

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
April 1, 2021

VANDALS DESTROY RECREATION SIGNAGE IN KOOCANUSA

Recently installed signs communicated Provincial Recreation Order restricting Crown land camping and off-road vehicle use in the Koocanusua Recreation Management Area

(East Kootenay) – Between March 26 and 29 vandals destroyed and removed newly-installed recreation use signs in the Koocanusua area, causing an estimated \$5,000 in property damage. The signs were installed to communicate the [new regulations](#) for the Koocanusua Recreation Management Area, which limits motorized recreation to designated roads and trails, and restricts Crown land camping to designated sites. The signs also provided resources for more information, including links to digital geo-referenced maps of designated roads, trails and camping areas.

Destroying or damaging property, or rendering property useless or ineffective, is a violation under Section 430 of the Criminal Code of Canada. Responsible individuals could face court ordered monetary fines and/or jail time. If anyone has information on this or other offences, please call the Cranbrook RCMP at 250-489-3471 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Information can also be relayed electronically through the RCMP online crime reporting <https://ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cranbrook/en>

Recreation users are reminded that mudbogging and other off-road vehicle use in the Koocanusua Recreation Management area, including along the Koocanusua river bottom, is prohibited and subject to enforcement and penalties. The Conservation Officer Service will be out over this long weekend enforcing these restrictions.

The Koocanusua is an important tourism and recreation area with significant ecological, cultural and resource values. The recreation use signs were an important component to educating and communicating with the public on how to enjoy the area legally, responsibly, and appropriately.

The signs are part of the Koocanusua Recreation Steering Committee (KRSC) efforts to better manage recreation in the Koocanusua area.

Recreation users and other interested stakeholders are encouraged to visit www.koocanusarecreation.ca and sign-up for the KRSC newsletter to stay informed.

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Photo Cutline: Vandals destroyed newly installed recreation use signs in the Koochanusa area, causing an estimated \$5,000 in property damage.