



# Grazing Leases and Off-road Vehicle Recreation

## GRAZING LEASE VALUES AND USES

- » Grazing leases support forage production for both livestock and wildlife.
- » Habitat for rare or endangered grassland species and dry forest species can frequently be found within grazing lease areas.
- » Grazing lease areas often fall within Agricultural Land Reserve boundaries and may be situated amongst other parcels of private land.
- » Leaseholders rely on grasslands and other forage resources for their livelihood. Grazing lease areas form an integral component of many ranching operations.
- » As part of livestock management, animals are typically rotated through a series of pastures during the year to help maintain forage productivity over time.
- » Leaseholders are responsible for range improvements and weed control.

## PUBLIC ACCESS

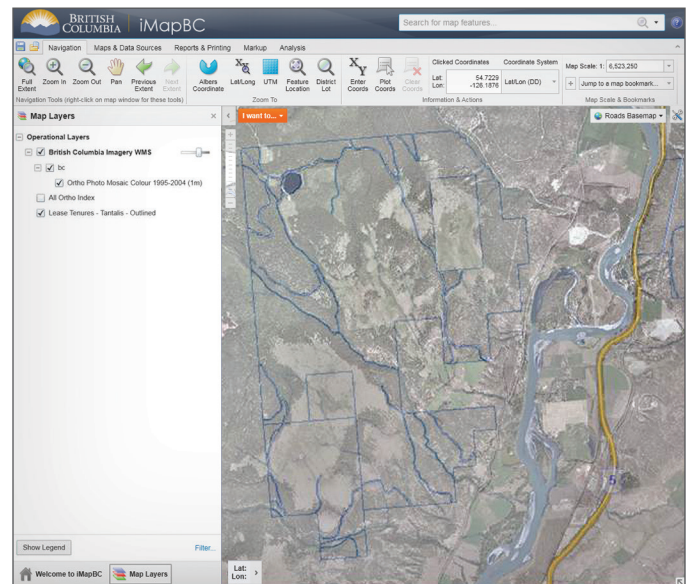
Permission to access leased areas may be granted by a leaseholder if:

- » Access is by foot from an established road or trail;
- » Livestock are not present;
- » Crops have been harvested;
- » No campfires or burning will occur;
- » Camping does not take place;
- » Gates and fencing are left in the same condition as they were found; and
- » Vehicle, motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle or bicycle access is limited to established roads identified in lease agreement (and only when the surface of the land is dry or frozen).

## ACCESS FOR OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

- » Anyone who enters a grazing lease area without permission from the leaseholder is committing an offence under Section 4 of the *Trespass Act*.
- » Section 65 of the *Land Act* authorizes a leaseholder to take legal action against people who enter enclosed lease areas or undertake activities in those areas without the permission of the leaseholder.
- » Enclosed land is land that is legally fenced or where signs are posted to indicate that no trespassing is allowed.

- » The operator of a motor vehicle on a Forest Service Road requires at least \$200,000 third-party liability insurance.
- » Details about many Crown leases or areas where public access is not allowed can be viewed online using the iMAP BC website at:  
[www.data.gov.bc.ca/dbc/geographic/view\\_and\\_analyze/imapbc/index.page](http://www.data.gov.bc.ca/dbc/geographic/view_and_analyze/imapbc/index.page)  
(Launch Application (Public) > I want to... > Add DataBC layers > Land Ownership and Status > Crown Leases)



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- » Grasslands and wetlands are easily damaged by vehicle use. Therefore, vehicles must stay on established road surfaces at all times.
- » A person must not engage in any activity on Crown land that results in damage to the environment (apart from a few exceptions outlined in Section 46 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*). Penalties for environmental damage are outlined in Section 46 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*:  
[www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/00\\_02069\\_01#section46](http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/00_02069_01#section46)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about grazing leases in B.C., contact your local natural resource district office or range agrologist:  
[www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/contacts.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/contacts.htm)