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## **Albertans reminded of grazing lease rules**

### ***Areas like Poll Haven near Waterton Park have rules for recreational access***

*Edmonton...* Albertans heading outdoors to spend time at public lands grazing leases such as Poll Haven, east of Waterton Lakes National Park, are reminded of specific recreational restrictions. Some recreational users enter and use the grazing land without contacting the leaseholder.

Recreational users are responsible for finding out whether land they wish to access is publicly or privately owned. If the land is public, it may be leased by the province to a rancher or farmer. Visitors must contact the public land leaseholder before entering. This contact allows the leaseholder to share crucial information about the land such as environmentally sensitive areas, potential hazards or livestock pastures that should be avoided.

Leaseholders' contact information is available through a quicklink to 'Recreational Access to Agricultural Public Land' on Sustainable Resource Development's website at: <http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/lands>. Those who don't have access to the Internet can get this information by calling 1-866-279-0023.

In most cases, leaseholders are required to allow access by foot. They may restrict access or specify conditions such as when livestock are grazing, fire hazard is high, or when certain activities could damage the land and resources.

These regulations help leaseholders protect the land and livestock and balance the rights of recreational users to reasonable access. The rules encourage communication, co-operation and respect.

Fines for violating the rules range from \$150 to \$500. Offences include failing to make contact with an agricultural leaseholder prior to accessing the land for recreational purposes, failing to pack out personal garbage when leaving leased land, and failing to leave gates as they were found.

Managing recreational access is one of the actions under Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to manage growth pressures. Other priorities for the government are to govern with integrity and transparency, improve Albertans' quality of life, build a stronger Alberta, and provide safe and secure communities.

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