



? ESDILAGH FIRST NATION

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– PUBLIC NOTICE –

No Mushroom Harvest in ?Esdilagh: Castle Rock/Twan Lake South Wildfire Area

(Quesnel, BC) The *?Esdilagh First Nation* is declaring a **No Go Zone for Mushroom-Picking in 2018**, in their Territory's most ecologically and culturally sensitive area, which was hit hard by the 2017 Castle Rock/Twan Lake South Wildfire. This is located west of the Fraser River, in interior BC (North Cariboo region.)

The 2017 wildfire season opened up temporary roads in sensitive areas near the Castle Rock/Twan Lake South Wildfire, which includes part of ?Esdilagh Territory. Last year wild mushroom harvesters left behind litter, waste and new camps all around the wilderness in ?Esdilagh Territory.

A very sensitive, endangered pelican species also relies on the Tingley Lake and Twan Lake area for range; and the adjacent Mcqoi Lake area has traditional burial grounds which must be preserved.

"We are stewards of the land and waters" says Chief Victor (Roy) Stump. "We expect all visitors to respect this **No Go Zone** for harvesters in 2018, and the decisions of our land officers in the field."

The *?Esdilagh First Nation* is offering **mushroom picking and camping permits**, for other areas in *?Esdilagh Territory*. We will be issuing permits for both **mushroom pickers** and **mushroom buyers**, through the ?Esdilagh First Nation band office, in Quesnel. Secondly, the *?Esdilagh First Nation* will be supervising responsible mushroom picking in another heavily-impacted area, at nearby Taharti Lake, in 2018. We are providing a map of the ?Esdilagh Territory, and encourage the public and visiting pickers to contact the *?Esdilagh First Nation* office for more information.

The *?Esdilagh First Nation* is taking leadership to protect this unique territory, because it faces the cumulative impact of wildfires and forest rejuvenation in watersheds, and future land stability and Douglas Fir Beetle encroachment. As well, wildfires already hit this area hard in 2010, and resulted in over-use and pressure by ATV's on wildlife and habitat, along with heavy garbage and destructive behaviours on the land at that time.

It is important that we all show respect and nurture the wild species, land and water, in this traditional territory. In the past, the ?Esdilagh First Nation has also spoken up strongly for wildlife management with a moose hunting ban, and voluntarily quit hunting moose, due to prior stresses on the area.

“This is all part of working towards reconciliation with the *?Esdilagh First Nation*,” added Chief Roy Stump. “We are offering a constructive path forward, in friendship, to the Government of Canada and British Columbia, and the general public.”

Issued by:

Nitsil’in Roy Stump

?Esdilagh First Nation

ATTACHED:

Map of Castle Rock/Twan Lake South Wildfire Area

Background – American White Pelican conservation status, and species at risk brochure:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/pelican.pdf>

<http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eswp/esr.do?id=16622>

<http://explorer.natureserve.org/servlet/NatureServe?searchName=Pelecanus+erythrorhynchos>

Background - Tsilhqot’in Moose Harvest Ban, 2017:

www.tsilhqotin.ca/PDFs/2017_10_16_Esdilagh_PressRelease.pdf