

Club Policy 2017.10.03-Outdoor Range Restrictions –Fire Season (amended April 2020)

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to limit the potential of a wildland fire igniting on the outdoor ranges, including the rifle/handgun range, the trap range and the archery range located at 124 Porto Rico Road near Barrett Creek.

Application of Restrictions

1. Whenever there are burning restrictions prohibiting the burning of grass or stubble on an area of 0.2 hectare or less, advertised by the BC Wildfire Service, **South East** Fire Centre, as a Category 2 Open Burning Restriction, the following restrictions will apply at the outdoor ranges:
 - a. The use of binary (exploding) targets (e.g. tannerite or equivalent) are prohibited.
 - b. The use of tracer ammunition is prohibited. (amended Jan.2019 & August 2019 – to permanently prohibit the use of a and b above.
2. Whenever a campfire ban is instituted by either the Regional District of Central Kootenay, pursuant to a bylaw covering the area or failing the existence of a RDCK bylaw then a campfire ban instituted by the BC Wildfire Service, **South East** Fire Centre, the following additional restriction will apply at the outdoor ranges:
 - a. The use of steel jacketed projectiles is prohibited
3. In addition to the above restrictions the Nelson District Rod & Gun Club will notify the Ymir Volunteer Fire Department of any scheduled events at the outdoor ranges when a local campfire ban is in place.
4. Potential restrictions other than full range closure may include:
 - a. Smoking **restricted to areas** with a concrete floor or gravel only. No smoking downrange or over ground cover with any organic material
 - b. Shooting will be limited up to the 200 yard berm (added 2019)
 - c. Shooting will be completed by noon on any day. **Remainder of sentence deleted**
 - d. Shooters will maintain a fire watch for 30 minutes after the cessation of shooting.
 - e. During a back country road closure instituted in the area, there will be consideration to restrict vehicles past the firing line at any time.

Note risk significantly increases during hot dry weather (temperature 30 degrees and warmer, relative humidity less than 30%)

Club Working Group-Range Closure

1. **Establishment** -- If risk of wildfire prompts a consideration to close the outdoor ranges, a small working group consisting of the President, Outdoor Range Master and one other Director will be

struck as a working group to make and implement decisions regarding closing the ranges or other prudent restrictions based on the severity of risk of a human caused wildfire ignition.

2. **Authority** -- The working group, deciding together, may close the ranges to all members and their guests, in addition to all previously identified restrictions. The working group will consider current and forecast fire weather and seek staff advice from knowledgeable sources. **The Clubs rain guage (stored in the sea can) will be set up in an appropriate location and monitored.**
3. **Closure guidance** -- The primary guidance considered **for closing the range** will be whenever the Smallwood weather station exceeds four consecutive days of Extreme Fire Danger Rating (danger class 5) as recorded on the BC Wildfire Service Website, the ranges should be closed on the 5th consecutive day of danger class 5, providing the forecast is continued hot and dry.
An offsetting consideration provided by senior management-South East Fire Centre(2017) is;
 - a. providing safer alternative by keeping the ranges open provides less risk of fire in the uncontrolled area.
 - b. See also page 4 --Smallwood Weather Station
4. **Notification** -- As restrictions to the outdoor ranges are put in place, the appropriate signage will be posted at the Outdoor Ranges and the restrictions will be placed in the newsletter.
 - a. When the ranges are closed completely a specific mailer to all members informing them of same.
 - b. **The Clubs Working Group will remove the standard keyed lock and replace with the combination lock, purchased for this express use.**
 - c. The club website will prominently display any outdoor range restrictions in place.
 - d. **The appropriate local government fire department (e.g. Ymir Volunteer Fire Department, Regional District of Central Kootenay Fire Services) and BC Wildfire Service staff will be informed when the ranges are closed to all members and guests. Delete remainder of sentence.**
 - e. There may be advertisement in the local papers (Nelson Star and Pennywise) for the first closures for fire risk in any given year. Local advertising will generally not be placed for subsequent closures in the same year.
5. **Exemptions** --Exemptions to restrictions may be granted on an event specific basis. The working group will agree on any exemptions and the exemption shall:
 - a. Be in writing
 - b. Be for specific event dates
 - c. Contain provisions to limit fire ignition
 - d. Contain provisions to limit the spread of any fire if ignited
 - e. Contain provisions for the initial response to any fire started
 - f. Contain provisions for reporting any fire that does start

- g. Identify any firefighting tools and equipment that will be required to be on site for the event
- h. identify the person on site that will be in charge if fire response is required. It is understood that the identified Incident Commander (I/C) may be relieved by a higher authority (typically from a fire response agency).

