



December 30, 2004

**NOTICE – INDICATORS OF THE AMOUNT, DISTRIBUTION AND ATTRIBUTES OF  
WILDLIFE HABITAT REQUIRED FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES AT RISK IN  
THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN 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 Rocky Mountain Forest District.

Schedule 1

**1) Coeur d'Alene Salamander (*Plethodon idahoensis*)**

***Amount:***

1. 20 ha not exceeding an impact to the mature timber harvesting landbase of 12 ha.

***Distribution:***

1. The amount of habitat referenced above must be distributed to provide:
  - areas of suitable habitat of the size and spatial distribution identified in the species account for Coeur d'Alene Salamander in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* in the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004.
2. The areas described above are located within the biogeoclimatic units and preferred elevations identified in the species account for Coeur d'Alene Salamander in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* in the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004.

**Attributes:**

**Species:**  
**Coeur d'Alene**  
**Salamander**

Attribute	Characteristics
Size	Generally less than 20 ha in size although the size should be based on the extent of suitable aquatic habitat, micro-climate and hydrological considerations. Areas managed for this species should include a 20-40 m management zone around the core area. The core area should include all suitable habitat (i.e., deep wet talus) plus adjacent suitable foraging habitat (forested habitat within 50 m of the wet bedrock or talus). The area should encompass known observations and suitable aquatic habitat.
Habitat Attributes	Wet microhabitats are characterised by waterfall splash zones, rock seepages, fissured bedrock in association with streams, deep wet talus. Observations are more common in areas of steep topography with surficial bedrock. Minimum canopy cover at stream sites of 42% with a mean of 83% (+/- 15%). Canopy cover at seepage sites of 57% (+/- 15%).
Elevation	500 - 1550 m.

## 2) Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog (*Ascaphus montanus*)

**Amount:**

1. 1800 ha not exceeding an impact to the mature timber harvesting landbase of 1314 ha.

**Distribution:**

1. The amount of habitat referenced above must be distributed to provide:
  - areas of suitable habitat of the size and spatial distribution identified in the species account for Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* in the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004.
2. The areas described above are located within the biogeoclimatic units and preferred elevations identified in the species account for Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* in the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004.

**Attributes:**

**Species:**  
**Rocky Mountain**  
**Tailed Frog**

Attribute	Characteristics
Size	Typically 50-150 ha but will vary to accommodate site specific factors. The area should include a 30 m core area buffered by a 20 m management zone on both sides of occupied stream reaches.

Habitat Attributes	Stream step pools of permanent streams and headwaters and pool riffle habitats within fish bearing streams may also be used. Stream temperatures between 10-16C are optimal (tolerance limits between 5-18.5C for eggs, 22-24.1C for adults). Well developed overstory and understory to help maintain high humidity and low temperatures (Generally associated with structural stage S6 or S7). Stable mountain streams are characterised by regularly spaced pools and interlocked cobble/boulder (or wood) steps that withstand moderate floods and sediment pulses. Streams characterized by 1-10 cubic metres per second discharge and gradients between 3-20 degrees.
Elevation	1190-1905 m.

### 3) Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeolus*)

#### **Amount:**

1. 180 ha not exceeding an impact to the mature timber harvesting landbase of 140 ha.

#### **Distribution:**

1. The amount of habitat referenced above must be distributed to provide:
  - areas of suitable habitat of the size and spatial distribution identified in the species account for Flammulated Owl in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* in the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004.
2. The areas described above are located within the biogeoclimatic units and preferred elevations identified in the species account for Flammulated Owl in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* in the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004.

#### **Attributes:**

##### **Species: Flammulated Owl**

Attribute	Characteristics
Size	Between 10 and 30 ha, based on estimated home range size using habitat suitability information. Should include a core area of 7-12 ha that includes key foraging, the nest site and security habitats and ~100 m management zone. Consider a WTP $\geq 4$ ha where salvage does not occur and where as many suitable wildlife trees as possible are maintained or recruited over the long term (>80 yrs).
Tree Features	Visible woodpecker or natural cavities; understory brush or thickets, snags with cavities.
Tree Species	Most commonly, Ponderosa pine; less commonly, Douglas-fir, trembling aspen or western larch.
Nesting Habitat Features	Includes multi-age class stands with multiple canopy layers, including a veteran tree component for nesting or roosting. Large diameter ponderosa pine for nest trees may be critical to sustain local populations. Nest in Pileated Woodpecker and Northern Flicker cavities and it is therefore important to consider nesting requirement of these species as well. Nests are often located within and/or near foraging habitat.

