



Parks
Canada

FIRE INFORMATION

Wood Buffalo Complex Wildfire Information Update – October 4, 2023 (Previously Parks Canada Fire 7, Alberta Wildfire MNZ003, and NWT SS069) (page 1 of 3)

Managed under unified command between Alberta Wildfire, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and Parks Canada from the incident command post in Border Town (Smith's Landing First Nation).

The next update will be on Friday, October 6, 2023. After Friday, updates will move to once weekly on Wednesday. Additional updates will be provided if conditions change.

Wildfire Update

The Wood Buffalo Complex was last estimated at 504,881 hectares in size. There are currently 96 personnel responding which includes 11 pieces of heavy equipment, 8 helicopters and 68 firefighters and 9 structure protection firefighters.

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. The fire continues to be active area of Thebacha and crews continue to work to protect cabins west of the Slave River.

Hot spots continue to burn 2-3 feet deep and crews are working hard to extinguishing them. Infrared scanning and imaging is being used to fly the perimeter to aid in seeking out remaining hot spots.

Rehabilitation of dozer guards and fire breaks continues. Initial stages of the reclamation plan are expected to be complete in the coming weeks. Reclamation will continue throughout the winter on guards in wet areas, as the ground freezes.



Closures

We have noticed several closure violations in areas that are closed due to active wildfire. We would like to remind the public that closures remain in place for your safety and should be respected. Although temperatures have dropped and it feels cooler, the fire continues to burn hot, and the landscape remains extremely dry.

Although some precipitation has occurred, little precipitation has been received on the Wood Buffalo Complex. It is estimated that at least 140mm of continued precipitation over a several day period is needed to impact the current drought conditions and slow fire growth. Until a significant snow/rainfall event, the status will remain as “being held” and closures will remain in place.

Ash pits, which are smoldering areas of ground fire, continue to pose significant risk to humans in burned areas. Ash pits are created when a ground fire consumes sub subsurface fuels and creates an empty space that is barely visible or not visible at all from the surface. They are an inherent and hidden risk that can cause severe burns and injuries. Crews continue to work diligently to extinguish ash pits by digging into the ground exposing hidden burning debris and then using hose and helicopter bucketing to suppress the fire.

Land users are asked to exercise extreme caution when in forested areas. Recently burned forests should be avoided because of multiple hazards including ash pits and danger trees. Trees with burnt root systems or trees that are partially burnt can fall easily and without warning regardless of wind conditions.

Update continues on next page



Parks Canada

FIRE INFORMATION

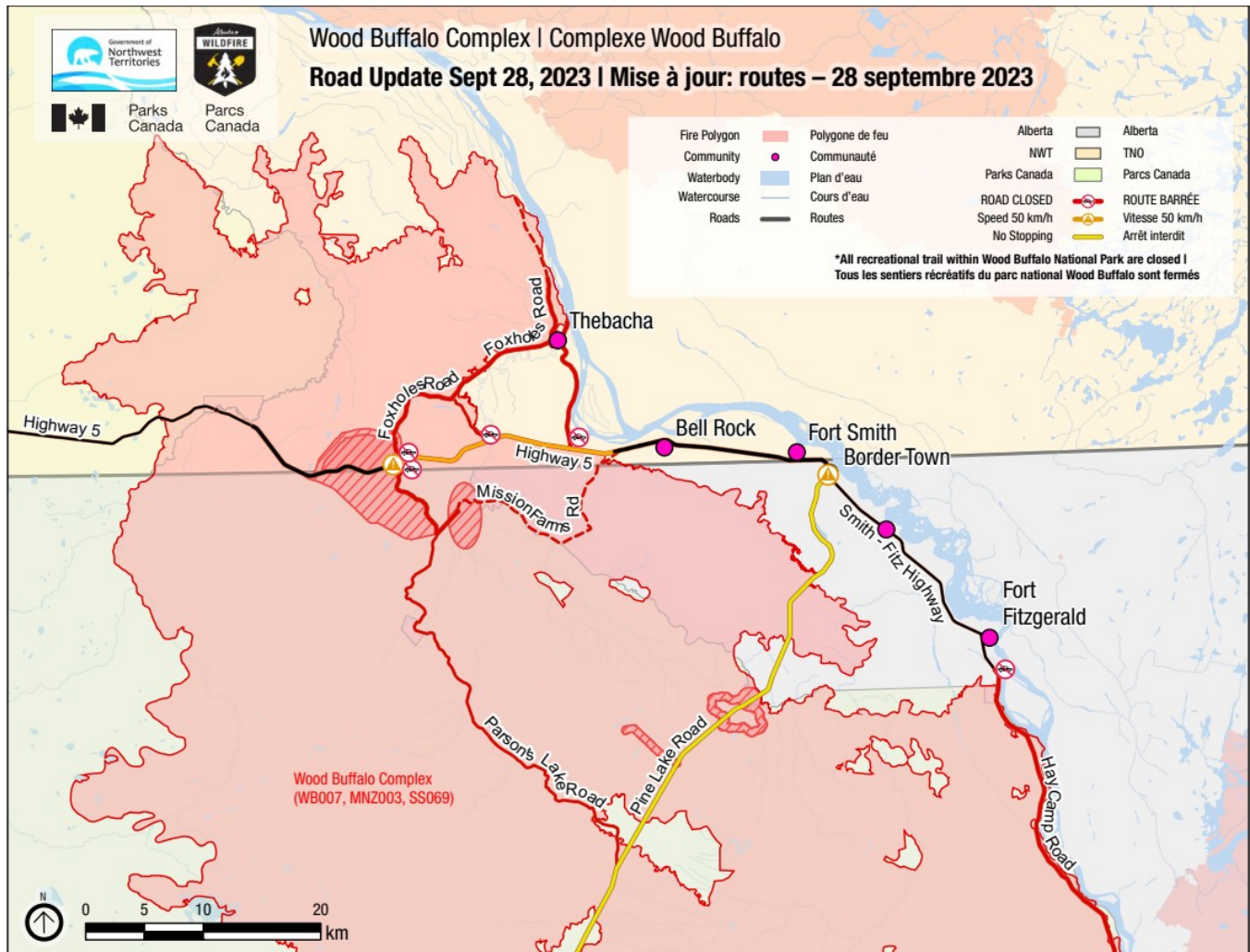
Wood Buffalo Complex Wildfire Information Update – October 4, 2023

(page 2 of 3)

Closures Cont'd

The following closures and no stopping zones remain in place:

- Salt River Day-Use Area, Salt Plains 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 to the general public, resident and boat launch user access only at this time.
- There is a **NO STOPPING** area on Pine Lake Road from Salt River Bridge (Park boundary) to the junction with Parsons Lake Road.





Parks
Canada

FIRE INFORMATION

Wood Buffalo Complex Wildfire Information Update – October 4, 2023

(page 3 of 3)

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 on wildfires, visit:

- 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>
- An evacuation alert remains in place for Fort Smith. For updates, please follow Fort Smith Protective Services on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/FortSmithProtectiveServices>

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
Chelsey Dawes
Wood Buffalo Complex Wildfire
wbnfire-feupnwb@pc.gc.ca
250-270-0214

