



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

**INFORMATION CONCERNING WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR THE SURVIVAL
OF SPECIES AT RISK IN THE FORT ST. JAMES 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 St. James 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 St. James Forest District the short-term timber supply budget is equal to 10,318 ha. Current to August 1, 2004, there are no approved wildlife habitat areas (WHAs) in the forest district. Therefore, the remaining available budget is 10,318 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 generates 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.

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

http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/wld/identified/iwms2004_index.htm

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

Species	Total Area (ha)	Estimated Mature THLB (ha)	Percent of 1% District Budget
Amounts in Notice			
Northern Caribou	347,529.0	9,800.0	95.0
Subtotal	347,529.0	9,800.0	95.0
No Approved Wildlife Habitat Areas			
Total	347,529.0	9,800.0	95.0

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

1) Northern Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*)

Amount:

The amount in the Notice is based on the mature THLB impacts associated with 196 future wildlife habitat areas (98,000 ha) for Northern Caribou. Information is available from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. Future wildlife habitat areas for Northern Caribou are estimated to have an average total area of 500 ha with average mature timber harvesting landbase impact of 10% of total area, based on current Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection species knowledge and habitat mapping.

Distribution:

Spatial mapping to support the amount included in the Notice has not been completed. The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection will work with forest tenure holders to spatially identify these areas identified in the Notice.

Future intent:

The amount included in the Notice is addressed through the 1% IWMS timber supply impact budget. An additional 249,529 ha in the excluded landbase has been designated as high caribou habitat in the Total Base Case of the Resource Values Summary for the Fort St. James Land Resources Management Plan (LRMP) (12 November 1997). This amount includes 165,654 ha in the Non-forested Exclusion in non-protected areas and 83,875 ha in the Forested Exclusion in non-protected areas. MWLAP intends to identify an amount of area for Caribou management that is consistent with LRMP direction.

2) Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*)

An indicator of amount for Grizzly Bear has not been included in this Notice. Where habitat areas 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.