



FOREST FIRE UPDATE

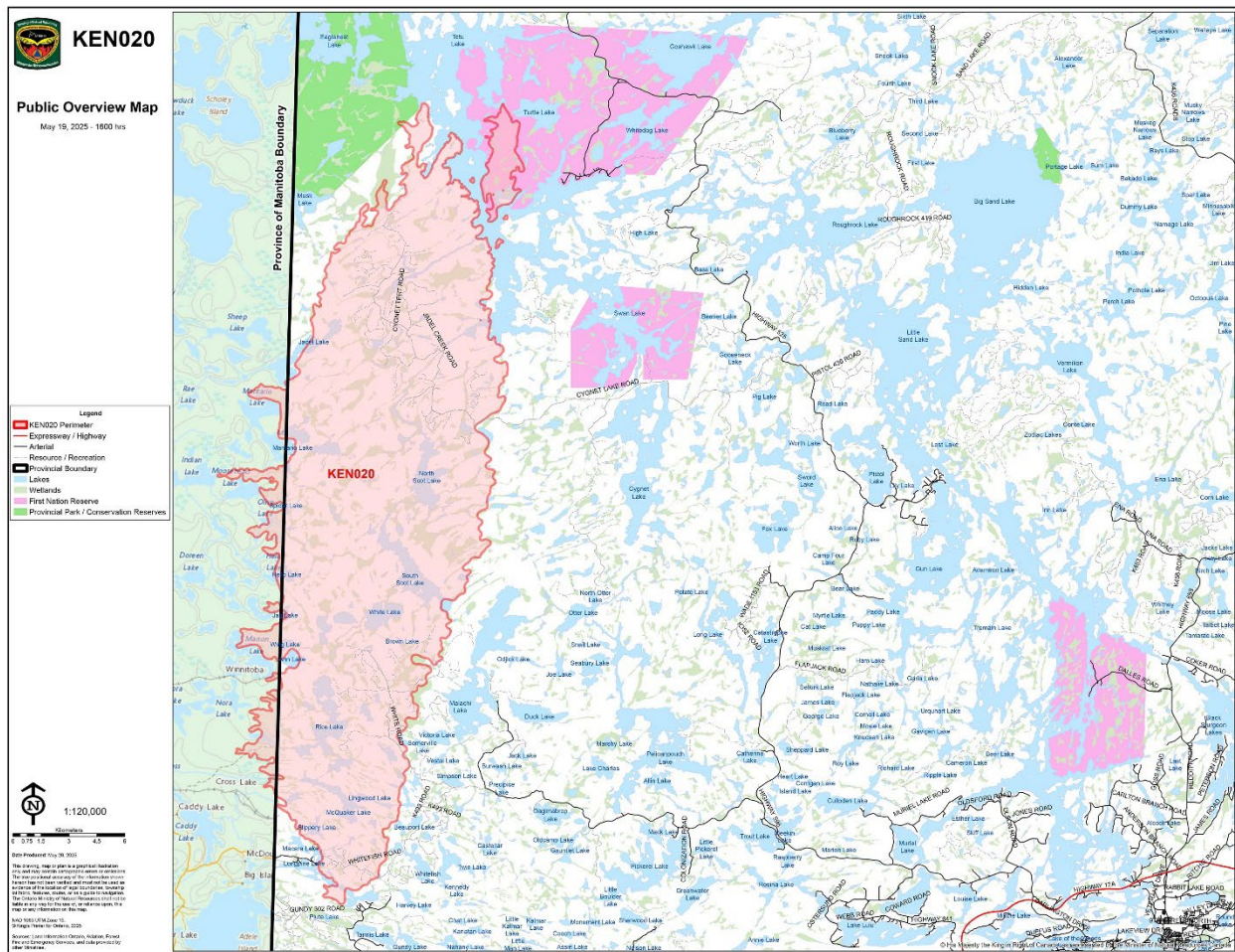
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR **MAY 25, 2025**
KENORA 020/KENORA 014



