



Updated March 2, 2006

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

INFORMATION CONCERNING WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES AT RISK IN THE NORTH ISLAND - CENTRAL COAST FOREST DISTRICT

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 survival of species at risk in the North Island - Central Coast Forest District. 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 or act in a manner consistent with section 9(3) of the *Woodlot Licence Planning and Practices Regulation*.

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The 1% impact budget associated with the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy is directed at the short-term timber supply. For the purpose of this Notice the short-term timber supply budget represents the total mature timber harvesting land base (THLB) in age classes older than 60 years. Within the North Island - Central Coast Forest District the short-term timber supply budget is equal to 4123 ha. Current to March 2, 2006, 25 approved wildlife habitat areas account for an impact of 2171.7 ha to the mature timber harvesting landbase. Therefore, the remaining available budget is 1951.3 ha. Table 1 summarizes the amount of area included in the Notice as well as the amount of area in approved WHAs and their respective impacts to the mature THLB.

It is recognized that upon completion of the Central Coast LRMP that the Notice will be re-evaluated to address any land use decisions, including Parks and Protected Areas, that may affect the 1% impact budget and the amounts included in the Notice.

Indicators of amount, distribution and attributes included in the Notice are based on existing data, current knowledge of species distribution, inventory efforts, and species biology, including territory size and intraspecific competition. In many cases, comprehensive inventories have not been completed. Where inventory work generates a greater number of known occurrences and suitable habitat, the Notice may be amended to reflect a greater number of anticipated wildlife habitat areas. Any amendment to the Notice will be consistent with the policy direction on timber supply impacts.

Species accounts for each of the species mentioned in the Notice can be obtained from the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy website:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/identified/accounts.html>

Table 1. Summary of mature THLB impacts for amounts included in the Notice and approved WHAs in the North Island - Central Coast Forest District.

Species	Total Area (ha)	Estimated Mature THLB (ha)	Percent of 1% District Budget
Amounts in Notice			
Coastal Tailed Frog	1549.0	183.0	4.4
Great Blue Heron	240.0	36.0	0.9
Marbled Murrelet	unknown	1434.0	34.8
“Queen Charlotte” Goshawk	277.0	128.0	3.1
Grizzly Bear*	19,020.0	170.0	4.1
Subtotal	21,086	1951.0	47.3
Approved Wildlife Habitat Areas			
Marbled Murrelet (1-014)	331.0	71.5	1.7
Marbled Murrelet (1-077)	744.0	372.0	9.0
Marbled Murrelet (1-079)	152.0	98.6	2.4
Marbled Murrelet (1-080)	179.0	137.5	3.3
Marbled Murrelet (1-081)	90.3	54.6	1.3
“Queen Charlotte” Goshawk (1-042)	312.2	125.0	3.0
“Queen Charlotte” Goshawk (1-043)	222.2	88.0	2.1
“Queen Charlotte” Goshawk (1-044)	318.7	85.0	2.1
“Queen Charlotte” Goshawk (1-045)	301	189.0	4.6
“Queen Charlotte” Goshawk (1-046)	226.5	146.0	3.5
“Queen Charlotte” Goshawk (1-047)	385.6	215.0	5.2
“Queen Charlotte” Goshawk (1-048)	537.9	279.0	6.8
“Queen Charlotte” Goshawk (1-049)	142.4	56.0	1.4
“Queen Charlotte” Goshawk (1-050)	135.8	40.0	1.0
“Queen Charlotte” Goshawk (1-051)	189.5	52.0	1.3
“Queen Charlotte” Goshawk (1-089)	157.0	147.0	3.6
Coastal Tailed Frog (1-068)	26.3	0.0	0.0
Coastal Tailed Frog (1-069)	5.7	0.3	0.0
Coastal Tailed Frog (1-070)	18.1	0.7	0.0
Coastal Tailed Frog (1-071)	11.5	1.7	0.0
Coastal Tailed Frog (1-072)	25.9	0.0	0.0
Coastal Tailed Frog (1-073)	11.0	0.0	0.0
Coastal Tailed Frog (1-074)	20.1	0.0	0.0
Coastal Tailed Frog (1-075)	37.6	8.1	0.2
Coastal Tailed Frog (1-076)	30.7	4.7	0.1
Subtotal	4,612.0	2,171.7	52.7
Total	25,698.0	4,122.7	100

* Grizzly Bear – the mature THLB impacts identified in the table above are only those associated with the 1% IWMS budget. An additional 6,046 ha of THLB impact are

accounted for in TSR 1 and 2 of the Mid Coast TSA as per government information input and 126 ha of THLB impact are accounted for in TSR for TFL 39 Block 7.

