



ORDER – Wildlife Habitat Areas # 4-056 – 4-064

This order is given under the authority of sections 9(2) and 10(1) of the Government Actions Regulation (B.C. Reg. 582/04).

The Deputy Minister of Environment orders that:

1. the wildlife habitat areas shown in the maps set out in the attached Schedule A (#4-056 – 4-064) and boundaries contained in the GIS file *twha_bc* are established. The aforementioned wildlife habitat areas include a core area extending 30 metres slope distance beyond the normal high water mark on each side of the stream, plus an additional management zone extending 20 metres slope distance beyond the core area on each side of the stream;
2. the wildlife habitat areas in the attached Schedule A and boundaries contained in the GIS file *twha_bc* are established for Rocky Mountain Tailed frog (*Ascaphus montanus*);
3. the general wildlife measures outlined in Schedule 1 are established for the wildlife habitat areas in the attached Schedule A and boundaries contained in the GIS file *twha_bc*;
4. where there is any discrepancy between the Wildlife Habitat Area boundaries as shown in the attached Schedule A and the GIS file *twha_bc*, the boundaries as detailed in the GIS file will take precedent. The centre point of the line on the map denoting the wildlife habitat area is what establishes the boundary; and
5. pursuant to section 7(3) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* the person(s) required to prepare a forest stewardship plan are hereby exempted from the obligation to prepare results or strategies in relation to the objective set out in section 7(1) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* for Rocky Mountain Tailed frog in the Notice for the Rocky Mountain and Kootenay Lake Forest Districts.

Schedule 1 – General Wildlife Measures

Access

- Minimize roads or stream crossings within the core area. When stream crossings are determined to be necessary, use cross-drainage structures particularly bridges or open-bottomed culverts and ensure type of crossing structure and any associated roads are designed and installed in a manner that minimizes impacts to tailed frog instream and riparian habitats. When roads are determined to be necessary, minimize length and construct narrow roads to minimize site disturbance and reduce groundwater interception in the cutslope; use sediment-control measures in cut-and-fill slopes (e.g., grass-seeding, armouring ditch lines, and culvert outfalls); deactivate roads but minimize digging and disturbance to adjacent roadside habitat; minimize site disturbance during harvesting, especially in terrain polygons with high sediment transfer potential to natal streams; and fall and yard away from, or bridging, all other stream channels (ephemeral or perennial) within the WHA, to reduce channel disturbance and slash loading.

Harvesting and Silviculture

- Do not harvest within the core area.
- No salvage should be carried out unless an exemption is approved by the MOE Delegated Decision Maker.
- In the management zone, use partial harvesting systems that maintain at least 70% basal area with the appropriate structure necessary to achieve the goals of the GWM unless an exemption is approved by the MOE Delegated Decision Maker.
- Wherever possible and practicable, augment management zone using wildlife tree retention areas.
- Do not use chemical applications (e.g., dustpalliative polymer stabilizers and soil binders that can be sprayed within ditch lines).

Pesticides

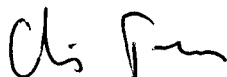
- Do not use pesticides unless an exemption is approved by the MOE Delegated Decision Maker.

Range

- Minimise livestock use of the WHA. Ensure cattle have access to alternate water, forage and shade outside of the WHA and do not place salt licks within 500m of a WHA, to reduce impacts to riparian habitats.

Appendix A (included as supporting information but not directly part of the GWMs)

1. While no salvage conducted within the core area is recognized, circumstances may occur that would require an exemption which includes serious forest health concerns or when a significant risk to the quality and /or condition of aquatic habitats is identified. Salvage may be performed, provided it is conducted with minimal with minimal sediment delivery and disturbance to the riparian and stream habitat, and if this activity does not compromise the integrity of the residual stand.
2. In recognition of high windthrow hazards in some sections of the tailed frog distribution (e.g., upper Yahk River), for the management zone we recognize the need to consider modified measures that will maintain the windfirmness and integrity of the reserve zone.



Signed this 20th day of July, 2005
Chris Trumpy, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Environment