

PUBLIC NOTICE

Prescribed Burn in Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park – Spring 2008

Proposed Start Date is Sunday, May 25, 2008

The Ministry of Environment, BC Parks in partnership with the Ministry of Forests and Range – Protection Branch is planning to conduct a prescribed burn within Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park this spring. The primary purpose of this burn is to enhance and re-open Marion Zone Stone Sheep habitat. A successful burn will provide the resident Stone Sheep population with both winter and spring habitat by increasing grass production as well as improving escape terrain and visibility (sight lines). The burn will result in an increased sheep population. Due to successional vegetation changes, large portions of the area are no longer viable as sheep habitat. There is a lack of the critical sedges and forbes necessary for both summer and winter range nutrient. This burn is required as part of an ongoing program to improve the health of park ecosystems, to enhance the productivity of wildlife habitat, and to increase public safety from wildfire both inside and adjacent to the Park. Succession would be retarded and planned future burns will convert areas to a herb-grass or shrub dominated vegetation type.

The Hyland Post prescribed burn project meets the objectives and priorities for the area as listed within the Stikine Country Parks and Protected Areas Management Plan (November 2003). BC Parks has gained support from the Tahltan Nation, the Stikine Country Advisory Committee and the local guide-outfitters for this project. In addition, BC Parks, through local guide outfitter, has developed partnerships with the Foundation of North American Wild Sheep and the Wild Sheep Society in funding this worthwhile project.

For more information please contact Janice Joseph, Tatshenshini/Kispiox Area Supervisor or Larry Boudreau, Section Head, Parks and Protected Areas at 250-847-7260.