



Parks
Canada

FIRE INFORMATION

Wood Buffalo Complex Wildfire Information Update – September 25, 2023 (Previously Parks Canada Fire 7, Alberta Wildfire MNZ003, and NWT SS069)

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Moving forward, updates will be provided Monday, Wednesday and Friday, unless there is a significant change. The next update will be provided on September 27, 2023.

Managed under unified command between Alberta Wildfire, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and Parks Canada from the incident command post in Fort Smith.

Low fire activity was observed yesterday. Due to the continued hard work of crews and helicopters, containment lines continue to hold. Minor precipitation and low winds are forecasted for today, which will offer some welcomed relief to crews.

Bison have been observed in the Pine Lake region grazing in areas impacted by wildfire earlier in the season.

The Wood Buffalo Complex was last estimated at 503,937 hectares in size. There are currently 190 personnel responding which includes 17 pieces of heavy equipment, 10 helicopters and 83 firefighters and structure protection firefighters.



Bison Grazing in areas previously impacted by wildfire (Sept. 24, 2023)

Although low winds are forecast, land users are asked to exercise extreme caution when in forested areas. Recently burned forests should be avoided. Trees with burnt root systems or trees that are partially burnt can fall easily and without warning.

Closures:

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.

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Area Updates:

Pine Lake Road: Helicopters and ground based firefighters continue to work on containment lines in this area. Fire may impact access to the Pine Lake Road and the road may close for extended periods without notice.

Thebacha: Firefighters continue to extinguish hotspots along Connie's Road and Foxholes Road to secure the perimeter. The removal of structure protection along Thebacha Road is complete.

Reclamation of bell holes continues. Bell holes are holes that were dug into the ground and used as improvised reservoirs to provide a water source to structure protection sprinklers. Until all bell holes have been filled, please be aware of the hazard they may pose.

Fort Fitzgerald: Fire activity continues along Hay Camp Road. Crews are working with helicopters and heavy equipment to contain any potential spread to the north. Hay Camp Road remains closed.

Reclamation: Rehabilitation of dozer guards and fire breaks continue in the Pine Lake area. On average, crews are completing 3km a day.

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
wbnpfire-feupnwb@pc.gc.ca
250-270-0214



Crew members observe wildfire activity (Sept. 24, 2023)

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