



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

**INFORMATION CONCERNING WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR THE WINTER SURVIVAL OF UNGULATE SPECIES IN CRANBERRY TIMBER SUPPLY AREA**

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 winter survival of ungulate species in the Cranberry TSA. 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 License Planning and Practices Regulation*.

The Cranberry TSA overlaps entirely with the Nass Wildlife Area as defined by the Nisga'a Final Agreement. As such, Section 50 under Chapter 9 of the Nisga'a Final Agreement must be considered.

## **Cranberry TSA**

### **Amount:**

The amount included in the objective is based on class 1 and 2 mountain goat and moose winter habitat suitability mapping area upon which ungulate winter range polygons will be proposed by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (MWLAP). Class 3 habitat for both species has not been included in the Notice, although these areas may be used for future UWR establishment as the UWR line work is refined.

### **Distribution:**

Figures and spatial information (shapefiles) to support the amount and distribution statements 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/Ungulate\\_Winter\\_Range/Timber\\_Supply\\_Areas/Cranberry\\_TSA/Supporting\\_Info/](ftp://ribftp.env.gov.bc.ca/pub/outgoing/cdc_data/Approved_FRPR_sec7_WLPPR_sec9_Notices_and_Supporting_Info/Ungulate_Winter_Range/Timber_Supply_Areas/Cranberry_TSA/Supporting_Info/)

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

Mountain Goat winter habitat suitability has been mapped for the TSA as per Reid et al., 2004.

Moose winter habitat suitability has been mapped for the TSA as per Mahon 2004.

Figure 1 shows the mountain goat and moose winter habitat suitability mapping upon which ungulate winter range polygons will be proposed by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection within the Cranberry TSA. The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection will continue to work with forest tenure holders and aligned ministries to refine the boundaries and placement of the proposed polygons via the Kispiox-Cranberry FRPA Project and the joint ministry Memorandum of Understanding on Establishment of Ungulate Winter Ranges and Related Objectives.

**Attributes:**

Attributes for mountain goat winter range are consistent with existing literature on mountain goat habitat use (as summarized in Wilson 2004), and reflect local knowledge and ecology as per criteria outlined in Reid et al. 2004.

**Additional considerations:**

Road access can affect mountain goat populations by increasing human disturbance and road-induced mortality. Wherever practicable, road-building and harvesting activity should be restricted to areas >1500 m from occupied winter range areas. Field investigations by qualified personnel are required to assess specific habitat values at the operational level specific to development within close proximity (i.e., < 100m) of identified mountain goat winter range habitats.

Critical mountain goat habitat is primarily limited to winter range, however, the importance of special features such as movement corridors, mineral licks, kidding areas, bedding areas and security needs during fall hunting time periods should be recognized.

Additional amount, distribution and attribute information is as articulated in Yazvenko et al., 2002, Demarchi, 2000, and Demarchi et al., 1997.

**Future Intent**

Mule deer winter habitat suitability mapping does exist (Turney 1996), but has not been finalized and therefore an amount has not been included in the Notice. MWLAP Skeena Region is intending to finalize mule deer UWR polygons in future. (citation as Turney, L. 1996. Mapping wildlife habitat suitability in the Kispiox Forest District. Kispiox Forest District, Hazelton, B.C. Unpubl. Rep.).

MWLAP Skeena Region has attained funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund to assist in UWR polygon refinement for the Kispiox and Cranberry TSAs. MWLAP staff will work with Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Ministry of Forests, and Licensee staff regarding UWR establishment via the Kispiox-Cranberry FRPA Project – a summary of this project is as attached. This will fulfill the requirement to identify mountain goat and moose winter range at the landscape planning level. It will be through this process that potential impacts to the timber harvesting land base related with UWR establishment will be addressed and consultation requisites fulfilled. UWR polygon designation is anticipated by fiscal year end or shortly thereafter.

## **Literature Cited:**

Demarchi, M.W. June 2000. Moose in the Nass Wildlife Area. Final Report. LGL Limited Environmental Research Associates. FRBC Wildlife Habitat Inventory Project.

Demarchi, M.W., S.R. Johnson, and G.F. Searing. July 1997. Mountain Goat Inventory in the Nisga'a Wildlife Management Area Region A. LGL Limited Environmental Research Associates. FRBC Wildlife Habitat Inventory Project.

Reid, D., A. Edie, T. Mahon, J. Warren, D. Morgan, G. Schultze, D. Fillier, and M. Marsland, 2004. Mountain Goat Winter Habitat Suitability Mapping in the Kispiox Forest District. FRBC Wildlife Habitat Inventory Project.

Lloyd, R. 2002. Wildlife Habitat Assessment in the Bulkley LRMP Agriculture/ Wildlife Zone. Grice and MacLeod Forest Management Ltd.

Mahon, T. 2004. Moose winter habitat suitability model and mapping for Kispiox and Cranberry TSAs. *In press*

Wilson, S.F. 2004. Management of Coastal Mountain Goat Winter Range. Prepared for: Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Biodiversity Branch (*Draft*).

Yazvenko, S.B., G. F. Searing, and M. W. Demarchi, June 2002. Wildlife Habitat Assessment in the Nass Wildlife Area. Revised Final Report. LGL Limited Environmental Research Associates. FRBC Wildlife Habitat Inventory Project.