** The amount for MAMU in the non-contributing landbase has not been included in the table as this is not currently known.

Figures and spatial information (shapefiles) to support the amount and distribution statements for species included in the Notices are included in the folders titled “Figures” and “Spatial Data” on the following ftp site:

ftp://ribftp.env.gov.bc.ca/pub/outgoing/cdc_data/Approved_FRPR_sec7_WLPPR_sec9_Notices_and_Supporting_Info/Species_at_Risk/North_Island_Central_Coast_FD/Supporting_Info/

Inclusion of draft and proposed Wildlife Habitat Area boundaries in the supporting information does not prejudice the review and comment that may be ongoing around these Wildlife Habitat Areas. Where Wildlife Habitat Areas have not been through the full review and comment process, MOE will continue to work with affected parties to address the Wildlife Habitat Area boundaries.

The following section is intended to clarify the amount, distribution and attribute statements in the legal Notice.

1) Coastal Tailed Frog (*Ascaphus truei*)

Amount:

The amount in the Notice is based on the total area of 181 ha for 9 future Coastal Tailed Frog wildlife habitat areas in the old Port McNeil Forest District and a total area of 1368 ha for 24 future wildlife habitat areas in the Mid Coast TSA/TFL 39. Information is available from the Ministry of Environment. Timber supply impacts are based on estimated impacts of approved WHAs in the old Port McNeil Forest District.

The figure “McNeill.2002.Fig1.pdf” provides an overview of the possible locations of the 9 future WHAs in the old Port McNeil Forest District. Sites 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 16, 17, 21, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32 represents the possible locations of the future WHAs. These sites will require field verification before moving forward with WHA proposals.

Figure 1 includes habitat suitability mapping completed for Tailed Frog as part of the Central Coast LRMP submission. The 24 future wildlife habitat areas will be selected based on this suitability mapping and further field verification.

Note: The Notice and Supporting information have been updated from the December 2004 version to remove the planning requirements for 9 Coastal Tailed Frog wildlife habitat areas approved on February 10, 2005.

2) Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias fannini*)

Amount:

The amount in the Notice is based on the anticipated need for 3 future wildlife habitat areas for Great Blue Heron in the Mid Coast TSA/TFL 39. Information is available from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. Estimates of mature timber supply impacts are based on estimates provided in the “Estimated Impact of the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy (Version 2004) on Provincial Timber Supply”.

A total of 400 ha (60 THLB), intended to address 5 WHAs, has been identified as a long-term projection for this species. This amount has not been included in the Notice and does not trigger a planning requirement under Section 7(1) of the FPPR.

Due to data sensitivity concerns heron nest sites are not included on Figure 1. For information on the location of heron nest sites and future wildlife habitat areas please contact Ken Dunsworth, MOE, Hagensborg.

3) Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)

Amount:

The *Marbled Murrelet Letter of Clarification* outlines current policy for the management of Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat; establishment of Old Growth Management Areas, the available portion of the district 1% budget and the non-contributing landbase. Amounts included in the Notice for Marbled Murrelet are considered additive to one another.

The Notice identifies 1434 ha of mature timber harvesting landbase impact that is to be used to manage suitable nesting habitat. It is intended that 203 ha of this total will be used to address the timber supply impacts of the proposed WHAs in the old Port McNeil Forest District and 1231 ha will be used to address proposed WHAs in the Mid-Coast TSA/TFL 39. The mature timber harvesting landbase impact is also intended to compliment high quality smaller patches within the non-contributing landbase to provide high quality large polygons.

It is intended that suitable marbled Murrelet nesting habitat within the non-contributing landbase will be identified as per the Marbled Murrelet account in the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy. A model has been developed with the support of the Marbled Murrelet Recovery Team to identify potential suitable Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat at a coarse scale for the entire coast. Work is currently underway to field verify the model and test its accuracy in different Marbled Murrelet Conservation Regions. This model serves as a useful tool for identifying potential habitat at a coarse scale, but should not be used to identify individual habitat polygons at an operational scale. Air-photo interpretation followed by aerial flight overviews continue to be the best methods for identifying suitable Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat. Additional models are being developed at a local scale to serve as more accurate predictors of suitable nesting habitat. Contact the Ministry of Environment for more information.

In total there are currently 46 proposed wildlife habitat areas within the Mid Coast TSA/TFL 39 that cover a total area of 29,168 ha. Estimated mature timber harvesting landbase impact for these WHAs is estimated to be 10,500 ha (based on a 36% mature THLB impact from approved and proposed Marbled Murrelet wildlife habitat areas in North Island - Central Coast Forest District). Only a portion of these WHAs will be moving forward consistent with the 1231 ha mature THLB budget, the NCLB and landscape unit planning. Within the old Port McNeil Forest District there are a total of 18 proposed WHAs.

