

Scope

The Skeena-Stikine Gate Lock procedures apply to all access control points within the Bulkley TSA and some specific areas in the Nadina District – eg. Morrison River bridge. The procedures also generally apply to the Kispiox and Cassiar TSA's.

Gates on private land, Provincial Parks or woodlots are not subject to these procedures.

Purpose

The purpose of gate lock procedures are to:

1. Standardize locking procedures administered by the Skeena-Stikine District.
2. Provide a background rationale that is available to the public or potential road users.
3. Outline safety procedures when working in areas in close proximity to gates.
4. Identify the geographic locations of all access control administered by the Skeena-Stikine District.

Responsibilities & Procedures

Access Control

1. Access control points, or gates, have been established on Crown Land in the Skeena Stikine Resource District based on direction contained within the Bulkley LRMP supported by advice from resource professionals. The key management intent is to protect high value resources in our forests.
2. The main function of gates is to control and sometimes prohibit access by random highway licensed vehicle traffic while maintaining access for authorized industrial activity during specific time periods throughout the year. Gates also allow for access to be maintained for fire suppression and forest health related activities.
3. Signs may be posted indicating restrictions to non industrial traffic – for example, no access from April to November, or providing a warning that gates may be closed at any time once industrial activities cease (eg. when log hauling is complete or operations are shut down for weather related reasons or weekends).
4. Access control points have been presented to the public for review and comment as part of Landscape Unit Plans (LUP), Forest Development /Stewardship Planning or other review and comment processes. New gate locations, if required, will be shown on succeeding Forest Stewardship Plans or affiliated information sharing maps.

Gates

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Gates are deemed to be the most effective means of controlling random highway registered vehicle access while maintaining access for industrial use and fire protection. However, it is recognized that gates may not be effective in restricting access to all terrain vehicles and snowmobiles.

List of Existing Gates subject to these Gate Procedures and primary responsibility:

Number	Name/Location	Approximate Schedule	Responsibility*	Key Resource Values
1	20 km on 480 Road (Nilkitkwa)	Operational**	BCTS	Goats and Grizzlies
2	1 km on 465 Road (Nilkitkwa)	Closed to non industrial use all year Gate opened for Industrial Traffic (**operational)	West Fraser - PIR	Grizzly Bears
3	2 km on 456 Road (Nilkitkwa)	Closed May 1 to Nov 1 to non industrial traffic. Gate opened for Industrial Traffic (** operational)	BCTS	Grizzly Bears
4	Nichyeskwa Connector (~ 10.2 Km on Nichyeskwa North FSR)	Closed May 1 to Nov 1. No through traffic permitted during this time. Lock blocks in place.	Skeena-Stikine District Manager	Grizzly Bears Circle Route
5	~2 km on 314 Road (Upper Fulton)	Closed to non industrial use all year Gate opened for Industrial Traffic (**operational)	West Fraser - PIR	Babine Mountain Park
6	~9 km on 9000 Road (Reiseter Creek)	Closed to non industrial use all year Gate opened for Industrial Traffic (**operational)	Lowell Johnson (Canfor)	Babine Mountain Park
7	54 km on McDonnell Road	Closed to non industrial use all year Gate opened for Industrial Traffic (**operational)	BCTS – Babine Business Area	Seven Sisters Park
8	Telkwa River Bridge at Howson Creek	Closed to non industrial use all year Gate opened for Industrial Traffic (**operational)	West Fraser PIR (FLNRO if Caribou order goes through)	Caribou

9.	Acorn Lake at approx. 12 kilometre on the 459 Road	Gate is to be locked (no hauling) from April 15 to June 30 and September 15 to November 15.	West Fraser - PIR	Grizzly Bear and Moose Circle Route
10	Morrison River Bridge on Morrison Mainline.	Gate locked at all times. Exceptions may be granted when the Acorn Lake gate is locked. Gate will be open for the General Open Season for Moose in Region 6	West Fraser - PIR	Grizzly bears, moose, prevention of circle route between districts.

A more detailed rationale for gates listed above is included in Appendix 1 of these procedures.

***Responsibility:** If a gate is found open or in a state of disrepair Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations or the Licensee should be contacted ASAP

****Operational:** means the gate is closed except when industrial activities are occurring. This generally means open during winter months for harvesting/hauling, late spring for tree planting and other silviculture activities and in some specific cases summer hauling of previously decked wood or road building. Gates are to be closed and locked when industrial activities cease. This may occur at any time during the day.

In most cases, pipeline activities are not authorized by FLRNO and may not be subject to these procedures. Timing restrictions/resource values will be brought to the attention of pipeline proponents.

Note: Gates may remain open during active industrial activities to comply with WorkSafeBC regulations.

Lock Procedures:

1. Gates will **remain open** during industrial activities with repeated traffic in and out of the area (e.g. logging, road construction). Gates may be closed at any time during the day after industrial activities have ceased.

2. Gates will **remain locked** during industrial activities with a minor amount of repeated traffic in and out of the area (e.g. Timber cruising, silviculture activities, site inspections).
3. Each organization in receipt of keys must ensure their employees or contractors:
 - receive keys that are numbered and signed out.
 - do not copy or loan keys.
 - return keys when no longer required for work purposes.
 - do not hunt while working behind locked access points.
 - do not use keys for non work related access (e.g. hunting, recreational access, firewood gathering).

