Region 5 – Cariboo

Contact Information

Fish and Wildlife Regional Office:

400-640 Borland Street
Williams Lake BC V2G 4T1
(250) 398-4530

Conservation Officer Service

Call 1-877-952-7277 for recorded information or to make an appointment at any of the following Field Offices:

100 Mile House, Bella Coola, Quesnel, and Williams Lake

Compulsory Inspection (CI) Centres

Qualified Compulsory Inspectors will provide this service at locations listed below. See the Ministry website at **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting/compulsory-inspection** or contact the regional office for more information.

CI Locations: By appointment only.

- Williams Lake

Stay up to date

Check website **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting** for in-season changes prior to your 2026-2028 hunt.

RAPP

Report All Poachers and Polluters Conservation Officer 24 hour hotline 1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

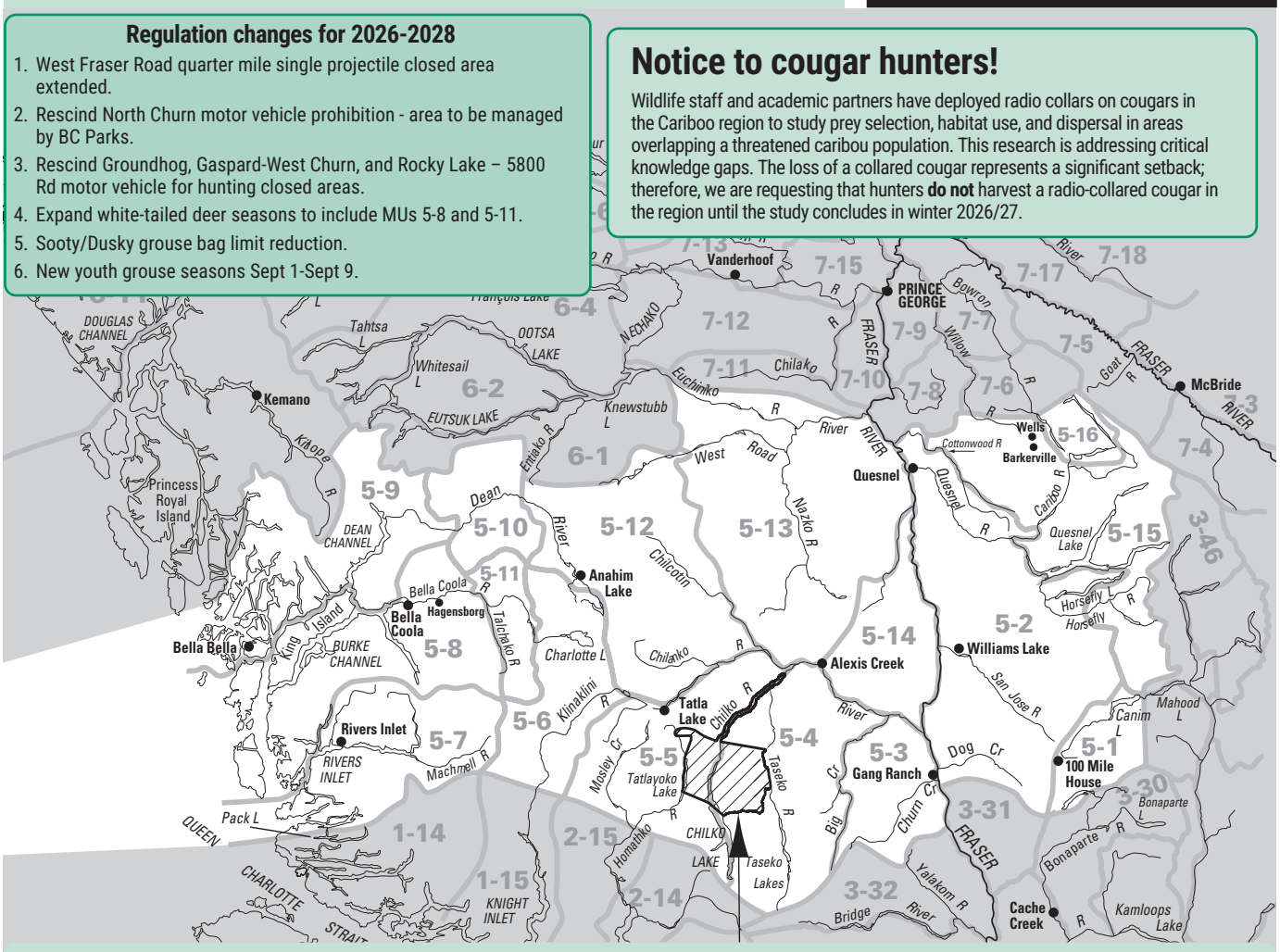
Refer to page 2 for more information

Regulation changes for 2026-2028

1. West Fraser Road quarter mile single projectile closed area extended.
2. Rescind North Churn motor vehicle prohibition - area to be managed by BC Parks.
3. Rescind Groundhog, Gaspard-West Churn, and Rocky Lake – 5800 Rd motor vehicle for hunting closed areas.
4. Expand white-tailed deer seasons to include MUs 5-8 and 5-11.
5. Sooty/Dusky grouse bag limit reduction.
6. New youth grouse seasons Sept 1-Sept 9.

Notice to cougar hunters!

