

2007 **AWARE** Snowmobile Inventory

Brandywine Meadows



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1.0 Introduction

This report documents the findings from a snowmobile inventory conducted by the Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment (AWARE). The inventory is based on observational data recorded in Brandywine Meadows in 2007.

The report is organized as follows:

- Section 2 describes the approach used;
- Section 3 presents the key findings; and
- Section 4 summarizes the main conclusions from the study.

2.0 Approach

A snowmobile inventory was conducted in Brandywine Meadows from March to May 2007. The inventory collected information on:

- Number of snowmobiles and users;
- Time and day of use;
- Approximate age of users;
- Number of snowmobile users with skis/snowboards;
- Animal sightings; and
- Whether garbage was left by users.

A copy of the inventory survey instrument is included in Appendix A.

2.1 Data Collection

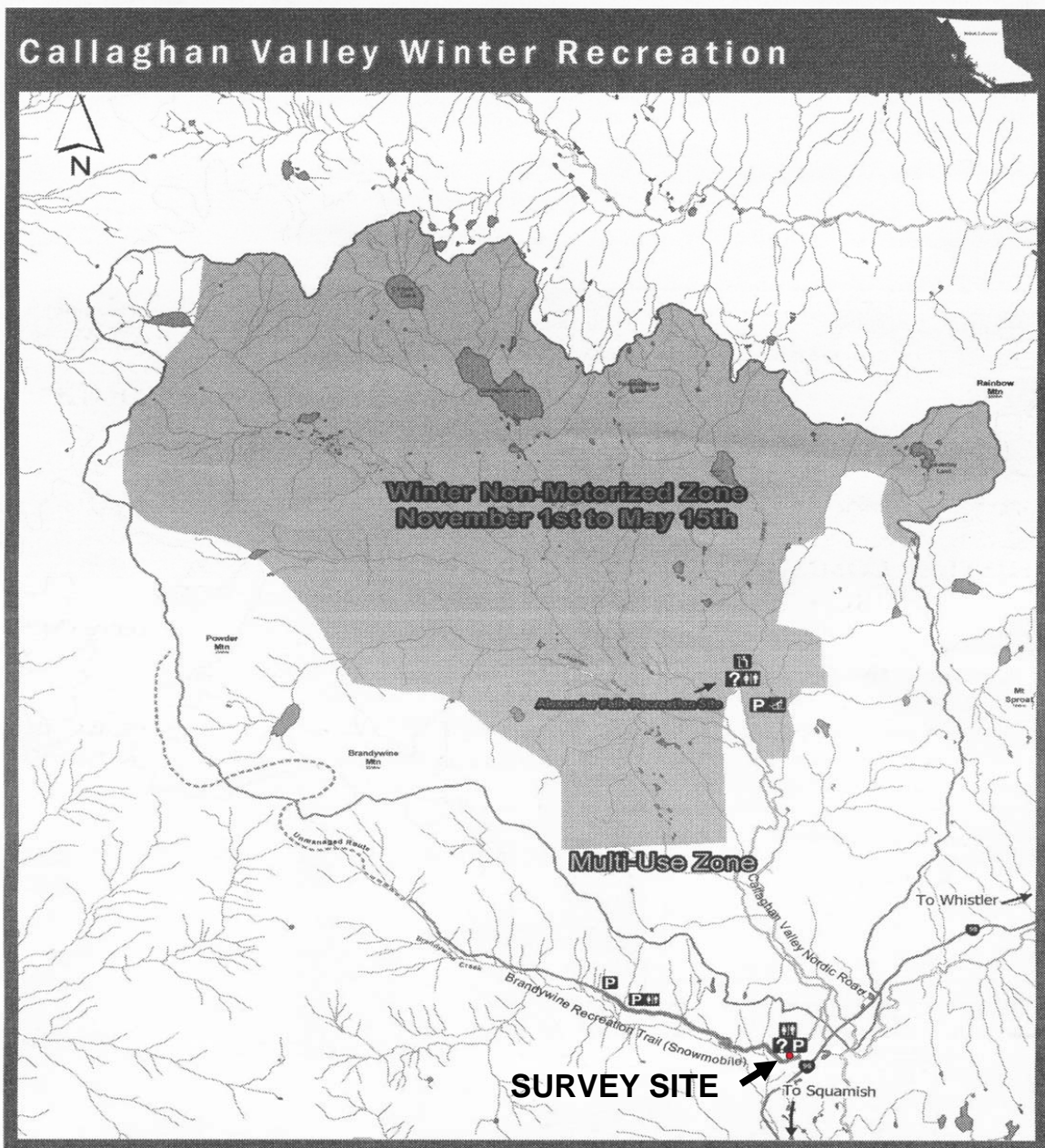
The inventory was based on direct observations taken in Brandywine Meadows from March to May 2007. The survey location is shown in Figure 1.

