



Information Bulletin

Southeast Fire Centre Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Prohibition

On August 10, BC Wildfire Service implemented a [temporary prohibition on recreational off-road vehicle \(ORV\) use](#) on Crown land throughout the Southeast Fire Centre, including the Rocky Mountain and Selkirk Natural Resource Districts. The full BC Wildfire Service Information Bulletin, including the prohibition details and map, is available [HERE](#).

The prohibition is intended to support public safety given current wildfire activity and elevated fire danger. While the prohibition applies across a large geographic area, it does not prohibit all off-road vehicle use, close Crown land to public access, or require commercial tourism operators using ORVs for business purposes to cease operating.

What is prohibited?

The operation of off-road vehicles for recreational purposes on Crown land is prohibited within the Southeast Fire Centre.

The prohibition applies to off-road vehicles as defined by the [Off-Road Vehicle Act](#) and regulation, including:

- All-terrain vehicles (ATVs);
- Motorcycles; and
- Off-road side-by-side vehicles.

On-highway vehicles must also remain on defined road surfaces while on Crown land.

What about vehicles travelling on roads?

Vehicles that can legally be driven on a highway under the [*Motor Vehicle Act*](#) may continue to travel on established roads on Crown land, including Forest Service Roads and other qualifying authorized roads. These vehicles must remain on the established roads and cannot be driven off-road onto surrounding Crown land.

If a vehicle cannot legally be driven on a highway, its recreational use on Crown land is prohibited under this order.

What is considered a road?

For the purposes of this prohibition, a road is defined through the [*Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*](#). This includes Forest Service Roads and other roads that have been authorized for road use under provincial legislation or permits.

In practical terms, the prohibition does not mean that vehicles must remain only on numbered provincial highways. Vehicles that can legally be driven on a highway may continue to travel on Forest Service Roads and other qualifying authorized roads but must remain on the established road surface.

Because road status and authorization can vary, travellers and tourism operators should confirm access where there is uncertainty and check for any additional road closures, Area Restrictions or other access measures affecting their route.

Why the distinction matters

The title of the prohibition – *Off-road vehicles to be prohibited in the Southeast Fire Centre* – can appear broader than the conditions contained within the order.

For tourism communications, it is important to distinguish between recreational ORV use, which is prohibited on Crown land, and commercial ORV use, which is specifically exempted under the conditions of the order.

The prohibition should not be interpreted or communicated as a closure of Crown land, a general backcountry closure, or a prohibition on all ORV activity within the Southeast Fire Centre.

Where to find current information

The prohibition took effect at 12 pm PT on August 10, 2026 and is scheduled to remain in place until 12 pm PT on October 9, 2026, unless it is rescinded earlier. BC Wildfire Service may expand or rescind the prohibition as conditions change.

Tourism partners are encouraged to review the official BC Wildfire Service prohibition and map and continue checking the BC Wildfire Service Prohibitions and Restrictions page for changes or additional restrictions.

Before, travelling, check DriveBC for current road conditions and impacts.