



Parks
Canada

FIRE INFORMATION

Wood Buffalo Complex Wildfire Information Update – October 11 2023
(Previously Parks Canada Fire 7 and Alberta Wildfire MNZ003)
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Managed under unified command between Alberta Wildfire and Parks Canada from the incident command post in Border Town (Smith's Landing First Nation).

Beginning this week updates will be shared weekly on Wednesdays. Additional updates will be issued if the fire situation evolves.

Wildfire Update

The Wood Buffalo Complex was last estimated at 504,752 hectares in size. There are currently 67 personnel responding which includes 3 helicopters and 31 firefighters.

The status of the Wood Buffalo Complex remains as “being held.” Though risk to communities has greatly decreased, our work is not done. The recent precipitation was helpful, but it is not enough to reduce fire behaviour for longer than a few days. Drought codes in the Fort Smith area are still above 1,000 and remain at historic highs. There is a forecasted return to unseasonably warm, dry and windy weather this week, which is likely to increase fire behaviour. You can expect to see an increase in smoky conditions over the coming days.

Crews remain working on the perimeter of the Wood Buffalo Complex, primarily south of Fort Fitzgerald along Hay Camp road and within the park boundary



Closures

As a reminder, there are several area and road closures in place. **Closures are in place for your safety and the safety of our crews.** Please do not enter an area or road that is currently under a closure order. **Please do not move barricades.**

The Salt Plains and Parsons Lake Road are under an area closure– this is because there is hazardous debris, large amounts of danger trees, active fire and heavy equipment working in the area. Please do not visit the Salt Plains or travel Parsons Lake Road or the Salt Plains Access Road.

Hay Camp Road is CLOSED. This is because crews are working alongside the road and because there is still very active fire in the area. Many of the trees lining the road are partially burnt or have burned out root systems, meaning they can fall easily and without warning regardless of wind conditions. These trees are dangerous and pose significant risk on roadways. It is unsafe for the public to travel this road.

These are the current closures and no stopping zones in place throughout the region:

- Salt Plains Day-Use Area, Salt River Day-Use Area, Pine Lake Campground, Kettle Point Group Camp and ALL trails within Wood Buffalo National Park are closed.
- Hay Camp Road, Parsons Lake Road (including Salt Plains Access Road) and Kettle Point Road are closed.
- Foxholes Road and Connie's Road are closed. Thebacha Road is closed, resident and boat launch user access only at this time.
- There is a **NO STOPPING** zone on Pine Lake Road from the Salt River Bridge at the park's boundary to the junction with Parsons Lake Road.

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If you have any questions about the closures, please call the Liaison Officer at 867-621-0764 or the Information Officer at 867-872-0170.

Reclamation

Work on the reclamation of dozer guards in Wood Buffalo National Park and in Alberta has now been completed. Reclamation in the Northwest Territories is still underway. Reclamation will resume in the winter on guards in wet areas once the ground is frozen and heavy equipment can operate there. Additional reclamation will occur in the spring.

A long-term reclamation and monitoring plan is in development for Wood Buffalo National Park to help guide the ongoing recovery of areas impacted by guard construction. Heavy equipment is being used to replace soil, trees and other organic matter that were removed when the fire guard was created.

The sites are being left with loose soil and covered in coarse woody debris (such as downed trees and branches). This is done to reduce soil compaction and mimic natural forest processes that create suitable areas for vegetation to regenerate quickly. The rough surface slows the flow of water and air, reducing erosion in disturbed areas. As it decays, the wood returns nutrients to the soil and protects young regenerating plants. Rough debris also helps to deter predators from using the newly open areas as movement corridors.



Additional wildfire information

All other wildfires in Wood Buffalo National Park are being actively monitored and do not pose a risk to public safety at this time. Parks Canada will continue to monitor and action these wildfires as required.

For more information:

- Wood Buffalo National Park wildfire updates: <https://parks.canada.ca/wbnp-fire>
- Northwest Territories fire information: <https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/en/services/wildfire-update>
- Alberta Wildfire Status: <https://www.alberta.ca/wildfire-status>
- For up-to-date road conditions, visit the NWT Highway Conditions website: <https://www.dot.gov.nt.ca/Highways>
- [The evacuation alert for Fort Smith has been lifted. For updates, please follow: Fort Smith Protective Services on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/FortSmithProtectiveServices>](#)
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Report any wildfires or suspicious smoke in Alberta to 310-FIRE, in Northwest Territories to 1-877-NWTFIRE, and in Wood Buffalo National Park to 867-621-0136.

