



ORDER – UNGULATE WINTER RANGE #U7-013

On being satisfied that the establishment of the ungulate winter range dealt with in this order is necessary to meet the habitat requirements of the ungulate species, and that the management objectives dealt with in this order are necessary to maintain the ungulate species within those areas, and under the authority of section 69 (1) (a) and (b) of the Operational and Site Planning Regulation, B.C. Reg. 107/98, the Deputy Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection orders that:

1. the ungulate winter range shown in the map set out in the attached Schedule A (#U7-013) is established;
2. the ungulate winter range referred to in section 1 is approved for mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus hemionus*); and
3. the following practices are established as management objectives inside the ungulate winter range referred to in section 1:

The following proposed management objectives reflect the goal to maintain mule deer winter range to provide high suitability snow interception, cover and foraging opportunities (shrubs, conifer and arboreal lichen litterfall):

Habitat Condition:

1. Within each ungulate winter range (UWR) Unit numbers PGD-004, PGD-008, PGD-010, PGD-011, PGD-013, PGD-015, PGD-023, PGD-026, PGD-027, PGD-028, PGD-029, PGD-031, PGD-038, PGD-040, PGD-041 through PGD-052, PGD-055, PGD-063, PGD-064, and PGD-065, maintain a minimum of 40% of winter range area in age class 8 (>140 years) or greater at all times with a crown closure of >56% (Douglas-fir, spruce). Stands with higher basal area (composed of larger trees) are preferred.
2. Within each UWR Unit numbers PGD-001, PGD-002, PGD-0012, PGD-014, PGD-019, PGD-020, PGD-021, PGD-022, PGD-035, PGD-054, and PGD-066, maintain a minimum of 50% of stands in age class 8 (>140 years) or greater and with a crown closure of mature forest >66% (Douglas fir, spruce). Stands with higher basal area (composed of larger trees) are preferred.
3. Within all UWR units, maintain species composition as Douglas-fir leading, with a minimum of 50% Douglas-fir. Where Douglas-fir presence is below the target range, select white spruce, hemlock or cedar to fill shortage (preferred over pine or tamarack), and choose silvicultural practices to increase Douglas-fir presence.
4. Within all UWR units, Manage for a desired plant community with abundant shrub species composition that will maintain a 30-40% cover of deciduous shrubs that are

ORDER – UNGULATE WINTER RANGE #U7-013

preferred browse species including, but not limited to, Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), Prickly Rose (*Rosa acicularis*), Common Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), Choke Cherry (*Prunus spp.*), Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), Willow sp, (*Salix sp*), Black Twinberry (*Lonicera involucrate*), Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum edule*), Black Huckleberry (*Vaccinium membranaceum*), Douglas Maple (*Acer galbrum*) and Trembling Aspen regeneration (*Populus tremuloides*)

Timber Harvest

5. Within UWR Unit numbers PGD-005 and PGD-006, no commercial forest harvesting.
6. Within all UWR units except Unit Numbers PGD-005 and PGD-006, keep timber harvesting openings within cutblocks irregular in shape, < 5 ha in size and < 250 m wide.
7. Within all UWR units schedule winter forest operations during the period of least disturbance to mule deer. Avoid winter forestry development (including harvesting) between December 15th and April 15th.

Forest Health Management

8. For all UWR units
 - a) Maintain high suitability winter habitat attributes by managing bark beetle populations to maintain low levels of beetle brood in the UWR “Low levels” are those that still allow for maintenance of high suitability winter habitat attributes. Sanitation thinning (partial harvest) may occur within UWR, only if it is within the limits of UWR Habitat Condition objectives, unless a variance is approved by the MWLAP statutory decision maker.
 - b) Where pest impacts render unreachable the retention of the required levels of functional live forest cover, treatment may be varied. An approach applying the “Habitat Condition rationale to the degree possible for the stand, combined with a silviculture plan to restore the needed values, may be applied if a variance is approved by the MWLAP statutory decision maker

Fire Management

9. Within all UWR units, reflect UWR objectives in appropriate Fire Management Plans.
10. Consider the use of prescribed fire to reduce understory fuel loading and improve UWR forage characteristics.

Range Management

11. For all UWR units
 - a) Avoid displacement of Mule Deer by livestock.
 - b) Livestock use will not exceed more than 10% of current year's shrub growth.
 - c) Manage for a desired plant community with abundant shrub species composition that will maintain a 30-40% cover of deciduous shrubs that are preferred browse

ORDER – UNGULATE WINTER RANGE #U7-013

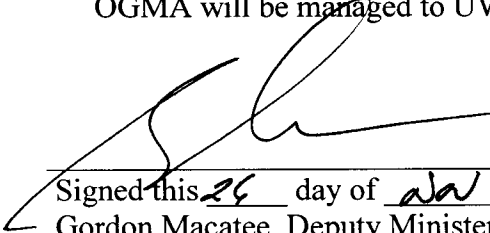
- species including, but not limited to, Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), Prickly Rose (*Rosa acicularis*), Common Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), Choke Cherry (*Prunus spp.*), Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), Willow sp, (*Salix sp*), Black Twinberry (*Lonicera involucrate*), Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum edule*), Black Huckleberry (*Vaccinium membranaceum*, Douglas Maple *Acer galbrum*) and Trembling Aspen regeneration (*Populus tremuloides*).
- d) No livestock grazing will occur on south facing slopes until shrub leaf out.
 - e) New range development features such as, but not limited to, waterholes, fences, salt blocks, corrals, access road and trails, that would result in concentration of livestock in the UWR unit will not be developed within the UWR unit.

Access Management

12. Within all UWR units, manage road access to limit human disturbance to mule deer.
 - a) Where reasonable alternatives exist, plan the location and design of major/secondary access routes to avoid the UWR.
 - b) Construct roads to the lowest class practicable while maintaining safety and environmental standards.
13. Within all UWR units, minimize new road construction and other access development.
 - a) Maintain the existing length of active forest industry oriented roads by permanently closing and rehabilitating roads in a 1:1 ratio to the amount of new road construction.
 - b) New roads for harvesting access will be permanently closed and rehabilitated after harvest occurs. Where the access road is needed for multiple-year harvesting, take steps to avoid non-industrial use between harvest entries.
 - c) Roads for mineral or oil and gas exploration or development may be constructed in UWR where workable alternatives do not exist. Management objectives to address point 12 above and to limit open public use in the spirit of 13 (b) are to be employed.
14. Within UWR Unit numbers PGD-005 and PGD-006, do not construct any new roads.

Old Growth Management Areas

15. Where UWR overlaps an Old Growth Management Area (OGMA), the forest cover management objectives for that portion of the UWR which is within the OGMA will be the forest cover management objectives for the OGMA. Access management objectives will be UWR access management objectives. That portion of the UWR outside the OGMA will be managed to UWR management objectives.



Signed this 26 day of Jan, 2003
Gordon Macatee, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection

APPENDIX 1

The following information is intended to provide background and support to the legal order establishing UWR 7-013. This appendix is not part of the legal order for UWR 7-013.

Please note: There is a portion of a polygon included in order U-5-001 that falls within the Omineca region (Region 7) – Prince George TSA. This polygon is on the north side of the Blackwater river to the west of the confluence of the Blackwater and Fraser Rivers.

For management direction on this UWR polygon within the Prince George TSA, please see order U-5-001.