

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Order of the Regional Manager for Thompson Okanagan Region

Pursuant to Section 7(4) of the *Wildlife Act*, RSBC 1996, Ch. 488.

To: Public Notice

Date: October 15, 2021

WHEREAS:

- A. Wildlife Management Areas are designated under Section 4(2) of the *Wildlife Act* and set out under the Wildlife Management Areas Regulation, B.C. Reg. 12/2015 for the benefit of regionally to internationally significant fish and wildlife species or their habitats;
- B. McTaggart-Cowan/nsək'łniw't Wildlife Management Area was established for the purposes of managing all habitat types required for bighorn sheep and also supports mule deer winter range and critical habitat for federally listed species at risk;
- C. nsək'łniw't has been protected by the syilx people since time immemorial and holds significant cultural value for members of the Penticton Indian Band;
- D. The Christie Mountain Fire (K51287) burned approximately 1870 ha of McTaggart-Cowan/nsək'łniw't Wildlife Management Area in 2020 and the Thomas Creek Fire (K51794) burned an additional 1783 ha in 2021, with further areas impacted by fire suppression activities, including machine guard construction;
- E. Wildlife habitat in burnt areas is highly sensitive and vulnerable to impacts from public use, including damage to re-establishing vegetation, spread of invasive species, compaction of fragile soils, changes to watershed hydrological characteristics and increased erosion potential in hydrophobic soils;
- F. Section 7(4)(c) of the *Wildlife Act* states:

A regional manager may make orders prohibiting a person from

- (a) entering,
- (b) cutting, picking, removing, altering, destroying or damaging vegetation in,
- (c) disturbing or harassing wildlife in,

a wildlife management area, a critical wildlife area, or a wildlife sanctuary.

- G. This order aims to reduce impacts to wildlife habitat within McTaggart-Cowan/nsək'łniw't Wildlife Management Area as a result of untenured public use.

THEREFORE, I, Eric Valdal, Regional Manager of Thompson Okanagan Region, order that,

1. The public is prohibited from entering McTaggart-Cowan/nsək'łniw't Wildlife Management Area for the purposes of mushroom picking, camping and using "motor vehicles" as defined in the Motor Vehicle Prohibition Regulation under the *Wildlife Act*:

"motor vehicle" means a device in, on or by which a person or thing is being or may be transported or drawn, and which is designed to be self propelled, and includes an atv or snowmobile, but does not include

- (a) a device designed to be moved by human, animal or wind power,
- (b) a device designed to be used exclusively on stationary rails or stationary tracks, or
- (c) a boat propelled by motorized power;

AND

The public is prohibited from entering McTaggart-Cowan/nsək'łniw't Wildlife Management Area for any purpose within the area burned in 2020 by the Christie Mountain Fire (K51287) and within the area burned in 2021 by the Thomas Creek Fire (K51794), as shown on the map in Appendix A.

This order is effective October 15, 2021, 12:00 PST, and remains in effect until repealed by further order;

2. This order does not apply to provincial government employees, agents, contractors, and land management partners accessing McTaggart-Cowan/nsək'łniw't Wildlife Management Area for management, conservation or enforcement purposes;
3. This order does not apply to Indigenous people using McTaggart-Cowan/nsək'łniw't Wildlife Management Area for food, social, cultural, or ceremonial activities;
4. This order does not apply to access to or uses within the McTaggart-Cowan/nsək'łniw't Wildlife Management Area for which a legal permit or tenure has been granted before March 19, 2013, or after that date with subsisting permission of the Regional Manager as per s. 4(4) of the *Wildlife Act*.

Failure to comply with this order is an offence under section 7(5) of the *Wildlife Act*.