Observations were recorded on 21 days, between the hours of 7am and 2pm. The survey dates were: March 25, 29; April 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 28, 29; and May 5, 6, 12, 18, 19, 20.

2.2 Data Analysis

The inventory data were analyzed using Microsoft Excel. It is important to note that the data provides a snapshot of snowmobile use on select days between March and May 2007. Other extraneous factors, such as seasonality and special events, may impact the results on an annual basis.

Figure 1: Survey location

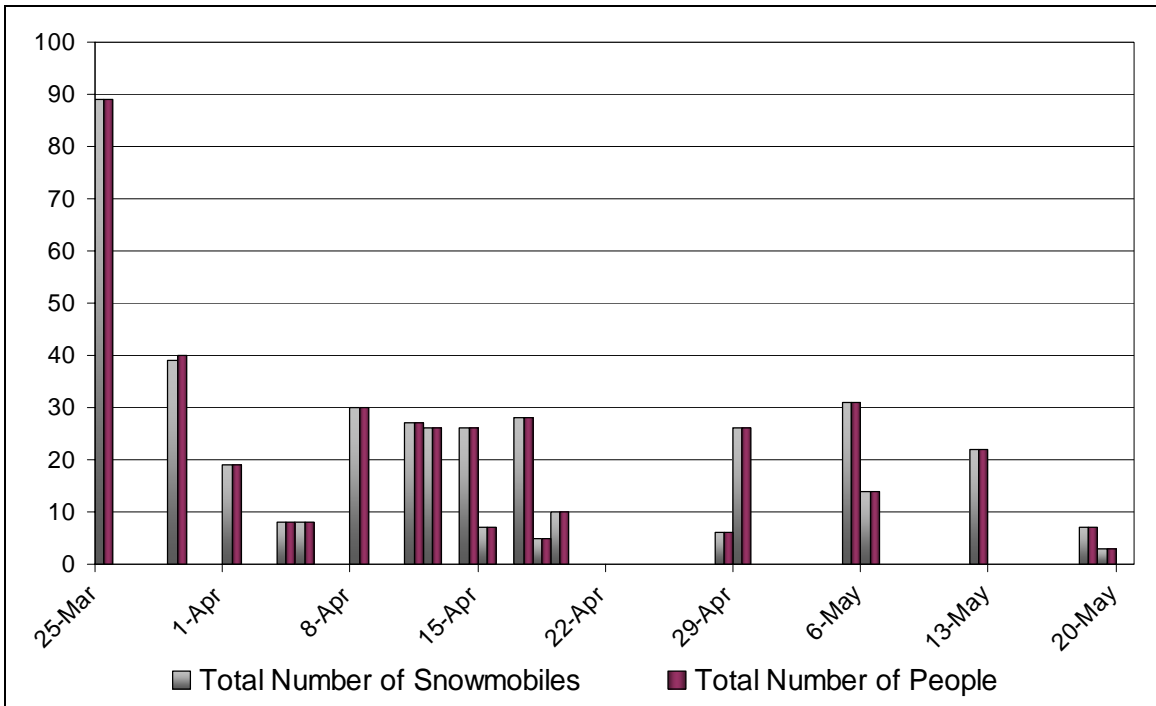


3.0 Results

3.1 Total Snowmobile Observations

Figure 2 shows the distribution of snowmobiles and users in Brandywine Meadows over the 21-day survey period. In total, 431 snowmobiles and 432 users were observed during this period. There was only one instance where a single snowmobile had two occupants.

