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Notice to Hunters: Wildfire Bans and Restrictions

Page 1:

[Backcountry Closures](#)

Page 2:

[Area Restrictions](#)

Page 3:

[ORV Restrictions](#)

Page 4:

[Campfire Bans](#)

Due to severe wildfire activity, please be advised that vehicle and access restrictions are in place in portions of the province to prevent human-caused wildfires and protect human safety.

Note that wildfire activity in parts of the Kootenay-Boundary, Cariboo and Thompson regions is particularly intense, with large portions of these areas still burning. If your hunt is planned for any of the following Management Units (MUs) please ensure you first familiarize yourself with the forest use restrictions in place in those areas, which may apply to part or all of the following MUs:

- **Kootenay-Boundary:** MUs 4-1 to 4-5, 4-20 to 4-26 and 4-34 to 4-35
- **Cariboo:** MUs 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-6, 5-11, 5-12, 5-13, 5-14 and 5-15
- **Thompson:** MUs 3-17, 3-18, 3-29 and 3-30

Additionally, note that the use of off-road vehicles for recreational use is banned throughout the entirety of the Southeast, Cariboo and Kamloops fire centres.

A provincial map of current restrictions is available at the back of this factsheet, as well as at the following link: <http://ow.ly/JxjN30f1Ebj>

Hunters are reminded that these restrictions are in place to ensure their safety and the safety of firefighters on the ground.

Backcountry Closures

All Crown land within the Rocky Mountain Natural Resource District is closed to public access

There are several large, aggressive wildfires burning out-of-control in the East Kootenay region right now. The danger posed by these fires, combined with the limited routes in-and-out of many areas, led to the BC Wildfire Service taking the extraordinary step of closing the backcountry in the Rocky Mountain Resource District. This was done first and foremost to ensure public safety.

- **Q: Why isn't the rest of the backcountry closed in the Southeast Fire Centre?**

A: While there is High and Extreme Fire Danger in other parts of the Southeast Fire Centre, we are not seeing the same number of large and active fires in those regions. This is why the closure

was localized to the Rocky Mountain Natural Resource District.

- **Q: When can we expect this closure to be expanded or rescinded?**

We look at the need for expanding or rescinding our restrictions on a daily basis and will continue to do so going forward, based on current and forecast weather conditions. A decision to rescind this closure will be dependent on precipitation that significantly reduces the area's flammability of forest fuels and reduces fire spread potential.

- **Q: I am a commercial operation. Can I apply for an exemption?**

If you have industry operations that will be at risk due to the area restriction, please send your name, contact the Southeast Fire Centre at **250 365-4040** and state you are looking for an exemption. Some exemptions have been approved for short term duration access only for purposes which limits risk considering exposure time and location. **Exemptions will not be approved for hunting, including guides and outfitters.**

- **Q: Where can we find more information about this backcountry closure?**

An information bulletin with more details is available at: <http://ow.ly/hwXB30f1wpV>

An FAQ sheet is also available at: <http://ow.ly/Z6bC30f6n2w>

A map of the affected area is located here: <http://ow.ly/QCK130eRZFo>

[Back to top](#)

Area Restrictions

Area restrictions are in effect around Southeast, Kamloops and Cariboo fire centre worksites

Area restrictions are in effect for Crown land in the vicinity of a number of large wildfires throughout the Southeast, Kamloops and Cariboo Fire Centres to help protect public safety and allow fire suppression efforts to continue efficiently. Specifically, access to Crown land is currently restricted around the following wildfire worksites:

Southeast Fire Centre:

- the *Lamb Creek* fire (applies to Moyie Lake – no watercraft are allowed on the lake at any time)
- the *Harrop Creek* fire (south of Harrop-Proctor)

Kamloops Fire Centre:

- the *Finlay Creek* fire (southwest of Peachland)
- the *Diamond Creek* fire (in the Ashnola Valley)
- the *Philpott Road/Highway 33* fire (north of Highway 33, east of Kelowna)
- the *Elephant Hill* fire (spanning from around Ashcroft at the south flank to around Sheridan Lake and Green Lake at north flank)

Cariboo Fire Centre*:

- the *Hanceville-Riske Creek* fire

- the *Plateau* fire (60 km west of Quesnel and 60 km northwest of Williams Lake)
- the *Colwell Lake/Kleena Kleene* fires (south of Highway 20, primarily along Klinaklini River)
- the *Precipice* fire (52 km east of Bella Coala)
- the *Canim Lake* fires
- the *Prouton Lake* fire
- the *Swift River* fire
- numerous fires in the *Quesnel Lake* area (C31169, C31348, C31306, C31489, C31008, C31156 and C31161)
- the *Gustafson* fire (northwest of 100 Mile House)
- the *Big Lake/Gavin Lake* fire
- the *Castle Rock/Twan Lake South* fire
- the *White Lake, Wildwood, Spokin Lake, and Soda Creek* fires
- the *Green Mountain* fire

For more details on any of the above area restrictions, including maps of the area restriction boundaries, please visit: www.gov.bc.ca/wildfirebans

** Please be advised that the area restriction around the Cariboo Fire Centre fires ranges from a 10 km area around the perimeter of the fire to being in place only for the fire perimeter area.*

[Back to top](#)

Off-Road Vehicle Restrictions

Off-road vehicles are banned throughout the Cariboo, Kamloops and Southeast fire centres

The operation of any off-road vehicle for recreational purposes on Crown land is prohibited throughout the Cariboo Fire Centre, Kamloops Fire Centre and Southeast Fire Centre. In addition, all on-highway vehicles are required to remain on defined road surfaces. The operation of any off-road vehicles in these regions during the current wildfire situation creates a potential wildfire risk. While jeeps, trucks and other on-highway vehicles are permitted on designated roads, they are not allowed off-road.

