



## BC Conservation Officer Service

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# Access Management Compliance and Enforcement Program (AMCEP) August Report

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*Compiled by Conservation Officer Patricia Burley  
August 1-30, 2015*



East Flathead AMA – Middle Pass August 10, 2015

## Introduction

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The August Access Management Compliance and Enforcement Program (AMCEP) Report is the third report for the 6 month period for 2015. The AMCEP was developed in 2009, but did not have a set contract until 2011 for a potential 5 year commitment; this is the fifth year of the program. The priority for the program is to focus on the Access Management Areas (AMA's) for the 6 month period within the Regional District of East Kootenay's Electoral Area A from May 15-November 15. Currently, the AMCEP is the only Conservation Officer (CO) position in all of British Columbia. Thank you to the RDEK, Columbia Basin Trust, other stakeholder groups and the Communities of Fernie, Sparwood and Elkford for making the essential program a success. The following information is some highlights from August.

In early August CO Garay received a complaint regarding a large group of ATV'ers riding on the closed AMA trail to Barnes Lake AMA. Off road recreationists will normally stage at the Corbin parking lot and ride to the top of the trail towards Barnes Lake. There is a post at the bottom of the trail that explains the closure. There is also a ditched trench at the closure mark with yellow closure signs posted. People are supposed to park there and then hike to the lake which is approximately 1km. CO Garay responded and intercepted a group camped at the lake. He issued an AMA VT to each ATV operator and gave them 24hrs to be evicted from the area. The group said they have been riding the trail and camping at the lake each summer for many years and did not know it was a closure despite all the maps and closure signs they passed. The COS relies on the public's assistance with making complaints while in the remote AMA's.

On August 10<sup>th</sup> Sgt Schley and CO Connatty patrolled East Flathead AMA on the closed trail to Middle Pass Summit. Although there was abundant evidence of motorized traffic on the closed trail and summit they did not encounter any recreationist that day (fig 1-3). CO Burley communicated with AB Parks Officer Bryan Sundberg, District Conservation Officer in Pincher Creek, regarding the motorized activity in the Castle Mountain Special Management Area and East Flathead AMA. CO Sundberg said that he had two officers patrol to Middle Pass from the AB side during the weekend of August 22-23 as there was a festival in the area called the Huckleberry Festival. The CO's that patrolled said that they did not encounter anyone in the closures but at noticed, like the BC CO's, an abundance of motorized trails on the summit. AB has a yellow gate on the east side in Alberta where their road closure starts, but has been cut numerous times, including this summer. CO Burley and CO Deboon had a trail camera posted on the closed section of the Middle Pass trail. The photos have not been retrieved at this time.



Figure 1: View of Middle Pass from BC towards AB.



Figure 2: Summit of Middle Pass looking into BC from the BC/AB border.



Figure 3: Motorized activity is the sensitive landscape of East Flathead AMA: Middle Pass Summit.

CO Burley worked with the Fernie Free Press to express a concern for the motorized use on the BC Recreation Sites and Trails around Fernie that are posted as non motorized. The article can be viewed on the following website. Vandals damaging non-motorized vehicle signs on trails: <http://www.thefreepress.ca/community/322546791.html>

CO Burley has communicated with local stakeholder groups for fundraising towards the 2015 issue of the Outdoor Access Guide. The Outdoor Access Guide has been a successful tool in helping educate and inform the public within the East Kootenays on Electoral Area A AMA Maps. The Sparwood Fish and Wildlife Club and Fernie Trails Alliance have contributed towards the 2015 edition. The 2015 edition will include permitted Fernie non-motorized mountain bike/hiking trails from the Mt Fernie area. CO Burley raised \$3000 for 3000 copies from the Fernie Free Press. The magazine was printed and ready for distribution on September 4<sup>th</sup>, just in time for the hunting season.

