

## **FACT SHEET: AREA CLOSURES IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESOURCE DISTRICT**

### **Why are you restricting access to crown land around active wildfires in the Rocky Mountain Resource District?**

- Our first priority is keeping people safe. Every British Columbian needs to do his or her part to ensure the safety of their community.
- In order to protect public safety, specific areas of B.C.'s backcountry may be formally closed to public access due to wildfires and firefighting activity, in accordance with the *Wildfire Act* and *Wildfire Regulation*.
- Given the level of fire activity and the extreme fire danger rating in the Southeast, we do not want people possibly stranded in remote areas.
- Closures and wildfire conditions are constantly monitored by BC Parks and the BC Wildfire Service.

### **My permanent residence is accessed via forest service road. Do I need authorization to go to my home?**

- No, the area restriction order provides for a person to travel to and from his or her residence without special authorization, unless the area is under an evacuation order or needs to be accessed via a Forest Service Road that has a closure in effect.

### **Where can I find the specific boundary lines of the current restricted areas?**

- A map of the affected area is available online at:

### **Is White Swan Provincial Park included in the area restriction?**

- Yes, no access is permitted to White Swan Provincial Park.

### **How will the area restriction be enforced?**

- There will be increased patrols by enforcement personnel, including Natural Resource Officers, Conservation Officers, and the RCMP.
- Individuals found to be in contravention of the area restriction may be issued a violation ticket that carries a fine of \$767.
- If the activity causes or contributes to a wildfire, the person responsible may be ordered to pay all firefighting and associated costs.

### **Does this area restriction apply to First Nations and towns?**

- The area restriction applies to all provincial Crown land. It does not apply to private land such as Indian Reserves, Aboriginal Titles Land, or to land within municipal boundaries.

### **I have a lease on Crown land. (Example: I have a lease for my farm animals to graze) Does the area restriction apply?**

- Under the *Wildfire Act*, leased Crown land is considered private land.

### **Are highways through the restricted area closed?**

- No. As long as it is highway serviced/recognized by the Ministry of Transportation.

### **What does this order not apply to? What operations can I do without needing to apply for an exemption?**

- Range Tenure Holders, including guide outfitters that hold a range act agreement, specifically for the purpose of addressing animal welfare
- Commercial activities, including backcountry tourism, to remove assets or periodically monitor and maintain assets as required
- Utility transmission operations to perform emergency restoration work
- Large scale mining operations
- Mine Act Permit holders – to remove equipment, to remove explosives from within explosive magazines and to monitor pumps engaged in dewatering of the underground

**What is the fine associated with this restriction?**

- People can be issued a violation ticket that carries a fine of \$767.
- If the activity causes or contributes to a wildfire, the person responsible may be ordered to pay all firefighting and associated costs.
- Enforcement patrols have been stepped up this summer to ensure compliance with this prohibition.