**WILDLIFE VIEWING**

Wildlife viewing and photography comes with responsibilities; the most important is respect to all wildlife.

**Viewing Distances. Stay back at least:**

- 100 metres from bears
- 50 metres from all other large species
- 200 metres from coyote, fox or wolf dens

These are the minimum distances from wildlife that are applicable in most cases.

However, it is up to each person observing wildlife to watch for defensive warning signals. If you see the following defensive warning signals from wildlife, pull back further or leave the area. If you cause an animal to move, you are too close.

- Bears make a “woofing” noise, growl and pop their jaws or seat the ground.
- Bulb elk and moose put their heads down and paw the ground.
- Cows flatten their ears, stare directly at you and raise their hump hairs.
- Even agitated deer can be dangerous and cause injuries to people.

These guidelines will cause the least impact on wildlife, ensuring they remain safe and wild. Traffic congestion around wildlife sometimes results in motor vehicle accidents. Drive carefully and be observant of other drivers.

**FIRE BANS**

Camping and other outdoor enthusiasts should be aware that when the fire hazard is extreme, or when a fire situation is serious enough that it poses a danger to the public, travel restrictions and/or fire bans may be implemented.

Restrictions are announced through various news media in the province and online at www.AlbertaFireBans.ca.

Fire bans prohibit the lighting of all wood, briquette and propane/natural gas fires. Depending on the severity of the fire hazard, a fire ban may include fires contained in fire facilities in designated camping and recreation areas. Citronella candles and torches may also be prohibited during a fire ban.

Gas and liquid-fuelled cooking stoves are normally permitted during fire bans for cooking purposes only.

**Hiking Safety Before You Hike**

- Plan Ahead!
- Research your route and check the weather forecast. Ensure you have adequate information to assist with route-finding such as maps, guidebooks or GPS files of your route.
- Make a trip plan and let a friend or family member know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Ensure that you carry a safety communication device such as an emergency personal locator device or a cellular phone. Note that cellular service is limited in many areas of the mountains.
- Pack appropriate equipment for your outing. Some items to consider include proper footwear, extra layers of clothing including a hat or toeque, protection from the sun, wind and insects, a flashlight or headlamp and adequate food and water.
- Carry bear spray year round and know how to use it

**While You Hike**

- Stay on established trails and avoid trail braiding.
- Do NOT pick or collect wildflowers or other vegetation; take a photograph instead.
- Do not litter. This includes cigarette butts, seed shells and tissue.
- Occasional shouting will warn wildlife that you are in the area.
- This is especially important near noisy creeks and in dense forest.
- Shouts are more effective than a bell, whistle or horn.