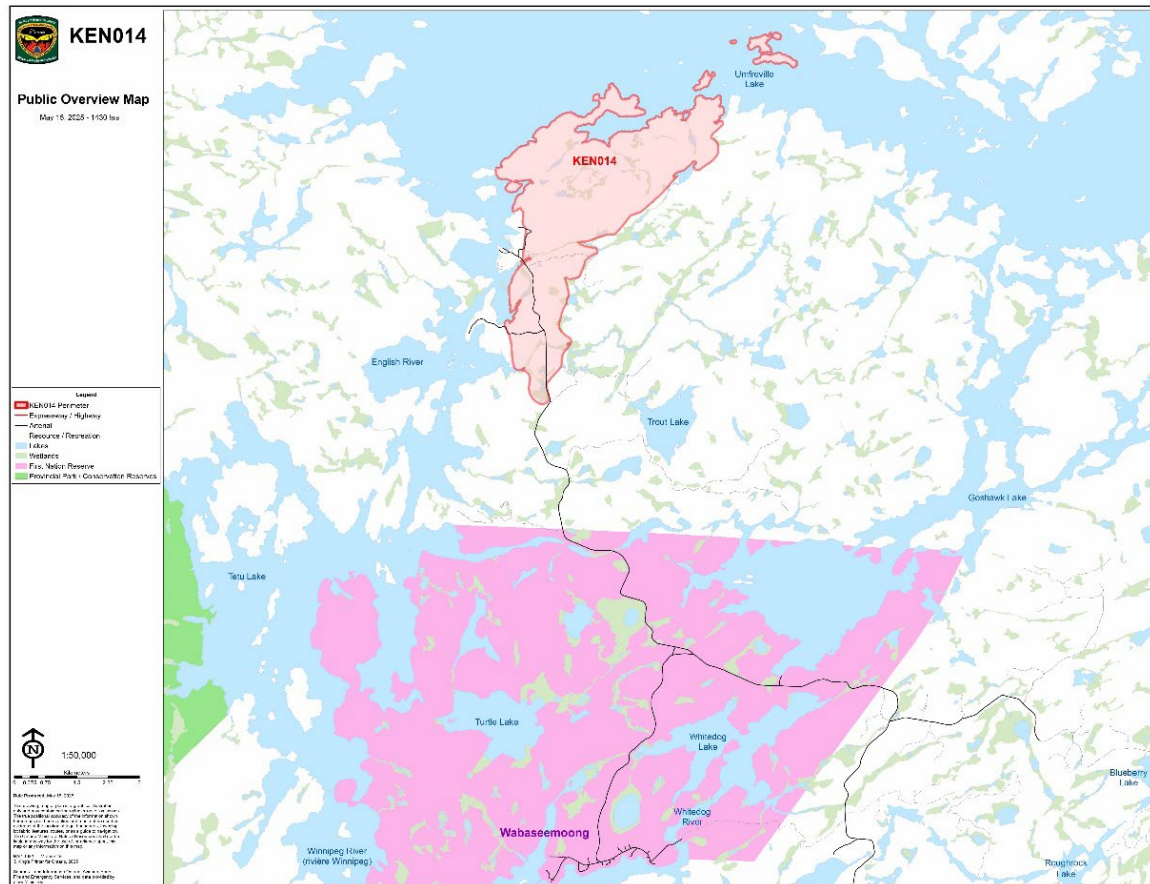
An Ontario CL-415 in action on Kenora 20's western flank, May 22.

Current Fire Situation - Kenora 20

- Smoke from a large Manitoba fire to the northwest shaded Kenora 20, May 24 helping to keep fire behaviour low amidst an ongoing drying trend with the potential for extreme fire behaviour.
- Crews are making excellent progress in all three divisions of the fire aiming to complete establishing hoselines along the eastern perimeter of the fire in the near term.



- Crews are working with pumps and hose and helicopter bucket support to extinguish hot spots to within 50-100 feet of the fire's perimeter. Crews are also extinguishing targets identified by recent infra-red scans.
- Between Kenora 20 and Kenora 14, 172 firefighting staff are presently engaged in 'boots on ground' firefighting.
- The Dale Horan Incident Management Team transitioned with the incoming Marney Brown Incident Command Team who assumed command of the Kenora 20 and Kenora 14 fires on May 25.
- With no rain in the forecast, low humidity, continued high fire hazard conditions and ongoing fire operations, there is presently no timeline to ease travel restrictions into the fire area.



