



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE PRESCRIBED FIRE

## What's Happening?

In the spring of 2016, Parks Canada is planning to implement a 100 hectare prescribed fire on the Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site grounds, located 7 km west of the community of Rocky Mountain House. This prescribed fire plays an important role in reducing the wildfire risk to the national historic site, and improving forage for the resident bison herd.

## Why?

*The goal is to safely use fire to reduce the wildfire risk for the Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site and surrounding lands.*

The protection of the Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site is important to Canadian cultural heritage for its cultural value and to maintain cultural integrity. No prescribed fire activity has occurred at this site since the inception of the historic site in 1979. Pre-European settlement evidence indicates that there were fires in the area of moderate intensity and low severity. Additional objectives for this prescribed fire include:

- Overall improvement of bison forage quality
- Decreased parasitic load in the pasture
- Toxic plant removal to decrease forage-associated disease risk in bison herd
- Returning of fire to the landscape as was previously documented

## How might this affect you?

Parks Canada is committed to ensuring public safety and reducing the risks of wildfires – the safety of people, facilities and surrounding lands is our first concern in all fire management actions. Parks Canada will carry out the Rocky Mountain House prescribed fire in a way that reflects this commitment to safety and minimizes short-term inconveniences such as smoke.

- Ignition will only occur on those days with good atmospheric venting conditions to disperse smoke, and be conducted at a time and in a manner that will ensure the least impact possible on communities and visitors.
- Smoke may reduce visibility on the David Thompson Highway (Hwy 11) and in the town of Rocky Mountain House. Temporary delays on the highway may occur. Please obey all road safety signs and emergency personnel directives.
- For further information on smoke effects, contact a health professional: Alberta Health Link 1-866-408-LINK (5465).
- Those with medical conditions (e.g. asthma, chronic bronchitis) or severe smoke sensitivities may wish to receive notification in advance of prescribed fire operations. To be added to the Banff National Park smoke sensitive list, please call 403-760-0934 or email [fire.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:fire.info@pc.gc.ca).

**For more information:** Fire Information Officer, [fire.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:fire.info@pc.gc.ca), 403-760-0934





**Legend**

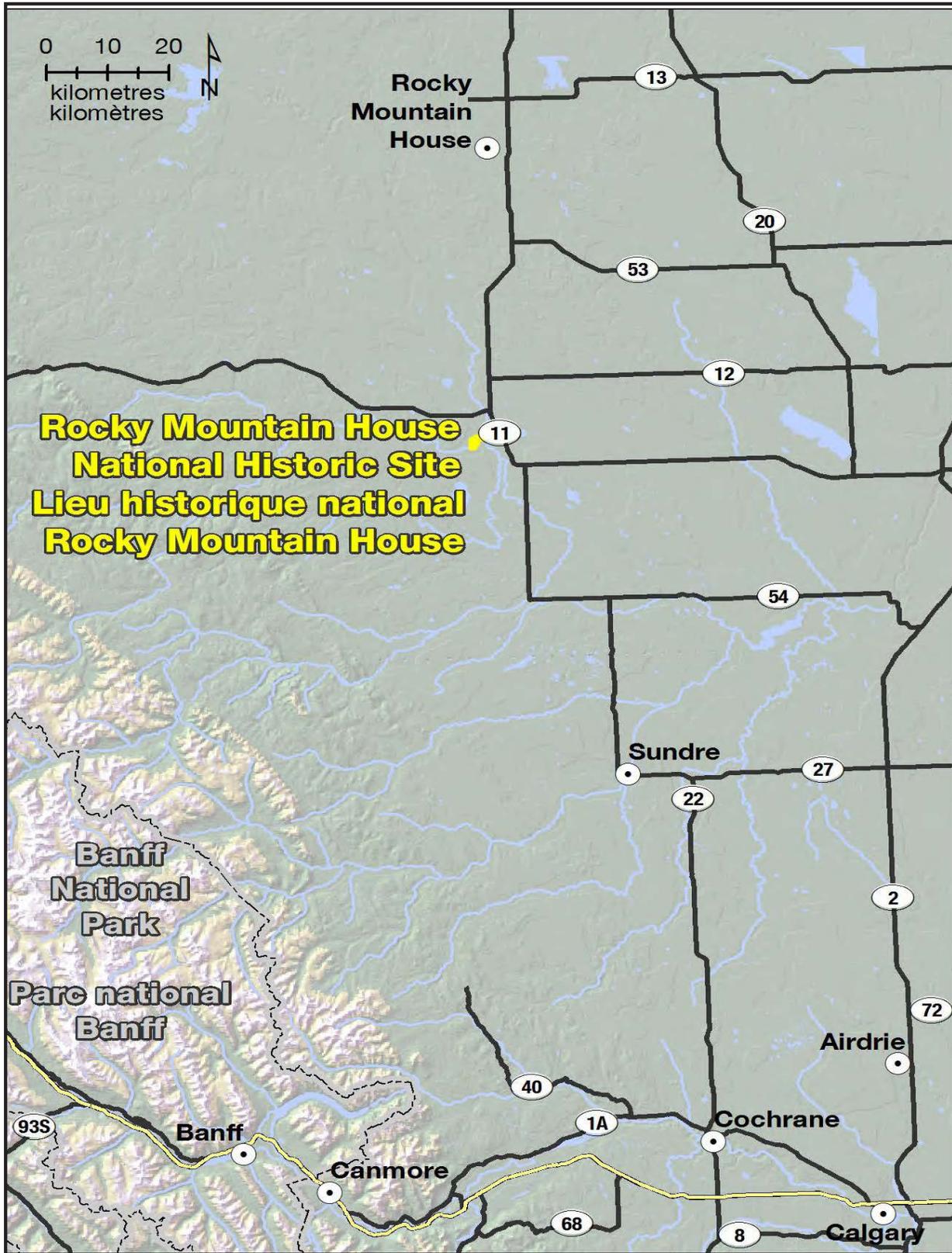
-  RMH Main Compound
-  RMH Prescribed Fire Unit
-  RMH National Historic Site Boundary





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