Figure 2: Number of snowmobiles and users



* Note: Each date shown in graph is a Sunday.

A total of 219 groups of snowmobiles were sighted, comprising 431 snowmobiles (Figure 3). On average, there were two snowmobiles per group.

In total, ore snowmobiles were observed on weekends (113 groups; 273 snowmobiles) than weekdays (106 groups; 158 snowmobiles). The average number of snowmobiles per group was greater on weekends than weekdays (2.4 versus 1.5 respectively).

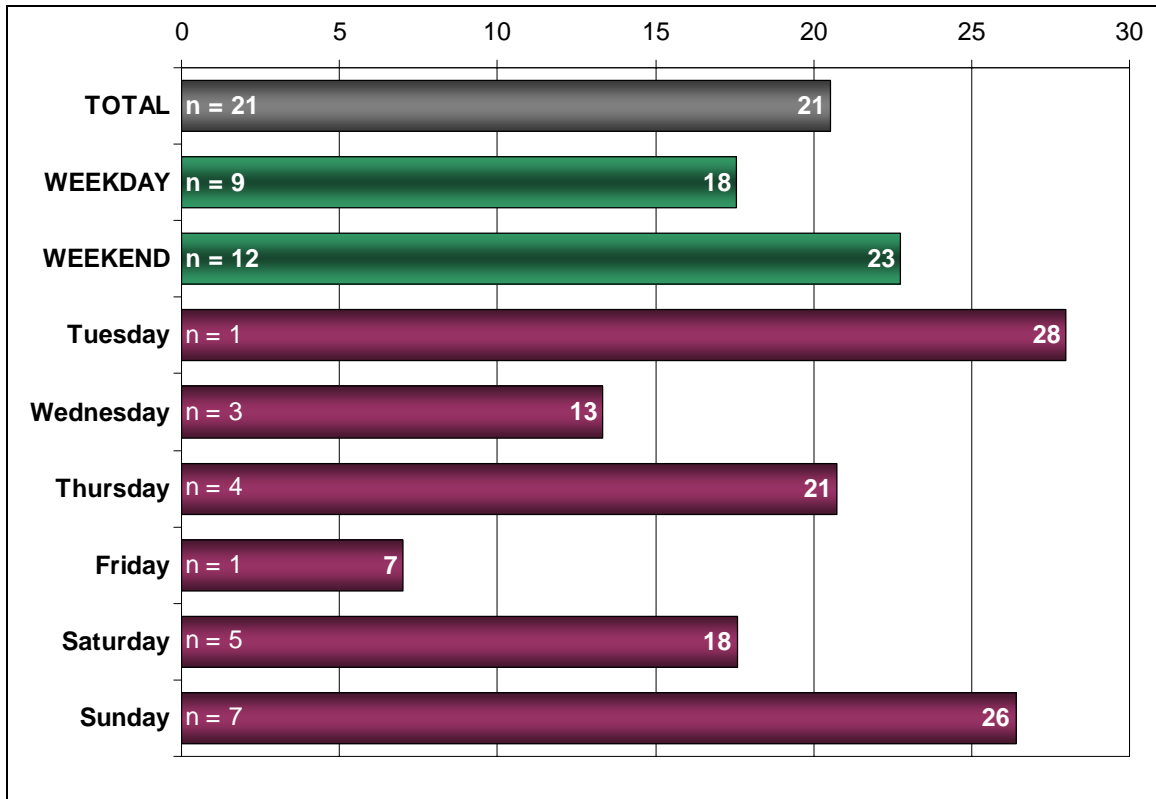
Figure 3: Number of snowmobiles, users and groups

	# of days surveyed	# of Groups	# of Snowmobiles	# of People
TOTAL	21	219	431	432
WEEKDAY	9	106	158	159
Tuesday	1	11	28	28
Wednesday	3	29	40	40
Thursday	4	59	83	84
Friday	1	7	7	7
WEEKEND	12	113	273	273
Saturday	5	45	88	88
Sunday	7	68	185	185
Average number of snowmobiles per group			2.0	
Average number of snowmobiles per group weekdays			1.5	
Average number of snowmobiles per group weekends			2.4	

3.2 Volume of Snowmobiles by Day of the Week

An average of 21 snowmobiles was observed per day (Figure 4). The average number of snowmobiles recorded on weekends was greater than on weekdays (23 versus 18 respectively). Sundays were particularly popular among snowmobile users at Brandywine Meadows.