Kenora 14

- Fire behaviour was minimal on KEN 014, May 23. The fire's status of control is 'being held' and it is not expected to grow beyond its present boundaries.
- Crews continue to patrol perimeters and seek out hot spot targets identified by recent high level infra-red scans.

Information Contacts

AFFES Information Officer (fire updates, media inquiries) Brown Incident Management Team

Alison Bezubiak - affes.inc1-info@ontario.ca / 807-323-3743

AFFES Community Liaison Officer (Wabaseemoong, area Indigenous communities)

Maggie Kavanaugh - Maggie.Kavanaugh@ontario.ca / 807-889-0942

Kenora District IMT – Information Officer (road closures, travel restrictions)

Michelle Riley - Michelle.Riley@ontario.ca / 807-747-0341

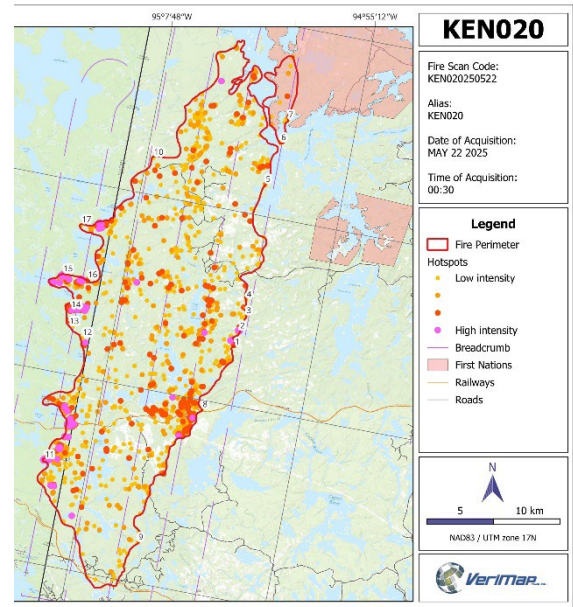
What is infrared scanning?

Wildland Fire Q&A

What is infra-red scanning?

Wildland fire management professionals use technology in a variety of ways to help them gain situational awareness across large areas on the landscape where fire may be behaving differently or hiding from plain sight.

Infra-red scanning is a valuable tool that shows where heat is specifically located and concentrated on the landscape. IR scans are important to gain an idea of how much firefighting remains to be done on a fire as well as identify specific locations as targets for helicopter bucketing or crews.



The most recent high-level infrared scan of Kenora 20, May 22.

Best performed in the gloom of dawn, infra-red scanning equipment ranges from hand-held devices used by technicians from helicopters, to sensors mounted on drones, planes, helicopters and satellites.

What is 'peak burn'?

Peak burn refers to the period of the day when winds and temperatures are at their highest and relative humidity is at its lowest – all important drivers of fire behaviour.

Barring some intervention by the weather or suppression, wildland fires are generally most active between the hours of 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. with some variation through the spring summer and fall.

Peak burn hours underlie the rationale for Ontario's outdoor burning regulations during the fire season (April 1 -Oct. 31) – which allow piles to be ignited no sooner than two before sunset, with the fire extinguished no later than two hours after sunrise.

What exactly do you mean by 'not under control', 'being held', 'under control', or 'being observed'?

While these terms, used to describe a fire's control status, are designed to have a universal meaning between different provincial wildland fire agencies from coast to coast, members of the public often have trouble knowing how to feel about such descriptions.

*In this sense the most problematic is always '**not under control**', or '**out of control**' (used elsewhere in Canada). Wildland fire management agencies use this term to describe a fire that may not be responding, or responding only in a limited way to firefighting, so that the further spread of the fire is not being contained.*

What level of concern does a 'not under control' status warrant from a member of the public? That depends.

Not under control' can encompass a wide range of fire behaviour from intense, fast moving flames, to a large, smouldering fire area that has yet to see enough firefighting action to ensure it will not grow further. The larger the fire, the more time and resources it will take before that status of control can change.

*A fire that is '**being held**' means that under the present conditions and resources assigned to the fire, enough firefighting has taken place that the fire isn't likely to grow any larger.*

*'**Under control**' means that enough firefighting has taken place to ensure no further spread of the fire.*

*The status '**being observed**' describes a fire that does not pose a threat to human lives, property and infrastructure and is monitored without intervention to allow the natural ecological benefits of wildland fires to take place.*



A division supervisor flies over sections of Kenora 20, May 22

What is a **restricted fire zone**?

A Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) is a geographic area where the use of open fires, such as campfires or debris burning, is restricted. It is a temporary measure put in place by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to prevent human-caused fires.

What are the RFZ rules?

A Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) may last from a few days to weeks and is lifted as soon as conditions allow.

It is illegal to start any fire within the RFZ area. Failure to comply could result in a fine of up to \$25,000 and three months in jail. If your illegally started fire causes a wildland fire, you may also have to pay for some of the costs of suppressing the fire.

You can still go camping, hiking, fishing, and have fun outdoors, but if you need heat for cooking or warmth, use a portable gas or propane stove.

Portable charcoal equipment, such as BBQs and Hibachis, are illegal except close to a dwelling that you legally occupy or in an organized campground.

Commercial campground operators may allow campfires if certain conditions are met. Please check with the campground.

Report a forest fire

You can help protect Ontario's forests.

If you see smoke or flames, or would like to report an unattended fire, call 310-FIRE (3473) north of the French and Mattawa rivers, or 911 south of the rivers.

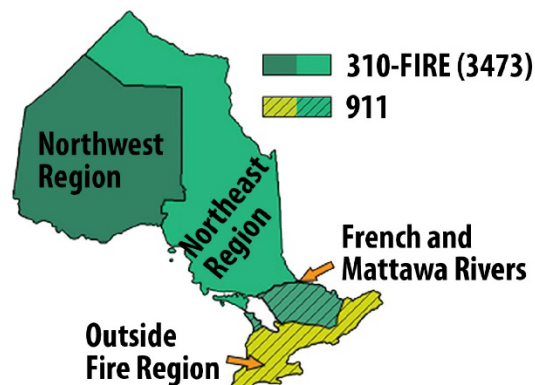
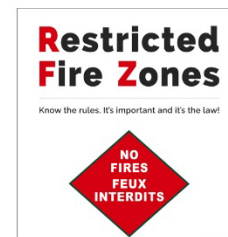
Am I in an RFZ?

To see all current Restricted Fire Zones in effect, visit Ontario.ca/forestfire and select 'Use the interactive map'. There you can zoom in to see borders of the restricted fire zones. Ensure that the 'current restrictions' map layer is activated.

Follow us on Twitter @ONForestFires.

Also, advisories are issued to radio, television and print media.

Locally, look for highly visible green and red *No Fires* signs around roadways, camping spots, sports lodges, gas stations and stores.



