

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

INFORMATION CONCERNING WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR THE WINTER SURVIVAL OF UNGULATE SPECIES WITHIN TREE FARM LICENSE 33

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 within Tree Farm License 33. 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.

The Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP (OSLRMP) provides strategic direction for the management of mule deer winter ranges. The mule deer winter range map (Appendix 2) represents the most up to date information on the area of mule deer winter range MDWR in the OSLRMP area. The map has been revised slightly since the OSLRMP was approved, however, revisions were expected, and have been agreed to in principle by an OSLRMP working group. The new map will be provided to government for endorsement later this year. As such, the map is considered to reflect the best information available for the application of winter range Notice within TFL 33.

Tree Farm License 33

Mule deer:

Amount:

The amount included in this objective (708 ha) is based on the total area of MDWR within TFL 33 as defined through the OSLRMP. The OSLRMP recommends that snow interception cover (SIC) for mule deer winter range is applied at each planning cell. SIC retention is based on snowpack zones. All BEC units within TFL 33 meet the OSLRMP criteria of Deep Snowpack Zone. Table 1 provides the amount of area within TFL 33 that was recognized by the OSLRMP as MDWR, along with the number of hectares of SIC (425 ha).

Table 1: OSLRMP MDWR Area and SIC for TFL 33

Total MDWR Area	MDWR THLB Area (ha)	MDWR NTHLB Area (ha)	SIC Retention Rate (%)	SIC Retention Area (ha)
708	656	52	60	425

The total area of mule deer winter range identified through the OSLRMP of 708 is significantly less than the 2755 ha of mule deer winter range recognized in the AAC rationale for TFL 33 (December 2000). Although the forest cover retention has increased from 40% to 60% through the management direction recommended in OSLRMP, it is assumed that there would not be a timber supply impact.

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/Tree_Farm_Licenses/TFL_33/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.

As part of implementation of the OSLRMP, a working group of government agency representatives and stakeholders have met to further refine mule deer winter range boundaries. The working group have agreed to a revised mule deer winter range boundary. This work has been endorsed by the OSLRMP Monitoring Committee, it is provided in Figure 1 as the most up to date information on mule deer winter range location in TFL 33, but has not been endorsed by Government. In addition, this group has finalized planning cell boundaries. Planning cells have been delineated (see Figure 1) to provide a spatial distribution of winter range attributes, such as forage and cover. These boundaries, which have been provided to licensees and Ministry of Forests, could be used as the foundation for meeting the distribution requirement.

Attributes:

1. Foraging habitat can be met by areas of high shrub productivity and/or stands that provide arboreal litter-fall, such as lichens and Douglas-fir needles and twigs. The former is provided in wetter sites, as well as, where early seral coniferous forests have not matured to the state as to where they out-compete shrubs for sunlight. The latter is provided in older aged coniferous stands. Mature, and older, Douglas-fir needles and twigs provide greater nutritional value litter-fall than other coniferous types (species and age). A variety of foraging habitats well distributed throughout the winter range best meets the needs of over-wintering ungulates.
2. Snow interception cover is defined as tree crown attributes that have the capability to intercept snow, and thereby reduce snow accumulations on the ground. As snow interception potential is variable dependent upon tree species, stand density, and crown shape and size, it is important to retain stems that will

function in an optimum manner. Mature and intermediate aged Douglas-fir in clumps are best suited to meet this need. Larger clumps, or patches, with a high canopy closure are most appropriate in areas of higher snow falls.