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.

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