Made	**Persons Educated	Access Warnings	Access Charges	Other Violations
Alexander Creek MU 4-23	2	5.5	23	5	0	0	2
Barnes Lake MU 4-23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chauncey Todhunter MU 4-23	2	3	8	8	1	0	0
Corbin MU 4-23	2	3.5	0	2	0	0	0
East Flathead MU 4-01	2	30	2	0	0	0	0
Galton Range MU 4-02	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
Grave Prairie MU 4-23	10	26.5	107	99	3	1	1
Upper Elk Valley MU 4-23	1	4	6	6	0	0	0
Upper Flathead MU 4-01	2	8	10	0	0	0	0
Upper Wigwam MU 4-02	2	2.5	0	3	0	0	0
Weigert Creek MU 4-23	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wigwam Flats MU 4-02	12	57.5	30	25	5	2	3
Total:	37	145.5	186	148	9	3	6

Figure 7: Current Summary of total time spent in the field up to June 30/12.

Statistics	Total	Filtered
Officer Time	234.75	52
Contacts	590	149
Access Charges	3	1
Other Violations	15	6
Warnings	10	4
Educated	397	112

Figure 8: Current Summary of statistics up to June 30/12. The filtered numbers are for the month of June.

Outreach & Non-AMA Specific Activities	# of Events	Time spent (hrs)	Contacts Made	**Persons Educated	Access Warnings	Access Charges	Other Violations
General Patrol	4	26.75	105	4	0	0	9
Attend Complaint	1	1.5	17	0	1	0	0
School Talk	1	2	13	13	0	0	0
Municipality Talk	5	6.5	98	98	0	0	0
Community Clubs	4	7.5	60	60	0	0	0
Committee Groups	5	23	52	52	0	0	0
Other Outreach	4	22	59	22	0	0	0
Total:	24	89.25	404	249	1	0	9

Figure 9: Current Summary of total outreach provided to the public up to June 30/12.

It should be noted that Officer Presence is calculated as the time Officer(s) were physically present in an AMA, it does not account for travel.

People that are educated are defined as COS discussing specific AMA facts and requirements for which the person in question was previously unaware. It should be noted that the Access Guardian Program and general AMA facts are discussed with more than 80% of contacts.

Other Work Projects

AMA Project Plan: A number of CO's and BC Park Rangers will be focusing on the Area A AMA's during hunting season. Some of CO Burley's office time was associated with completing the proposed project plan. AB SRD Access Guardians will also be participating in their closures at the same time.

Firearm training is continuously completed to keep current on tactical skills. Conservation Officers have to travel for Provincial Quarterly Shoots.

Summary

CO Burley has presented, met with and participated in meetings with the majority of the East Kootenay's community groups. She will continue to provide outreach to the public and stakeholder groups, but for the next 4.5 months she will be spending most of her time in the field. With some of her new contacts, she has been receiving more enforcement complaints, concerns and feed back on their thoughts about the AMA's. A number of recreationists (motorized and non-motorized) have offered to volunteer with CO Burley to show her area's with reoccurring non compliance issues. The people in the East Kootenay's have such a great opportunity to explore the beauty of the Rockies which provides a variety of recreational experiences. CO Burley is enjoying making contact with all these user groups and will continue to build a better understanding to the public of the laws and regulations that are built around them.

If you have any questions or concerns about the May AMA Report or questions for CO Burley, she can be contacted at:

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The Conservation Officer Service is a public safety provider focussed on natural resource law enforcement and human wildlife conflicts prevention and response. Our Vision: To be a progressive and respected leader in environmental compliance and enforcement, shared stewardship and public safety. The Conservation Officer Service Motto is: Integrity, Service and Protection

Please see the attached Excel 2012 Stats for more detail of the Access Guardian's patrols and outreach efforts from December 2011 to July 18, 2012.



Figure 10: AMA sign at the Chauncey Todhunter AMA, northeast of Elkford.



Figure 11: View of Wigwam Flats June 16, 2012.

Maps

To reduce document size, AMA maps have not been included in this report. If required maps of individual AMAs are available from two sources, the Ministry of environment website (www.env.gov.bc.ca/kootenay/eco/accessmaps.htm) and the Hunting Regulations Synopsis. The hunting synopsis is available in print and online (www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/hunting/regulations/). The maps available from the MoE website are in colour and contain much greater detail.
