

ORDER – MOUNTAIN GOAT UNGULATE WINTER RANGE # U-7-030

Mackenzie Forest District

This order is given under the authority of sections 9(1), 9(2) and 12(1) of the *Government Actions Regulation* (B.C. Reg. 582/2004).

1. The Regional Executive Director, Omineca Region, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, being satisfied that
 - i. the following area contains habitat that is necessary to meet the winter habitat requirements for mountain goat (*Oreamnos americanus*); and
 - ii. the habitat requires special management that is not otherwise provided for under GAR or another enactment;orders that
 - a) the areas shown in the map set out in the attached Schedule A (Ungulate Winter Range U-7-030) and contained in the ungulate winter range (UWR) spatial layer stored in the Land and Resource Data Warehouse (WHSE_WILDLIFE_MANAGEMENT.WCP_UNGULATE_WINTER_RANGE_SP) are established as ungulate winter range U-7-030 for mountain goat. The centre point of the line on the attached Schedule A is what establishes the UWR boundary; and
 - b) if there is a discrepancy between the areas shown in the map set out in the attached Schedule A and the UWR spatial layer stored in the Land and Resource Data Warehouse (WHSE_WILDLIFE_MANAGEMENT.WCP_UNGULATE_WINTER_RANGE_SP), the areas as detailed in the UWR spatial layer will take precedent.
2. The Regional Executive Director, Omineca Region, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, being satisfied that
 - i. the general wildlife measures (GWMs) described below are necessary to protect and conserve mountain goat and mountain goat habitat; and
 - ii. GAR or another enactment does not otherwise provide for that protection or conservation;orders that
 - a) the GWMs outlined in Schedule 1 are established for UWR U-7-030.
 - b) the GWMs 4, 5, 6 and 7, Schedule 1, are applied to the areas specified in those GWMs.

Schedule 1 – General Wildlife Measures

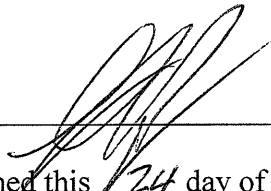
Definitions

In this schedule:

- a) Words and expressions not defined in this Order have the meaning given to them in the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and regulations made thereunder, unless context indicates otherwise,
 - b) “primary forest activity” is defined as in the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation,
 - c) “decommission” refers to either partial or complete treatment of roads and trails with the intent to prevent, as much as possible, motor vehicle access while taking into account site-specific operating constraints; where practicable this activity will include right-of-way revegetation activities to manage long-term access,
 - d) “mineral exploration activity” means an activity involving the cutting of trees or construction and/or maintenance of roads and trails related to the exploration and development of a mineral or placer tenure under the *Mineral Tenures Act* and which requires a Notice of Work permit under the *Mines Act*,
 - e) “mineral cell” means a Mineral Titles Online claim acquisition unit and is 16 to 21 hectares, depending on latitude, and
 - f) “mountain goat core winter range” are those winter range units established by way of this Order.
1. Primary forest activities must not result in the removal of forest cover within a mountain goat core winter range, except as provided in GWM 2 or GWM 3.
 2. GWM 1 does not apply where:
 - a) guyline anchors and tailholds are required to facilitate timber harvesting adjacent to the mountain goat core winter range; and,
 - b) trees felled for the purposes in (a) that fall within the designated mountain goat core winter range are retained on-site.
 3. GWM 1 does not apply for the purposes of mineral exploration activities if:
 - a) exploration activities occur outside of the critical late winter and kidding period of January 15th – July 15th;
 - b) exploration activities use existing clearings, trails and roads unless it is not practicable to do so;
 - c) any necessary tree harvesting avoids mature stands (≥ 80 years old) and avoids the removal of lichen-bearing trees, unless it is not practicable to do so;
 - d) an individual forest opening (defined as the total tree harvested area created for the purposes of mineral exploration and mining activity) is not greater than 1 ha, not including forest openings for the purposes of building trails and roads;