For further information, contact:

Fire Information Officer
Sierra Stinson
Wood Buffalo Complex Wildfire
wbnfire-feupnwb@pc.gc.ca
867-872-0170

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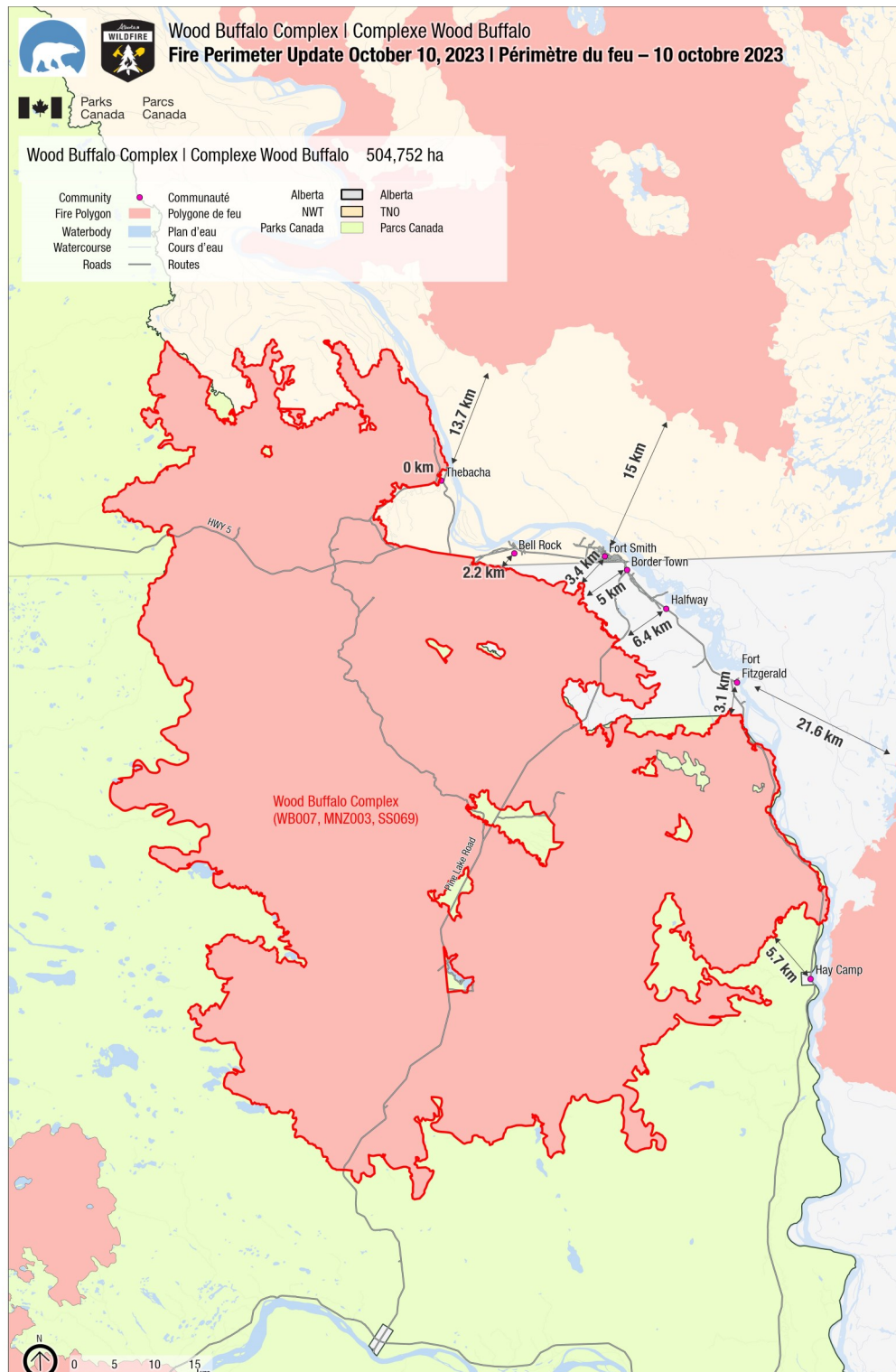


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For further information, contact:

Fire Information Officer - Sierra Stinson

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