



Parks
Canada

FIRE INFORMATION

Wood Buffalo Complex Wildfire Information Update – September 27, 2023 (Previously Parks Canada Fire 7, Alberta Wildfire MNZ003, and NWT SS069)

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Managed under unified command between Alberta Wildfire, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and Parks Canada from the incident command post in Fort Smith. The next update will be on September 29, 2023.

As of September 27, 2023, the Wood Buffalo Complex Wildfire status changed to “being held.” Being held means that the fire is not likely to spread beyond existent or predetermined boundaries under prevailing and forecasted weather and fire behaviour conditions. While the wildfire remains active, firefighting efforts and a cooler forecast have effectively prevented any significant wildfire spread over the last few days.

The Wood Buffalo Complex was last estimated at 504,490 hectares in size. There are currently 183 personnel responding which includes 17 pieces of heavy equipment, 11 helicopters and 102 firefighters and 7 structure protection firefighters. An updated perimeter map is included on page 3.



Crew members safely wait for the helicopter to land (Sept. 26, 2023)

Although low winds are forecast, land users are asked to exercise extreme caution when in forested areas and refrain from driving on dozer guards. 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 have secured the perimeter in this area and the removal of structure protection along Thebacha Road is complete.

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.



Bison Grazing in areas of regrowth (Sept 26, 2023)

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
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250-270-0214

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