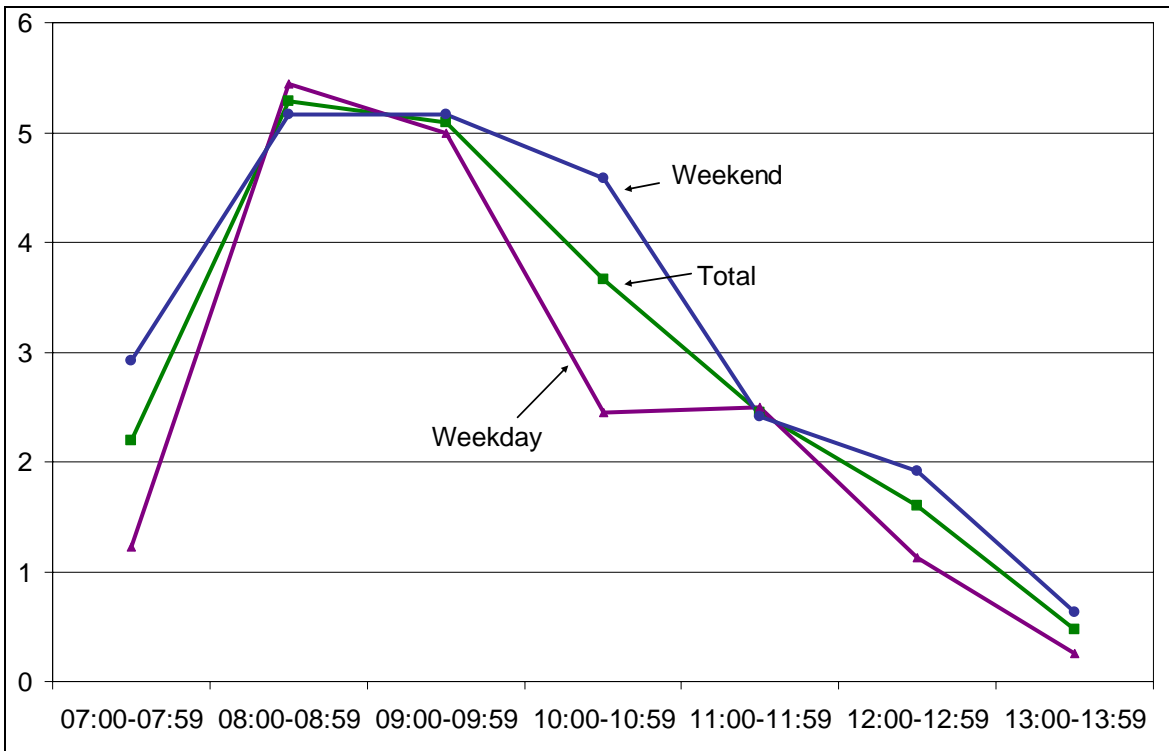
Figure 4: Average number of snowmobiles by day of week



3.3 Peak Time Periods for Snowmobiling

The peak time for snowmobile use in Brandywine Meadows was between 8am and 10am, after which time the number of snowmobiles observed in the area declined significantly (Figure 5). On weekends, peak times for snowmobile use tended to extend later in the day, with a decline in use not occurring until after 11am.