Wildlife staff and academic partners have deployed radio collars on cougars in the Cariboo region to study prey selection, habitat use, and dispersal in areas overlapping a threatened caribou population. This research is addressing critical knowledge gaps. The loss of a collared cougar represents a significant setback; therefore, we are requesting that hunters **do not** harvest a radio-collared cougar in the region until the study concludes in winter 2026/27.



Notice to hunters!

On June 26, 2014, the Supreme Court of Canada granted the Tsilhqotin'in Nation a declaration of Aboriginal title, see the hatched area on the map above. For the purposes of hunting, titled land should be treated the same as private land. Hunters are advised not to enter the Tsilhqotin'in title area and to contact the Xeni Gwet'in band office for guidance on authorized and prohibited activities on title lands.

The Management Unit boundaries on the map above are approximate. For detailed maps visit **www.gov.bc.ca/WildlifeManagementUnits**.

Regional Bag Limits

Deer: The bag limit for mule (black-tailed) deer is 2, but only one may be a buck. The bag limit for white-tailed deer is 2, but only one may be a buck. Antlerless mule (black-tailed) deer are under LEH only.

Wolf: The bag limit for wolf is 3, except in MU's 5-1 to 5-6, 5-12 to 5-15 where there is no bag limit.

Bobcat: The bag limit for bobcat is 1.

Notice

» It is unlawful to intentionally feed or bait ungulates in the Cariboo Region within 200 m of a dwelling, school yard, or playground.

» **Notice to black bear hunters:** There is no open season for black bears in the Mussel Inlet Special Management Area (MU 5-9)

Firearms Restricted Areas

» Hunting is prohibited within 400m of those portions of Chilko Newton Road and Elkin Creek Lord River FSR that lie within declared Aboriginal Title Lands - see Maps E10 and E11

» **No Shooting Areas:** note the Highway No Shooting Areas outlined in the No Hunting and No Shooting Areas section on page 10.

» **No Shooting Areas** The discharge of firearms is prohibited in the following areas:

- 100 Mile House (MU 5-2) - see Map E1.
- Rose Lake (MU 5-2) - see Map E2.
- Gibraltar Mines (MU 5-2) - see Map E4.
- Reidemann Wildlife Sanctuary (Alkali Lake) (MU 5-2) - no hunting, trapping or discharge of firearms - see Map E5.
- Williams Lake and Williams Lake River (MU 5-2) - see Map E3.
- Nekite River Spawning Channel (MU 5-7) - Hunting and the discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 m of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans spawning channel.
- Snootli Creek Park (MU 5-8)
- Ocean Falls No (MU 5-9) - see Map E8.
- Stum Lake (MU 5-13) - Between Mar 1 and Aug 31, hunting, trapping and the discharge of firearms is prohibited within the Stum (Pelican) Lake Park. The area includes all of Stum Lake below the high water mark and all of the islands.
- Wells (MU 5-15) - see Map E23.

Quarter Mile Single Projectile (Firearm) Closed Areas

The discharge of a firearm using a single projectile within 400 m (1/4 mile) on either side of the road allowance is prohibited in the following areas. Use of firearms using shot permitted:

» Robertson Road and any side roads (MU 5-2) from its intersection with Hwy 97 at D.L. 61 (Cariboo Land District) north to its intersection with Hwy 97 at the village of McLeese Lake.

» Tatlayoko Road (MU 5-5) - either side of the mid-line south from Eagle Lake Road to its end.

» Horn-Bluff Lakes Road (MU 5-5) - see Map E12.

» West Fraser Road (MU 5-13) south from the City of Quesnel limits to the northern boundary and entry point of the Fraser River Breaks Provincial Park on Meldrum Creek Road (52.22244, -122.28515), see Map E18.

» Soda creek road and Williams Lake Cutoff road intersection along Buckskin Road (Commencement point 52.25153, -122.24537) joining with the current no shooting zone on West Fraser FSR.

» Tibbles Road - see Map E19.

Access Management Areas

» Region 5 Motor Vehicle Prohibition maps are available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/caribooaccess.**

» Approximately one million hectares of Crown Land has been closed to snowmobile use to support Mountain Caribou recovery in the Thompson, Kootenay, Cariboo, and Omineca regions. Snowmobile closure maps with boundaries, legal access trails, prohibited dates, and identified riding areas are no longer published in the synopsis, they will be available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/snowmobileclosures.**

» Information signs are posted at the points of closure for most road and vehicle restrictions. These signs are for the benefit of hunters. It is the hunter's responsibility to recognize closures whether a sign is in place or not.

» **Motor Vehicle Closed Areas** (See page 10)**:** The operation of all motor vehicles, excluding snowmobiles, is prohibited year-round in Region 5 above 1700 m elevation, except on existing roads and trails. See page 3 for definition of existing road or trail.

» **Symbol Key:** Use the following symbols to determine what type of motor vehicle prohibition is in place in the following regional MUs (see also Site and Access Restrictions section, page 9):

★ **Motor Vehicle Closed Areas** (See page 10)**:** The operation of all motor vehicles is prohibited year-round in these areas unless otherwise indicated.

▲ **Motor Vehicles for Hunting Closed Areas** (See page 10)**:** The operation of all motor vehicles. including electric bicycles, for the purpose of hunting, to transport wildlife, to transport equipment, firearms and supplies which are intended for or in support of hunting or to transport hunters to and from the location of wildlife is prohibited in these areas.