## Statistics

Access Management Area (AMA) Patrols	*Officer Presence			Officer Action			
	Patrols Conducted	Hours on Site	Contacts Made	**Persons Educated	Access Warnings	Access Charges	Other Violations
Alexander Creek MU 4-23	15	55	23	21	0	2	3
Barnes Lake MU 4-23	2	7	17	17	0	5	0
Chauncey Todhunter MU 4-23	10	27.25	28	19	0	0	0
Corbin MU 4-23	3	5.5	0	0	0	0	0
East Flathead MU 4-01	7	78	85	68	2	0	0
Galton Range MU 4-02	2	6.5	1	0	0	0	0
Grave Prairie MU 4-23	29	67.75	94	74	0	1	6
Upper Elk Valley MU 4-23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Flathead MU 4-01	4	12	9	5	0	0	0
Upper Wigwam MU 4-02	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
Weigert Creek MU 4-23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wigwam Flats MU 4-02	17	61.5	52	45	0	0	4
<b>Total:</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>323.5</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>

Figure 4: Current Summary of total time spent in the field up to August 31, 2015.

Statistics	Total	Filtered
Officer Time	434.5	28
Contacts	565	18
Access Charge	9	5
Other Violation	13	0
Warnings	2	0
Educated	492	17

Figure 5: Current Summary of statistics up to August 31, 2015. The filtered numbers are for the months of August.

Outreach & Non-AMA Specific Activities	# of Events	Time spent (hrs)	Contacts Made	**Persons Educated	Access Warnings	Access Charges	Other Violations
General Patrol	14	22	40	28	0	0	0
Attend Complaint	3	20.5	2	2	0	1	0
School Talk	1	2.5	32	32	0	0	0
Municipality Talk	4	9.25	70	70	0	0	0
Community Clubs	3	9	41	41	0	0	0
Committee Groups	3	14.75	49	49	0	0	0
Other Outreach	13	33	22	21	0	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

Figure 6: Current Summary of total outreach provided to the public up to August 31, 2015.

It should be noted that Officer Presence is calculated as the time Officer(s) were physically present in an AMA, it does not account for travel.

People that are educated are defined as COS discussing specific AMA facts and requirements for which the person in question was previously unaware. It should be noted that the Access Guardian Program and general AMA facts are discussed with more than 80% of contacts.

## Summary

With the fire ban being in effect for August and added conflict wildlife issues had the CO's working on a different focus than AMA's. Immediate public safety of fires and bear concerns within and around our communities takes priority. The Cranbrook CO's assisted with AMA patrols when they were able to find time. All CO's accumulated AMA time has been added to the 2015 Excel spreadsheet when working on investigations, the Outdoor Access Guide, AMA Reports and field time.

The people in the East Kootenay's have such a great opportunity to explore the beauty of the Rockies which provides a variety of recreational experiences. If you have any questions or concerns please look online at the below websites or call the report all poachers and polluters hotline at:

RAPP 1-877-952-7277

CO Burley will be away on leave until October 2016.

The Conservation Officer Service is a public safety provider focussed on natural resource law enforcement and human wildlife conflicts prevention and response. Our Vision: To be a progressive and respected leader in environmental compliance and enforcement, shared stewardship and public safety. The Conservation Officer Service Motto is: Integrity, Service and Protection.

The 2011-2015 monthly AMCEP reports and yearly summaries are now available online for the public to read. They can be viewed on the following website: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/kootenay/eco/accessmaps.htm>

Please see the attached Excel 2015 Stats for more detail of the Access Guardian's patrols and outreach efforts from January to August 31.

## **Maps**

To reduce document size, AMA maps have not been included in this report. If required maps of individual AMAs are available from two sources, the Ministry of Environment website ([www.env.gov.bc.ca/kootenay/eco/accessmaps.htm](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/kootenay/eco/accessmaps.htm)) and the Hunting Regulations Synopsis. The hunting synopsis is available in print and online. ([www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/hunting/regulations/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/hunting/regulations/)). The maps available from the MOE website are in colour and contain much greater detail.