



Files: 11000-20 – Section 58
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Integrated Land
Management Bureau
Ministry of Agriculture & Lands

DEC 5 2007

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CRANBROOK, BC

November 30, 2007

Notice of Recreation Order – Upper Spillimacheen

I have now made my determination regarding winter snowmobile use on provincial lands in the areas known as the McMurdo Creek, Caribou Creek and Baird Brook tributaries of the Spillimacheen River in south eastern British Columbia.

Background to the Order

In the winter, the Upper Spillimacheen River drainage is a popular area for both public snowmobiling and ski touring. In addition to the public use, there is commercial ski touring and heli skiing which is tenured by the Province of BC. Conflicts between commercial recreation tenure holders and recreational snowmobilers are escalating and will likely continue.

Discussion

In 1995 and 1996, as a result of recreation management issues, the Province of BC, Ministry of Forests (MoF), Invermere Forest District established “Winter Use Agreement Areas” derived from a winter recreation conflict resolution committee. The winter recreation conflict resolution committee was a public process facilitated by government staff. The committee was comprised of; winter tenure holders, local riders and snowmobile clubs, known recreational users of the backcountry and MoF staff. The committee came to consensus, resulting in management zoning designed to protect National Park boundaries, wildlife resources, as well as high value heli-ski and ski touring terrain.

The 2006-2007 “SaRCO – Snowmobiling Brochure” contained the specific areas closures as “Voluntary or Legislated Closures”.

This order covers all polygons of snowmobile exclusion from the “Winter Use Agreement Areas”. The local winter use agreements have been workable and reasonably respected by local and club riders. Recently, an increase in the number of out of province riders and lack of adherence to the agreements has led to the daily disregard of the signed local agreement closures.

Ministry of
Tourism, Sport and the Arts

Recreation Sites and Trails Section
Southern Interior Regional Office (East)
Tel: 250.371.3780 Fax: 250.828.4154

Mailing Address
515 Columbia Street
Kamloops BC V2C 2T7
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Continued unregulated recreational snowmobiling in the area puts the following resource values at risk; public and client safety, integrity of the adjacent Glacier National Park boundary, Mountain Caribou habitat, recreational and commercial ski touring opportunities and commercial heli skiing interests.

Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts is aware of the compliance and enforcement issues that are common with recreation orders. A compliance and enforcement project plan has been developed.

In time, the Upper Spillimacheen area may be covered by a sustainable resource management plan. This order will be reviewed when a sustainable resource management plan is established

Rationale

I am aware that a notice has been published in local papers regarding the consideration of this order. As a result of this notice, there has been public response both opposed to and in favor of the winter recreational snowmobile restriction for the area. I am aware that this proposal has been reviewed with local First Nations during ongoing consultation and they have no views on this matter.

This order is specific to protecting recreation resources and managing public recreation on Crown land.

Order

This recreation order, effective annually from December 1 – April 30, prohibits winter snowmobile recreation within the polygons on the attached map. This closure is pursuant to Section 58 (1)(b) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*. I am delegated authority under Section 58 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*.



Fred Thiessen
Manager, Southern Interior East
Sites and Trails Branch
Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts

Attach: Map of Upper Spillimacheen Section 58 Closure Areas.

Legal Notice

Winter Recreational Vehicle Closure Spillimacheen River Area

Pursuant to Section 58 (1) (b) of the Forest and Range Practices Act, the Regional Recreation Manager of the Southern Interior, East, has established an order prohibiting the use of snowmobiles in the
Upper Spillimacheen River.

The intent of this order is to manage recreation in the interest of public safety and maintain recreational experiences in the Upper Spillimacheen River.

This restriction is effective December 1 - April 30 annually.

