



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

**INFORMATION CONCERNING WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR THE SURVIVAL
OF SPECIES AT RISK IN THE KALUM 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 Kalum 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 Kalum Forest District the short-term timber supply budget is equal to 3,326 ha. Current to December 30, 2004, there are no approved wildlife habitat areas (WHAs) in the forest district. Therefore, the remaining available budget is 3,326 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.

The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection has retained 1651 ha of the 1% mature THLB impact budget for future wildlife habitat areas for Regionally Important Wildlife, plant communities and species, or new additions to the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy.

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 Kalum Forest District.

Species	Total Area (ha)	Estimated Mature THLB (ha)	Percent of 1% District Budget
Amounts in Notice			
Marbled Murrelet	unknown	1,000.0	30.0
Coastal Tailed Frog	2,544	675.0	20.3
Subtotal	2,554	1,675.0	50.3
No Approved Wildlife Habitat Areas			
Total	2,544	1,675.0	50.3

*The total for Marbled Murrelet does not include the amount of habitat in the non contributing landbase.

**The amount for Grizzly Bear was accounted for through the Kalum LRMP and therefore does not count again the 1% budget and is not shown in Table 1.

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/Kalum_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) Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)

Amount:

The *Marbled Murrelet Letter of Clarification* outlines current policy for the management of Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat; establishment of Old Growth Management Areas, the available portion of the district 1% budget and the non-contributing landbase.

The Notice identifies 1000 ha of mature timber harvesting landbase impact that is to be used to manage suitable nesting habitat. It is anticipated that this amount will address the timber supply impacts of 8 future wildlife habitat areas within the Kalum Forest District, as well as compliment high quality smaller patches within the non-contributing landbase to provide high quality large polygons.

It is intended that suitable marbled Murrelet nesting habitat within the non-contributing landbase will be identified as per the Marbled Murrelet account in the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy. A model has been developed with the support of the Marbled Murrelet Recovery Team to identify potential suitable Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat at a coarse scale for the entire coast. Work is currently underway to field verify the model and test it's accuracy in different Marbled Murrelet Conservation Regions. This model serves as a useful tool for identifying potential habitat at a coarse scale, but should not be used to identify individual habitat polygons at an operational scale. Air-photo interpretation followed by aerial flight overviews continue to be the best methods for identifying suitable Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat. Additional models are being developed at a local scale to serve as more accurate predictors of suitable nesting habitat. Contact the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection for more information.

Landscape Unit Planning has not been completed for many of the Landscape Units within the Kalum Forest District. It is intended that forest tenure holders will work to identify old growth management areas that overlap suitable Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat consistent with the Landscape Unit Planning Guidelines and Marbled Murrelet habitat requirements outlined in the species account for Marbled Murrelet in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* (Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004).

Distribution:

Figure 2 (pdf titled "mamu_kalum_fd_sec7") shows potential suitable nesting habitat as determined by the Marbled Murrelet Recovery Team habitat algorithm mapping, it should also be used as a source of information to identify distribution of suitable nesting habitat. More detailed region specific marbled murrelet habitat mapping can be obtained from the MWLAP Environmental Stewardship Division Smithers.

2) Coastal Tailed Frog (*Ascaphus truei*)

Amount:

The amount in the Notice is based on the total area included in 9 proposed Coastal Tailed Frog wildlife habitat areas and the anticipated need for 1 future wildlife habitat area for Coastal Tailed Frog. Information is available from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. Estimates of mature timber supply impacts within proposed wildlife habitat areas are based on amounts derived from forest cover maps. Estimates of mature timber supply impacts for future wildlife habitat areas are provided in the "Estimated Impact of the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy (Version 2004) on Provincial Timber Supply".

Distribution:

The 9 proposed Coastal Tailed Frog wildlife habitat areas are shown in Figure 1.

3) Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias fannini*)

An amount for Great Blue Heron has not been included in the Notice. This species is known to occur in the district, but there is no current information that would allow an amount, distribution and attributes to be identified. Where inventory work generates known occurrences and suitable habitat, the Notice may be amended to include indicators of the amount, distribution and attributes for this species.

A total of 80 ha, intended to address 1 WHA, has been identified as a long-term projection for this species in this district.

4) Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*)

Amount

The amounts included for Grizzly Bear within the Kalum Forest District represent the range of the timber harvesting landbase impacts (% of current AAC) for Grizzly Bear critical patch habitats within the Kalum TSA, TFL 1 and TFL 41 as identified in the “Kalum Socio-Economic and Environmental Assessment: Final Report”
<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/lrmp/kalum/>

Within the Kalum LRMP area, it is intended that the Kalum LRMP Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy direction will be followed with respect to Grizzly Bear Management Areas. It is also intended that impacts to the timber harvesting landbase for the Kalum LRMP will be incorporated into the Landscape Unit Planning budget.

Distribution:

Grizzly Bear critical patch polygons have been delineated based on PEM mapping for the Kalum LRMP area. Contact Chris Broster, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Terrace for more information.

Future intent:

Outside of the Kalum LRMP area, one future wildlife habitat area for Grizzly Bear is intended to be located within a provincially significant Grizzly Bear area in the Damdochoix Lake area of the Nass TSA.

The Kalum LRMP further identified a timber harvesting landbase impact to address Grizzly Bear forage. An indicator of the amount for Grizzly Bear forage was not included in the Notice at this time.