

ORDER OF THE MINISTER OF WATER, LAND AND RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

Forest and Range Practices Act

Ministerial Order No.

I, Eric Valdal, a designated signatory of Randene Neill, the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, being satisfied that the following described areas contain habitat that is necessary to meet the habitat requirements for mountain goat (*Oreamnos americanus*) and the habitat requires special management that is not otherwise provided for under the Government Actions Regulation (GAR) or another enactment, order that ungulate winter range (UWR) U-5-012 and associated Specified Areas in the Cariboo Forest Region are established as set out in Schedule A and managed as provided in Schedule B.

2026-08-04

Date



Minister of Water, Land and Resource
Stewardship
(or authorized signatory)

*Eric Valdal, South Area Executive Director, Land
Use Planning and Cumulative Effects Division.
Ministry of Water, Land and Resource
Stewardship*

Printed Name and Title (if authorized signatory)

(This part is for administrative purposes only and is not part of the Order.)

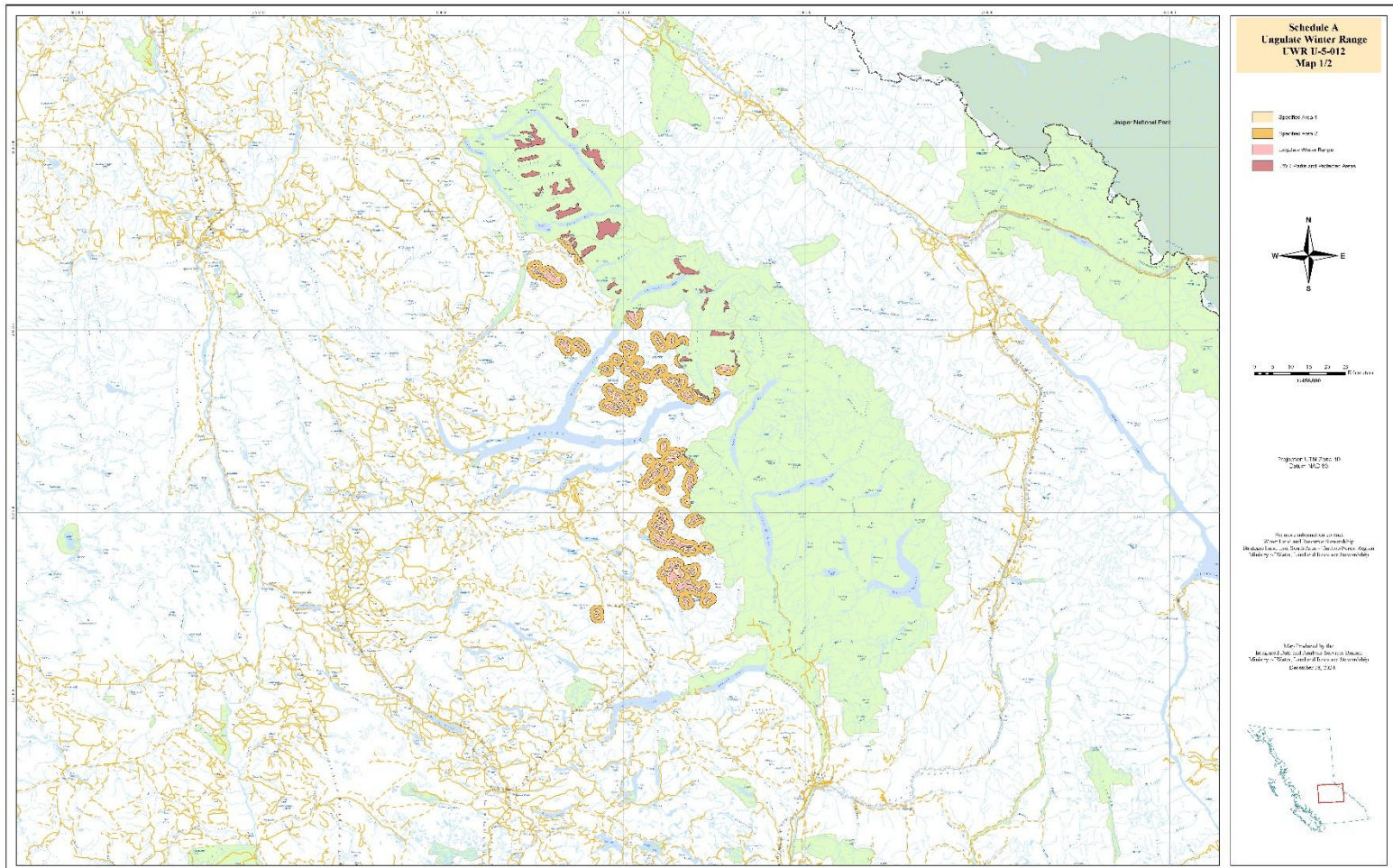
Authority under which Order is made:

