



## **ORDER – Wildlife Habitat Areas**

**# 2-140, 2-144 and 2-147**

### **Pacific Water Shrew - Chilliwack Forest District**

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 (WHAs) shown in the map set out in the attached Schedule As (2-140, 2-144 and 2-147) and boundaries contained in the GIS file *twha\_bc* are established for Pacific Water Shrew (*Sorex bendirii*);
2. the general wildlife measures outlined in Schedule 1, of this order, are established for the wildlife habitat areas in the attached Schedule As and boundaries contained in the GIS file *twha\_bc*;
3. for the purposes of section 2(3)(a) of the *Government Actions Regulation*, these General Wildlife Measures apply to minor tenures;
4. where there is discrepancy between the WHA boundaries as shown in the attached Schedule As 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 WHA 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* to the extent that these WHAs address the amount included for Pacific Water Shrew in the Notice for the Chilliwack Forest District.

#### **Schedule 1 – General Wildlife Measures**

##### *Access:*

- Do not construct roads, trails, landings or stream crossings in the WHA, except where an exemption has been granted under section 92(1) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*.
- Where roads, trails, landings or stream crossings are authorized in the WHA, they should be temporary wherever possible and constructed with minimum road bed and right-of-way widths. During construction near streams or wetlands, ensure that water quality is maintained by controlling erosion and sediment sources and prevent water diversion (re-vegetate exposed soil with native grasses).
- Where roads, trails or stream crossings already exist within the WHA ensure road maintenance activities, including activities to address safety concerns, use methods that minimize risk of water diversion, stream sedimentation and erosion.

- When no longer in use, roads, trails, landings and stream crossings should be deactivated using methods that minimize risk of water diversion, stream sedimentation and erosion. Restoration should be designed to maximize benefits to the species (e.g. high density planting of older age class native plants and re-vegetate exposed soil with native grasses).

*Harvesting:*

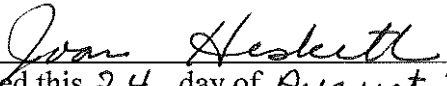
- Do not harvest or salvage within the core area of the WHA, except in the right-of-way, where road construction has been authorized.
- Use partial harvesting systems in the management zone that maintain 70% basal area. Partial harvesting within the management zone should retain natural microclimate and structural elements such as multi-layered canopies, non-merchantable trees and understory deciduous trees, shrubs, and coarse woody debris. Wildlife trees should be retained wherever safe.
- If WHA is overlapped by another WHA for a different species, ensure partial harvest strategy is coordinated between the general wildlife measures. The most conservative measure must apply to the overlapped area.
- Prevent activities in the WHA that may alter the vegetation, hydrology, stream structure, or soils, particularly the upper soil layers (e.g. use equipment that minimizes ground disturbance, operate on frozen ground).

*Silviculture and Pesticides:*

- Use silviculture strategies that minimize ground disturbance.
- Do not use pesticides.

*Recreation:*

- Do not establish recreational trails, sites, facilities, or structures within the WHA.

  
Signed this 24 day of August, 2007  
Joan Hesketh, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Environment

## Appendix 1:

The following information is intended to provide background information and support to the legal order establishing these WHAs. This appendix is not part of the legal order.

1. Authority to consider an exemption from these general wildlife measures is provided in Section 92(1) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*. In instances where it is not practicable to comply with these measures, a person proposing to conduct forestry activities should consider seeking an exemption from the requirements to comply with the applicable General Wildlife Measures.
2. An exemption application should be submitted to the Minister's delegate (Regional Manager – Ministry of Environment, for the Region that the Wildlife Habitat Area is located) with a rationale describing the nature of the problem and options to integrate WHA conservation with proposed forest practices. This submission will assist in timely consideration of the matter, and will inform the conditions, if any, of the exemption that may be granted prior to commencement of activities. Upon receipt of a complete exemption application, a determination will normally be made within 30 days of arrival. Incomplete packages will be returned to the proponent for resubmission.