



**NOTICE – INDICATORS OF THE AMOUNT, DISTRIBUTION AND ATTRIBUTES OF
WILDLIFE HABITAT REQUIRED FOR THE WINTER SURVIVAL OF UNGULATE
SPECIES IN THE DAWSON CREEK TIMBER SUPPLY AREA**

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 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 winter survival of the ungulate species outlined in Schedule 1.

This notice applies as specified within the Dawson Creek Timber Supply Area, excluding parks and protected areas.

Schedule 1

Dawson Creek Timber Supply Area

Ungulate Species:

Rocky Mountain elk, Stone's sheep, Mule deer, Mountain goat, Northern caribou (Quintette, Moberly, Belcourt/Narraway herds)

Amount:

- 1) A maximum of 41,344 ha, not exceeding an impact to the timber harvesting landbase of:
 - 4674 ha for Rocky Mountain elk and Mule deer
 - 1168 ha for Stone's sheep
 - 4674 ha for Mountain goat
 - 10, 516 ha for Northern Caribou
- 2) 445, 011 ha for Northern Caribou (Quintette Herd) low elevation winter range with no timber supply impact.

Distribution:

The amount of habitat referenced above must be distributed to provide:

- winter ranges for elk and mule deer within the following Resource Management Zones (RMZ's):
 - i. Protected Areas – Proposed protected areas – Peace River/Boudreau AO1-2AP
 - ii. Major River Corridors - Special Management Zone – Pine River-3C, Pine/Murray River-3A, Murray River-3D

- iii. Grazing Reserves RMZ – Enhanced Resource Management - Groundbirch GR-8D
 - iv. South Peace RMZ – Enhanced Resource Management – Jackfish Lake 4C, Favels Creek 4I
 - v. Multi-Values Plateau – General Resource Management – Windy Creek 5C, Stewart Creek 5C
 - vi. Agriculture/Settlement RMZ – Lone Prairie 7G, Chetwynd 7G
 - vii. Wildlife Habitat/Wilderness Recreation - Special Management Zone – Belcourt Creek 9C
- winter ranges for Stone's sheep within the following RMZ's:
 - i. Eastern Slopes – General Resource Management - Carbon Creek 10I
 - ii. Cultural/Heritage Special Management Zone - Twin Sisters Headwaters 11A, Twin Sisters Mountain 11B
- winter ranges for Mountain goat within the following RMZ's:
 - i. Eastern Slopes – General Resource Management– Hook Lake 10E, Carbon Creek 10I, Burnt River 10F
 - ii. Multi-Values Foothills – General Resource Management - Mount Anderson 5D, Bullmoose Creek 5F
 - iii. Wildlife Habitat/Recreation – Special Resource Management – Belcourt Creek 9C, North Burnt 7I-6I
 - iv. Wildlife/Coalfied – Special Management Zone – Narraway River 6D
- winter ranges for northern caribou within the following RMZ's:
 - i. Eastern Slopes – General Resource Management – Carbon Creek 10I, Hook Lake 10E
 - ii. Cultural Heritage – Special Resource Management – Twin Sisters Headwaters 11A, Twin Sisters Mountain 11B
 - iii. South Peace - Enhanced Resource Management – Johnson Creek 4G, Hullcross Creek 4G, Burnt River 4F and 10F
 - iv. Wildlife Habitat/Recreation – North Burnt 7I – 6I, Belcourt Creek 9C
 - v. Alberta Plateau – General Resource Management – Mt. Bennett 9H, Redwillow Creek 9G,
 - vi. Multi-Values Foothills – General Resource Management - Bullmoose Creek 5F, Mount Anderson 5D
 - vii. Wildlife/Coalfied – Special Management Zone – Narraway River 6D
- Winter ranges for northern caribou (Quintette herd) within the low elevation caribou management zones as per TSR 2.

Attributes:

I) Rocky Mountain Elk

- 1) Critical stand structure features: early seral foraging habitat interspersed with suitable security cover (e.g. dense forests with well developed shrub layers) and thermal cover (coniferous forest stands).
- 2) Topographic features: warm aspect (135° to 284°) slopes of 15° to 45° (Class 1) or 45° to 70° (Class 2); low elevations (< 1000 m) for Class 1 habitat; mid- to high elevations (<2000 m) for Class 2 habitat.
- 3) Winter forage species: graminoids; forbs; and to a lesser extent shrubs (preferred species include willow spp., pasture sage, Saskatoon, prickly rose, high-bush cranberry, soapberry; and conifers).
- 4) Foraging habitat: warm aspects; prescribed burn areas; open, grassy slopes; early seral vegetation communities dominated by preferred winter foraging species.
- 5) Snow interception cover: coniferous stands at least 10 m in height with a canopy closure 60-90%.
- 6) Thermal/escape cover: vegetative or topographic features (e.g. warm aspect slopes); coniferous stands >3 m tall and 100m wide; or structurally complex forest stands with high canopy closure (>70%); size range of 2.6 – 10.5 ha; structural stages 5, 6 and 7 in BWBS for security cover.