Regulation and
section:

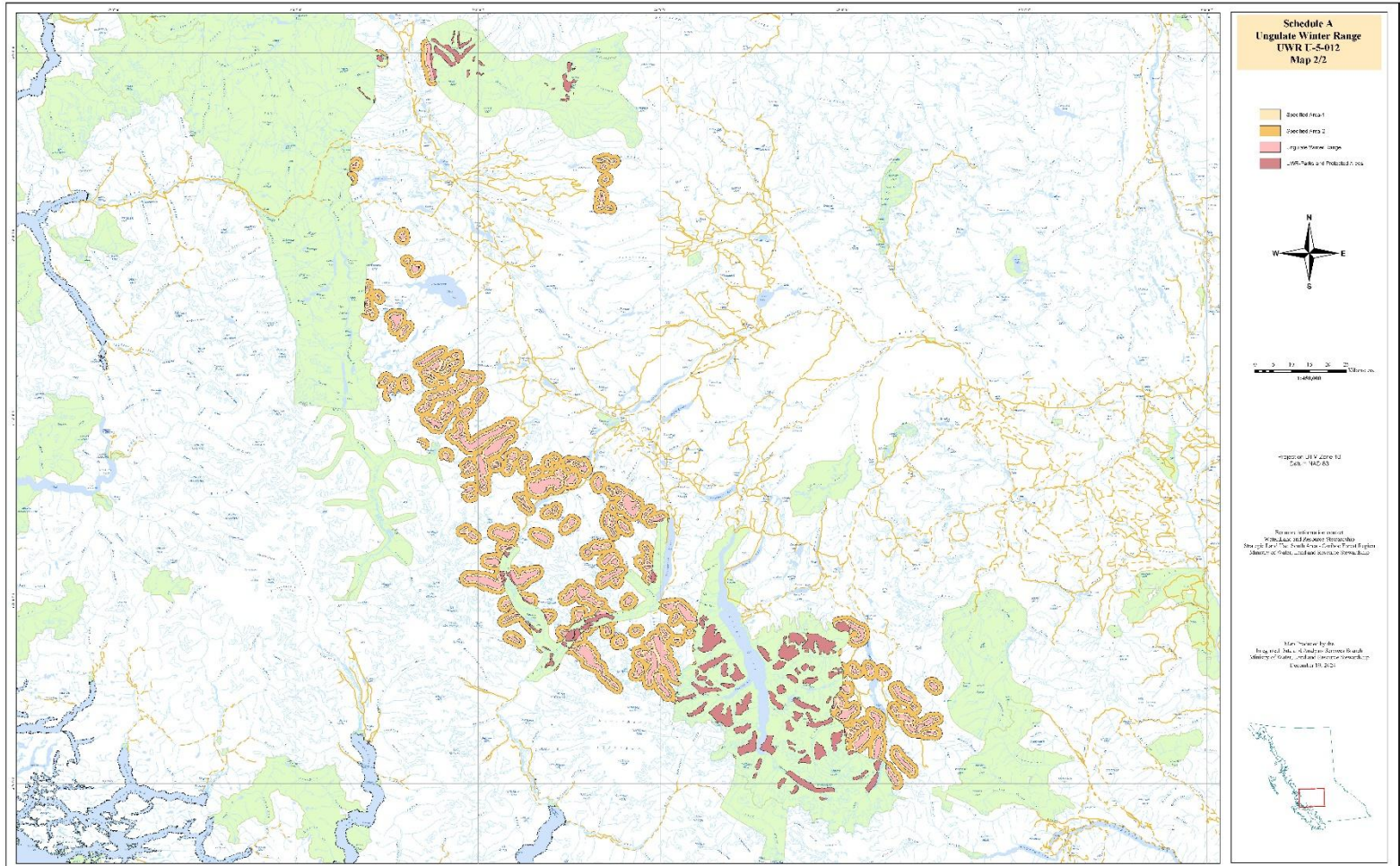
Government Actions Regulation (B.C. Reg. 281/2023) ss. 9(1), 9(2) and 12(1)

