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FIRE INFORMATION

WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK

Current Fire Danger—High

Fire Information Update—July 7, 2014

There are currently 17 wildfires in Wood Buffalo National Park. Significant rain in parts of the park have helped fire suppression efforts. However, Parks Canada fire management personnel remain vigilant looking for new starts and will continue monitoring existing fires.

Traffic Restrictions on the Pine Lake Road

Traffic restrictions along the Pine Lake Road remain in place and will be strictly enforced to ensure the safety of the public and Parks Canada fire fighting 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 obey all speed signs to ensure your safety and that of Parks Canada personnel working in the area.
- **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.
- **Intermittent traffic interruptions may occur as firefighting operations continue.** Road delays and reduced visibility due to smoke or dust from heavy equipment will continue to be a factor. Drive with caution at all times.
- **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 changes 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.

Fire 1 is located in the Caribou Mountains 3.5 kilometres to the west of Isidore Lake. It is currently 23,350 hectares. It is being monitored and poses no threat to values at this time, but Parks Canada has high volume sprinklers around values at Isidore Lake and will implement facility protection if required.

WBNP Fire 2 is located four kilometres north of Pine Lake and to the immediate west of the Pine Lake Road and covers 44,350 hectares. A Parks Canada Incident Management Team and additional Parks Canada fire crews have been brought in to work with local WBNP Fire Management. This fire and fires 4 and 5 are being managed together as the Fire 2 Complex. Fire crews continue to monitor and assess fire behaviour along Pine Lake Road. Heavy trucks and other equipment continue to work in the area. 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. This fire poses no threat to Highway 5 or any other values 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.

Fires 3, 7, 11, 12, and 13 remain small in size and monitored, posing no threat to any values at risk.

Fire 6 has grown to 9,250-hectares and is 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 8 is a 13,000-hectare fire located in the extreme northern end of the park. It is being moni-

tored and currently represents no threat to any values at risk.

Fire 9 is about 2 hectares and is located about 800 metres east of the Pine Lake Road. This fire is under control.

Fire 10 has grown to a 5125-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 in order to prevent the fire from crossing the park boundary to the north. Current growth on this fire is to the west.

Fire 14 is a 1725-hectare located 20 kilometres north of Highway 5 and 100 kilometres west of Fort Smith. It is being monitored and currently represents no threat to any values at risk.

Fire 15 has been reduced to a 0.2-hectare fire and is located 15 kilometres southeast of Pine Lake. It is under control.

Fires 16 and 17 are small spot fires located southwest of Lake Clair. They currently represent no threat to values at risk.

Air Quality

Regional smoke remains present from wildfires in the park and the Northwest Territories. For the latest update on air quality, please contact the WBNP Fire Information Officer at 872-0107.

Weather

Up to 25 mm of rainfall over the last 48 hours in certain areas of the park has limited fire growth and behaviour. Rain and cloudy conditions are forecasted for the middle of the week with sunny conditions returning by the weekend.

Visitor Services

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

There is no fire ban in WBNP, but all campfires must be in designated fireboxes only.

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

Please note: Due to the reduced wildfire hazard, Fire Information Updates from Parks Canada will no longer be produced daily, but rather as the situation warrants. The latest Wood Buffalo National Park wildfire information is always available through our Fire Information Line at 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>