



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

INFORMATION CONCERNING WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR THE WINTER SURVIVAL OF UNGULATE SPECIES IN THE DAWSON CREEK TSA

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 Dawson Creek 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*.

Dawson Creek Timber Supply Area

Amount:

The amount included in the notice is based on the total crown forested area included within “Sensitive Wildlife Habitat” category within Dawson Creek Timber Supply Review 2. “Sensitive Wildlife Habitat” includes wildlife burn data and ungulate data which was the basis for a Type 1 THLB budget for UWR in the DCTSA. The impact to the timber harvesting landbase is based on data from Timber Supply Review 2; Analysis by MoF provides for a Type 1 THLB budget of 23, 369 based on netdowns associated with wildlife burns and spatially defined general ungulate units.

The amount included in the notice must be consistent with the total area of the caribou management zone as described in TSR 2. While no specific netdown was applied for caribou, a management regime was analyzed within TSR 2 with no impact to the THLB.

Distribution:

Figure 1 shows the following:

- 1) ungulate winter range polygons proposed by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection within the Dawson Creek TSA for Rocky Mountain elk (primary species), Mule deer and moose (secondary species). Specific UWR polygons for lower priority species including moose and white-tailed deer are not being proposed by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection at this time. However, moose and white-tailed deer will often be included by default within proposed UWR polygons for other higher priority species.
- 2) draft ungulate winter range polygons for the Belcourt-Narraway, the Quintette and the Moberly caribou herds. These polygons will be refined by the Ministry of Water, Land

and Air Protection, and MWLAP will continue to work with forest tenure holders during this process.

Figure 2 shows high capability winter range for Mountain Goat as well as historical occurrence records of Mountain Goat in the South Peace. Note: this occurrence data is depicted as points, and these points were digitized from higher scale (1:250 000) hardcopy reference maps. Occurrence points do not summarize the number of animals sighted at a given location or the number of times goats have been sighted at this location. The point data and the capability polygons should be viewed together to provide planners with an indication of areas with known occurrences and higher capability. Where occurrence records (point data) occur close to but outside of high capability polygons, planners should focus their results and strategies for Mountain goats within the high capability polygons. Also note that there are some areas (e.g Burnt River and surrounding area) where high capability winter habitat exists for Mountain goat, but suitability is low due to factors including higher snow loads in this area. MWLAP will be focusing efforts for Mountain goat UWR in the upper Moberly, the Wolverine and the Belcourt watersheds. Planners are encouraged to contact MWLAP regional staff as specific ungulate winter range delineation is underway for Mountain goats within the Dawson Creek TSA.

The following reports/shapefiles will be available to those preparing Forest Stewardship Plans via 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/Dawson_Creek_TSA/Supporting_Info/

- Peace Region Aerial Surveys (March 2004)
- Ungulate Winter Range Species Accounts Specific to the Peace River Region (March 2003)
- South Peace elk (mule deer and moose) shapefile (Speace_elk5) – included in Figure 1
- South Peace caribou draft UWR shapefile (sp_uwra_draft_jan05) – included in Figure 1
- High capability Mountain goat winter range shapefiles and occurrence records shapefile (speace_goats_points; mtn_goat_uwr_escape; and mtn_goat_uwr_buffer) – included in Figure 2

Other information including previous ungulate winter range reconnaissance flight data, historical data, as well as other literature sources are available at the Regional Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection office in Fort St. John.

Forest tenure holders should consult the Objectives Matrix for the Peace Forest District to determine the rank of specific ungulate species for UWR designation, and consult Regional Ministry staff to determine the status of the ungulate winter range designation for the Dawson Creek TSA, as well as to determine the status of spatially defined ungulate winter range for specific species. The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection will continue to work with the forest tenure holders to refine the boundaries and placement of the proposed polygons.