



Information Bulletin

GROS MORNE MOUNTAIN CLOSED IN MAY AND JUNE TO PROTECT NEWBORN WILDLIFE

ROCKY HARBOUR, NL, April 27, 2018 – The summit of Gros Morne Mountain is closed to visitors from May 1st to June 28th, 2018 as arctic hare, rock ptarmigan, and caribou are raising their young. The animals need privacy and a disturbance free environment as they have their young and care for them in their first days of life.

Rock ptarmigan chicks are extremely vulnerable in their first week after hatching and must be brooded 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 terrain, as soils that are wet and frost heaved are easily eroded at this time of year.

Visitors can enjoy the hike to the base of the mountain, however, the mountain portion of the trail from the Gully to the campsite at Ferry Gulch (see attached map) is closed to protect wildlife during these critical weeks of reproduction and growth. 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 full trail will open to the public on June 29th, 2018, just in time for the first long weekend of summer.

While Gros Morne Mountain is closed to visitors at this time, the rest of the trails in the national park are open. Gros Morne National Park - which takes its name from the mountain - is a world class hiking destination. We encourage those visiting in May and June to check out the website (pc.gc.ca/grosmorne), email grosmorne.info@pc.gc.ca or call 709-458-2417, for information on all of the hikes that are available and the conditions of the trails.

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