

WHAT CAN I DO?

The public is encouraged to enjoy public forests and range lands. Stay safe, tread lightly, and know your obligations under the law to protect the environment.

Here are some ideas:

- Join a local recreation club to stay informed about your rights and obligations
- If you are unsure if your activities are legal or are damaging an ecosystem, contact your local Ministry of Forests and Range office



Stay on managed or designated trails and roads.

REPORT FOREST CRIMES AND FIRES

Everyone has a stake in protecting our public forest and range lands. Report suspicious activities and environmental damage to local authorities:

Ministry of Forests and Range

Find district offices online at www.gov.bc.ca or toll-free during business hours through Enquiry B.C. at 1-800-663-7867

RAPP - Report All Poachers and Polluters

Online at www.rapp.bc.ca
or 1-877-952-RAPP (7277)
or *7277 from a cellular phone

CrimeStoppers

1-800-222-8477

Report a wildfire

1-800-663-5555
or *5555 from a cellular phone



Ministry of
Forests and Range



Protect our Forests and Range Land



DAMAGING THE ENVIRONMENT IS PROHIBITED BY LAW IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Recent changes to forestry legislation make individuals who damage an ecosystem on Crown land (such as wetlands, grasslands, and alpine areas) subject to penalties. If cases are prosecuted in the courts, they carry a maximum fine of \$100,000, up to one year in jail, or both.

The goal is to prevent damage to the environment, not stop all recreational activities. Most people who use Crown land act responsibly.

It is illegal to build a trail or roadway on Crown land without authority.



THE RESULTS OF IRRESPONSIBLE OFF-ROADING

Whenever you drive off-road, you are disrupting the ecological foundation of our natural areas. In sensitive sites, the damage can be catastrophic.

Problem: Damage to Soils

Operating vehicles irresponsibly can cause long-term irreparable changes to the structure of the soil, making it difficult for plants to take root and grow.

Solution:

- Stay on managed or established trails and roads. Do not use livestock or wildlife trails. Do not create new trails.
- Avoid trails that are narrower than your vehicle and avoid excessively steep trails.



Problem: Damage to Habitat

Off-roading in wetlands kills birds, frogs and salamanders. Damaged wetlands may impact many generations of wildlife due to the lack of plant life and clean water.

Solution:

- Do not drive on extremely muddy trails, wet areas, or through water holes.
- Do not drive through streams, except at approved crossings.

Problem: Damage to Sensitive Areas

Using ATVs, motorbikes and trucks in a sensitive area such as alpine or grassland destroys plant cover and causes erosion. The alpine has a very shallow layer of growing soil that takes decades to regenerate.

Solution:

- Stay out of sensitive areas, such as wetlands, alpine, and grasslands.
- Obey all posted signs.



Problem: Introduction of Invasive Plants

Noxious weeds and invasive plants take root in disturbed soil, displacing native plants and reducing food sources for wildlife and cattle.

Solution:

- Check the undercarriage of your vehicle in a weed safe site and remove any plant material or seeds to prevent the spread of invasive plants.