✖ **ATVs and Snowmobile Closed Areas** (See page 10): year-round in these areas unless otherwise indicated.

■ **ATVs and Snowmobiles for Hunting Closed Areas** (See page 10): The operation of snowmobiles and ATVs (including motorcycles and electric bicycles) for the purpose of hunting, to transport wildlife, to transport firearms or equipment and supplies which are intended for or in support of hunting, or to transport a hunter to or from the location of wildlife is prohibited in these areas.

MU 5-2

● Access to Mount Polley mine site is prohibited under the *Mines Act* and *Trespass Act*.

★ Knife Creek Vehicle Restricted Area - see Map E6.

MU 5-3

■ 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. from Sept 1 - Nov 30.

★ Red Mountain and French Mountain Motor Vehicle Closed Area above the 1920 m elevation (excluding Poison Mountain Saddle Road and Yalakom-Big Bar Road).

▲ Gaspard-Churn Creek Forest Service (2800) Road (including any side roads) - restricted south of Kilometre 35 of this road.

✖ Gaspard-Churn Creek except for commercial activities other than hunting; and snowmobiles allowed Dec 1 - May 1 - see Map E7.

MU 5-4

■ 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. from Sept 1 - Nov 30.

▲ Battlement Ridge Mining Road - entire road, Sept 1 - Oct 31 only.

■ Taseko Lake and Chilko Lake ATV and Snowmobile Restricted Area. See Map E9.

MU 5-5

■ 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. from Sept 1 - Nov 30.

▲ Valleau Creek - see Map E15.

★ Chilko-Newton Rd., from Henry's Crossing to Gwe Da Ts'ih Campground, Sept 1 - Oct 31.

MU 5-6

■ 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. from Sept 1 - Nov 30.

MU 5-8

▲ Nusatsum-Noeick FSR and any side roads - southerly and westerly from Kilometre 15.

MU 5-12

▲ Upper Dean River Main Haul Road northerly from 66.5 km.

▲ Beef Trail Road.

★ Corkscrew Road - Except for industrial forestry purposes.

■ MU 5-12 (entire management unit) from Sept 1 - Nov 30.

MU 5-13

■ MU 5-13 (entire management unit) from Sept 1 - Nov. 30.

MU 5-12 and 5-13

★ Itcha Ilgachuz - trails open as indicated on Map E25 (does not apply to a person who uses or operates a motor vehicle, except a snowmobile, for a commercial purpose other than hunting).

MU 5-14

■ 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. from Sept 1 - Nov 30.

★ Junction -Roads open as shown on Map E20. Commercial vehicles allowed for purposes other than hunting.

MU 5-15

★ Eureka Peak - Motor Vehicle Closed Area applies to the operation of all vehicles for any purpose - see Map E21. Snowmobiles are allowed in portions of the Eureka Peak motor vehicle closure from Dec 1 - Apr 30 - see **www.gov.bc.ca/snowmobileclosures.**

▲ Spanish No-Name Lake Forest Service Road - northerly and easterly from the No-Name Lake Forest Service Recreational Site.

▲ Crooked Lake Forest Service Road (South side of Crooked Lake) and any side roads from its point of commencement to its termination.

