BRITISH COLUMBIA

NOTICE – INDICATORS OF THE AMOUNT, DISTRIBUTION AND ATTRIBUTES OF WILDLIFE HABITAT REQUIRED FOR THE WINTER SURVIVAL OF UNGULATE SPECIES IN TREE FARM LICENSE 25, BLOCK 2

This Notice is given under the authority of section 7(2) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* (B.C. Reg. 14/04*).*

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 Tree Farm License 25, Block 2.

Schedule 1

Tree Farm License 25, Block 2

Ungulate Species:
Black-tailed deer and Mountain goat

Amount:
Not exceeding an impact to the timber harvesting landbase of 707 ha:

I) a maximum of 256 ha for Black-tailed deer; and
II) a maximum of 4280 ha for Mountain Goat

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

I) Black-tailed deer

- Individual winter ranges of suitable size (minimum 40 ha, but where possible > 80 ha). Smaller areas 20-40 ha are generally considered too small, but may be worth maintaining if other larger alternatives do not exist.

- Deer winter ranges located in areas of high capability. Deer winter range capability is usually highly variable in coastal watersheds, and it is always best to locate individual winter ranges in areas of highest capability. In areas of relatively uniform habitat capability, individual deer winter ranges can generally be separated by approximately 2 to 5 km. Distribution will be largely dependent upon deer habitat capability within the watershed, and the size of the individual winter ranges. Deer winter ranges located on 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.

II) Mountain goat

- Winter ranges of the size and spatial distribution typical of ungulate winter ranges for Mountain Goat in TFL 25 considering the attributes listed 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) 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.

2) 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.

3) 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).