

BACK 40 FIRESMART WOOD COLLECTION & PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

Information Update for Residents February 20, 2018

Dear MD of Bighorn and Waiparous Residents,

FireSmart activities wrapped up in the Back 40 just before Christmas. As a result there is a lot of cut firewood available for local residents. There are numerous piles of wood along the entire west side fence of the Back 40 lease area.

As part of the Back 40 FireSmart work it is allowed for residents to access the west side of the lease through Eau Claire Trail and Cutline Trail to collect wood **until and including April 15, 2018**. A Temporary Field Authorization (TFA) is in place until April 15, which **temporarily** allows use of motorized vehicles to haul firewood. The TFA is posted on the kiosk at the entrance of the Back40. With the ground currently frozen it is a good time to pick up wood. You are requested not to go back there when conditions are wet and muddy, to limit the damage to the trails and ground. There is a lot of wood for everyone, there is no rush.

Summarized, it is allowed to pick up firewood utilizing a motorized vehicle as long as the following items are taken into account:

- Apply for a TM66 permit online from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) at: <https://extranet.gov.ab.ca/env/treecuttingpermits/permits/>. Or you can visit a local AF office to get the TM66 permit.
- Obey the rules outlined in the TM66 permit.
- Be courteous to others and keep in mind all trails are single lane traffic.
- It is not allowed to sell wood from the Back40.
- There is an increased risk of tree blow down in the area where the Back40 FireSmart work took place. Be careful and it is recommended not to go back there on windy days.
- Pick up the firewood utilizing a motorized vehicle only when the ground is frozen and during dry conditions, and only if another valid TFA is in effect in the summer and fall.
- Be careful as some tree stumps or other pieces of wood might be covered under the snow.

Back 40 Public Info Session Saturday February 24: 10:00 – 12:00 + BBQ lunch

A public information session will be held on **Saturday, February 24**, at the Waiparous Community Services Building at 10:00 am until noon, with a BBQ lunch provided afterwards. This event will be organized by the GWTA together with the SVW FireSmart Committee. The Back40 FireSmart Operations to date will be explained in detail and there will be time for feed back and questions from the community. Please join us February 24 and you can also provide feedback to us at: gwta.ab.ca@gmail.com