Cariboo General Open Seasons

SPECIES	MANAGEMENT UNIT	CLASS	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMIT
MULE DEER (Black-tailed)	5-4, 5-5, 5-6, 5-15	★4 Point Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	Refer to Regional Bag Limits on p. 43 and the Deer Bag Limits article on p. 14
	5-1 to 5-6, 5-10 to 5-15	★4 Point Bucks	Sept 10 - Sept 30	
	5-1 to 5-6, 5-10 to 5-15	★4 Point Bucks	Nov 1 - Nov 10	
	5-1 to 5-6, 5-10 to 5-15	★4 Point Bucks	Nov 21 - Nov 30	
	5-7 to 5-9	Bucks	Sept 10 - Nov 30	
	5-1 to 5-15	Bucks	Oct 1 - Oct 31	
Bow Only	5-1 to 5-3, 5-7 to 5-9, 5-12 to 5-14	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	5-1 to 5-6, 5-13 and 5-14	Bucks	Dec 1 - Dec 10	
Bow Only	▲5-8, 5-11	Bucks	Dec 1 - Dec 24	
★ See Definitions section: Mule (Black-tailed) deer. The antlers must accompany the species licence. ▲ A portion of MU 5-11 only. See Map E17.				
WHITE-TAILED DEER	5-1 to 5-6, 5-8, 5-11 to 5-15	Bucks	Sept 10 - Nov 30	Refer to Regional Bag Limits on p. 43 and the Deer Bag Limits article on p. 14
	5-1 to 5-6, 5-8, 5-11 to 5-15	Antlerless	Oct 10 - Oct 31	
Youth Only*	5-1 to 5-6, 5-8, 5-11 to 5-15	Either Sex	Nov 1 - Nov 30	
Youth Only*	5-1 to 5-6, 5-8, 5-11 to 5-15	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	5-1 to 5-6, 5-8, 5-11 to 5-15	Bucks	Sept 1 - Sept 9	
Bow Only	5-1, 5-2, 5-8, 5-11, 5-13, 5-14	Bucks	Dec 1 - Dec 10	
* Restricted to hunters under the age of 18.				
BIGHORN MOUNTAIN SHEEP	5-2	Full Curl Bighorn Rams	Sept 10 - Oct 20	1
Compulsory Inspection required.				
MOUNTAIN GOAT	*5-5 to 5-9, 5-11, 5-15		Sept 1 - Oct 31	1
* See Maps E14, E22. See LEH. Mountain goat populations are sensitive to harvest. Hunters are requested to select male mountain goat. Compulsory Inspection required.				
BLACK BEAR	5-1 to *5-10, 5-12 to 5-15		Sept 1 - Nov 30	2
	5-1 to *5-10, 5-12 to 5-15		Apr 1 - June 30	
	5-11		Sept 10 - Nov 30	
	5-11		Apr 1 - May 31	
* Parts of MU 5-9, 6-3, and 6-11 are closed to black bear hunting. See Map F14 (Skeena Section, Page 52). Open season for black bear within 1km of Korich River, Kainet River, Lard River and Salmon Bay is Apr 1 - Apr 30 and Oct 16 - Nov 30.				
WOLF	5-7 to 5-9		Apr 1 - June 15	3
	5-7 to 5-9		Aug 1 - Mar 31	
	5-10, 5-11		Sept 1 - Mar 31	
	5-1 to 5-6, 5-12 to 5-15		No Closed Season	NBL
COYOTE	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 1 - Mar 31	NBL
LYNX	5-1 to 5-9, 5-12 to 5-15		Nov 1 - Jan 31	1
COUGAR	5-1 to 5-9, 5-12 to 5-15		Sept 10 - Apr 30	2
	5-11		Nov 15 - Mar 31	
Hunters may not hunt a cougar kitten or any cougar in its company. See Definitions section: cougar kitten. Compulsory Inspection required.				
BOBCAT	5-1 to 5-9, 5-12 to 5-15		Dec 1 - Dec 31	1
RACCOON	5-1 to 5-15		No Closed Season	NBL
SNOWSHOE HARE	5-1 to 5-9, 5-12 to 5-15		Aug 1 - Apr 30	10 (daily)
COLUMBIAN GROUND SQUIRREL	5-1 to 5-9, 5-12 to 5-15		No Closed Season	NBL
The open season for Columbian Ground Squirrel is restricted to private land only. Hunters must obtain permission from landowners before hunting on private land.				
GROUSE: SOOTY/DUSKY (Blue)	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 10 - Nov 30	5 (15)
Youth*	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 1 - Sept 9	
For Sooty/Dusky, Spruce, and Ruffed grouse, the daily aggregate bag limit is 10; the aggregate possession limit is 30.				
GROUSE: SPRUCE & RUFFED	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 10 - Nov 30	10 (30)
Youth*	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 1 - Sept 9	
For Sooty/Dusky, Spruce, and Ruffed grouse, the daily aggregate bag limit is 10; the aggregate possession limit is 30.				
SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	5-1 to 5-6, 5-12 to 5-14		Sept 10 - Nov 30	5 (10)
See closed areas in MUs 5-3 and 5-14, Maps E7 and E25.				
PTARMIGAN	5-3 to 5-6, 5-10 to 5-12, 5-15		Sept 1 - Nov 1	5 (15)
CHUKAR PARTRIDGE	5-3		Sept 10 - Nov 20	5 (15)
RAVEN	5-1 to 5-9, 5-12 to 5-15; private land only		Mar 1 - Mar 31	5
	5-1 to 5-9, 5-12 to 5-15; private land only		Apr 1 - May 31	
COMMON SNIPE	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 13 - Dec 25	10 (30)
COOTS	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 13 - Dec 25	10 (30)
DUCKS	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 13 - Dec 25	8 (24)
Daily aggregate bag limit for ducks is 8: max of 4 Pintails, 4 Canvasbacks, 2 Goldeneyes (Barrow's and Common in aggregate) and 2 Harlequins - see page 12.				
GEESE: SNOW & ROSS'S	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 13 - Dec 25	5 (15)
GEESE: WHITE-FRONTED	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 13 - Dec 25	5 (15)
GEESE: CANADA & CACKLING	5-1 to 5-15		Sept 13 - Dec 25	10 (30)

Visit **www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting.html** for further information on Migratory Game Bird regulations in B.C.

Region 5 – Cariboo

Notice to hunters:

The Cariboo Region overlaps the Traditional Territories of the four member nations of the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw (Xatśūll Cmetem' (Soda Creek)), Stswēcem'c Xgāt'tem (Canoe/Dog Creek), T'ēxelc (Williams Lake First Nation) and Tsq'ēsceń (Canim Band), and independent Secwepemc communities: Esk'etemc, High Bar, Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band; the six member nations of the Tsilhqot'in Nation (Tl'etinqox, Tl'esqox, ʔEsdilagh, Tŝideldel, Xeni Gwet'in and Yunesît'in), Ulkatcho First Nation, three member nations of the Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance (Lhoosk'uz Dene, Lhtako Dene and Nazko First Nation), Nuxalk, Wuikinuxv, Gitga'at, Heiltsuk, Gwa'Sala-'Nakwaxda'xw, Xwémalhkwu (Homalco), and Nanwakolas Council member nation Da'naxda'xw/Awaetlala.

