Information Bulletin

ANNUAL GROS MORNE MOUNTAIN CLOSURE TO COME INTO EFFECT MAY 1

ROCKY HARBOUR, NL, April 29, 2022– The summit of Gros Morne Mountain, which includes the 8km Summit Trail, is closed to visitors from May 1 to June 23, 2022 inclusive to protect wildlife during these critical weeks of reproduction and growth. Arctic hare, rock ptarmigan and caribou need privacy and a disturbance-free environment as they have their young and care for them in their first days of life.

For example, rock ptarmigan chicks are extremely vulnerable in their first week after hatching and must be warmed every few minutes. If a mother rock ptarmigan is distracted from her brood for too long, it can put the chicks at high risk of hypothermia and death. In cold, wet weather being separated from their mother for just a few minutes can put the chicks in danger. Similarly, caribou are having their calves on the mountain at this time and the newborns need peace and quiet while they find their legs and build their strength to keep up with their mothers.

The closure also helps protect the fragile mountain terrain, as soils that are wet and frost heaved are easily eroded at this time of year.

While the mountain portion of the Gros Morne Mountain Trail is closed, the 4.5 km Approach Trail from the trailhead to the Ferry Gulch Brook bridge at the base of the mountain remains open (see attached map). Parks Canada thanks visitors for their understanding in providing the animals caring for their young with the space and security they need at this time. The Summit Trail will open to the public on June 24, 2022.

Gros Morne National Park is a world class hiking destination. Visitors are encouraged to check out the website, email grosmorne@pc.gc.ca or call 709-458-2417 for information on all of the park's trails and current trail conditions.

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