



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

**INFORMATION CONCERNING WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR THE SURVIVAL
OF SPECIES AT RISK IN THE SOUTH ISLAND 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 South Island 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 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. The short-term timber supply budget represents the total mature timber harvesting land base (THLB) in age classes older than 60 years. Within the South Island Forest District the short-term timber supply budget is equal to 1053 ha. Current to August 1, 2004, approved wildlife habitat areas account for an impact of 438 ha to the mature timber harvesting landbase. This does not include seven Wildlife Habitat Areas in TFL 44 which will be assumed to have no impact once Landscape Unit Planning has been completed consistent with the direction of the Joint Steering Committee Decision Note dated March 13, 2003 (File: 280-20). Therefore, the remaining available budget is 615 ha. The Notice addresses 99 ha of this 615 ha. The Notice does not currently contain an amount for Marbled Murrelet from the 1% district budget, but will be revised shortly to include an amount of the 1% allocation.

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. For the purpose of the notice mature timber harvesting landbase means the THLB in age classes older than 60 years.

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. In cases such as the Red-legged Frog a comprehensive inventory has not been completed. In other cases such as the Great Blue Heron, nesting sites changes over time, so it is not possible to delineate sites for Wildlife Habitat Areas immediately. Where inventory work 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 South Island Forest District.

	Species	Total Area (ha)	Estimated Mature THLB (ha)	Percent of 1% District Budget
Amounts in Notice				
	“Queen Charlotte” Goshawk	239	79	7.5
	Marbled Murrelet	unknown	0	0
	Scouler’s Corydalis	50	20	1.9
	Subtotal	289	99	9.4
Approved WHAs				
	“Queen Charlotte” Goshawk (1-003)	2135.2	424	40.3
	Marbled Murrelets in TFL #44 (1-023-1-031)	1964.8	0**	0.0**
	Douglas-Fir/Oniongrass	22	14	1.3
	Subtotal	4122	438	41.6
	Total	4411	537	51

** Note: MAMU WHAs established in TFL 44 are not expected to have any impact to the THLB once landscape unit planning is completed.

Figures and spatial information (shapefiles) to support the amount and distribution statements for species included in the Notices are included in the folders titled “Figures” and “Spatial Data” on the following ftp site:

ftp://ribftp.env.gov.bc.ca/pub/outgoing/cdc_data/Approved_FRPR_sec7_WLPPR_sec9_Notices_and_Supporting_Info/Species_at_Risk/South_Island_FD/Supporting_Info/

Inclusion of draft and proposed Wildlife Habitat Area boundaries in the supporting information does not prejudice the review and comment that may be ongoing around these Wildlife Habitat Areas. Where Wildlife Habitat Areas have not been through the full review and comment process, MWLAP will continue to work with affected parties to address the Wildlife Habitat Area boundaries.

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

1) “Queen Charlotte” Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis laingi*)

Amount:

The amount in the notice is based on the total area included in proposed Nahmint Queen Charlotte Goshawk wildlife habitat area (1-006). The impact to the mature timber harvesting landbase is an estimate based on approval of an adjacent Ungulate Winter Range and slope stability net-downs.

Distribution:

Figure 1 shows the location of the proposed wildlife habitat area.

2) Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)

The *Marbled Murrelet Letter of Clarification* outlines current policy for the management of Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat; establishment of Old Growth Management Areas, the available portion of the district 1% budget and the non-contributing landbase.

It is intended that suitable marbled Murrelet nesting habitat within the non-contributing landbase will be identified as per the Marbled Murrelet account in the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy. A model has been developed with the support of the Marbled Murrelet Recovery Team to identify potential suitable Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat at a coarse scale for the entire coast. Work is currently underway to field verify the model and test it's accuracy in different Marbled Murrelet Conservation Regions. This model serves as a useful tool for identifying potential habitat at a coarse scale, but should not be used to identify individual habitat polygons at an operational scale. Air-photo interpretation followed by aerial flight overviews continue to be the best methods for identifying suitable Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat. Additional models are being developed at a local scale to serve as more accurate predictors of suitable nesting habitat. Contact the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection for more information.

Landscape Unit Planning has not been completed for many of the Landscape Units within the South Island Forest District. It is intended that forest tenure holders will work to identify old growth management areas that overlap suitable Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat consistent with the Landscape Unit Planning Guidelines and Marbled Murrelet habitat requirements outlined in the species account for Marbled Murrelet in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* (Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004).

The Notice does not currently contain an amount for Marbled Murrelet from the 1% district budget. The Notice will be revised in the near future to include a portion of the 1% budget for the South Island Forest District.

3) Scouler's Corydalis (*Corydalis scouleri*)

Amount:

The amount in the notice is based on the anticipated need for up to 12 future wildlife habitat areas for Scouler's Corydalis. Information is available from The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection on distribution of known sites.

Distribution:

Figure 1 shows the locations of Scouler's corydalis on crown land in the South Island Forest District. Future WHAs will be based on these locations. Contact the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection for more information.

4) Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias fannini*)

Amount:

An amount for Great Blue Heron has not been included in the Notice. This species is known to occur in the district, but there is no current information that would allow an amount, distribution and attributes to be identified. Where inventory work generates known occurrences and suitable habitat, the Notice may be amended to include indicators of the amount, distribution and attributes for this species.

A total of 40 ha (15 THLB), intended to address 1 WHA, has been identified as a long-term projection for this species in this district.

5) Red-legged Frog (*Rana aurora*)

Amount:

An amount for Red-legged frog has not been included in the Notice. This species is known to occur in the district, but there is no current information that would allow an amount, distribution and attributes to be identified. Where inventory work generates known occurrences and suitable habitat, the Notice may be amended to include indicators of the amount, distribution and attributes for this species.

A total of 45 ha, intended to address 4 WHAs, has been identified as a long-term projection for this species in this district.