Members of these First Nations exercise their aboriginal rights to hunt, fish, and trap throughout their territory in the region and hunters are asked to be respectful of these traditional practices. Culturally sensitive areas are located throughout the Cariboo and hunters are asked to minimize their impacts to the land through responsible hunting and camping practices and packing out what is packed in. Indigenous Nations monitor activities within their traditional territories and may connect with hunters to share information and foster positive relations between resident hunters and indigenous communities.

If you are interested in learning more about Indigenous traditional values and stewardship practices, hunters may contact local First Nation offices directly.

Notice to hunters - Report feral pigs

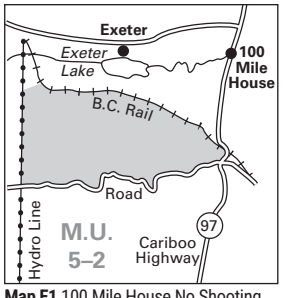
In B.C., feral pigs are previously domesticated pigs, or their descendants, and have been reported in low numbers in parts of the province, including in the Cariboo Region. Feral pigs are destructive to crops and private property. They can prey upon livestock such as goats and sheep and can spread diseases and parasites to people, livestock, and wildlife. Feral pigs can also affect ecosystem processes from the soil up, by extensive digging and their wallows can affect pond and wetland structure. They also compete with native wildlife for food, as well as feed on reptiles, eggs of ground nesting birds, and small mammals.

Please report feral pig sightings in the Cariboo Region via the webform available on the B.C. Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group website: **www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species**.

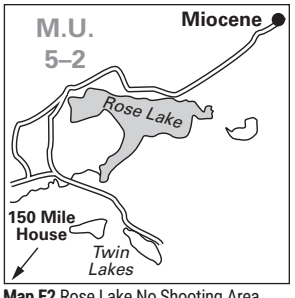
Notice to hunters – Report elk sightings

Historically elk ranged across much of the grasslands and forests of the Cariboo Region and were a critical species supporting predator-prey systems and were highly valued by First Nations for traditional uses. Elk are becoming more numerous and increasing their range in the Cariboo-Chilcotin, with increased reports of sightings and increased counts during population inventories.

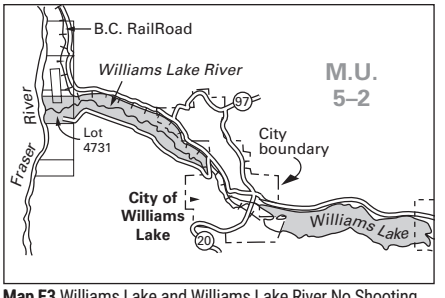
The Cariboo Region is currently undertaking elk management planning and reports of elk observations will support this process. Please report Elk sightings to the FrontCounter BC Williams Lake Office at (250) 398-4574.



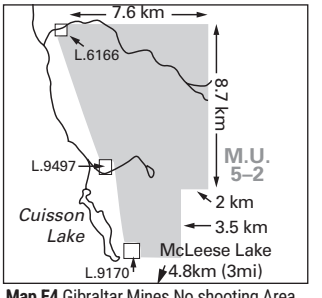
Map E1 100 Mile House No Shooting Area (MU 5-2).



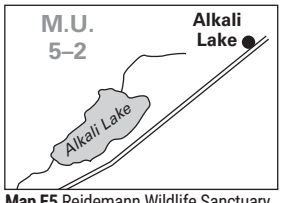
Map E2 Rose Lake No Shooting Area (MU 5-2).



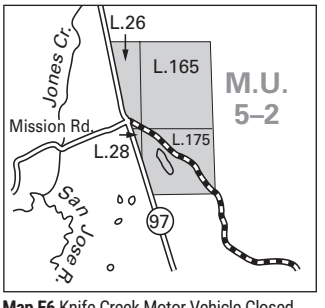
Map E3 Williams Lake and Williams Lake River No Shooting Area (MU 5-2).



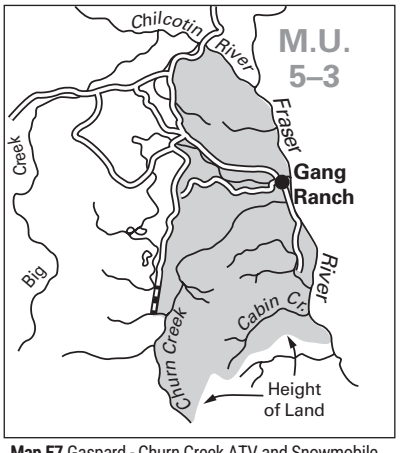
Map E4 Gibraltar Mines No shooting Area (MU 5-2).



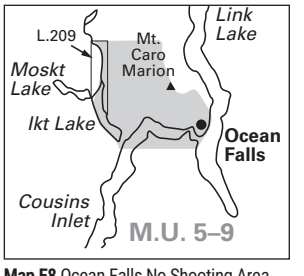
Map E5 Reidemann Wildlife Sanctuary (MU 5-2). No Shooting, Hunting or Trapping Area.



