



December 30, 2004

NOTICE – INDICATORS OF THE AMOUNT, DISTRIBUTION AND ATTRIBUTES OF WILDLIFE HABITAT REQUIRED FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES AT RISK IN THE SKEENA STIKINE 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 Skeena Stikine Forest District excluding the Bulkley and Kispiox timber Supply Areas.

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);
2. An amount of suitable Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat within Old Growth Management Areas consistent with the direction from landscape unit planning; and
3. An amount of suitable nesting habitat to a maximum net mature timber harvesting landbase impact of 350 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 Marbled Murrelet in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* (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 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, Douglas-fir and western red cedar. Less likely species include mountain hemlock and amabilis fir.
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 (>250 yr - age class 9, but 8 is acceptable if older forest is not present and the age class 8 provides platform limbs and other nest attributes).
Additional information	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.

2) Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*)

Amount:

1. Within the Cassiar TSA, 16,246 ha of which 1,693 ha are within the THLB; and
2. Within the Cranberry TSA 4,665 ha of which 2,785 ha are within the THLB.

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 Grizzly Bear in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* (Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004).
2. Within the Cassiar TSA locate areas within CWH and ICH biogeoclimatic units.
3. Within the Cranberry TSA the areas described above are located within the biogeoclimatic units and preferred elevations identified in the species account for Grizzly Bear in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* in the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004.

Attributes:

Forest cover constraint:

- 1) Cassiar TSA:
 - CWH
 - A maximum of 30% of the area can be in stands < 250 years; and.
 - A maximum of 20% of the area can be less than 3 m or 24 years.
 - ICH
 - A minimum of 30% of the area can be in stands > 250 years; and.
 - A maximum of 25% of the area can be less than 3 m or 20.7 years.
- 2) Cranberry TSA:
 - A maximum of 10% of the area can be in stands < 100 years; and.
 - A maximum of 30% of the area can be less than 20 years.

Species:

Grizzly Bear

Attribute	Characteristics
Size	1-500 ha, depending on the area of use, extent of seasonal habitat and buffer size required.
Critical patch habitats	Critical patch habitats include herb dominated avalanche tracks with adjacent forest, non-forested fens, herbaceous riparian meadow/wetland complexes and seepage sites, skunk cabbage swamps, sub alpine parkland meadows, whitebark pine stands, salmon fishing areas and old burns or other successional areas dominated by <i>Vaccinium</i> (blueberry) species. Non-forested critical habitats include a core area and buffer of forested cover. Forested critical habitats are not buffered.
Denning Habitat Features	Hibernating habitats tend to be high elevation areas that are sloped with dry, stable soil conditions that remain frozen throughout the winter. Dens are typically located on steep north-facing slopes, areas where vegetation will stabilize the den roof and where snow will accumulate for insulation. Dens are rarely re-used but Grizzly bears will often return to the same vicinity to dig new dens.

Foraging Habitat Features	Habitat selection is strongly influenced by meeting nutritional requirements, access to mates, thermal cover (i.e., dens), social interactions and the presence and activities of people. Habitat requirements vary greatly as some bears are more transient while others are more resident. Both residents and transients select patches or complexes of habitats within landscapes.
Structural Stage	Generally, foraging is more abundant in non-forested sites, sites with partial forest or sites with many tree gaps in older forest. Closed forest sites near quality habitat may be used for security and day bedding areas. Many or all structural stages can be used seasonally or for specific needs and as such, forage type is not necessarily tied to one particular structural stage.
Elevation	All elevations from sea level estuaries to high alpine meadows and talus slopes.