



Timeline of documented recreation use at the Gorge Creek area and the formation of the Gorge Ski Touring Association

1958 - the Eagle Valley Snowmobile club (EVSC) gets approval for a sled and ski area on South and North Queest accessed via Sicamous (1800 FSR). EVSC provided the Gorge Working Group with a news article about this which specifically states that this area was intended for both sledding and skiing.

Late 1990's - early 2000's – The Gorge FSR is identified in the 1999 Recreation Access Management Plan Salmon Arm Forest District Produces by Forest Renewal BC. This plan notes that the Gorge rd. is used as ungroomed snowmobile via the east gorge rd. to Queest lake, and as access to back country skiing and limited snowcat skiing with parking at 15km on the gorge rd.

The Land Resource Management Plan (LRMP) published in 2001 divided the Queest area south and north into a motorized riding area (south) and a non motorized area (north). The LRMP was never formalized through legislation.

Early - Mid 2000's - Three Heli and Cat ski tenures are awarded in the area. K3 Cat Skiing, Mustang Cat skiing and Eagle Pass Heli skiing. These tenures are a result of the LRMP process. K3's tenure specifically avoids the non motorized zone set out in that document. Eagle Pass Heli Skiing has a small area within the LRMP Winter Non-Motorized area.

The Shuswap Trail Alliance develops a plan for a Hut-to-Hut Summer route in this Anstey Range as well as the framework for the Shuswap Trails Strategy

2009 - the Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club sign a caribou habitat agreement which dictates desired actions within the area. This agreement splits area encompassing the Queest riding area and the Gorge ski tour area east and west, with the west being a seasonal motorized closure and the east being a managed snowmobile riding area.

2010-2016 – With the Gorge Road not being regularly plowed the area is only accessed via snowmobile most winters

An avalanche terrain map is installed at the 15km Gorge parking area by Recreation Sites and Trails BC.

Carl Kuster Mountain Park, a snowmobile guiding company, starts operations out of Malakwa. CKMP Management document refers to the 2001 LRMP as well as the Shuswap Trail Alliance Trail Strategy.

Recreation Sites and Trails BC proposes a Recreation Site in this area using the polygons from the avalanche terrain map. This encompasses some of the South Queest Sled area as well as Eagle Pass



Heli Ski and K3 cat ski tenure. Both the commercial operators and the Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club oppose this proposal.

2018 – 2019 Recreation Sites and Trails BC and the Shuswap Trail Alliance resume the discussion around the Gorge. This is the start of the Gorge Working Group including members of the Shuswap Trail Alliance, Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club and Carl Kuster Mountain Park, K3 Cat Skiing, Eagle Pass Heli Skiing.

EVSC position is that they do not want a rec site, or a non motorized area, formalized in what they claim is their riding area. They request we work out a shared use agreement.

Parking at the 3km junction on the gorge road is becoming an issue with trucks often blocking the road. K3 uses this road to access their operation and plows the road up to their staging area through out the winter. The EVSC does not want to manage another access point into the South Quest area.

The Motorized closure of the Queest Caribou Management area is enforced on the Gorge Road during one weekend. The motorized closure crosses the gorge road between 16km and 18km and several tickets are handed out. These tickets are later dismissed as the caribou habitat area was entered into legislation incorrectly. At a subsequent working group meeting the caribou management specialist stated that the closure was never intended to cross the road and the line will be adjusted to not include the road closure.

The Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club via the gorge working group asked for data around ski tourers. The STA creates the survey to gather this data.

Recreation Sites and Trails BC states that because there is no recreation features off the gorge road, their ability to participate in these discussions are limited.

2020-2022 - The gorge road is plowed all winter for the first time since 2008 with harvesting happening at 26km. Caribou return to the Queest area. We have a working group meeting which includes caribou habitat specialists from both Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and Recreation Sites and Trails BC. The Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club provides a letter to the working group with a set of conditions including asking the Shuswap Trail Alliance to step back from this discussion and have a ski touring group formed. As a result of this a ski touring group is created with the Alpine Club of Canada out of Revelstoke

The Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club requests that the Gorge Back Country Ski Area Recreation Reserve polygon which shows up on some government maps be removed. The polygon was entered into the Forest Tenure Administration system (FTA) when it was proposed in 2016. Entering map data into FTA is one of the early steps for any Recreation proposal. This is necessary to create legal maps for referral, and to identify the location in FTA when other interests carry out queries to determine what recreation features, whether existing or proposed, may be impacted by their activities.



The ski tour group submits a proposal for a third-party moderator. The Alpine Club of Canada has concerns about the lack of Recreation Sites and Trails BC involvement and the Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club does not respond.

The Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club is working with Recreation Sites and Trails BC to create a secondary access to the Queest riding area out of Malakwa.

Wildfire closure is put in place on the west side of the quest riding area and the gorge ski tour area. largely in the non motorized caribou management area.

The Gorge Ski Touring Association takes it current form.