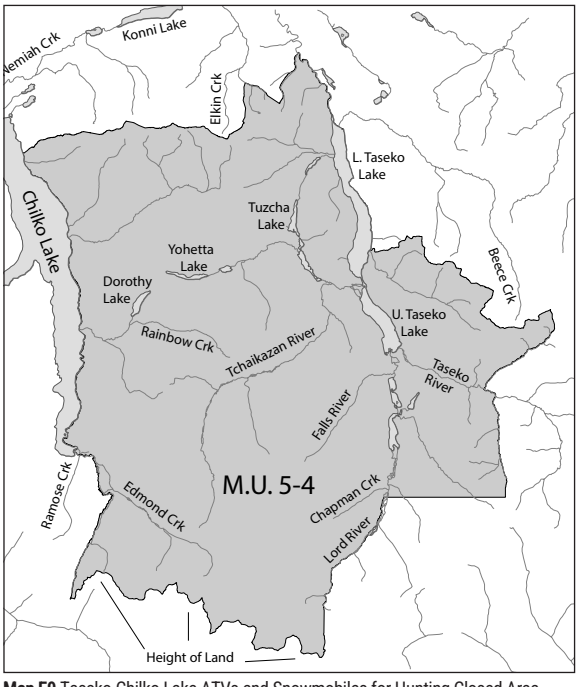
Map E6 Knife Creek Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 5-2). Road shown as dashed line is open.



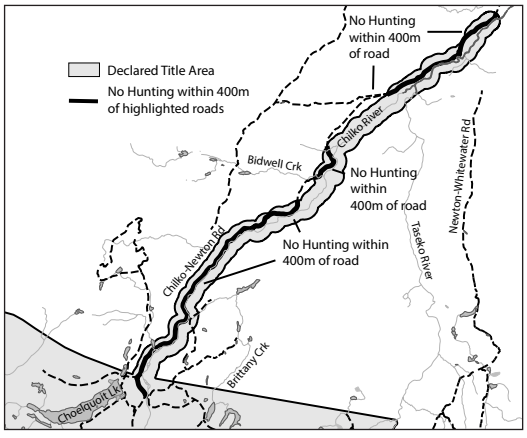
Map E7 Gaspard - Churn Creek ATV and Snowmobile Closed Area and sharp-tailed grouse closed area (MU 5-3).



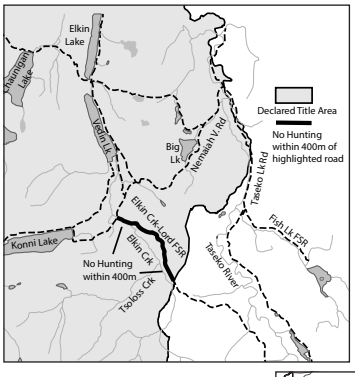
Map E8 Ocean Falls No Shooting Area (MU 5-9).



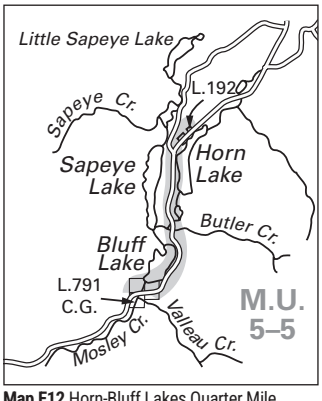
Map E9 Taseko-Chilko Lake ATVs and Snowmobiles for Hunting Closed Area (MU 5-4).



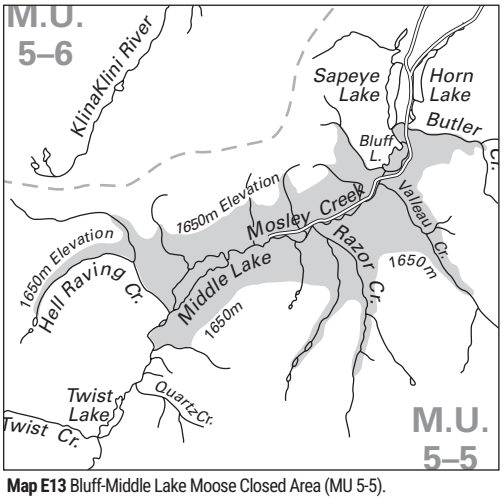
Map E10 No Hunting Area within 400m of the portion of the Chilko-Newton Road that lies within the Declared Title Area. (MU 5-4 and 5-5).



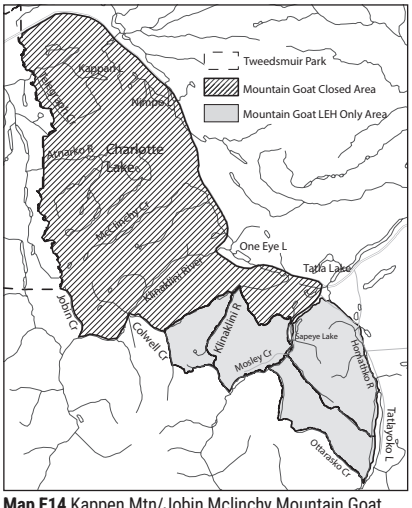
Map E11 No Hunting Area within 400m of the portion of the Elkin Creek-Lord River Forest Service Road that lies within the Declared Title Area. (MU 5-4).



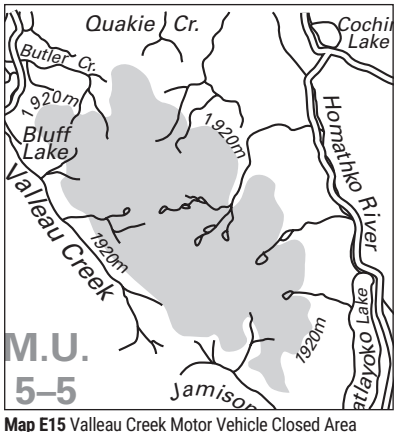
Map E12 Horn-Bluff Lakes Quarter Mile Single Projectile Closed Area (MU 5-5).



