

INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release 2019FLNR0054-000549 April 2, 2019 Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development BC Wildfire Service

Prescribed burn scheduled near Crater Mountain

KEREMEOS – The BC Wildfire Service, the Okanagan Nation Alliance and the Lower Similkameen Indian Band plan to conduct a 192-hectare prescribed burn near Crater Mountain, about 15 kilometres west of Keremeos.

The burn is the first phase of a comprehensive, multi-year project that is intended to improve bighorn sheep habitat, reduce wildfire threats to nearby communities and protect cultural values. This collaborative effort also supports the traditional use of fire as a tool to improve landscapes in the Okanagan region.

This prescribed burn could start as early as Tuesday, April 2, 2019, if weather, site and venting conditions allow. It will be ignited only if conditions are suitable and will allow for quick smoke dissipation.

The Lower Similkameen Indian Band and the BC Wildfire Service will carefully prepare, control and monitor the fire. Smoke may be visible from nearby communities.

This low- to moderate-intensity surface fire will be lit within pre-established boundaries to remove combustible materials and mimic a naturally occurring ground fire. More information about the project can be found online:

www.syilx.org/cikilaxwm-prescribed-fire-used-to-manage-bighorn-sheep-habitat-on-syilx-territory/

To report a wildfire, unattended campfire or open burning violation, call 1 800 663-5555 toll-free or *5555 on a cellphone.

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A factsheet about prescribed burns and ecosystem restoration burns is available online: http://ow.ly/E8Ue30br7OY

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