



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

**INFORMATION CONCERNING WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR THE SURVIVAL
OF SPECIES AT RISK IN THE PEACE 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 Peace 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 Peace Forest District the short-term timber supply budget is equal to 13,785 ha. Current to August 1, 2004, 17 approved wildlife habitat areas (WHAs) account for an impact of 0 ha to the mature timber harvesting landbase. Therefore, the remaining available budget is 13,785 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 Peace 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://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 Peace Forest District.

Species	Total Area (ha)	Estimated Mature THLB (ha)	Percent of 1% District Budget
Amounts in Notice			
Boreal Caribou	4,400.0	0.0	0.0
Northern Caribou	13,099.0	5,751.0	41.7
Subtotal	17,499.0	5,751.0	41.7
Approved Wildlife Habitat Areas			
Mountain Goat (9-003)	43.6	0.0	0.0
Mountain Goat (9-004)	54.8	0.0	0.0
Mountain Goat (9-005)	50.8	0.0	0.0
Mountain Goat (9-006)	47.3	0.0	0.0
Mountain Goat (9-007)	52.7	0.0	0.0
Mountain Goat (9-008)	47.7	0.0	0.0
Mountain Goat (9-009)	50.6	0.0	0.0
Mountain Goat (9-010)	49.5	0.0	0.0
Mountain Goat (9-016)	49.4	0.0	0.0
Mountain Goat (9-017)	50.7	0.0	0.0
Bull Trout (9-025)	562.0	0.0	0.0
Bull Trout (9-026)	78.5	0.0	0.0
Bull Trout (9-027)	78.5	0.0	0.0
Bull Trout (9-028)	200.0	0.0	0.0
Bull Trout (9-029)	78.5	0.0	0.0
Bull Trout (9-030)	78.5	0.0	0.0
Bull Trout (9-031)	78.5	0.0	0.0
Subtotal	1,651.6	0.0	0.0
Total	19,150.6	5,751.0	41.7

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/Peace_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 8 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 ha with no impact to the mature timber harvesting landbase.

Distribution:

Future wildlife habitat areas for Boreal Caribou are intended to be located within the Etthithun and Milligan core areas in the range of the Chinchaga / Milligan Hills population (Figure 1). The Chinchaga range and core areas 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/Peace_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 report summarizing recent caribou surveys will be added to the ftp site and available from MWLAP in April 2005. A report summarizing the results of GPS radio-telemetry data from 2004 will be added to the ftp site and available from MWLAP in the fall of 2005.

2) Northern Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*)

Amount:

The amount in the Notice is based on the total area included in 2 proposed Northern Caribou wildlife habitat areas (Figure 1) and the anticipated need for 34 future wildlife habitat areas for Northern Caribou. Information is available from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Proposed wildlife habitat areas are estimated to have a mature timber harvesting impact not exceeding 1,461 ha, based on an assessment of the total area of contributing forest within the draft polygons. Future wildlife habitat areas for Northern Caribou are

estimated to have an average area of 175 ha (mineral licks / calving / rutting areas) and 550 ha (matrix habitat, connectivity areas), with an average mature timber harvesting landbase impact ranging from 0 to 85% of total area, based on current Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection species knowledge and habitat mapping. These timber supply impacts are consistent with or fall below the estimates provided in the “Estimated Impact of the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy (Version 2004) on Provincial Timber Supply”.

Distribution

Figure 1 shows the location of the 2 proposed WHAs, location of the potential future WHAs as well as Northern Caribou ranges. Twenty-three future wildlife habitat areas with mature timber supply impacts not exceeding 3,927 ha are intended to be located within the range of threatened local populations, the Moberly and Belcourt herds. Eleven future wildlife habitat areas with mature timber supply impacts not exceeding 363 ha are intended to be located within the range of vulnerable local populations, the Kennedy Siding, Quintette and Pink Mountain (outside of M-KMA) herds.

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/Peace_FD/Supporting_Info/

- Graham caribou WHAs (shapefile, data contained in Figure 1)
- South Peace potential caribou WHAs (shapefile)
- Northern caribou general range shapefile (data contained in Figure 1)
- Report titled “potential wildlife habitat areas (Wha) for woodland caribou: dawson creek TSA 2004”

Other information including historical data as well as other literature sources are available at the Regional Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection office in Fort St. John.

3) Mountain Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*)

An indicator of amount for Mountain Caribou has not been included in the Notice as a small number of known records occur within a restricted, high elevation area during the winter. No calving, rutting, mineral licks, or transitional ranges used by Mountain Caribou have been identified within the Peace Forest District. Future inventory or telemetry work may result in additional occurrence records and the indicator of amount included in the Notice will be amended where required.

4) 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.