

Aug. 29, 2003

Ministry of Forests

**RESTRICTION ORDER FOR CROWN LAND**

The province has implemented a Restriction Order for Crown Land that is in effect from noon, Friday, Aug. 29 until 2359 hours, Sunday, Sept. 14, 2003, but may be extended if the extreme forest fire hazard rating continues.

The restriction order covers southern Vancouver Island, the southern Coast and portions of the Southern Interior. It is designed to reduce the risk of fire and to protect public safety; accordingly all non-essential activity in the backcountry is banned. Violators face fines of \$10,000 and 6-months jail time.

Private commercial campgrounds and municipal areas that remain open are still accessible, as are many of the developed and supervised provincial campgrounds. Livestock management on Crown land and infrastructure maintenance are also allowed if no ATV, motorcycle, small engine, chainsaw or burning substance is used.

As well, the order does not prevent a person from travelling to and from or occupying their residence, or using a highway, as defined in the Highway Act.

Exemptions may be granted, but only in extenuating circumstances. A person must request their exemption in writing and demonstrate that:

- The requested activity is time-sensitive and must be done before Sept. 14 and/or is a one-time event only.
- The requested activity is a low fire risk and is authorized under the Forest Fire Prevention and Suppression Regulation.
- They have the capacity to extinguish a fire should one start and quickly report a fire that has started.

Requests for exemptions should be forwarded to the local forest district office. A person who has been granted an exemption must carry the written consent when entering the backcountry.

Telephones at district offices will be staffed over the long weekend to handle exemption requests.

<b>Southern Coast</b>		<b>Southern Interior</b>	
South Island (Port Alberni)	250-731-3100	Headwaters (Clearwater)	250-587-6700
Chilliwack	604-702-5700	Okanagan-Shuswap (Vernon)	250-558-1700
Squamish	604-898-2100	Cascades (Merritt)	250-378-8400
<b>Southern Interior</b>		Arrow-Boundary (Castlegar)	250-365-8600
Rocky Mountain (Cranbrook)	250-426-1700	Columbia (Revelstoke)	250-837-7611
Kootenay Lake (Nelson)	250-825-1100	<b>Kamloops Fire Centre</b>	<b>250-554-5954</b>