Date: Oct 13, 2021



Eric Valdal

Regional Manager, Thompson Okanagan Region

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development









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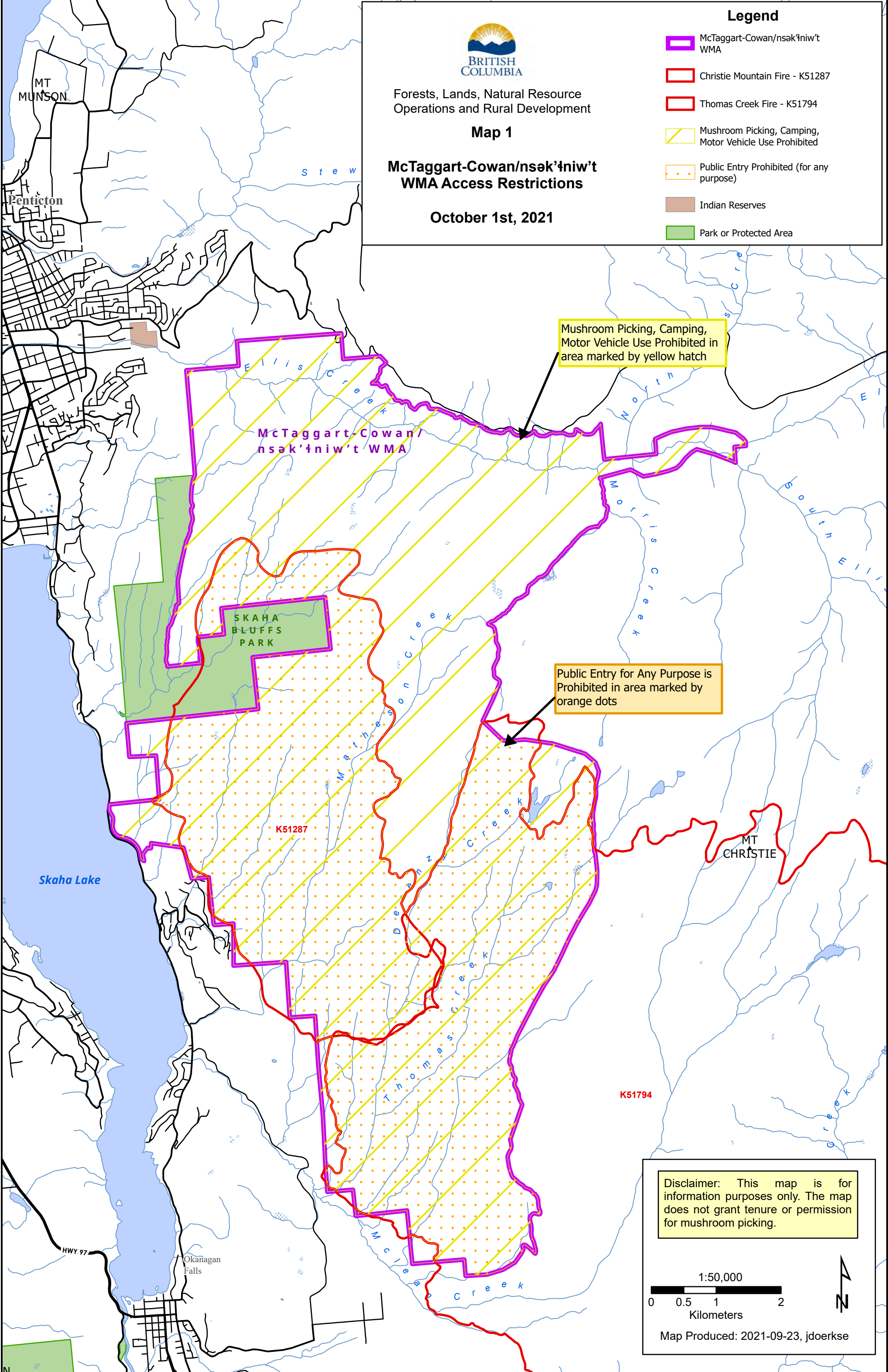
Map 1

McTaggart-Cowan/nsək'łniw't WMA Access Restrictions

October 1st, 2021

Legend

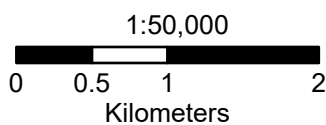
-  McTaggart-Cowan/nsək'łniw't WMA
-  Christie Mountain Fire - K51287
-  Thomas Creek Fire - K51794
-  Mushroom Picking, Camping, Motor Vehicle Use Prohibited
-  Public Entry Prohibited (for any purpose)
-  Indian Reserves
-  Park or Protected Area



Mushroom Picking, Camping, Motor Vehicle Use Prohibited in area marked by yellow hatch

Public Entry for Any Purpose is Prohibited in area marked by orange dots

Disclaimer: This map is for information purposes only. The map does not grant tenure or permission for mushroom picking.



Map Produced: 2021-09-23, jdoerkse