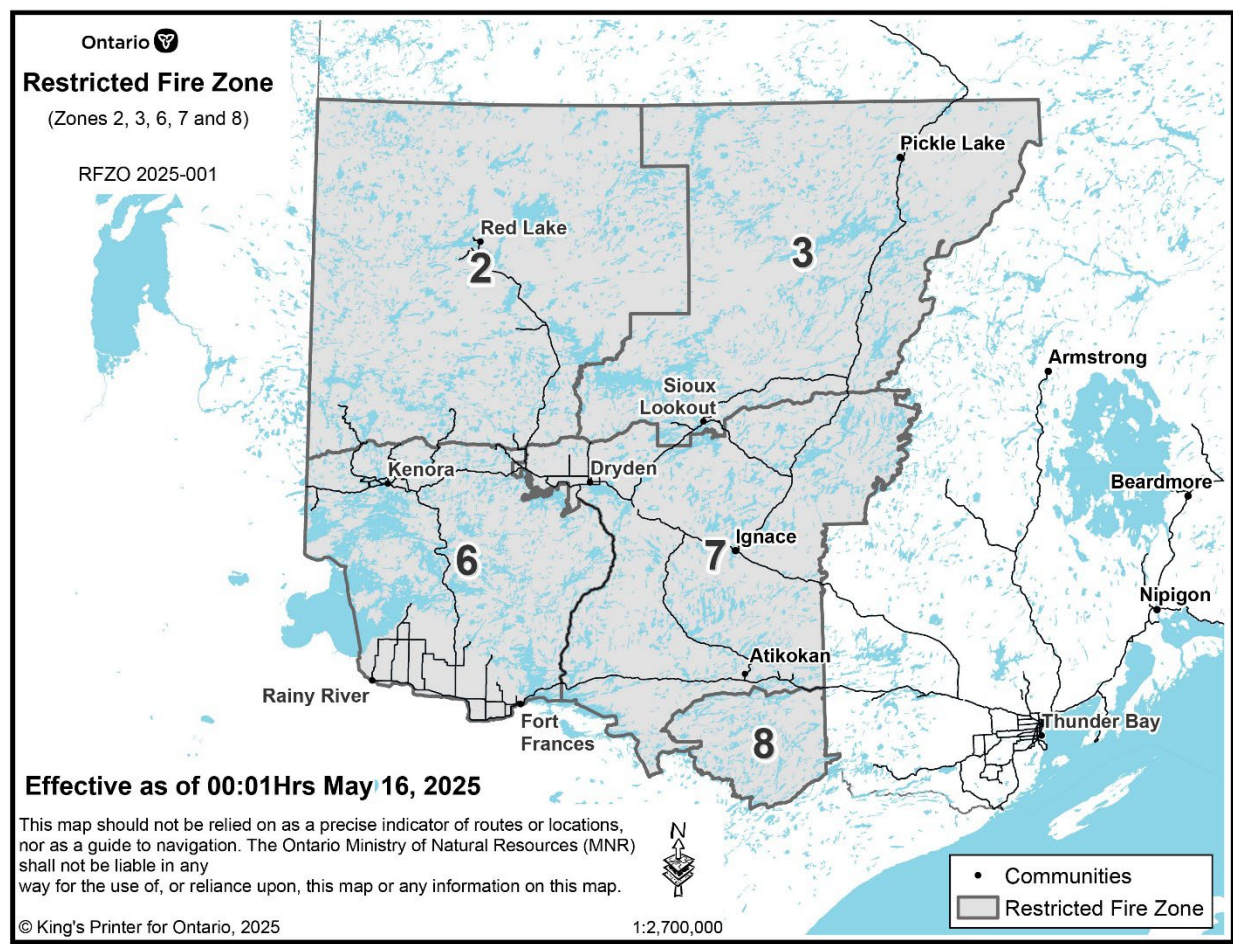
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Restricted Fire Zone in effect



Due to the extreme forest fire hazard, the Ministry of Natural Resources will be declaring a Restricted Fire Zone effective Friday, May 16 at 12:01 am local time for a portion of the Northwest Region (zones 2, 3, 6, 7, 8). The area impacted will be from the Southwest corner of the USA, Manitoba and Ontario border, North along the Manitoba border to West of the midway point of Weeskayjahk Ohtahzhoganeeng Provincial Park, East to North of Wabakimi Provincial Park, South along the Western border of Wabakimi Provincial Park to the Eastern border of Quetico Provincial Park until the USA border, then back West along the USA/Canada border to the Manitoba Border.

No open air burning, including campfires, is permitted within the boundaries of a Restricted Fire Zone. Portable gas or propane stoves may be used for cooking and warmth BUT must be handled with extreme caution. All burning permits are suspended.

[Learn more about the fire restrictions here.](#)

