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June 22, 2015

Dear Michael-

The Alsek Renewable Resource Council reviewed the Off-road Vehicle Regulation discussion paper, at their June 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

The Alsek RRC is very concerned with the content of this discussion paper, and the lack of clarity throughout. None of the content to do with Renewable Resource Council's had ever been discussed with them other than a short verbal presentation at the RRCs Chairs meeting held in Whitehorse, April 14, 2015. This was the first time that the RRCs had an opportunity to view a draft copy.

16.6.1 of the Champagne Aishihik Final Agreement establishes RRCs as the “primary instrument for local renewable resources management in that Traditional Territory as set out in the Settlement Agreement” RRCs absolutely want to have input in any decisions made about ORV management areas, but are constrained by an extremely limited budget, with often only one fulltime staff, and occasionally only a part-time staff member. The work that this document is suggesting RRC staff and members will need to do, will require a financial contribution from the lands branch to carry this out. For the Department of EMR not to contribute will negate any meaningful contribution or engagement from the community, and subsequently the RRC. It would have been preferable to have had a conversation with RRCs previously to the release of this paper as we could have offered some insight into the work we do and our situation. We would

have had a better understanding of what level of engagement the Department of EMR wants to have with RRCs around tasks and decisions for ORV management areas.

This document is suggesting some very important changes to ORV usage and management. We find this discussion paper nebulous, very open ended, and without direction, but see that Department of EMR next step is to build regulations from the suggestions received. We feel that this is a rushed approach. It is the ARRCs opinion that there needs to be an opportunity or a forum for Yukoners to ask questions of department staff to understand some of the definitions. For instance, what is the definition of impact in this discussion paper? How will impact be assessed? How will these areas be identified? By way of this letter the Alsek Renewable Resource Council is requesting that a public meeting be held in Haines Junction before any ORV management regulations are developed. We can discuss a date in the near future.

We do understand that much of what is being asked in this discussion paper is suggestion, and that solutions from the public are being sought. There will be many different ideas and opinions from Yukoners that will come forward and we feel strongly that those are what we should be consulted on. As you know the RRCs and Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board has requested an extension on this process, and at this point it has not been granted. Therefore the Alsek RRC is requesting that a second period of public engagement be offered once the public's suggestions and solutions are collected and compiled, and that they be offered to the public for comment.

Yours sincerely,

*Original signed*

Al Biggs  
Co-Chair

*Original signed*

Michelle Dawson-Beattie  
Co-Chair