



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

INFORMATION CONCERNING WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR THE WINTER SURVIVAL OF UNGULATE SPECIES IN FRASER 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 Fraser 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*.

Fraser Timber Supply Area

I) Mule Deer and Black-tailed Deer

Work to complete the winter range plan for Mule deer and Black-tailed deer in the Fraser TSA is ongoing. The intent of the FPPR section 7 notice is to provide for the maintenance of critical winter range habitat until such time that the deer winter range plan has been established.

Amount:

The amount included in the notice is based on the THLB budget allocated to Deer through TSR 2 managed as a 100% netdown, rather than a forest cover constraint. This approach has been substantiated in the recent TSR 3 AAC rationale.

Distribution:

Figure 1 shows the ungulate winter range polygons proposed by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection within the Fraser TSA for both Black-tailed and Mule Deer.

Mule deer use can be evidenced by: observations of deer during critical winter periods either during winter aerial inventories or by on-ground winter field sampling; the occurrence of winter pellet groups; the occurrence of dropped antlers; the evidence of winter browsing; and the occurrence of high use trail networks within the winter range area.

Future intent:

The Mule deer and Black-tailed deer winter range plan developed by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection for the Fraser TSA identifies an additional 21,836 ha of winter range.

MWLAP will work with licensees, first nations and other stakeholders in the Fraser to determine an appropriate amount of deer habitat to be maintained.

II) Mountain Goat

Work to complete the winter range plan for Mountain Goats in the Fraser TSA is ongoing. The intent of the FPPR section 7 notice is to provide for the maintenance of critical winter range habitat until such time that the Mountain Goat winter range plan has been established.

Amount:

The amount included in the notice is based on the THLB budget allocated to Mountain Goat through TSR 2. It is intended that this area will be managed at a 100% netdown.

Note: The Chief Forester's Rationale for Timber Supply Review 2 (page 41) regarding Mountain Goat winter range indicates that, "... in the order of 1500 hectares will be within the timber harvesting land base...". The rationale (page 41) further indicates that, "...the estimated affected area of 1500 hectares represents just 0.5 percent of the timber harvesting land base, and is located in high elevation sites of poor productivity. I am therefore satisfied that any small adjustment to timber supply necessary to provide for this habitat can be accommodated within the short-term timber supply as projected in the corrected base case". In the *Reasons for Decision* (page 59) the Chief Forester states, "I have noted that no accounting was made for goat winter range in the corrected base case analysis, that any known conflicts with harvesting are addressed at the operational level, and that the projected timber supply may be constrained to some additional extent by allowances for this habitat". This section further identifies that, "MOELP will present BCFS and licensees the completed mountain goat winter range habitat requirements for inclusion under the Ungulate Winter Range Regulation, with an understanding that any timber supply impacts will be accounted for in the next timber supply analysis".

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/Fraser_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.

Figure 2 shows the ungulate winter range polygons proposed by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection within the Fraser TSA for Mountain Goats.

Mountain goat use can be evidenced by: observations of mountain goats during critical winter periods either during winter aerial inventories or by on-ground winter field sampling; the

occurrence of winter pellet groups; the occurrence of dropped antlers; the evidence of winter browsing activity; and the occurrence of trail networks within the winter range area.

Future intent:

The Mountain Goat winter range plan developed by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection for the Fraser TSA identifies an additional 34,925 ha of winter range in the TSR 2 NCLB. MWLAP will work with licensees, first nations and other stakeholders in the Fraser to determine an appropriate amount of goat habitat to be maintained.