

BENDOR RANGE COMPLEX WILDFIRE UPDATE

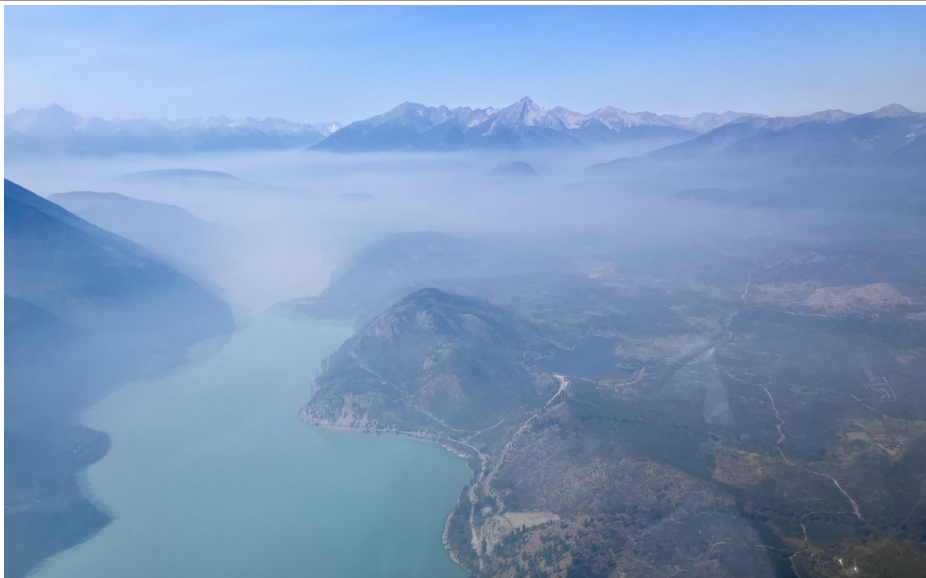
Smoke

For information on smoke conditions, visit firesmoke.ca

Weather Conditions

Today temperatures are forecasted to be slightly cooler, relative humidities are anticipated to improve slightly and cloud cover should increase into the afternoon. Winds will be lighter but localized gusting is expected throughout the day. There is a possibility of trace amounts of spotty precipitation Tuesday night into Wednesday morning. It is unlikely that this precipitation will make a difference for the preexisting drought conditions as a warming and drying trend is expected to return by Thursday.

As conditions remain above seasonal average, staying warm and dry, green pockets of unburnt fuel within the fire perimeter become increasingly more susceptible to ignition, especially in areas where there is unburnt fuel adjacent to hotspots.



Inversion over the Bendor Range Complex. Photo taken looking west down Carpenter Lake on Sept 16, 2023 at 10:47.



Looking south over Bralorne towards Birkenhead Lake Park. Smoke column from V33258, (Coastal Fire Centre). Photo taken: Sept 16 at 15:53

Sockeye Creek Wildfire (V33258)

Pemberton Zone, Coastal Fire Centre

While this wildfire is not part of the Bendor Range Complex, it is highly visible to communities in the area.

The fire is currently estimated at 300 hectares and is burning in steep terrain in Birkenhead Lake Park, slightly northwest of Mount John Decker.

Visit the incident page by clicking [here](#).

For further information regarding this fire please contact the Coastal Fire Centre Information team at 250-951-4209 or by email at BCWS.COFCInformationOfficer@gov.bc.ca

Bendor Range Complex Fires

Downton Lake (K71649) - 9,393 ha | Casper Creek (K71535) - 10,982 ha
Nomad Creek (K73144) - 25.7 ha | Black Hills (K71778) - 589 ha

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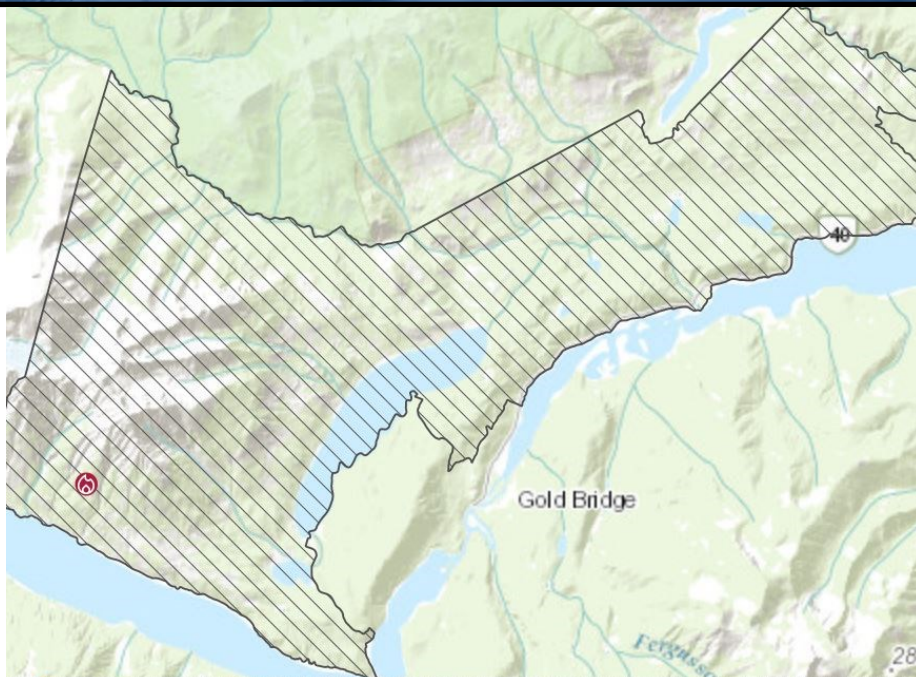
Understanding the Area Restriction

The area restriction for the [Downton Lake](#) wildfire has been extended until noon on Tuesday Oct 3. This area restriction includes Gun Lake and a map for the area restriction can be found [here](#). The exceptions for accessing Gun Lake are for those on their docks/doing work on their docks or traveling to and from their properties that are boat access only. The lake is not open for recreational boating at this time.

