

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;
- Sates 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).

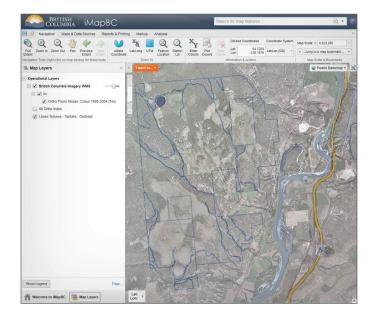
ACCESS FOR OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

- 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

(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

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