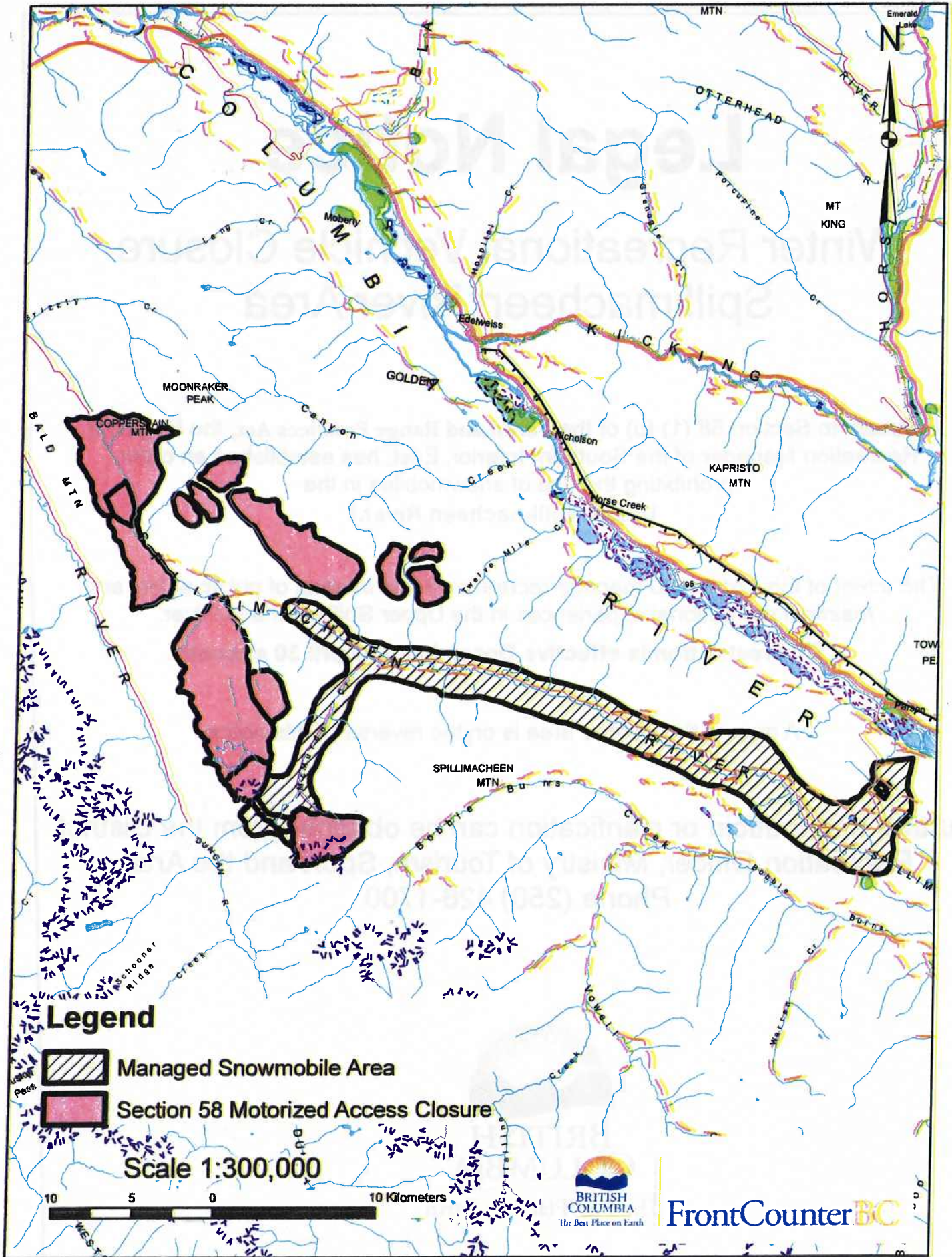
A map of the closure area is on the reverse of this notice.

Further information or clarification can be obtained from the District Recreation Officer, Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts.
Phone (250) 426-1700



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Legend



Managed Snowmobile Area

Section 58 Motorized Access Closure

Scale 1:300,000

10 5 0 10 Kilometers



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