Landscape Unit Planning has not been completed for many of the Landscape Units within the North Island – Central Coast Forest District. It is intended that forest tenure holders will work to identify old growth management areas that overlap suitable Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat consistent with the Landscape Unit Planning Guidelines and Marbled Murrelet habitat requirements outlined in the species account for Marbled Murrelet in the *Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife* (Identified Wildlife Management Strategy Version 2004).

Distribution:

Figure 1 shows the locations of proposed wildlife habitat areas. Figure 2 identifies the potential suitable Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat within the North Island Central Coast Forest District, based on the algorithm developed in cooperation with the Marbled Murrelet Recovery Team. Potential suitable nesting habitat in the non-contributing landbase is only shown for the Kingcome and Mid Coast TSAs only, not TFLs. A more region specific model identifying suitable MAMU habitat in the Mid Coast TSA is available from Julie Steciew MOE, Williams Lake.

Note: The Notice and Supporting information have been updated from the December 2004 version to remove the planning requirements for 4 Marbled Murrelet habitat areas approved in the old Port McNeil Forest District on February 10, 2005.

4) “Queen Charlotte” Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis laingi*)

Amount:

The amount in the Notice is based on the anticipated need for 1 future wildlife habitat area for “Queen Charlotte” Goshawk, in the Mid-Coast TSA/TFL 39 (277 ha). The impacts for the Mid Coast WHA are estimated to be 46% of the total area, based on the 10 approved “Queen Charlotte” Goshawk wildlife habitat areas in the North Island – Central Coast Forest District.

For information on the location of Goshawk nest sites and future wildlife habitat areas please contact Ken Dunsworth, MOE, Hagensborg.

Note: The Notice and Supporting information have been updated from the December 2004 version to remove the planning requirements for the one “Queen Charlotte” Goshawk wildlife habitat area approved in the old Port McNeil Forest District on December 13, 2005.

5) Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*)

Amount:

The amount in the Notice is based on three pieces of information:

- 1) The first amount is based on TSR 1 and 2 direction for Grizzly Bear in the Mid Coast TSA. The 6046 ha of THLB is a net impact based on 100% retention;
- 2) The second amount is based on TSR 2 direction for Grizzly Bear in TFL 39 block 7the Mid Coast TSA. The 126 ha of THLB is a net impact based on 100% retention and is in addition to any area within riparian; and.
- 3) The third amount is intended to support the anticipated need for 10 future wildlife habitat areas for Grizzly Bear (1700 ha) in the Mid Coast TSA, with impacts derived from the 1% mature THLB impact budget.

In addition to the areas identified through TSR, it is intended that class 1 and 2 Grizzly Bear habitat will be managed through the establishment of Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs), the available portion of the forest district 1% mature timber supply budget and the non-contributing landbase, as wildlife habitat areas. Management of localized habitat attributes will be accomplished by use of the wildlife habitat feature designation.

Figure 1 shows the location of the Grizzly Bear habitat polygons as per TSR 2 in the Mid Coast TSA. WHA boundaries have not yet been proposed to address the 1700 ha from the 1% budget or area within TFL 39 Block 7. For information on the location of potential WHAs please contact Ken Dunsworth, MOE, Hagensborg.

6) Northern Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*)

An indicator of amount for Northern Caribou has not been included in this Notice. Comprehensive inventory information is incomplete. Where inventory work generates known occurrences and suitable habitat, the indicator of amount in the Notice may be amended to include a number of future wildlife habitat areas for this species.

7) Red-legged Frog (*Rana aurora*)

An amount for Red-legged frog has not been included in the Notice. This species is known to occur in the district, but there is no current information that would allow an amount, distribution and attributes to be identified. Where inventory work generates known occurrences and suitable habitat, the Notice may be amended to include indicators of the amount, distribution and attributes for this species.

A total of 27 ha (18 THLB), intended to address 3 WHAs, has been identified as a long-term projection for this species in this district. This amount has not been included in the Notice and does not trigger a planning requirement under Section 7(1) of the FPPR.

8) Keen's Long-eared Myotis (*Myotis keenii*)

An amount for Keen's Long-eared Myotis has not been included in the Notice. This species is known to occur in the district, but there is no current information that would allow an amount, distribution and attributes to be identified. Where inventory work generates known occurrences and suitable habitat, the Notice may be amended to include indicators of the amount, distribution and attributes for this species.

A total of 80 ha (60 THLB), intended to address 2 future WHAs, been identified as a long-term projection for this species in this district. This amount has not been included in the Notice and does not trigger a planning requirement under Section 7(1) of the FPPR.