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FIRE INFORMATION

WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK

Current Fire Danger—Extreme

Fire Information Update—June 27, 2014

Road and Area Closure Lifted as of Noon on Friday, June 27

The Pine Lake Road and the Pine Lake Recreation Area will be reopened for all visitation at **noon on Friday, June 27**. However, traffic restrictions along the Pine Lake Road are in place, and will be strictly enforced to ensure the safety of the public and the Parks Canada personnel working in the area. These restrictions are as follows:

- **Obey all speed limit signs.** Signs will indicate when crews are working in certain areas and reduced speed notices will be in place. Please be vigilant when driving in these areas to ensure your safety and that of Parks Canada personnel.
- **Do not stop along the Pine Lake Road.** Fire crews and heavy equipment continue to work in some areas along the Pine Lake Road. Please assist in the safe completion of their work by not stopping along the route.
- **Fire fighting equipment such as high volume sprinklers, trailers or other gear may be visible along the Pine Lake shore and in other areas.** Please do not interfere with this equipment.
- **Visitor safety remains our first priority.** Further road or area closures may be necessary should fire conditions change. Park visitors will be informed by Parks Canada personnel if any closures are imminent.

Road and Trail Closure

The Parson's Lake Road remains closed to all traffic until further notice. WBNP Fire 2 crossed over the Parson's Lake Road at several points and many trees are down or are unstable in the area. Fire crews and equipment continue to work along this road.

All hiking trails originating or ending on the Pine Lake Road are closed at this time. This closure also affects the Lane Lake Trail and the Lakeside Trail at Pine Lake. This trail closure **does not** include the 750 m Karstland Trail at the Salt River Day Use Area.

There are currently 13 wildfires in Wood Buffalo National Park.

Fire 1 is located in the Caribou Mountains 5 kilometres to the west of Isidore Lake. It is currently 21,000 hectares. It is being monitored and currently poses no threat to values at risk.

WBNP Fire 2 is located four kilometres north of Pine Lake and to the immediate west of the Pine Lake Road and covers 43,267 hectares. A Parks Canada Incident Management Team and additional Parks Canada fire crews are working with local WBNP Fire Management. This fire and fires 4 and 5 are being managed as the Fire 2 Complex. Fire fighting activities along the Pine Lake Road and north of Pine Lake continue. Fire crews are monitoring and extinguishing hot spots and conducting controlled burnout operations to reduce high-risk fuels that could present a threat to Pine Lake Road. High volume sprinklers have been deployed to Pine Lake for facility protection should it be required.

Fire 3 is a 200 hectare fire located approximately 10 kilometres south of NWT Highway 5 and 75 kilometres west of Fort Smith. It is being monitored and currently shows little fire activity.

Fire 4 is a 4684 hectare fire located 12 Kilometres south of Highway 5 and 45 kilometres to the west of Fort Smith. Growth on this fire is currently low, but a plan to keep the fire well to the south of the highway has been implemented. The plan involves small-scale strategic burnouts to remove volatile fuels and refreshing the cat guard along the northern park boundary to assist with containment. This fire poses no threat to Highway 5 at this time.

Fire 5 is a 43 hectare fire located 35 kilometres southwest of Fort Smith and 20 kilometres south of Highway 5. It is being monitored and currently poses no threat to any values at risk.

Fire 6 is a small spot fire located in a remote area in the west of the park about 12 kilometres north of the Caribou Mountains. It is being monitored and currently poses no threat to values at risk.

Fire 7 is a small spot fire located 20 kilometres north of Highway 5. It is being monitored and currently poses no threat to any values at risk.

Fire 8 is a small spot fire located in the extreme northern end of the park. It is being monitored and currently represents no threats to any values at risk.

Fire 9 is about 2 hectares and is located about 800 metres east of the Pine Lake Road. Parks Canada responded to the fire immediately by calling in air tankers. Ground crews and heavy equipment will be working in the area today. This fire is now contained.

Fire 10 is a 430-hectare fire located in the remote northwest of the park near the WBNP-NWT boundary about 25 kilometres south of Highway 5. It is being managed through the use of helicopters and ground crews.

Fire 11 is a spot fire located in a remote area in the northwest of the park. It currently represents no threats to values at risk.

Fire 12 is a spot fire located in a remote area in the northwest of the park. It currently represents no threats to values at risk.

Fire 13 is a small 2-hectare fire located in a remote area in the northwest of the park. It currently represents no threats to values at risk.

Weather

The forecast for the Wood Buffalo National Park region calls for sun and temperatures in the mid-to-high twenties for the next week. Extreme fire weather conditions are expected to continue throughout the WBNP region for the next seven days.

Air Quality

There are no smoke warnings for the Wood Buffalo National Park region at this time. For the latest update on air quality, please contact the WBNP Fire Information Officer at 872-0107.

Visitor Services

See Road and Trail Closure Notice above. All other visitor facilities remain open.

For the latest information on Visitor Services, please contact the Visitor Information Centre at 872-7960.

For further information on wildfires, please contact:

Tim Gauthier, Fire Information Officer
Wood Buffalo National Park

WBNP 24-Hour Fire Information Line: (867) 872-0107

The Wood Buffalo National Park Fire Status Map is available online at <http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-nt/woodbuffalo/plan/plan2/data2.aspx>



Detail map of WBNP Fire 2

This map shows the perimeter of Fire 2 as of 8:30 a.m. on June 27, 2014. A burn area from 2012 and 2013 fires (indicated in yellow) has limited growth of this fire to the northeast. A burnout operation conducted on June 17 has reduced the threat to Pine Lake. Current fire growth is low. Fire fighting operations continue along the Pine Lake Road and north of the Pine Lake Recreation Area. Visitors are required to obey all road signs and speed limits as they travel to and from the Pine Lake Recreation Area.

Fire 9, located just to the east of the Pine Lake road, started in the evening of June 25 and is being worked on by ground crews and heavy equipment. Fire 9 is now classified as contained.