- **Q: What types of vehicles are considered to be off-road vehicles (ORVs) under this prohibition?**
Off-road vehicles (ORVs) include all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), “quads”, off-road motorcycles, sidebysides (e.g. Rhino, Argo or Razor vehicles).
- **Q: What constitutes a “road” and a “defined road surface?”**
For the purposes of this prohibition a defined road surface is defined as having a paved or mineral soil/ or mixed gravel/mineral soils surface. In addition, the road should be wide enough for, at minimum, a car to easily travel along without making contact with roadside vegetation. A road is not single track. The road surface should be free of vegetation, accumulations of dead organic material (e.g. piles of dead leaves), long grass and so forth. We ask that individuals use good judgement at this time and remind you that if your actions resulted in starting a wildfire you could be found liable for: wildfire suppression costs; damage to Crown forests and other forest or land

resources; deterrent penalties; and reforestation costs.

- **Q: How can I determine if the road I want to ride on is a designated road/authorised right of way?**

If you are unsure if the route you wish to travel follows designated roads, contact your local Front Counter BC or Natural Resource District Office.

- **Q: When can we expect these restrictions to be rescinded?**

We look at the need for rescinding our restrictions on a daily basis and will continue to do so going forward, based on current and forecast weather conditions. A decision to rescind this closure will be dependent on precipitation that is sufficient to reduce the flammability of fine fuels and significantly reduce the chance of a spark or hot engine fire start.

- **Q: Where can I find more info about these off-road vehicle prohibitions?**

An information bulletin with more details is available at: <http://ow.ly/BoAS30f21Ye>

An FAQ sheet is also available at: <http://ow.ly/qZeh30f222W>

A map of the affected area is located here: <http://ow.ly/RtsF30f229d>

[Back to top](#)

Campfire Bans

Campfires are banned in most areas of southern and central B.C.

Campfire bans are banned throughout the entirety of the Cariboo, Kamloops and Southeast fire centres. Campfires are also banned within Coastal Fire Centre, except in the following areas:

- the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine
- the Central Coast Regional District (with the exception of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park)
- Haida Gwaii
- the "Fog Zone" on Vancouver Island

These campfire bans do not apply to cooking stoves that use gas, propane or briquettes, or to a portable campfire apparatus with a CSA or ULC rating that uses briquettes, liquid or gaseous fuel - as long as the height of the flame is less than 15 centimetres. The use of a campfire apparatus that does not meet these specifications is prohibited.

These prohibitions cover all BC Parks, Crown lands and private lands, but do not apply within the boundaries of a local government that has forest fire prevention bylaws and is serviced by a fire department. Always check with local authorities to see if any other burning restrictions are in place before lighting any fire.

For more information, please visit www.gov.bc.ca/wildfirebans

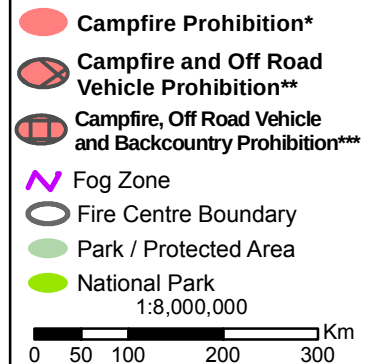
[Back to top](#)

Yukon
Territory

Northwest
Territories

Campfire and Access Prohibitions

Province of British Columbia



***Prohibition Area** restricts the following:

- Campfires
- Category 2 open fire
- Category 3 open fire
- Chimineas
- Tiki Torches
- Stoves and other portable campfire apparatuses not CSA or ULC approved
- The use of burning barrels or burning cages of any size or description
- The use of sky lanterns
- The use of exploding binary targets (e.g. for target practice)
- The use of fireworks
- Air curtain burners

****Prohibition Area** includes the restrictions listed above, and also restricts the following:

- The operation of any Off-Road Vehicle (ORV), as defined in the Off-Road Vehicle Act and Off-Road Vehicle Regulation, for recreational purposes on Crown land.

*****Prohibition Area** includes the restrictions listed above, and also restricts the following:

- Public access to all crown land
- The area restriction order means that a person must not remain in or enter the restricted area without the prior written authorization of an official designated for the purposes of the Wildfire Act, unless the person enters the area in the course of:
 - a) travelling to or from his or her principal residence, that is not under an evacuation order.
 - b) using a highway as defined in the Transportation Act
 - c) travelling as a person acting in an official capacity
 - d) travelling for the purpose of supporting wildfire suppression activities
 - e) engaging in a commercial activity within the regular course of the person's business or employment or,
 - f) participating in a commercial activity that a person described in (e) provides.

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