Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan

Management Strategy for Mule Deer Winter Ranges in the Cariboo-Chilcotin

Part Three:

Transition Period Harvest Opportunities:

Alkali-Dog Creek

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Prepared for:

Cariboo Mid-Coast Interagency Management Committee

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Steve Walker Photo

Context

This is part three of a <u>3 part package</u> that make-up a complete MDWR Strategy. The other components are the "Management Plan for Shallow and Moderate Snowpack Zones" *and the* "Long-Term Objectives Map". *This brief description of this winter range's characteristics, challenges, and opportunities must be used in conjunction with the other two parts mentioned above* .

This management strategy has been developed through the use of stand structure, forest cover, and slope/aspect mapping. In addition comments and concerns of those responsible for land management practices and decisions in the area have been considered and incorporated wherever possible. It is based on the principles found in the "Handbook for Timber and Mule Deer Management Co-ordination on Winter Ranges in the Cariboo Forest Region" and the direction provided by the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan Mule Deer strategy and the CCLUP - Integration report. The assessment of the current condition of the winter range has been based on the information gathered through the mapping exercises described above. This plan is designed to help guide forest harvest planning in order to maintain or, where required, restore winter range suitability.

In accordance with CCLUP Integration Report direction, this plan has provided increased timber harvesting access (i.e. compared to the harvesting direction prior to the CCLUP Integration) to the winter range both in the 30-year transition period and in the long term. To maintain habitat values with this increased level of access will require concerted effort and a high level of accountability from foresters developing silviculture prescriptions on winter range. Also, those responsible for implementing the silviculture prescriptions will need to carefully supervise the harvesting operations to ensure that prescriptions are well implemented on the ground. Government agencies will need to carefully monitor the implementation of this plan to ensure that habitat values are not being put at risk.

Alkali – Dog Creek Mule Deer Winter Range

The Alkali-Dog Creek mule deer winter range is located southwest of the city of Williams Lake. The area is bounded by the Fraser River to the west, Alkali Creek to the north, the Dog Creek watershed to the south, and an administrative boundary and unsuitable habitat to the east. The total area, excluding the private land, is 34560 hectares largely made of gently sloping areas becoming steeper nearer the river valleys. Forest cover is primarily Douglas-fir with small areas dominated by pine and spruce. The majority of the winter range is located within the IDF xm and dk3 biogeoclimatic zone with portions in the BG.

The primary use which has affected the winter range structure is timber harvesting, but grazing of cattle, private land alienation, and road building associated with the above have all occurred within the winter range. Although some harvesting has occurred within this winter range the level of activity is somewhat less than other winter ranges in the general vicinity. Portions of the Esketemc Community Forest are located within the winter range.

Transition Period Harvest Opportunities: Alkali – Dog Creek MDWR

The stand level objectives and operational considerations, for each harvest opportunity type, are described in Table 4.2 of *"Part 1a: Management Plan for Mule Deer Winter Ranges in the Cariboo-Chilcotin, British Columbia: Shallow and Moderate Snowpack Zones"*.

Risk Rating of this winter range:	`Moderate`	
Snowpack zones on this winter range:	`Shallow`	
	`Moderate`	

Habitat Management Zone	Harvest Opportunity Type by Long-term Objective						
	1-3	**4 – Thinning from below**			**5 – "Handbook logging"**		
		Low objective	**Moderate** objective	**High** objective	**Low** objective	**Moderate** objective	**High** objective
1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

✓ - indicate potential harvesting opportunities