



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Park Act

Order of the Regional Director

TO: Public Notice

DATE: 2024-12-17

WHEREAS:

- A. This order replaces the previous order for the cave in the headwaters of Ovis Cree, in Wells Gray dated December 14, 2018.
- B. Accessing or approaching a cave in the headwaters of Ovis Creek, in Wells Gray Provincial Park, may be extremely unsafe, and not all risks to public safety have been assessed at this time.
- C. The Province of British Columbia is currently in consultation with local First Nations to protect their interests and cultural heritage values in this area. The cave area may contain fragile cultural heritage values.
- D. The area may have rare, unique, and sensitive ecological attributes that have not been adequately inventoried or studied.
- E. Risks to public safety and cultural and conservation significance need to be properly assessed before public access can occur.
- F. Section 17 of the *Park Act* states:

A Director or any Park Officer acting on the Director's behalf may do one or more of the following:

- (c) Order any person in any park, conservancy or recreation area to cease or refrain from an action, an omission or conduct that the Director or Park Officer, in his or her discretion, considers dangerous to life or property or detrimental to the public interest.

ACCORDINGLY, the Regional Director orders:

1. The closure of the Ovis Creek drainage north of 52°30' N latitude, being approximately the upper third of the watershed, within Wells Gray Park, to all recreational users is effective immediately, until further notice.
2. If this order is not carried out or is only partially or imperfectly carried out, I may direct any person to carry out or complete the order, and the expenses to the government of carrying out or completing the carrying out of the order will be a debt owing to the government by Individual at the suit of the government in any court of competent jurisdiction.
3. Any users of the area during this closure are in Trespass under the *Trespass Act*.

Signed in Hagensborg on December 17, 2024.



Volker Michelfelder
Regional Director
BC Parks, Thompson Cariboo Region
Ministry of Environment and Parks