



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

**INFORMATION CONCERNING WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR THE WINTER
SURVIVAL OF UNGULATE SPECIES IN TREE FARM LICENSE 54**

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 TFL 54. 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.

Tree Farm License 54

The Notice has been written to ensure consistency with direction provided in official and interim watersheds that are in effect within Clayoquot Sound.

The following are distribution and attributes of ungulate winter range that should be considered when developing ungulate winter range in TFL 54.

Distribution:

- 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.
- Suitable distribution of individual elk winter ranges which will be highly variable depending on elk habitat capability within the watershed and the size of the individual winter ranges.

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) Roosevelt elk

Critical Roosevelt elk 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 elk 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: low elevation valley bottoms. During deep snow packs (>30cm), moderately steep 10-50% slope southerly aspects at low-moderate elevations (<1000 m), with minimal shading from adjacent mountains, and the presence of rock outcrops or bluffs may be preferred.
- 3) Preferred winter forage species: grasses; sedges; Deer fern; Twinflower; Willows; Cottonwood; Elderberry; Devils club; Salal; Dull Oregon-grape; Western redcedar; Western Hemlock; Salmonberry and Huckleberry.
- 4) Preferred foraging habitats during mild winters; natural openings and recent clear cuts. When snow depths exceed 30cm; densely canopied mature or old-growth forests on floodplains or moderately steep southerly slopes are preferred for foraging.