



December 30, 2004

**NOTICE – INDICATORS OF THE AMOUNT, DISTRIBUTION AND ATTRIBUTES OF  
WILDLIFE HABITAT REQUIRED FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES AT RISK IN  
THE QUEEN CHARLOTTE 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 Queen Charlotte Forest District.

**Schedule 1**

**1) Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)**

***Amount:***

1. An amount equal to the total amount of currently suitable nesting habitat in the non-contributing landbase. Government policy for determining the amount of suitable nesting habitat is provided in the species account for Marbled Murrelet in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* (Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004); and
2. An amount of suitable Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat within Old Growth Management Areas consistent with the direction from landscape unit planning.

***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 Marbled Murrelet in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* (Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004).

2. Locate the areas described above within the biogeoclimatic units and preferred elevations identified in the species account for Marbled Murrelet in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* in the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004.

***Attributes:***

**Species:  
Marbled  
murrelet**

Attribute	Characteristics
Size	Maintain a balanced range of patch sizes including a mix of large (>200 ha), medium (50-200 ha) and small (<50 ha) patches within managed forests. The area should include vertical canopy complexity,
Tree Features	Large branches or branches with deformities, and presence of mossy platforms
Tree Species	It is unlikely that Marbled murrelets select particular tree species, however certain species are more likely to provide large horizontal platforms suitable for nesting. This includes yellow cedar, western hemlock, Sitka spruce and western red cedar. Less likely species include mountain hemlock.
Nesting Habitat Features	Suitable nesting habitat includes old seral stage coniferous forests, providing large trees with platforms (limbs or deformities >15cm diameter) with variable canopy structure and small gaps in the canopy. Readily nest on steep slopes but is not essential if forest canopies are non-uniform.
Tree Size	Most nesting trees in BC are >200 yr. Nest trees are typically >40 m tall and nest heights are typically >30 m. Nest limbs range in size from 15-74 cm diameter.
Structural Stage	7: old forest (inventory age >200 yr, but age 140-200 may be acceptable if older forest is not present and the age 140-200 stands provide platform limbs and other nest attributes).
Additional information	<p>Table 3 of the IWMS Version 2004 species account for Marbled Murrelet provides detailed information about the habitat features that are associated with most likely, moderately likely and least likely habitat within each of the Marbled Murrelet Conservation Regions.</p> <p>For the Haida Gwaii (QCI) Conservation Region, Chapters 2.6 and 4.7 of the Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands Environmental Conditions Report covering Marbled Murrelets provide further details of the refined weighting scheme used to identify key habitat features associated with the forest inventory attributes to assign a habitat class value to forest cover polygons. The HG rating system, Class 1 can be considered to meet the “most likely” habitat class, Class 2 the “moderately likely” and Class 3 the “least likely” habitat. Classes 4-6 are considered to have no habitat value for Marbled Murrelet nesting.</p>