

2011/09/21 – Deroche. Appeared to have a Deformed Mouth:

A First Nations lady resident of Deroche heard her neighbor's dogs howling very strangely on September 21, 2011 at about 4:00 p.m. and went to investigate. She walked around her trailer and sensed a pungent odor. As she looked from left to right she saw what she called a bigfoot at about 50 feet. She pointed at it and yelled something like, "You have got to get out of here; it's not safe, go away; it's not safe." The bigfoot made a turn, an almost sideways step, and walked away into the bush. The resident said that she was struck by the fact that it did not appear to have a neck and that its hair was very matted; tan or brown in color. She also noticed something very unusual; it appeared to have a deformed mouth—along the lines of a cleft lip, although she did not think this was the case: "mouth was deformed or hurt or something." She estimated its height to be about 6 feet; and its weight at over 350 pounds.

Thomas Steenburg did an intensive interview with the lady and although we can't rule out a homeless man in dark clothing; this does not appear to be the case. The lady and a friend showed up at my sasquatch exhibit at Yale during 2012; she certainly appeared very sincere.

Given the mouth deformity was a cleft lip, a check of the Internet on the occurrence of a cleft lip (incorrectly called a harelip) in non-human primates showed the following:

Cleft lip has been documented in several species of non-human primates, but much remains unknown about the occurrence of cleft lip and cleft palate in great apes, probably because such malformations are rare. (US National Library of Medicine; National Institutes of Health.)

We might consider here (below) that the condition is quite prevalent in humans:

Cleft lip and palate occurs in about 1 to 2 per 1,000 births in the developed world. Cleft lip is about twice as common in males as females. (Wikipedia).

NOTE: It needs to be kept in mind that many First Nations people are firm believers in sasquatch/bigfoot and are concerned about their welfare. This accounts for the resident's warning for the subject to go away.

Source: Thomas Steenburg Sasquatch Incidents file, No. 10173.