

File: 0400.20

August 17, 2023

Honourable Bruce Ralston  
Minister of Forests  
PO Box 9049 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2  
[FOR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FOR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Ralston:

**RE: Closing the Forests to Recreational Use**

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At the August 17, 2023, meeting of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, the Board of Directors passed the following resolution:

“That the Ministry of Forests be requested to close the forests in the Penticton and Merritt forest districts to ATVs, dirt bikes and other recreations uses until the weather changes, reducing the risk of fire. – **CARRIED**”

This year is the worst fire season in the history of British Columbia. Closing the forests short-term to recreational uses will protect the area resources and assets for future use of the local communities and tourists.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark Pendergraft  
Board Chair