6. Removal of Restrictions

- a. Restrictions imposed at the outdoor ranges based on other agencies imposing restrictions, bans or road closures, in their jurisdictions, will be removed (rescinded) when the directing agencies rescind their corresponding restrictions, bans and/or road closures.
- b. Potential restrictions imposed by the Club Working Group, other than a full closure of the outdoor ranges, will be removed(rescinded) as the risk for a human caused wildfire ignition decreases as determined by the danger class at the Smallwood weather station and an on-site rain gauge at the Outdoor Ranges (when available and monitored). Generally restrictions are put on, and taken off, on the principle of “first on, last off”. The most recent and severe restrictions would be the first ones taken off as the risk of a human ignited wildfire diminishes.
- c. The Outdoor Ranges will be reopened in accordance with the following guidance.

7. Re-opening Guide

The Club Working Group will use as a guide reopening the range when the fire danger class falls to danger class 3 for two (2) consecutive days or falls below danger class 3 at the Smallwood weather station. There will be a separate mailer to each member informing them of the ranges re-opening to members and guests.

Links

Danger class report. 5 = Extreme (highest)

<http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/DgrCls/index.asp?Region=6>

Bans and Restrictions. Where you find Category 2 and Campfire Bans

<http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/Bans.asp>

BC Wildfire Act & Regulations

http://www.belaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/04031_01

http://www.belaws.ca/EPLibraries/belaws_new/document/ID/freeside/11_38_2005

See following page for rationale

Representative Weather Station(2017)

In order to implement a policy concerning limiting the risk of wildland fire at the Outdoor Ranges, it is necessary to determine a representative weather station for the site at 124 Porto Rico Road.

Weather Stations considered and rationale

In consultation with Ron Lakeman, Fire Weather Behaviour Specialist, Southeast Fire Centre, it was determined that the Smallwood Weather Station is the most representative for the site.

Other stations considered – Castlegar; Akokli; Darkwoods and Pend Oreille

- Castlegar was considered too windy & exposed; too low elevation (495m) and 26 km from site
- Akokli too far removed , on the East Shore of Kootenay Lake, significantly different from our site
- Darkwoods too high (1657m) and 27.8km from the site

The Outdoor Ranges are located on a valley bottom site at the toe of the east aspect of the mountain in the Salmo River drainage. Elevation of the range is approximately 824m. The Salmo River drainage is a north/south aligned, tight valley. This alignment and geography limits daily direct sunlight to ground to less exposure than either Smallwood or Pend Orielle. This also limits wind to generally less exposure than either of Smallwood or Pend Orielle. The range is also near the junction of Barrett Creek and the Salmo River which provides potential for cold air drainage and pooling. Any potential cold air drainage will not affect daily indices calculated but would reduce risk of fire ignition during times of cooler air.

Pend Oreille Station – south aspect lower third slope 725m elevation. Above Pend Orielle reservoir in area which provides an east west orientation. Exposed site; Warmer than either Smallwood or Outdoor Range site. 33.2 km from site.

Smallwood Station – south – southeast aspect, lower third slope, 997m elevation. Above Kootenay River – larger valley with east/west orientation. Smallwood is geographically the closest of all 5 weathers stations at 23.5km from site

Recommendation: Smallwood weather station is recommended as the most representative site considering it normally could be a “warmer” site than the Outdoor Ranges.

Approved: October 3, 2017
 Amended January 2019; August 2019
 Revised: April 1 2020

Amended policy approved by Board : _____

H. Grant, President

R. Green, Vice-President

Approved by Membership _____