

Cariboo-
Chilcotin
Land Use
Plan

Prepared by:
CCLUP Mule Deer
Strategy Committee

Prepared for:
Cariboo Mid-Coast
Interagency
Management
Committee

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Management Strategy for Mule Deer Winter Ranges in the Cariboo-Chilcotin

Part Three: Transition Period Harvest Opportunities: **Knife Creek**



Steve Walker Photo

Context

This is part three of a 3 part package that make-up a complete MDWR Strategy. The other components are the “Management Plan for Shallow and Moderate Snowpack Zones” and the “Long-Term Objectives Map”. This brief description of this winter range’s characteristics, challenges, and opportunities must be used in conjunction with the other two parts mentioned above .

This management strategy has been developed through the use of stand structure, forest cover, and slope/aspect mapping. In addition comments and concerns of those responsible for land management practices and decisions in the area have been considered and incorporated wherever possible. It is based on the principles found in the “Handbook for Timber and Mule Deer Management Co-ordination on Winter Ranges in the Cariboo Forest Region” and the direction provided by the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan Mule Deer strategy and the CCLUP - Integration report. The assessment of the current condition of the winter range has been based on the information gathered through the mapping exercises described above. This plan is designed to help guide forest harvest planning in order to maintain or, where required, restore winter range suitability.

In accordance with CCLUP Integration Report direction, this plan has provided increased timber harvesting access (i.e. compared to the harvesting direction prior to the CCLUP Integration) to the winter range both in the 30-year transition period and in the long term. To maintain habitat values with this increased level of access will require concerted effort and a high level of accountability from foresters developing silviculture prescriptions on winter range. Also, those responsible for implementing the silviculture prescriptions will need to carefully supervise the harvesting operations to ensure that prescriptions are well implemented on the ground. Government agencies will need to carefully monitor the implementation of this plan to ensure that habitat values are not being put at risk.

Knife Creek Mule Deer Winter Range

4360 hectares

The Knife Creek MDWR is located approximately 15 kilometres southeast of Williams Lake, east of highway #97. It is bordered by Jones Creek to the north and Knife Creek to the south. The primary use which has affected the winter range suitability is timber harvesting, but grazing of cattle, private land alienation, and road building associated with the above have all occurred within the winter range. Most of the timber harvesting occurred prior to the implementation of guidelines for harvesting in mule deer winter ranges, although a substantial portion of the harvesting trials used to developed the harvesting recommendations for dry-belt fir were developed on this MDWR. The current condition of this winter range has been adversely affected in regard to it’s ability to over-winter mule deer. The UBC research forest, Knife Creek block occupies a substantial portion of this winter range.

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In accordance with Integration Report direction, this plan has provided increased timber harvesting access to winter range habitat both in the 30 year transition period and in the long term. This increased access will require concerted effort and a high level of accountability from foresters developing silviculture prescriptions on winter range. Also, those responsible for implementing the silviculture prescriptions will need to carefully supervise the harvesting operations to ensure that prescriptions are well implemented on the ground. Government agencies will need to carefully monitor the implementation of this plan to ensure that habitat values are not being put at risk.

Transition Period Harvest Opportunities: Knife Creek MDWR

The stand level objectives and operational considerations, for each harvest opportunity type, are described in Table 4.2 of “*Part 1a: Management Plan for Mule Deer Winter Ranges in the Cariboo-Chilcotin, British Columbia: Shallow and Moderate Snowpack Zones*”.

Risk Rating of this winter range:

Moderate

Snowpack zones on this winter range:

Shallow
Moderate

Habitat Management Zone	Harvest Opportunity Type by Long-term Objective						
	1-3	4 – Thinning from below			5 – “Handbook logging”		
		Low	Moderate	High	Low	Moderate	High
1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**
2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		**
3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

** Type 5 harvest available to harvest 2nd pass on 1983/84 mule deer experimental blocks

✓ - indicate potential harvesting opportunities