



March 2, 2006

**NOTICE – INDICATORS OF THE AMOUNT, DISTRIBUTION AND ATTRIBUTES OF
WILDLIFE HABITAT REQUIRED FOR THE WINTER SURVIVAL OF UNGULATE
SPECIES IN THE FORT NELSON 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 Fort Nelson Timber Supply Area, excluding the Muskwa Kechika Management Area.

This Notice replaces the Notice issued for the Fort Nelson Timber Supply on December 30, 2004.

Schedule 1

Fort Nelson Timber Supply Area

Ungulate Species:

Rocky Mountain elk and Boreal caribou

Amount:

Rocky Mountain elk

58,380 ha not exceeding an impact to the timber harvesting landbase of 1,017 ha

Boreal Caribou

190,472 ha not exceeding an impact to the timber harvesting landbase of 3,050 ha.

Distribution:

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

- winter ranges for elk within the following Resource Management Zones (RMZs):
 - Muskwa River Corridor 28, Tenaka 9, Dunedin 6
- winter ranges for boreal caribou ecotype within the following RMZs:
 - Etsho 2, Klua 4

- Petitot/Hay Rivers Corridors 12, River Corridors East 13

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 layer).
- 2) Topographic features: warm aspect (135° to 284°) slopes; valley bottom to mountain tops dependent on snow pack.
- 3) Winter forage species: graminoids; forbs; and to a lesser extent shrubs (preferred species include willow spp., prairie sage, Saskatoon, red-osier dogwood, water birch, dwarf birch, low-bush cranberry, prickly rose, high-bush cranberry, soopolallie, and aspen).
- 4) Foraging habitat: warm aspects; open, grassy slopes; early seral vegetation communities dominated by preferred winter foraging species; prescribed burn areas.
- 5) 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) Boreal Caribou

- 1) Critical stand structure features: primarily in non-commercial large peatlands/muskegs (black spruce leading stands); limited use of commercial forest types.
- 2) Topographic features: low elevation (< 1,000 m); flat to rolling terrain.
- 3) Forage species: Terrestrial lichens; arboreal lichens to a lesser extent.
- 4) Foraging habitat: large peatlands/muskegs.
- 5) Slope: less than 30%



Signed this 2 day of March, 2006
Rod Davis, Director Ecosystems Branch
Ministry of Environment