BRITISH COLUMBIA

NOTICE – INDICATORS OF THE AMOUNT, DISTRIBUTION AND ATTRIBUTES OF WILDLIFE HABITAT REQUIRED FOR THE WINTER SURVIVAL OF UNGULATE SPECIES IN THE MID COAST 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 Mid Coast Timber Supply Area.

Schedule 1

Mid Coast Timber Supply Area

Ungulate Species:
Black-tailed deer and Mountain Goat

Amount:

I) Black Tailed Deer:
A maximum of 68,150 ha of Crown forested landbase.

II) Mountain Goat:
A maximum of 156,629 ha located within the non contributing land base.

Distribution*:*

I) Black-tailed Deer

1. Within inner coast area stands the amount identified above is distributed by landscape unit within the CWH ds2 and CWH ms2 biogeoclimatic variants with fir-leading and red cedar as a sub component, according to the attributes identified below; and
2. Within outer coast area stands the amount identified above is distributed by landscape unit within the CWH vm1, CWH vm2 and CWH vh2 biogeoclimatic variants with red cedar-leading and yellow cedar as a secondary component, according to the attributes identified below; and

II) Mountain Goat

- Winter ranges of the size and spatial distribution typical of ungulate winter ranges for Mountain Goat in the Mid Coast TSA considering the habitat attributes identified below.
- Goat winter ranges located in areas of accessible and abundant forage in close proximity to escape terrain: areas of low snow-loading that allow goats to access available forage: forest canopies with high snow interception characteristics, and/or warm, southerly aspects with high melt and snow-shedding characteristics; elevations <1200 m; areas that provide high quality forage.

Attributes:

I) Black-tailed deer

Critical black-tailed deer winter habitat includes:

1) 25% of stands greater than 250 years at all times within the area identified above and consistent with the distribution identified above.

2) Stand structure features providing snow interception cover that results from large, well-developed crowns; small openings within a variable overstorey canopy that averages 50-90% closure; and multiple canopy layers within an understorey of shade tolerant conifers. Old-growth coniferous forest habitats with appropriate topographic features satisfy deer winter range requirements in moderate and deep snow pack zones; minimum 10 m height coniferous forests in the low snowpack zone may suffice.

3) Preferred topographic features: southerly aspects; moderate to steep slopes (40-100%); low-moderate elevations (< 1000 m); minimal shading from adjacent mountains; and presence of rock outcrops or bluffs.

4) Preferred winter forage species: Western redcedar; Douglas-fir; Deer fern; Huckleberry; Salal; and Arboreal lichens.

II) Mountain Goat

Critical mountain goat winter habitat includes:

1) Stand structure features providing snow interception cover that results from large, well-developed crowns; small openings within a variable overstorey canopy that averages 50-90% closure; and multiple canopy layers within an understorey of shade tolerant conifers. Old-growth coniferous forest habitats with appropriate topographic features are required to satisfy mountain goat winter range requirements in moderate and deep snow pack zones; minimum 10 m height coniferous forests in the low snowpack zone may suffice.

2) Escape terrain: rock outcrops or cliffs that provide good visibility for vigilant goats and are sufficiently rugged to be generally inaccessible to predators; slopes >60% and <175% preferred.

3) Accessible and abundant forage in close proximity to escape terrain: areas of low snow-loading that allow goats to access available forage: forest canopies with high snow interception characteristics, and/or warm, southerly aspects with high melt and snow-shedding characteristics; elevations <1200 m; areas that provide high quality forage.

4) Evidence of winter use by mountain goats or use by mountain goats in nearby areas (<1250 m across slope, ± 100 m elevation).