Foraging Habitat Features	Often forages within 300 m of nest during breeding season. Habitat is characterized by small forest openings (<1 ha) adjacent to Douglas-fir thickets and/or large veteran Douglas-firs or ponderosa pines with heavy branching for security. Understorey structure may be important in forest openings for foraging habitat.
Tree Size	64-77 cm. In the absence of trees with the preferred dbh, trees >35 cm or largest available should be retained for recruitment.
Wildlife Tree Class	1, 3-7
Structural Stage	6 (mature forest), 7 (old forest).
Elevation	400-1375 m.

#### 4) Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*)

##### **Amount:**

1. 56 ha not exceeding an impact to the mature timber harvesting landbase of 0 ha.

##### **Distribution:**

1. The amount of habitat referenced above must be distributed to provide:
  - areas of suitable habitat of the size and spatial distribution identified in the species account for Lewis's Woodpecker in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* in the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004.
2. The areas described above are located within the biogeoclimatic units and preferred elevations identified in the species account for Lewis's Woodpecker in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* in the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004.

##### **Attributes:**

##### **Species: Lewis's Woodpecker**

Attribute	Characteristics
Size	5-50 ha but depends on the area of suitable habitat.
Nesting Habitat	Old growth ponderosa pine or Douglas fir, typically <25% canopy closure with presence of large diameter dead or live snags (preferably ≥45 cm dbh and a minimum of 30cm dbh). In mature deciduous stands (i.e., paper birch), canopy closure varies (5-80%) and includes large trees (preferably ≥45 cm dbh and a minimum of 30 cm dbh). Nesting trees often have evidence of heartrot infection or broken tops or limbs.
Tree Species	Ponderosa pine, black cottonwood and Douglas fir.
Foraging Habitat Features	Includes open forests and valley bottoms, deciduous groves near lakes and streams, burns, logged areas, agricultural habitats such as orchards and farms, rural gardens, and urban areas. Broken-topped or large-limbed living or dead trees are used as hawking perches.
Tree Size	Preferably with greater than or equal to 45 cm dbh and a minimum of 30 cm dbh

Wildlife Tree Class	2–4 for ponderosa pine; 4–7 for Douglas-fir (a mix would be ideal, but preference would be for lower end of decay range to maximize current suitability and longevity).
Structural Stage	2: herb (foraging for beetles, ants and other insects), 3a: low shrub (shrub stage for foraging when insects are abundant), 3b: high shrub (possibly used for foraging when insects are abundant), 5: immature forest (particularly in black cottonwood stands), 6: mature forest (black cottonwood, ponderosa pine and oak stands), 7: old-growth forest (black cottonwood, ponderosa pine and oak stands).
Elevation	Nesting in elevation between 250-1160 m.

## 5) Badger (*Taxidea taxus jeffersonii*)

### Amount:

1. 250 ha not exceeding an impact to the mature timber harvesting landbase of 0 ha.

### Distribution:

1. The amount of habitat referenced above must be distributed to provide:
  - areas of suitable habitat of the size and spatial distribution identified in the species account for Badger in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* in the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004.
2. The areas described above are located within the biogeoclimatic units and preferred elevations identified in the species account for Badger in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* in the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004.

### Attributes:

#### Species: Badger

Attribute	Characteristics
Size	Generally 2–100 ha depending on site characteristics. The area should include known burrows and/or prey concentrations and areas of suitable habitat. Use soil or geologic boundaries wherever possible.
Burrowing and Foraging Habitat Features	Most badger activity is at low elevations in dry regions within native grasslands, open forest Douglas-fir or ponderosa pine as well as disturbed sites such as agricultural fields. They have also been known to use cutblocks and early-seral forests. Burrow and hunting sites are typically dominated by grass, forbs, or low shrubs, either in non-forest, open forest or very young forest. The most common soil types used are moderately coarse-textured Brunisols with low to moderate (<35%) coarse fragment content, originating from glaciofluvial and glaciolacustrine parent material. Badgers may use disturbed soils (i.e., road fill) or small areas where morainal deposits dominate. They maintain and use several burrows over a large home range; burrows are readily reused by both badgers and other species (i.e., Burrowing Owl).
Restocking densities	< 75 stems / ha, preferred 20 stems / ha

Structural Stage	For forested habitat types in which older structural stages are characterized by closed-canopy forest, stages 0 and 1 are important for prey abundance. In open-canopied and non-forested habitat types, at mid- to late-seral, highly structured grasslands are important habitat features for badger prey.
Elevation	Minimum elevations are 300–800 m, depending on the region; maximum elevation is about 2800 m. Badger occurrence is usually greatest near valley bottoms but at least some populations make regular use of all elevations, including the alpine.