



Updated March 2, 2006

MATERIAL SUPPORTING THE NOTICE, BUT NOT PART OF THE NOTICE.

INFORMATION CONCERNING WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES AT RISK IN THE FORT NELSON FOREST DISTRICT

This document is intended to provide background information and support to the legal framework of the Notice of indicators of the amount, distribution and attributes of wildlife habitat required for the survival of species at risk in the Fort Nelson Forest District. This document is not part of the legal Notice. Its purpose is to provide additional information for consideration by delegated decision makers and by those persons required to prepare results and strategies consistent with section 7(1) of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation or act in a manner consistent with section 9(3) of the *Woodlot Licence Planning and Practices Regulation*.

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The 1% impact budget associated with the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy is directed at the short-term timber supply. For the purpose of this Notice the short-term timber supply budget represents the total mature timber harvesting land base (THLB) in age classes older than 80 years. Within the Fort Nelson Forest District the short-term timber supply budget is equal to 6,580 ha. Current to March 2, 2006, there are no approved wildlife habitat areas (WHAs) in the forest district. Therefore, the remaining available budget is 6,580 ha. Table 1 summarizes the amount of area included in the Notice as well as the amount of area in approved WHAs and their respective impacts to the mature THLB.

Indicators of amount, distribution and attributes included in the Notice are based on existing data, current knowledge of species distribution, inventory efforts, and species biology, including territory size and intraspecific competition. In many cases, comprehensive inventories have not been completed. Where inventory work or suitability mapping generate a different number of known occurrences and suitable habitat, the Notice may be amended to reflect a greater number of anticipated wildlife habitat areas. Any amendment to the Notice will be consistent with the policy direction on timber supply impacts.

The Notice applies to the Fort Nelson Forest District excluding the Muskwa Kechika Management Area (M-KMA).

Species accounts for each of the species mentioned in the Notice can be obtained from the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy website:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/identified/accounts.html>

Table 1. Summary of mature THLB impacts for amounts included in the Notice and approved WHAs in the Fort Nelson Forest District.

Species	Total Area (ha)	Estimated Mature THLB (ha)	Percent of 1% District Budget
Amounts in Notice			
Boreal Caribou	24,900.0	0	0
Subtotal	24,900.0	0	0
No Approved Wildlife Habitat Areas			
Total	24,900.0	0	0

Figures and spatial information (shapefiles) to support the amount and distribution statements for species included in the Notices are included in the folders titled “Figures” and “Spatial Data” on the following ftp site:

ftp://ribftp.env.gov.bc.ca/pub/outgoing/cdc_data/Approved_FRPR_sec7_WLPPR_sec9_Notices_and_Supporting_Info/Species_at_Risk/Fort_Nelson_FD/Supporting_Info/

Inclusion of draft and proposed Wildlife Habitat Area boundaries in the supporting information does not prejudice the review and comment that may be ongoing around these Wildlife Habitat Areas. Where Wildlife Habitat Areas have not been through the full review and comment process, MWLAP will continue to work with affected parties to address the Wildlife Habitat Area boundaries.

The following section is intended to clarify the amount, distribution, and attribute statements in the legal Notice.

1) Boreal Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*)

Amount:

The amount in the Notice is based on the anticipated need for 33 future wildlife habitat areas for Boreal Caribou. Information is available from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. Future wildlife habitat areas for Boreal Caribou are estimated to have an average area of 550 to 1,000 ha with no impact to the mature timber harvesting landbase.

Distribution:

Fifteen future wildlife habitat areas are intended to be located in seven core areas identified within the range of the Snake – Sahtaneh local population (Figure 1). Eight future wildlife habitat areas are intended to be located within the range of the Calendar local population (Figure 1). Ten future wildlife habitat areas are intended to be located in 3 core areas within the range of the Maxhamish local population (Figure 1). These core areas and ranges have been identified by the Boreal Caribou Recovery Team.

The following reports/shapefiles will be available to those preparing Forest Stewardship Plans via the following ftp site:

ftp://ribftp.env.gov.bc.ca/pub/outgoing/cdc_data/Approved_FRPR_sec7_WLPPR_sec9_Notices_and_Supporting_Info/Species_at_Risk/Fort_Nelson_FD/Supporting_Info/

- Boreal caribou core and general range shapefiles (data contained in Figure 1)

Other information including survey and radio-telemetry data as well as other literature sources are available at the Regional Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection office in Fort St. John. A final report summarizing the results of a five-year Boreal Caribou habitat study in the Snake – Sahtaneh area will be posted to the ftp site and available from MWLAP in the fall of 2005.

2) Northern Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*)

An indicator of amount for Northern Caribou has not been included in this Notice. Where habitat areas (outside of the M-KMA) that have no mature timber supply impacts are identified with future suitability mapping or inventory, the indicator of amount in the Notice may be amended to include a number of future wildlife habitat areas for this species.

3) Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*)

An indicator of amount for Grizzly Bear has not been included in this Notice. Where habitat areas (outside of the M-KMA) that have no mature timber supply impacts are identified with future suitability mapping or inventory, the indicator of amount in the Notice may be amended to include a number of future wildlife habitat areas for this species.