

# NOTICE – INDICATORS OF THE AMOUNT, DISTRIBUTION AND ATTRIBUTES OF WILDLIFE HABITAT REQUIRED FOR THE WINTER SURVIVAL OF UNGULATE SPECIES IN FORT ST. JAMES FOREST DISTRICT WITHIN THE PRINCE GEORGE 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 St. James Forest District portion of the Prince George Timber Supply Area.

Schedule 1

#### Fort St. James Forest District within Prince George Timber Supply Area

#### **Ungulate Species:**

Northern Caribou and Mountain Goat

# Amount

#### I) Northern Caribou

• A maximum of 89, 834 ha

# **II) Mountain Goat**

• A maximum of 18, 098 ha

Not exceeding a net impact to the timber harvesting landbase for both species of

• 37,205 ha, including consideration of the direction for Northern Caribou management as outlined in the Fort St. James Land and Resource Management Plan.

# Distribution

# I) Northern Caribou

• Ungulate winter ranges are generally distributed in locations at both high- and low-elevations as described below:

UWR Type	BEC Unit	Size	Comments		
High elevation	AT	50-300 ha	Attribute may overlap with calving		
nigii elevatioli	ESSF	50-300 na	range, rutting range, or connectivity		

Low elevation			matrix	
Low elevation	SBSdk, SBSdw3	50-300 ha		

### **II) Mountain Goat**

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

• Provide winter range habitat in areas of steep rocky escape terrain according to the attributes identified below.

#### Attributes

#### I) Northern Caribou

- **High-elevation range** Flat or convex shaped, vegetated alpine (i.e., not rock) sites with south or westerly aspects. Alternatively, arboreal lichen associated sites in mature to old, sub-alpine fir stands with moderate slopes.
- **Low-elevation range** Areas with abundant terrestrial lichen forage. Dry nutrient poor, mature pine stands on flat ground or low slopes with east-south-west aspects where these stands are located in low elevation, low snow accumulation areas.
- Anti-predation Matrix Areas adjacent winter ranges managed to discourage: 1) intensive activity by humans (100 m buffer) and 2) an abundance of moose and wolves (5 km buffer).

UWR Type	Forest Cover	Stand Age	Tree Ht.	Stocking	Nutrient Regime	Moisture Regime	Slope	Aspect	Elev m asl	Bec Unit	Other
High	AT	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na	<40%	Na	Na	At (not rock), ESSF	Convex rather than concave topography
Elevation	80% Ba	>120	>15m	Na	Na	Na	Na	225°-360°	>1200		
Low	> 0.00/ D1	0% Pl >70	No	Low	0-2	A-B	<5%	flat	<1000	SBSdk, SBSdw3	Na
Elevation	>90% PI		Na	Low			>5%	45°-315°			
Anti- predation Matrix	Forested	>40 (if shrub dominated)	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na	No linear corridors within 100 m of UWR Stand age conditions to be met within 5 km of UWR.

# **II) Mountain Goat**

- 1) Escape terrain
  - Rock outcrops or cliffs that provide good visibility for vigilant goats and are sufficiently rugged to be generally inaccessible to predators
  - Slopes  $>30^\circ$  and  $<60^\circ$

- 2) 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 in coastal or transition areas, and/or
    - Warm, southerly aspects with high melt and snow-shedding characteristics in coastal and transition areas, and/or high-exposure, windswept slopes in transition areas
    - Areas that provide high quality forage, e.g., rooted forage versus litterfall

3) Evidence of winter use by mountain goats or use by mountain goats in nearby areas