



INFORMATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS TO OKANAGAN SHUSWAP FIRE AREAS FOR HARVESTING BOTANICAL FOREST PRODUCTS

It is recognized that the public may want access to fire areas for recreation / educational pursuits including harvesting of botanical forest products (mushrooms).

The information provided below, including a District map has been produced to help identify some of the public access issues / constraints / restrictions in the Okanagan Shuswap fire areas.

- There is **limited public access** available. The District map indicates the locations of the various fire areas. Only utilize Forest Service Roads which are the only public access roads into the fire areas. All other roads traverse private land at some point. **Access across private land is strictly up to agreement with the individual private landowner. Please respect their privacy rights.**
- **ALL PUBLIC roads within the fire area have been temporarily deactivated** to reduce environmental concerns. This includes frequent cross ditching and in some cases culvert removal which may or may not be negotiable with a 4X4 vehicle. **The Ministry of Forests would prefer no vehicular traffic travel these roads.**
- **In the event that a person finds themselves on a deactivated road in the Okanagan Shuswap Forest District – extreme caution must be exercised as the deactivation can render a road extremely dangerous to navigate by any means.**
- Those roads that are not deactivated are likely to have **active logging operations or other traffic** on them. Watch out for **logging trucks and other traffic at all times.**
- Care should be taken to avoid altering a water management structure (waterbars, cross ditches, etc.)
- Any gates to control cattle on Crown Land are to be kept closed.
- The public are advised that being in and around burned forested areas is a very high hazardous risk to their general safety. Travel within these types of areas should be avoided.
- Numerous areas have recently been aerial grass seeded. These areas are extremely sensitive. Please avoid these areas for all reasons.
- Camping within the fire area or along public access roads is not permitted.
- **Mushroom picking or harvesting in Provincial Parks and Protected Areas is prohibited by law. Violators will be prosecuted. Those Parks and Protected Areas include the following:**

Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park
Myra-Bellevue Protected Area
Vaseux Lake Provincial Park
Vaseux Protected Area
White Lake Grasslands Protected Area



- **The use or occupation of any burned area within the Okanagan Shuswap Forest District for any purpose is at your own risk**
- If you have any questions regarding access to this fire, please contact the Ministry of Forests office at (250) 558-1700.

If you pack it in – PLEASE – pack it out!