Gate Inspections

Gate Inspection Procedures: Two Inspections per year are required to be completed by the responsible Agency or Licensee listed in the table above. The first inspection should occur after snowfree and no later than June 30th. The second inspection must be completed no later than September 30th of each year. An annual summary of inspections will be generated by FLNRO. (All authorized industrial users are encouraged to track, record and report whether gates are open/closed to licensee or FLNRO reps)

Inspection results should be made available to FLNRO representatives when requested.

Safety Procedures:

1. Safety procedures for working behind gates are the responsibility of the organization working behind the access points and must be consistent with Worksafe BC Regulations (including procedures for individuals working alone).
2. It is the responsibility of the employer to have in place an evacuation plan for injured workers.

Keys to Gates:

The keys for the gates listed in this procedure are keyed alike and are numbered. Keys will be assigned to users when access is required to conduct permitted industrial activities.

| The Office of the Wet'suwet'en has been assigned a key to the gates on a permanent basis. Some individual members of Lake Babine Nation have been assigned a key on a permanent basis. First Nation members are expected respect these procedures and to close and lock the gates when not in use.

Extra keys will be stored at the Skeena-Stikine Office Reception Desk. Access to gate keys by the general public will NOT be provided unless specifically authorized by the District Manager.

Cash Deposits:

A \$100.00 Security Deposit (cash only) will be taken for all non government agency sign out.

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The Nichyeskwa Connector may only be open from November 1 to April 1 and will require a \$1,000.00 deposit which will be returned when the lock blocks are replaced on the road. It will remain closed if there are no industrial activities occurring from November 1 to April 1.

Keys must be returned promptly after work is completed. A fine for lost or misplaced keys may be considered by the District Manager.

Any program or individual who signs out a key is responsible to follow the procedures as outlined in this document.

It is expected that each organization responsible for signing out a key or have a key as part of their duties of operation will have in place a protocol to deal with misuse of keys.



APPROVED Jevan Hanchard
District Manager

March 29, 2016
Date

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Appendix 1

Rationale for existing gates:

Please note: The rationale for gates at the locations noted below come from a number of public planning processes such as the Babine Local Resource Use Plan (LRUP) and the Babine Coordinated Access Management Plan (CAMP) and have been referenced in the Bulkley LRMP.

480 Road Gate (Nilkitkwa): Established at 20 kilometre on the 480 road this gate was established to protect non-timber resource values specifically high value goat and grizzly bear habitat during the spring and summer.

465-Road Gate: (Nilkitkwa) The 465 road developed road access into a special management zone for high grizzly bear habitat in the Babine LRUP. The intent in this area was to harvest at an accelerated rate in the short term, followed by a period of no activity, thus limiting human-wildlife interactions with grizzly bear. Closed to non industrial traffic. Industrial traffic will follow the Operational guideline as defined in this document.

456-Road Gate: (Nilkitkwa) Babine Landscape Unit controls non-industrial access during the grizzly bear active period (May to November). The 456 road accesses the high value grizzly bear management zone that is part of the Babine Local Resource Use Plan (LRUP). The direction for this access control comes from the Babine Local Resource Use Plan and the Babine Co-ordinated Access Management Plan.

Nichyeskwa Connector: This gate was established on the west side of the bridge located at approximately 22 km on the 455 road (Bulkley access) or 10.2 kilometre on the Nichyeskwa North FSR (Kispiox access) to protect non timber resource values specifically goats and grizzly bears. This gate was established to prevent the establishment of a circle route from the Kispiox into the Bulkley. **No through traffic is permitted on this road from May 1st to November 1st of each year. This road is closed with lock blocks which will remain in place except when industrial activity is occurring over this road between November 1 and April 1.**

314-Road Gate: (Upper Fulton) The Harold Price Landscape Unit calls for harvest strategies that aid in the maintenance of the non- motorized wilderness portion of the Babine Mountain Park and to protect high value goat habitat in the park. Water, Land and Air Protection's (WLAP,) now Ministry of Environment or Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and BC Parks suggestion to accomplish this was to gate the road, before historical access was established and to deactivate on-block roads following silviculture activities.

9000 Road Gate: Reiser Landscape Unit - This gate is to be established to protect the high value goat habitat in the Babine Mountain Park and the non-motorized portions of the Babine Mountain Park..

McDonnell Road at ~ 54 Kilometre: - this gate was established to protect non-timber resource values specifically to maintain non-motorized access to Seven Sisters Park.

Telkwa River Bridge at Howson Creek: (118-Road Gate: Telkwa Landscape Unit)- a combination of LUP direction, WLAP direction and native consultation resulted in the placement of this gate to protect high value caribou habitat. WLAP input was generally directed at establishing access control to the Caribou Recovery Area at Scallion creek. The occupants of the Mooseskin-Johnny Lodge and First Nations requested access control at the Telkwa River bridge at 18 kilometre on the Telkwa Forest Service Road.

Acorn Lake: at approximately 12 kilometre on the 459 Road: This gate was established on the Morrison Connector road to prevent circle access between Skeena Stikine and Nadina Resource Districts. The gate is to be locked (and closed to log hauling) from April 15 to June 30 and again from September 15 to November 15th to minimize the affect on grizzly bears and moose.

Morrison River Bridge: Established on the Morrison river bridge to prevent circle routes, to protect grizzly bear and moose habitat, and reduce potential for illegal hunting. Gate locked at all times. Exceptions may be made in consultation with the district manager. Gate will be open for the General Open Season for Moose in Region 6 (approximately October 20 to 26). Gate will be closed within 2 days of the close of the season.

Questions or concerns about this "Gate Lock Procedure" may be addressed to the Engineering Officer for the Skeena Stikine District at 250-847-6300.

