



December 30, 2004

**NOTICE – INDICATORS OF THE AMOUNT, DISTRIBUTION AND ATTRIBUTES OF
WILDLIFE HABITAT REQUIRED FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES AT RISK IN
THE PRINCE GEORGE FOREST DISTRICT**

This Notice is given under the authority of section 7(2) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* (B.C. Reg. 14/04) and 9(3) of the *Woodlot Licence Planning and Practices Regulation* (B.C. Reg. 21/04).

The following Notice includes indicators of the amount, distribution and attributes of wildlife habitat required for the survival of the species at risk outlined in Schedule 1.

Approved Wildlife Habitat Areas are not included in the indicators of amount, distribution and attributes for each of the species outlined in Schedule 1. As per section 7(3) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*, forest tenure holders are exempt from the obligation to specify a result or strategy in relation to the objective set out in section 7(1) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*, for approved Wildlife Habitat Areas.

This Notice applies to the Prince George Forest District.

Schedule 1

1) Mountain Caribou Ecotype (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*)

The following information is provided under consideration of direction for caribou management provided by the Prince George LRMP (January 1999). According to the LRMP, there is to be no commercial timber harvesting in areas of high suitability caribou habitat until proven management strategies are developed in areas of medium suitability caribou habitat.

Amount:

1. Must not exceed an impact to the mature timber harvesting landbase of 6,980 ha.

Distribution:

1. The amount of habitat referenced above must be distributed to provide areas of suitable habitat of the size, spatial distribution and connectivity identified in the species account for Mountain Caribou in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* (Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004).
2. SAR habitat elements for mountain caribou are generally distributed in locations as described below:

<i>SAR Elements</i>	<i>BEC Unit</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Calving Range	AT, ESSF	50-300ha	May be overlap spatially between calving and rutting ranges and late winter range
Rutting Range	At, ESSF	50-300ha	
Connectivity	All		Heights-of-land Ridgelines Cross valley movements
Mineral Lick	Any	50ha	None identified.

Habitat Attributes:

1. Use the species account for Mountain Caribou in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* (Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004) to identify suitable habitat structural stages, security, breeding and foraging habitats, and goals for the management of wildlife habitat areas.
2. SAR habitat for mountain caribou includes:
 - **Calving and Rutting Range** – high elevation alpine and open subalpine forest on gentle to moderate slopes.
 - **Mineral Licks** – Any dry or wet mineral lick used by caribou (Note: none have been made known in the Prince George FD).
 - **Connectivity** – heights-of-land, large contiguous patches of mature/old forest for cross valley movements, and open to densely forested ridgelines for elevation movements.

<i>SAR Habitat</i>	<i>Slope</i>	<i>Forest Cover</i>	<i>Stand Age</i>	<i>Elev</i>	<i>Other</i>
Calving Range	generally <35%	Subalpine forest	Na	>1100	Convex rather than concave topography
Rutting Range		Subalpine forest	>120	>1100	Alpine, open subalpine forest
Connectivity	0-80%	Mature/old forest	>120	all	Large contiguous patches of mature/old forest

2) Northern Caribou Ecotype (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*)

Amount

- Must not exceed an impact to the mature timber harvesting landbase of 1,000 ha.

Distribution

- Northern caribou herds distributed within the Southern Mountain National Ecological Area - map-based depiction in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* (Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004).
- SAR Elements for northern caribou are generally distributed in locations as described below:

<i>SAR Elements</i>	<i>BEC Unit</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Calving Range	At, ESSF	50-300ha	May overlap spatially with calving range, rutting range, connectivity

Rutting Range	At, ESSF	50-300ha	matrix, or ungulate winter range.
Connectivity Matrix	SBS	Matrix should be 2km wide and at least 5km long (1,000ha)	
Mineral Lick	Any	50ha	None identified.

Habitat Attributes:

- **Calving and Rutting Range** - Flat or convex shaped, vegetated alpine (i.e., not rock) sites with south or westerly aspects. Alternatively, arboreal lichen associated sites in mature to old, sub-alpine fir stands with moderate slopes.
- **Mineral Lick** – Any dry or wet mineral lick used by caribou (note: none have been made known in the Prince George FD).
- **Connectivity Matrix** – Low elevation, intermediate/mature forest cover following major rivers.
- **Anti-predation Matrix** – Areas adjacent winter ranges managed to discourage: 1) intensive activity by humans (100 m buffer) and 2) an abundance of moose and wolves (5 km buffer).

<i>SAR Element</i>	<i>Slope</i>	<i>Forest Cover</i>	<i>Stand Age</i>	<i>Elev m asl</i>	<i>Other</i>
Calving Range Rutting Range	<40%	At, Not rock	Na	Na	Convex rather than concave topography
		Ba overstory	>120	>1300	
Connectivity Matrix	<30%	Forested	>40 (if shrub dominated)	<1000	Buffer major rivers 1km each side
Anti-predation Matrix	Na	Forested	>40 (if shrub dominated)	Na	No linear corridors within 100 m of habitat Stand age conditions to be met within 5 km of habitat