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Schedule A - Maps



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Schedule B

Part 1: Definitions

1. Unless otherwise specified, words and expressions not defined in this Order have the meaning given to them under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and the regulations made under it.
2. In this Order and the schedules to this Order:
 - a) **access control** is defined as a control point located on an access structure which makes the area beyond the access control point inaccessible with a motor vehicle, not including all terrain vehicles, motorcycles or electric bicycles.
 - b) **industrial forest users** means industrial users as defined in the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR) of FRPA.
 - c) **mountain goat winter range** are the winter range units established by way of this order on the Schedule A map and associated spatial files.
 - d) **newly constructed roads** means roads as defined in FPPR and constructed since the Order has been in force. Constructed has the same meaning as “construct” in FRPA.
 - e) **rehabilitation** means, in addition to road deactivation activities:
 - i. de-compacting compacted soils
 - ii. returning displaced surface soils, retrievable side-cast and berm materials
 - iii. managing for erosion, sedimentation, and invasive plants
 - iv. revegetating exposed mineral soils.
 - f) **specified area** means the area designated on Schedule A map and associated spatial files as either a 500 m (Specified Area 1) or 500 – 1500 m (Specified Area 2) buffer around the winter range units. Specified areas (or buffers) in Parks and Protected Areas are not included in this Order.

Part 2: Establishment of ungulate winter range

1. With respect to Ungulate Winter Range (UWR):
 - a) The areas shown in the maps set out in the attached Schedule A (U-5-012, SA1-5-012, SA2-5-012) and contained in the spatial layer stored in the BC Geographic Warehouse (WHSE_WILDLIFE_MANAGEMENT.WCP_UNGULATE_WINTER_RANGE_SP) which include winter range, specified area 1 and specified area 2 for mountain goat. The centre points of the lines on the attached Schedule A are what establish the UWR and Specified Area boundaries;
 - b) If there is a discrepancy between the areas shown on the map attached as Schedule A and the UWR, SA1, SA2 spatial layers stored in the British Columbia Geographic Warehouse (WHSE_WILDLIFE_MANAGEMENT.WCP_UNGULATE_WINTER_RANGE_SP), the areas as detailed in the UWR spatial layer will take precedent.

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Part 3: General Wildlife Measures (GWMs)

The following measures are established for UWR U-5-012, SA1-5-012 and SA2-5-012:

Mountain Goat Winter Range

- 1) Primary forest activities, except planting trees, must not occur within mountain goat winter range unless provided in GWM 2.
- 2) GWM 1 does not apply where:
 - a. guy-line anchors and tail-holds are required to facilitate harvesting adjacent to mountain goat winter range,
 - b. felling of individual danger trees is necessary,
 - c. the maintenance of existing approved ski-runs and heli-ports are required under tenure for skier safety.
- 3) All activities related to rehabilitation, tree planting and approved activities in GWM 2 must occur only from July 15 through October 31 within a calendar year.
- 4) New range developments, including but not limited to livestock corrals, water developments or stock trails, are prohibited within mountain goat winter range.
- 5) Livestock attractants including mineral blocks must not be placed within mountain goat winter range.

Specified Area 1 (within 500 m of Mountain Goat Winter Range)

- 6) Primary forest activities, except road maintenance and planting trees, that occur within Specified Area 1 must only occur from July 15th through October 31st within a calendar year.
- 7) Within Specified Area 1, primary forest activities must retain 25% of the forested vegetation in Wildlife Tree Retention Areas.
- 8) Rehabilitation of newly constructed roads and other access structures within Specified Area 1 must occur within 5 years of the commencement date of harvest unless the road accesses a block that has a stocking standard with a 7 year regeneration delay in which case rehabilitation will occur once the regeneration milestone declaration has been made.

Specified Area 1 and 2 (within 1500 m of Mountain Goat Winter Range)

- 9) Effective access control measures or temporary road deactivation on newly constructed roads must be implemented immediately following delivery of wood fibre to inhibit public motor vehicle passage while the road remains open for industrial forest users to meet silviculture obligations in Specified Area 1 and Specified Area 2.