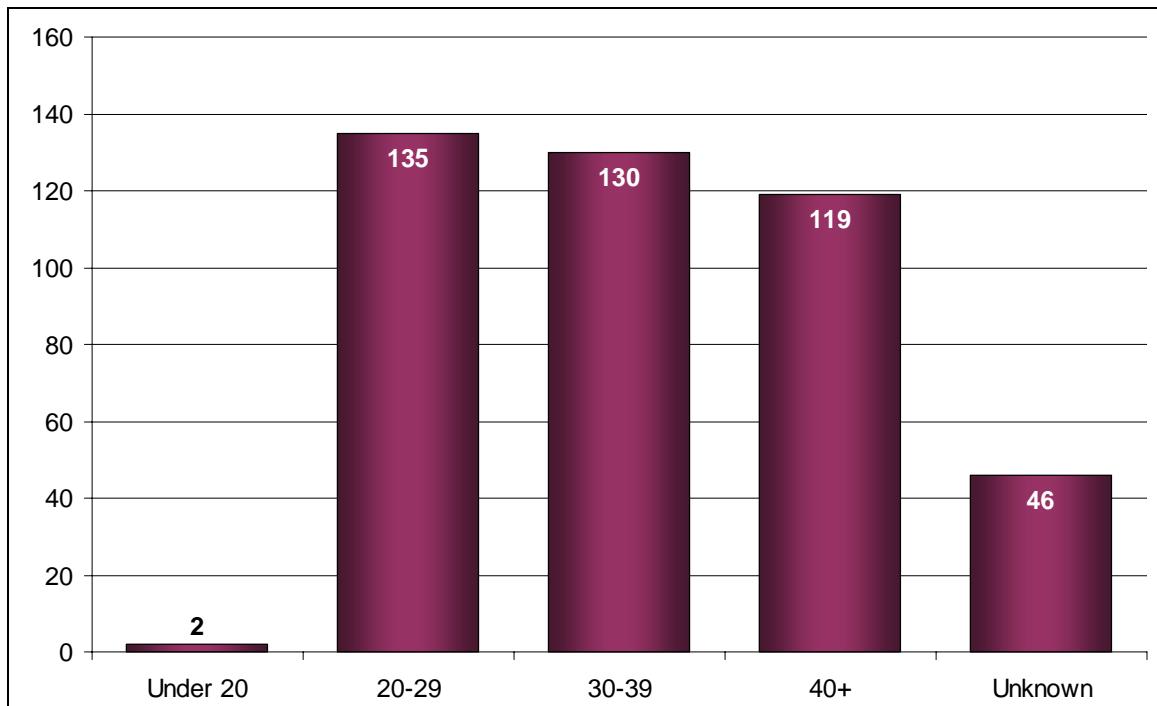
Figure 5: Average number of snowmobiles per hour



3.4 Age Breakdown of Snowmobile Users

Figure 6 shows the age distribution of snowmobile users in Brandywine Meadows. Based on observation, there appears to be an even split between users in their 20s, 30s and 40s. Only two users were observed to be under 20 years of age. It is important to note the age breakdown is based on observational data; therefore, the ages should be considered approximate.

Figure 6: Age classification of snowmobile users



3.5 Snowmobile Users with Skis/Snowboards

In total, 15 snowmobile users were observed with snowboards, while only one user was recorded with skis. This accounts for 4% of the 432 snowmobile users observed in the inventory.

3.6 Animal Sightings

The only animal sighting recorded during the survey period was a dog.

3.7 Campers & Garbage

Three groups of campers (accounting for a total of 22 snowmobiles) were observed on April 8th over the Easter long weekend. It was noted that some garbage was seen around the camping areas prior to departure of the campers.

There was only one other instance where garbage was seen in or around the Brandywine Meadows area.

4.0 Conclusions

The main conclusions emerging from this inventory are:

- 219 groups of snowmobiles, comprising a total of 431 snowmobiles, were observed in Brandywine Meadows over the course of the 21-day survey period. On average, there were 2 snowmobiles per group, with group sizes larger on weekends than weekdays.
- An average of 21 snowmobiles was observed per day. The daily average was higher on weekends (23) than on weekdays (18). Sundays were a particularly popular day for snowmobile use.
- The peak time for snowmobile use was between 8am and 10am, with approximately five snowmobiles observed per hour during this period. On weekends, the peak time extended till 11am.
- Most snowmobile users were between 20 and 40 years of age. Only two users were observed to be younger than 20 years old.
- Four percent of snowmobile users were observed to carry snowboards or skis.
- Only one animal sighting was recorded.
- A few occurrences were recorded where garbage was left behind by snowmobile users.