Downton Lake Wildfire (K71649)

On the west flank, crews continue to work on both side of the Gun Creek drainage and the area around Pearson Pond. Leading into the weekend, fire activity increased up on the knoll, west of the Gun Creek drainage. The hotspots have been burning deep in this area

and crews have been working consistently in this area, mopping up and extinguishing hot spots as they flare up with wind and are identified by overnight scans. These infrared scans have also helped crews located hotspots in around property areas in the Pearson Pond and Mowson Pond areas. On the northwest corner, crews have been working along Slim Creek FSR and in the South Chilcotin Mountains Park. The northwest corner of the fire continues to be the most active area of the fire. Leading into the weekend, this area experienced a further increase in fire activity



Overview of the Downton Lake area restriction.



Increased fire activity within the South Chilcotin Mountains Park, on the north side of Gun Creek. Photo taken looking north from Gun Creek on Sept 16 at 15:53

and behaviour as a result of the warming and drying trend, combined with elevated winds. Crews on-site in this area will continue active suppression efforts, cutting hose trail and extending hose lay to extinguish the fire's edge and activate structure protection on the infrastructure in the park as needed. As the warming and drying trend is anticipated to return towards the end of the week, structure protection will be proactively assessing and triaging values further into the park in the coming days.

The [South Chilcotin Mountains Park](#) and all [Rec Sites and Trails](#) in the vicinity of the wildfire have been closed.

For further information on the Downton Lake wildfire, please [click here](#).

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Fire activity in the morning on above the Terzaghi Dam on the north side of Carpenter Lake. Photo taken: Sept 16, 2023 at 10:10



Fire activity in the early afternoon above the Terzaghi Dam on the north side of Carpenter Lake. Photo taken: Sept 16, 2023 at 14:02



Fire activity in the late afternoon above the Terzaghi Dam on the north side of Carpenter Lake. Photo taken: Sept 16, 2023 at 18:01

Casper Creek Wildfire (K71535)

As of Thursday Sept 14, crews had completed work on the fire and were relocated to the Downton Lake wildfire.

The morning of Friday Sept 15 when fire activity initially started to pick up in the high-elevation bowl on the northern flank up above the Terzaghi Dam helicopters tried to get into bucket but were unable to do so safely because of the increased wind speeds. These winds in combination with the increased temperatures and the drop in relative humidity caused the significant increase in fire activity. This growth has not contributed significantly to the fire size as it remains burning within the predetermined boundaries and not posing a threat to communities, but Friday through Saturday the fire was active and looked quite dramatic. On the other side of the ridge line is an old fire scar that has slowed down the growth and operational staff will be monitoring it to see how fire behaviour and activity continues to be influenced by the winds and weather conditions. At this point, it's not burning in terrain that is safe or accessible for ground crews or heavy equipment.

Operational field staff will continue assessing and monitoring the fire for achievable and safe objectives for aerial and ground resources. As wind and weather conditions allow, helicopters will provide bucketing support if safe to do so .

Due to the size of the wildfire and the way the fire has burnt, there are places where the fire remains burning more deeply and areas where the fire burnt patchy, leaving green areas of unburnt fuel. These spots are well within the fire perimeter but burning in areas where green pockets are quite susceptible to ignition. Especially as the warming and drying trend returns towards the end of the week. It is expected that smoke will be visible, interior to the fire perimeter in the coming weeks.

For further information on the Casper Creek wildfire, please [click here](#).

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Nomad Creek Wildfire (K73144)

An overnight infrared scan from a few days ago identified four hotspots on the fire, well within the interior of the fire perimeter. Crews hiked in on Saturday to mop up the hotspots and were supported by a helicopter for water delivery and for bucketing action on the hotspots. In the coming days, crews will hike back in to do another patrol for hotspots. No smoke has been visible on the fire in the last few days.

For further information on the Nomad Creek wildfire, please [click here](#).

What to expect from the fires in the Bendor Range Complex

Due to the size of some of the fires and the patchy way that they have burnt in some sections, means there are areas of unburnt fuel within the fire perimeter. As weather conditions return to a warming and drying trend towards the end of the week, these unburnt sections of fuel remain susceptible to ignition. It is natural for smoke and flame to still be visible or pop up within the interior of the fire over the coming days and weeks. However, if you see smoke or flame outside of the fire perimeter or you think you see a new wildfire please immediately call our reporting line at 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 on a cell phone, or use the "Report a Fire" function on the BC Wildfire Service mobile app.



Aerial view of the Nomad Creek wildfire taken on Sept 13 at 17:33.

Important Safety Reminder

While the Squamish Lillooet Regional District has rescinded all evacuation alerts and orders in the community areas, these are still active wildfires and fire suppression work is ongoing. Please give all crews, aircraft and equipment plenty of room to operate safely and undistracted as distractions are a safety hazard for crews and public.

For your safety: remember that there are hazards in active work sites and in areas where fire has moved through but may appear to be no longer actively burning:

Heavy equipment and chainsaw operators: Heavy equipment and chainsaw operators can't hear or see you when operating equipment. Never approach a running machine or an area where a chainsaw operator is working.

Ash pits: Deep, intensely burning stumps and tree roots may result in hot ashpits underground that can lead to severe burns if you step or fall into one.

Falling trees: Drought and burnt-out tree roots cause unstable trees that may fall at any time, especially if it's windy.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Bendor Range Complex Information

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Kamloops Fire Centre Information

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