

## Tsutswecew Provincial Park – December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- Tsutswecew Park is located approximately 67 kilometres East of Kamloops and 35km West of Salmon Arm. The park is a popular recreation area for local and regional residents as well as a destination for international tourists. The most remarkable aspect of park visitation is the peak in visits that occurs with the spawning run of the sockeye salmon in October, and the huge spike in visitation that occurs every four years coincident with the dominant run. Interpretive facilities and services help visitors appreciate and understand the life cycle and ecology of the salmon.
- Other important activities include hiking, mountain biking, fishing, and kayaking, and commercial river rafting. In years of sufficient snowfall, park trails are casually used for cross-country skiing and snow shoeing. The park is situated amid a significant tourist destination area and is easily accessible from Canada's major tourist travel route – Highway #1. The Shuswap area is a major summer tourist area that is well developed with campsites and tourist accommodations close to the park. The park offers recreation opportunities that supplement the lake-oriented tourist experience in the summer.
- Access to these services were severely impacted by the 2023 Bush Creek East Wildfire. Over 80 % of the park was burned by the wildfire. BC Parks is currently exploring options to facilitate reconstruction activities.
- Many facilities throughout the park were impacted by the 2023 Bush Creek East Wildfire and have required closure for public safety reasons. The following trails were impacted by the fire and remain closed; Upper Flume, Lower Flume, Adams River Gorge Trail, Wade Road Trails, Packer Trail, Indigenous Winter Home Trail, Main Viewing Platform Trail, Island Loop Trail and Skwlax/Anglemont Road to Viewing Platform Trail.
- The Federal Government has not yet declared the 2023 Wildfires in British Columbia an eligible event under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA); however, this is anticipated to occur in the coming months.
- BC Parks will work with a consultant to complete DFAA damage assessments to determine the full scope of fire damaged facilities. This work must occur in snow free conditions and will likely take place in early Spring 2024.
- Once the DFAA damage assessment is complete, BC Park will proceed with recovery efforts including repairs or replacement of fire damaged facilities.
- The Upper Flume, Lower Flume, Adams River Gorge Trail, Wade Road Trails, Packer Trail, Indigenous Winter Home Trail, Main Viewing Platform Trail, Island Loop Trail and Skwlax/Anglemont Road to Viewing Platform Trail will remain closed until safe access can be restored.
- As they become available, updates will be posted on the [Tsutswecew Park webpage](https://www.bcparks.ca/tutswecew) on [bcparks.ca](https://www.bcparks.ca)