II) Mule Deer

- 1) Critical stand structure features: early seral foraging habitat interspersed with deciduous leading to coniferous leading forests.
- 2) Topographic features: moderate to steep warm aspect (135° to 284°) slopes (40-100%); low elevation (<1000m).
- 3) Winter forage species: trees and shrubs (preferred browse species include aspen, willows, Saskatoon, red-osier dogwood, choke cherry, bearberry, dwarf birch, rose, juniper and snowberry); graminoids; and forbs.
- 4) Foraging habitat: moderate to steep warm aspect slopes (40-100%); prescribed burn areas; open, grassy/low shrub dominated slopes; early seral vegetation communities dominated by preferred winter foraging species.
- 5) Snow interception cover: coniferous stands at least 10 m in height with a canopy closure 60 - 90%.
- 6) Thermal/security cover: vegetative or topographic features (e.g. warm aspect slopes); structurally complex forest stands for security (e.g. mature – old forest stands with dense shrub understorey); dense young stands (>10 m tall) and old forest stands for thermal.

III) Mountain Goat (Alpine/Sub-Alpine)

- 1) Topographic features: rock outcrops or cliffs that provide good visibility for vigilant goats and are sufficiently rugged to be generally inaccessible to predators; slopes >100% (preferred); feeding goats within 50 m of escape terrain; all goats within 400 m of escape terrain; low to high elevation (900-2600 m).
- 2) Winter forage species: graminoids; forbs; lichen; and conifers.
- 3) Foraging habitat: wind-swept ridges, steep cliffs and high elevation, open forests; herbaceous communities to low shrub communities within approximately 50 m of escape terrain; south to west facing slopes between 16° to 60°; low snow depth essential (< 45 cm).
- 4) Snow interception cover: open, mature coniferous habitats below tree line; caves overhanging ledges and the sheltered side of cliffs.

IV) Mountain Goat (Canyon)

- 1) Topographic features: within canyons, escape terrain comprised of bluff/cliff habitat that provides good visibility and sufficiently rugged terrain to be inaccessible to predators; slopes > 100% preferred.
- 2) Winter forage species: graminoids; forbs; lichen; and conifers.
- 3) Foraging habitat: mature coniferous forest, herbaceous to low shrub communities; feeding goats within 50 m of escape terrain; all goats within 400 m of escape terrain.

V) Stone's Sheep

- 1) Topographic features: low to high elevation (900 m to 2000 m); alpine ridges and mountains; Alpine Tundra; steep (>70% to >100 %) escape terrain; rugged terrain with windswept, vegetated slopes interspersed with rocky outcrops or cliffs; south to west-facing slopes.
- 2) Winter forage species: optimal plant communities include *Elymus-Agropyron/Festuca* and *Dryas-Festuca*.
- 3) Foraging habitat: vegetated, windswept south to west-facing slopes interspersed with rocky outcrops/cliffs; foraging habitat bordered by parkland forests of Engelmann spruce and sub-alpine fir; all sheep within 500 m of escape terrain.

- 4) Snow interception cover: dependent on windswept snow-free slopes, ridges and mountains.

VII) Northern Caribou (Quintette herd – mid/high elevation winter range)

- 1) Topographic features: mid- (1,100 m to 1,700 m) to high elevation (>1,700 m); gentle to moderate slopes (20% to 70%) to flat tops of ridges/mountains;
- 2) Forage species: Terrestrial lichens (alpine habitat) and sedges; arboreal lichens (sub-alpine habitat).
- 3) Foraging habitat: windswept snow-free areas in alpine; sub-alpine parkland (fir); sub-alpine forest (spruce/fir and pine); low elevation dry pine.

VIII) Northern Caribou (Quintette herd – low elevation caribou zones)

- 4) Maintain > 44% of the Crown forested land base in mature and old seral classes of which at least 11% represents old seral classes (seral classes as defined in TSR 2).

IV) Northern Caribou (Moberly herd)

- 1) Topographic features: mid- (1,100 m to 1,700 m) to high elevation (>1,700 m); gentle to moderate slopes (20% to 70%) to flat tops of ridges/mountains;
- 2) Forage species: Terrestrial lichens (alpine habitat) and sedges; arboreal lichens (sub-alpine habitat).
- 3) Foraging habitat: windswept snow-free areas in alpine; sub-alpine parkland (fir); sub-alpine forest (spruce/fir and pine); low elevation dry pine.

V) Northern Caribou (Belcourt/Narraway herd)

- 1) Topographic features: low to high elevation (<1,000 m to > 1,700 m); gentle to moderate slopes (20% to 70%) from valley bottom to flat tops of ridges/mountains.
- 2) Forage species: Terrestrial lichens (low elevation dry pine and alpine habitat) and sedges; arboreal lichens (sub-alpine habitat).
- 3) Foraging habitat: windswept snow-free areas in alpine; sub-alpine parkland (fir); sub-alpine forest (spruce/fir and pine); low elevation dry pine.