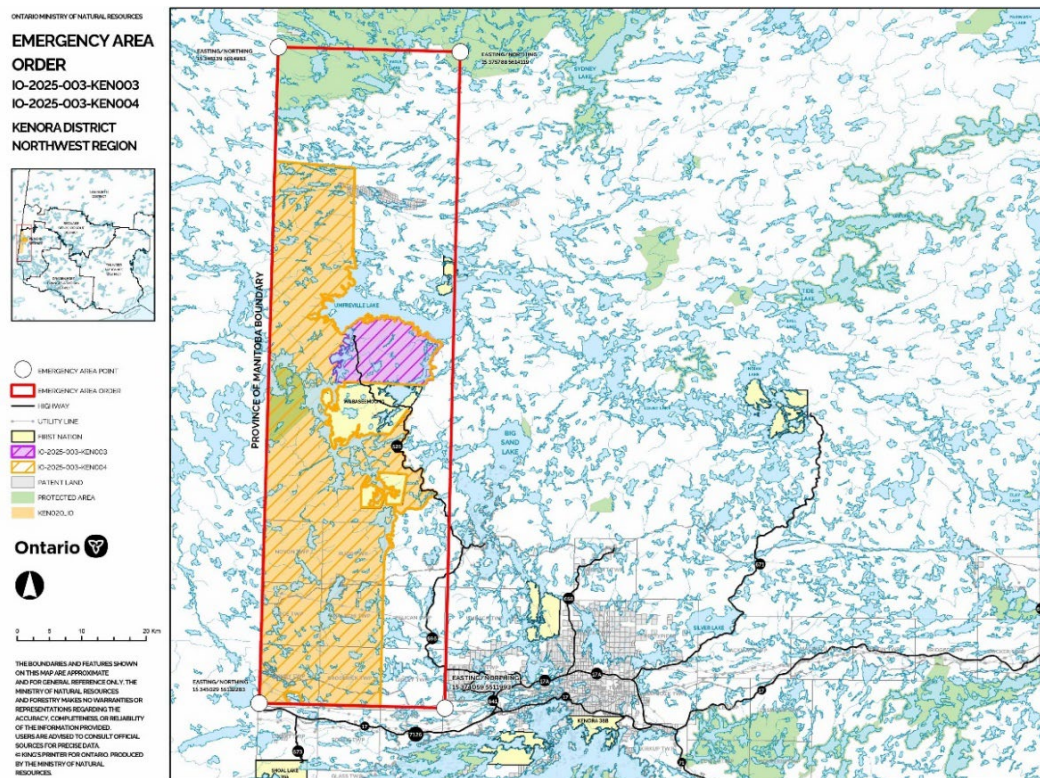
Weather outlook – May 24-31



Regional weather for May 22

High pressure will hold strong over the westernmost districts keeping skies mostly sunny, the rest of the region becoming increasingly overcast with the slight risk of some isolated trace drizzle in parts of the Thunder Bay and Greenstone districts. Winds fluctuate between northerly and northeasterly at 10-20km/h, odd gust near 30km/h. RH's driest along the Manitoba border at 15-30%, becoming increasingly saturated as you go eastward. Temperatures will peak in the mid to borderline upper teens, single digits east of Lake Nipigon.

Travel restrictions in fire areas



Evacuation Order of area

- 1. All persons must immediately evacuate the area indicated on the hatched section of the map unless authorized by a travel permit issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources.**
- 2. All persons are prohibited from entering the area indicated on the attached map unless authorized by a travel permit issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources.**

KEN020

Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services has been advised that as recommended by the Ministry of Natural resources' Kenora District, an Implementation Order is now in effect for the purposes of public safety and/or effectual fire suppression, for areas near Kenora 20 Under the Emergency Area Order EAO 2025-03 declared on May 13, 2025.

- All travel and use of roads, including Gundy Road north of Tannis Lake, Pickerel Lake Road beyond the Pelicanpouch access point at km 9, and Cygnet Lake Road, is prohibited unless authorized by a travel permit.**
- All use of lakes and waterways within the Area including the Winnipeg River below Whitedog Falls (UTM 15U 366399 5553102), Eaglenest Lake, Tetu Lake, Cygnet Lake, Rice Lake, Malachi Lake, Otter Lake, Macara lake, Longpine Lake, and Dagimabrop Lake is prohibited.**
- All use and occupation of Crown Land, within the hatched area identified on the attached Implementation Order map (Schedule A), is prohibited.**

KEN014

Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services has been advised that as recommended by the Ministry of Natural Resources' Kenora District, an Implementation Order is now in effect for the purposes of public safety and/or effectual fire suppression, for areas near Kenora 14 Under the Emergency Area Order EAO 2025-03 declared on May 13, 2025.

- All travel and use of roads, including Highway 525 at and beyond the northern boundary of Wabaseemoong First Nation, is prohibited unless authorized by a travel permit.**

- All use of lakes and waterways within the English River system between Tetu Lake (UTM 15U 356895 5562897) and Umfreville Lake (UTM 358379 5570917) is prohibited.
- All use of lakes and waterways between Goshawk Lake (UTM 15U 371012 5562576) and Umfreville Lake (UTM 3712722 5570758) is prohibited.
- All use and occupation of Crown Land, within the hatched area identified on the attached Implementation Order map (Schedule A), is prohibited.
- See map for reference

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