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Mountain Goat Winter Range, Specified Area 1 and Specified Area 2

- 10) Helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft must maintain a minimum of 500 m vertical distance above ground, and a minimum of 1500 m horizontal separation from mountain goat winter range from November 1 through July 14. The outer boundaries of the 1500 m horizontal separation distance are defined by the boundaries of Specified Area 2.
- 11) Domestic sheep and domestic goats are prohibited within mountain goat winter range, Specified Area 1 and Specified Area 2.
- 12) Despite GWMs 6 to 10, there will be no harvesting within Specified Area 1 and Specified Area 2 polygons that overlap with Caribou Wildlife Habitat Areas where harvesting is not permitted. Where two or more habitat designations overlap, the GWMs from each order must be followed and in the case of ambiguity the more restrictive GWMs take precedence.

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APPENDIX 1

The following information is provided by the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) as background information and support to the order establishing U-5-012, SA1-5-012 and SA2-5-012. This appendix is not part of the Order.

1. Mountain goat winter ranges in the Tsilhqot'in Declared Title Area are not included in this Order.
2. Note that in the Order, Specified Areas have not been included adjacent to mountain goat winter ranges in Parks, Protected Areas or Ecological Reserves. As these areas are administered under the *Park Act*, separate buffers will be delineated around goat winter range (outside of this Order) and activities in these areas (in addition to activities within goat winter range) will be authorized by Park Use Permit.
3. This Order does not supersede any existing Government Actions Regulation Orders established for other species. Where there is spatial overlap of this Order with other Government Actions Regulation Orders, compliance with General Wildlife Measures in those Orders is also a requirement (for example, Grizzly Bear WHA, Caribou WHA).
4. With respect to GWM 2(c), it is expected that as commercial recreation tenures are updated or renewed, ski runs and associated activities will be relocated outside of mountain goat winter ranges, Specified Area 1 and Specified Area 2.
5. Rehabilitation actions could include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Replanting of access structures with trees, both conifer and deciduous (where ecologically appropriate). This may include a combination of mounding, screening or trenching of access structures.
 - b. Minimizing utility by predators by creating large, rough piles of coarse woody debris (CWD) and other materials.
 - c. Providing physical and visual breaks along access structures until such time as they are ecologically restored. Physical and visual breaks include berms, dense conifer panting, rough piles of CWD, rocks and stumps.
 - d. Blocking off access structures at the intersection with other access structures to minimize use by predators and humans.
 - e. Only reseeding with natural vegetation, ensuring that it is free from invasive species.
6. Wildlife Tree Retention Areas in Specified Area 1 should be uniformly distributed across the Specified Area to increase the effectiveness of connectivity between winter ranges. Wildlife Tree Retention is preferred as clumps of trees rather than dispersed single trees.
7. Cattle and guide/pack animals should be managed to avoid the use of steep slopes, rocky bluffs and cliffs, and adjacent undisturbed forage sites within mountain goat winter range and within Specified Area 1 and 2 (1500 m adjacent to the winter range areas).

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Appendix 2

Exemptions from General Wildlife Measures

Authority to consider an exemption from the requirements to comply with these General Wildlife Measures (GWM) is provided in Section 92(1) of the Forest and Planning Practices Regulation. Where it is not practicable to comply with these GWM, a person proposing to conduct forestry activities may choose to seek an exemption from the requirements to comply with the applicable GWM. The requisite official may grant an exemption with conditions.

An exemption application should be submitted to the Minister's delegate for the Region where the Ungulate Winter Range or Specified Area is located with a rationale describing the nature of the problem, why it is impracticable to comply with the GWM, and options to integrate winter range conservation with proposed forest practices. This submission of information with the request for exemption will assist in timely consideration of the matter, and will inform the conditions, if any, of the exemption. The applicant must not proceed with activities until the exemption is received by the applicant.

The exemption process is meant to apply in cases where it is found to be impracticable to comply with GWM given the specific situation and circumstances pertaining to compliance with a specific GWM applicable to a specific area of land, in this case, an area located within a specific winter range or specified area. Exemptions are a special administrative process that allows a person the authority to operate in a manner not otherwise allowed under law, due to the special circumstances identified at a specific site, or on a specific area of land. These provisions should not be used broadly to alter the true intent of the law applicable to winter ranges and specified areas established by order under the authority of the Government Actions Regulation. The exemption provision is not applicable for the purposes of broad or blanket exemption from the requirement to comply with GWM across numbers of winter ranges or specified areas, unless it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the requisite official that it is impracticable for practises being carried out at specific locations in each winter range or specified area to comply with the GWM.

Salvage of dead (non-infectious) timber resulting from severe natural disturbance may be proposed as an exemption if the proposal results in a net benefit to the Ungulate Winter Range species being managed for, as opposed to taking no action.