



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

**INFORMATION CONCERNING WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR THE WINTER
SURVIVAL OF UNGULATE SPECIES IN THE FORT ST. JOHN 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 Fort St. John 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 Planning and Practices Regulation*.

Fort St. John Timber Supply Area

Amount:

The amount included in the objective is based on the total crown forested area included within “range and wildlife burn areas” and “ESA_1”, “ESA_2”, and “ESA_w” categories within Fort St. John Timber Supply Review 2. Netdowns applied within these categories were the basis for a Type 1 THLB budget for UWR in the FSJTSA. 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 24,174 ha’s based on netdowns as described above. The Notice only addresses that portion of the THLB budget that occurs outside of the Muskwa Kechika area, 20, 839 ha based on 13.8% of the TSA overlapping with the Muskwa Kechika.

Distribution:

Figure 1 includes the following:

- 1) ungulate winter range polygons proposed by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection within the Fort St. John TSA for the Graham caribou herd. 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.
- 2) the general range of the Pink Mountain caribou herd. 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.
- 3) boreal caribou critical habitat polygons that will be refined by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. The Ministry will continue to work with forest tenure holders to refine the boundaries and placement of proposed polygons.

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/Fort_St_John_TSA/Supporting_Info/

- Peace Region Aerial Surveys (March 2004)
- Ungulate Winter Range Species Accounts Specific to the Peace River Region (March 2003)
- Graham caribou UWR shapefile (data contained in figure 1)
- Boreal caribou core and general range shapefiles (data contained in figure 1)
- Pink Mountain caribou general range shapefile (data contained in figure 1)
- Fort St. John TSA wildlife and range burn shapefiles (current as of TSR 2 – June 2002) – these data are not included in Figure 1, but are available on the FTP site.

Note that the burn coverages may not be one hundred percent accurate. However, they can be useful in identifying general winter range locations for species dependent on early seral foraging habitat. Other information including 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.

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, these species will often be included by default within proposed UWR polygons for other higher priority species. 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 Fort St. John TSA, as well as to determine the status of spatially defined ungulate winter ranges for specific species.