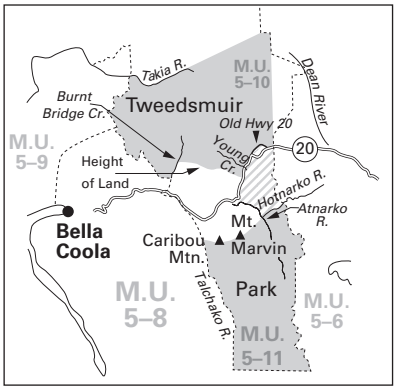
Map E13 Bluff-Middle Lake Moose Closed Area (MU 5-5).



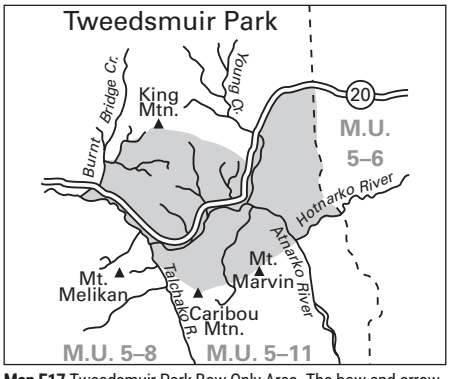
Map E14 Kappen Mtn/Jobin Mclinchy Mountain Goat Closed Areas. Ottarasko Mtn, Nuit Mtn, Perkins Peak and Cherry Creek Mtn. Goat LEH Areas (MUs 5-5 and 5-6).



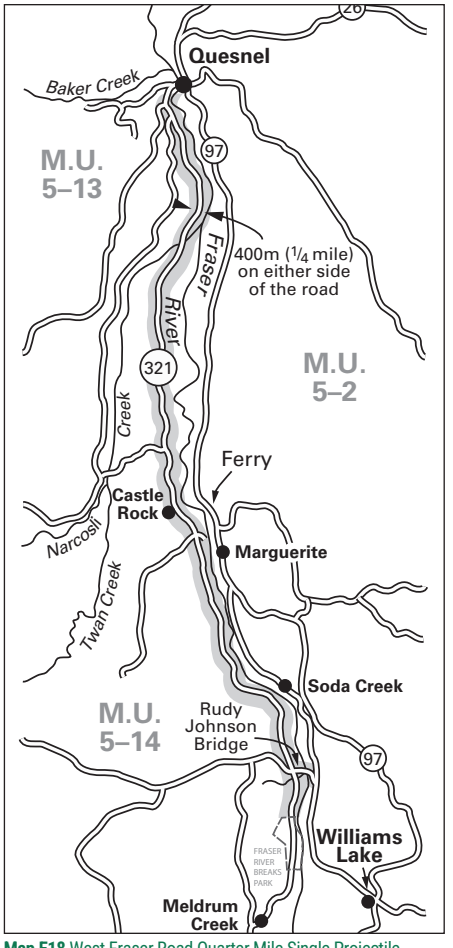
Map E15 Valleau Creek Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 5-5).



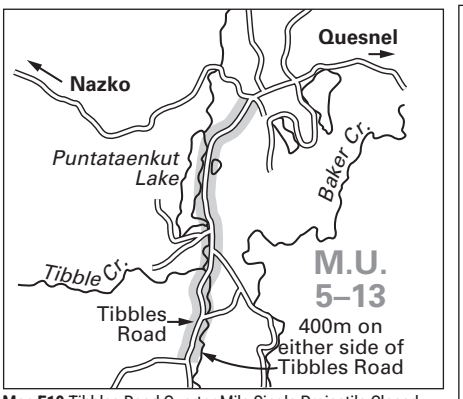
Map E16 Tweedsmuir Park No Hunting Areas (MUs 5-10, 5-11, 6-1, and 6-2). Hatched areas shows LEH Bull Moose hunting area. See Map F1 on page 51 for more details.



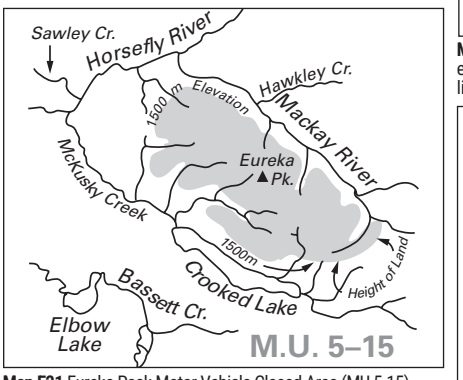
Map E17 Tweedsmuir Park Bow Only Area. The bow and arrow only season for mule (black-tailed) deer bucks is Dec 1 - Dec 24 (MU 5-11). See Map E17 for Tweedsmuir Park No Hunting Areas.



