



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

**INFORMATION CONCERNING WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR THE SURVIVAL
OF SPECIES AT RISK IN THE PRINCE GEORGE 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 Prince George 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 Prince George Forest District the short-term timber supply budget is equal to 11,494.0 ha. Current to August 1, 2004, there are no approved wildlife habitat areas (WHAs) in the forest district. Therefore, the remaining available budget is 11,494.0 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 Prince George Forest District.

Species	Total Area (ha)	Estimated Mature THLB (ha)	Percent of 1% District Budget
Amounts in Notice			
Mountain Caribou		6,980.0	60.7
Northern Caribou		1,000.0	7.7
Subtotal		7,980	67.7
No Approved Wildlife Habitat Areas			
Total		10,750.0	67.7

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

1) Mountain Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*)

Amount:

The amount in the Notice is based on the anticipated need for 140 future wildlife habitat areas (69,800 ha) for Mountain Caribou or an aggregated area that is equivalent to the specified amount to which General Wildlife Measures would be applied. 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:

An additional 1,158,516 ha in the non-contributing landbase has been designated as high caribou habitat in the Total Base Case of the Resource Values Summary for the Prince George Land Resources Management Plan (LRMP) (July 1997). This amount includes 661,600 ha in the Non-forested Exclusion in non-protected areas and 496,916 ha in the Forested Exclusion in non-protected areas. The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection will work with forest tenure holders to identify areas of suitable habitat for Mountain Caribou. MWLAP intends to in the future identify an amount of area for Caribou management that is consistent with LRMP direction.

2) Northern Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*)

Amount

The amount in the Notice is based on the anticipated need for 20 future wildlife habitat areas (10,000 ha) for Northern Caribou or an aggregated area that is equivalent to the specified amount to which General Wildlife Measures would be applied. 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 an 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.

3) Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*)

Amount:

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

Future intent:

470,322 ha in the non-contributing landbase has been designated as high Grizzly Bear habitat in the Total Base Case of the Resource Values Summary for the Prince George Land Resources Management Plan (LRMP) (July 1997). This amount includes 246,077 ha in the Non-forested Exclusion in non-protected areas and 224,245 ha in the Forested Exclusion in non-protected areas. The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection will work with forest tenure holders to identify areas of suitable habitat for Grizzly Bear. MWLAP intends to in the future identify an amount of area for Grizzly Bear management that is consistent with LRMP direction.