



## **Spray Lakes Road Construction and Partial Closure of the Grassi Lakes Day Use Area**

### 1. Where is the Spray Lakes Road?

The Spray Lakes or Smith Dorrien Road (Highway 25291) connects the Town of Canmore to the recreational opportunities in Spray Valley Provincial Park as well as access to Peter Lougheed Provincial Park. The road construction will occur below Whiteman's Pond. Traffic delays will begin after the Grassi Lakes Day Use Area turn-off to the top of Whiteman's Gap before the Goat Creek Trailhead.

### 2. Why is Alberta Transportation repairing the road and why is it happening during the busiest months in the Bow Valley?

Over the last 25 years, use on the Spray Lakes Road has substantially increased and the infrastructure supporting the road surface requires repairs. The Project involves anchoring the gabion walls under the Spray Lakes Road below Whiteman's Pond, covering the face of the gabion wall with shotcrete, and replacing the guardrail and fence.

The application of Shotcrete, a sprayed concrete mixture used to help reinforce and stabilize slopes requires temperatures between 10°C and 25°C at the time of placement and ambient temperature must be at or above 5°C for 24 hours after application. This work is required to be completed during the warm summer months of July and August.

### 3. Will the Spray Lakes Road be open during road construction?

Traffic will be reduced to single lane alternating traffic during road construction work by flag personnel and automated traffic lights. Speed reductions will be in place and users are asked to use additional caution and courtesy to workers in the area. Please allow additional time to reach your destination and obey all posted signage.

There will be substantial traffic delays from the bottom of the Spray Lakes Road to the top of Whiteman's Gap. Alberta Parks encourages users to access their desired destination in the Spray Valley via Hwy 40 through Peter Lougheed Provincial Park or seek out alternative hiking and climbing opportunities in Kananaskis Country.

### 4. Why is Alberta Parks partially closing the Grassi Lakes Day Use Area?

The road construction is located directly above the Grassi Lakes climbing area and Upper Grassi Lake. To reduce the rock hazard to climbers and hikers, Alberta Parks will close these areas. In the 1980's, during road construction in the same area of the Spray Lakes Road, it was reported that a few large boulders rolled down past the Upper Grassi Lake. Alberta Parks will maintain the closure until Alberta Transportation completes construction and clears the additional risk of potential rockfall hazards related to road construction. Closure is scheduled for July and August.

## **The Upper Grassi Lake and climbing area is closed.**

Hiking trails from the Grassi Lakes Day Use Area trailhead to the Lower Grassi Lake are open. Access to Ryders of Rohan and the front of Ha Ling Peak via the Whiteman's Pond dam is open.

### 5. Can I access and use the Grassi Lakes climbing area?

The climbing routes and access to the Grassi Lakes climbing area will be closed during road construction. Closure is scheduled for July and August.

### 6. Can I access Ryders of Rohan and Ha Ling Peak?

Access to Ryders of Rohan and the front of Ha Ling Peak via the Whiteman's Pond dam is open during construction. However, the small parking area at the dam will be used for road construction staging. Users will have to park along Whiteman's Pond under the East End of Rundle climbing routes or at Goat Creek Trailhead.

### 7. Where else can I go to climb and hike?

Traffic delays on the Spray Lakes Road just south of Canmore will affect visitors and their recreational plans for the north end of the Spray Valley. This may include hiking, biking and scrambling routes on Ha Ling, along Spray Lakes, Mount Shark and Assiniboine access. Users should factor road construction into their trip planning and either allow for more time, choose alternative access via Hwy 40 or plan for a new destination such as the Highwood, Sibbald or Sheep River areas of Kananaskis Country.

There are lots of climbing areas in the Bow Valley including Cougar Creek, Grotto Canyon and Heart Creek. See out a local climbing guide book or social media sites to seek out alternative opportunities.