



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

**INFORMATION CONCERNING WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR THE SURVIVAL  
OF SPECIES AT RISK IN THE NORTH COAST 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 North Coast 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 60 years. Within the North Coast Forest District the short-term timber supply budget is equal to 1,195.3 ha. Current to August 1, 2004, there are no approved wildlife habitat areas (WHAs) in the forest district. Therefore, the remaining available budget is 1,195.3 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 111.3 ha (9.3%) 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](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 North Coast Forest District.**

Species	Total Area (ha)	Estimated Mature THLB (ha)	Percent of 1% District Budget
<b>Amounts in Notice</b>			
“Queen Charlotte” Goshawk	854	667	56.5
Marbled Murrelet	Unknown*	375	31.8
Coastal Tailed Frog	611	30	2.5
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,465</b>	<b>1,072</b>	<b>90.8</b>
<b>No Approved Wildlife Habitat Areas</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,465</b>	<b>1,072</b>	<b>90.8</b>

\* Note: The amount for MAMU does not include the area to be determined in the non-contributing landbase.

\*\* Note: the 1452 ha of THLB impact associated with Grizzly habitat is not an impact to the 1% budget. This is an allocation through TSR.

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/North Coast FD/Supporting Info/](ftp://ribftp.env.gov.bc.ca/pub/outgoing/cdc_data/Approved_FRPR_sec7_WLPPR_sec9/Notices_and_Supporting_Info/Species_at_Risk/North_Coast_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) “Queen Charlotte” Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis laingi*)

**Amount:**

“Queen Charlotte” Goshawk nesting habitat is intended to be managed through the establishment of the available portion of the district 1% budget and the non-contributing landbase.

The amount in the Notice is based on the total area included in 1 proposed “Queen Charlotte” Goshawk wildlife habitat area and the anticipated need for 3 future wildlife habitat areas for “Queen Charlotte” Goshawk. Information is available from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. An estimate of mature timber supply impact within the proposed wildlife habitat area is based on the amount of mature forest (55.8%) derived from forest cover maps. Future wildlife habitat area for “Queen Charlotte” Goshawk are estimated to have an area of 200 ha with a mature timber harvesting landbase impact of 55.8% of total area, consistent with the mature timber harvesting landbase impact of the proposed “Queen Charlotte” Goshawk wildlife habitat area in the North Coast FD.

***Distribution:***

Figure 1 shows the location of the proposed wildlife habitat area. “Queen Charlotte” Goshawk habitat suitability mapping and prioritized probable locations of remaining nest territories in the North Coast FD are available from MWLAP Skeena, Anne Hetherington.

***Attributes:***

It is intended that adequate foraging habitat (7,000 ha) be addressed through Landscape-unit planning using coarse-filter mechanisms.

## **2) 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 further identifies 375 ha of mature timber harvesting landbase impact that is to be used to manage suitable nesting habitat. It is anticipated that this amount will help address the timber supply impacts of the 4 future wildlife habitat areas within the North Coast Forest District as well as compliment high quality smaller patches within the non-contributing landbase to provide high quality large polygons. Information pertaining to draft WHA boundaries is available from MWLAP Skeena, Anne Hetherington.

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 North Coast 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 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.

### **3) Coastal Tailed Frog (*Ascaphus truei*)**

***Amount:***

The amount in the Notice is based on the total area included in 2 proposed wildlife habitat areas for Coastal Tailed Frog. Information is available from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. Estimates of mature timber supply impacts are based on the amount of mature forest within the proposed wildlife habitat areas as determined from forest cover maps.

Figure 1 shows the location of the proposed wildlife habitat areas for Tailed-frog in the North coast FD.

### **4) Keen's Long-eared Myotis (*Myotis keenii*)**

An indicator of amount for Keen's Long-eared Myotis has not been included in this Notice. Where habitat areas or occurrences of hibernacula and roost sites 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.

### **5) 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 (12 THLB) intended to address 1 future WHA has been identified as a long-term projection for this species in this district.

## **6) Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*)**

An amount for Grizzly Bear 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 1425 ha of THLB identified in TSR 2 has been identified as a long-term projection for this species in this district. There is no mapping to support the amount. The Notice will be revised to include this amount once mapping has been completed.