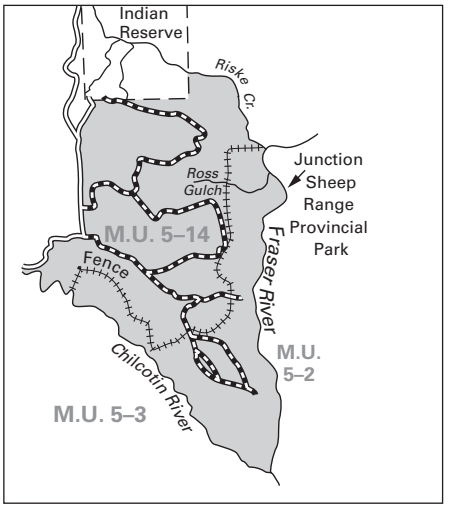
Map E18 West Fraser Road Quarter Mile Single Projectile Closed Area (MUs 5-2, 5-13 and 5-14).



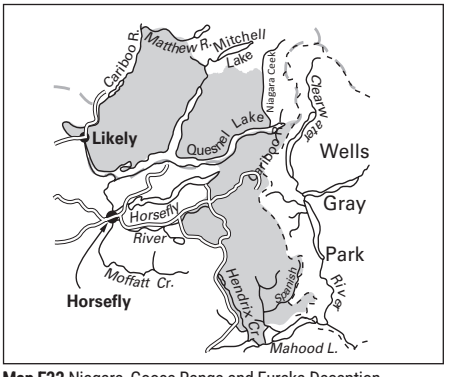
Map E19 Tibbles Road Quarter Mile Single Projectile Closed Area (MU 5-13).



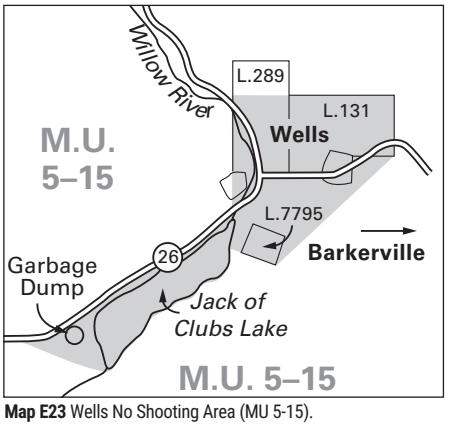
Map E21 Eureka Peak Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 5-15). Check the LEH synopsis for areas open to Limited Entry Hunting. Snowmobiles are allowed in portions of the Eureka Peak motor vehicle closure from Dec 1 - Apr 30. To view areas where snowmobiles are allowed go to **www.gov.bc.ca/snowmobileclosures.**



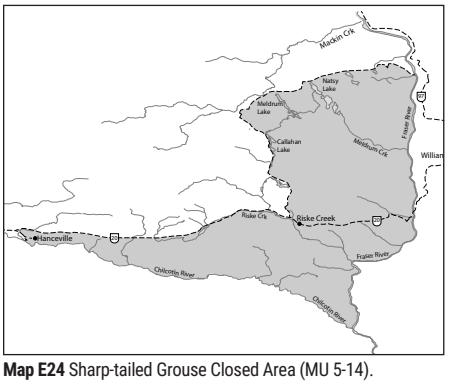
Map E20 Junction Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 5-14), except commercial vehicles allowed. Road shown as dashed lines are open Apr 1 - Nov 30.



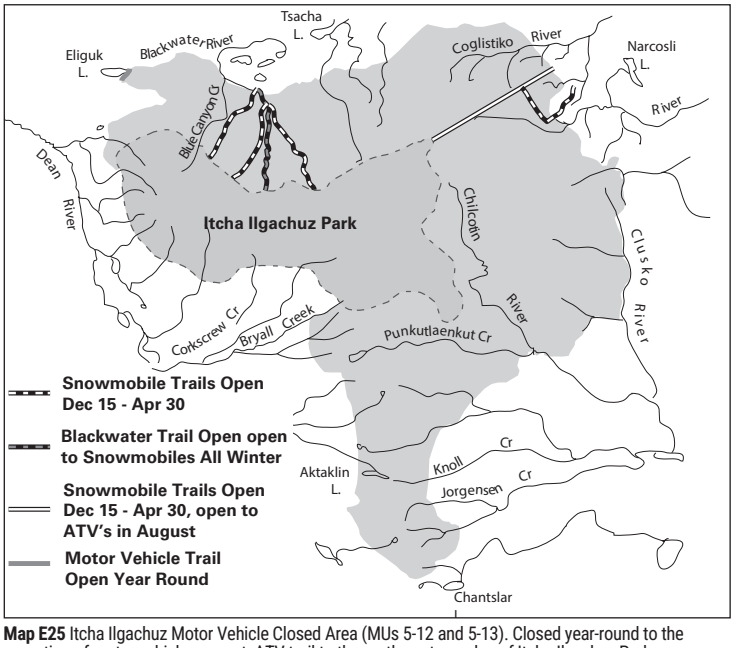
Map E22 Niagara, Goose Range and Eureka-Deception Mountain Goat Closed Areas (MU 5-15). See LEH synopsis for area open to LEH.



Map E23 Wells No Shooting Area (MU 5-15).



Map E24 Sharp-tailed Grouse Closed Area (MU 5-14).



Map E25 Itcha Ilgachuz Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MUs 5-12 and 5-13). Closed year-round to the operation of motor vehicles except: ATV trail to the north-eastern edge of Itcha Ilgachuz Park open in August; snowmobile trails open from Dec 15 - Apr 30 except the Blackwater Trail which is open to snowmobiles as soon as passable; motor vehicle track on the northwestern edge open all year. Commercial vehicles are exempt for purposes other than hunting.