



## **NEWS RELEASE – For Immediate Release July 22, 2010**

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### **Male Charged with Improper Waste Disposal at Dunes**

A 26-year-old Grande Prairie male caught dumping and burning waste at the Dunes has been charged both under the Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act for improper disposal of waste on public land, and under the County of Grande Prairie Fire Bylaw for burning prohibited debris.

A County of Grande Prairie Peace Officer patrolling the Dunes last Friday discovered the accused disposing and burning tree branches, as well as several pails of hydraulic oil. The City of Grande Prairie Fire Department was called in to extinguish the fire.

This is the third investigation into an offender either charged or given a cleanup order in the past two weeks.

“The Dunes is a popular recreation area for local residents and it’s extremely frustrating and disappointing to see people engaging in this type of destructive and illegal behaviour,” said County of Grande Prairie Director of Protective Services Bernie House. “We’re hopeful that a partnership among various levels of government, business and the general public will help deter this type of behavior.”

House said that local enforcement agencies are working together to increase their presence in the area. He also noted that the County of Grande Prairie, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Environment and other partners are working with users of the Dunes to encourage them to report any illegal dumping that they witness.

A sticker campaign has been created, where riders in the area can affix stickers to their ATVs with a hotline to report abuse. The general public using the area have also created their own Facebook page – DUNES TRAIL USERS – to help raise social awareness about environmental stewardship.

The Dunes is a popular area south of Grande Prairie that is used by hikers, dog walkers, off-highway vehicle enthusiasts and other recreationists. The area is public land and managed by Sustainable Resource Development.

The male charged in last week’s incident is scheduled to appear in Grande Prairie Provincial Court on September 14.

Alberta Environment has started an investigation, and may be pursuing further charges and/or a cleanup order. The County of Grande Prairie Fire Service may also be seeking to recoup the costs for extinguishing the fire.

For more information contact:

Bernie House  
Director of Protective Services  
County of Grande Prairie  
Phone: 780-532-9727

Blaine Burke  
Public Information & Education Outreach Officer  
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development  
Phone: 780-512-1400