- e) the total of individual forest openings (defined as the total tree harvested area created for the purposes of mineral exploration activity), including those created for the purposes of building trail and roads does not exceed:
 - i. 10 percent of the mineral cell, OR
 - ii. 10 percent of any defined aggregate of mineral cells up to a maximum of 25 mineral cells;
 - f) new trails and roads do not have a running width greater than 3.5 metres except for the purposes of safety or culvert placement; and
 - g) actions are taken on newly constructed or reconstructed trails and roads to restrict access. This will be site-specific and could include, but is not limited to:
 - i. use of signage and gates on active trails and open roads where practicable,
 - ii. use of signage and safe (defined as large and clearly visible), impassable barricades across seasonal or permanently deactivated road surface widths.
4. All helicopter logging activities conducted within 2000 meters line-of-sight of a mountain goat winter range must take place during the period starting July 15 and ending October 31.
 5. Within 500 meters of mountain goat core winter range, primary forest activities must take place during the period starting July 15 and ending October 31.
 6. GWM 5 does not apply if:
 - a) it is determined by a qualified professional knowledgeable in mountain goat ecology that the mountain goat core winter range unit and the adjacent 500 meters referred to in GWM 5 is unoccupied by mountain goats; and
 - b) all primary forest activities cease if the presence of mountain goats are indicated within the mountain goat core winter range unit referred to in a) or within 500 metres of the mountain goat core winter range; and
 - c) any indication of mountain goat occupation during primary forest activities is reported to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Director of Resource Management, (Omineca Region) within 72 hours of the work stoppage; and
 - d) continuous ground monitoring of the mountain goat core winter range unit referred to in a) and the adjacent 500 metres occurs during primary forest activities by the license holder or their appointed contractors to document winter range occupation or non-detection of mountain goat, and
 - e) the planned timing of works within the 500 metre specified area referred to in GWM 5 are provided to the Director of Resource Management (Omineca Region), two weeks prior to the commencement of primary forest activities associated with the works, and
 - f) all monitoring reports are submitted to Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Director of Resource Management (Omineca Region) within three months of harvest completion date.

7. All roads or access structures within 500 metres of mountain goat core winter range must be decommissioned within three years following harvest completion date.



Signed this 24 day of May, 2014
Greg Rawling, Regional Executive Director
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Appendix 1

These appendices are not part of the legal Order for U-7-030. They are intended to provide guidance for meeting the General Wildlife Measures addressed in the order.

1. As per section 2(2) of the *Government Actions Regulation*, the order entitled “ORDER – Mountain goat ungulate winter range #U-7-030” does not apply in respect of;
 - a. any of the following entered into before the order takes effect;
 - i. a cutting permit;
 - ii. a road permit;
 - iii. a timber sale licence that does not provide for cutting permits;
 - iv. a forest licence to cut issued by a timber sales manager under section 47.6(3) of the *Forest Act*;
 - v. subject to subsection (3), a minor tenure.
 - b. a declared area
 - c. areas described in section 196(1) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*; and
 - d. areas referred to in section 110 of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*.
2. 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.
3. An exemption application should be submitted to the Minister’s delegate (Director, Resource Management – Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) for the Omineca Region) with a rationale describing the nature of the problem and options to integrate winter range conservation with proposed forest practices (a template for exemption requests is available at: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frpa/index.html>). 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 for timing window exemptions will be processed within 10 calendar days, all other exemptions will be handled within 15 working days of arrival at the MFLNRO Regional office. Incomplete packages will be returned to the proponent for resubmission.
4. These GWMs do not apply to persons who must comply with the *Worker’s Compensation Act* and the regulations under that Act (e.g. danger tree felling).

Appendix 2 – Cross reference to Proposed UWR U-7-028

Proposed Stone's sheep Ungulate Winter Range specified area units SA1, SA2, SA3 or SA4 within U-7-028 overlap with the following U-7-030 mountain goat core winter range units:

Unit # 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 27, 32, 37, 38, 47, 48, 52, 53, 58, 65, 68, 71, 75, 76, 81, 92, 101, 104, 108, 109, 110, 111, 113, 117, 118, 128, 129, 131, 138, 141, 144, 147, 162, 178, 189, 255, 260, 278, 285, 293, 295, 309, 310, 317, 319, 326, 327, 328, 329, 332, 335, 341, 346, 350, 356, 359, 362, 363, 365, 367, 374, 378, 382, 392, 394, 401, 402, 411, 420, 421, 558, 578, 580, 595, 626, 637, 648, 653, 659, 660, 677, 685, 690, 707, 728, 730, 737, 741, 749, 791, 799, 801, 918, 919, 920, 921, 983, 1135, 1138, 1146, 1156, 1167, 1204, 1220, 1225, 1311, 1313, 1316, 1323, 1324, 1326

These Units have mountain goat listed as the primary species, and Stone's sheep listed as the secondary species. To reduce the considerable risk of disease introduction from domestic sheep and goats to naïve native Stone's sheep populations, the specified area units SA1, SA2, SA3 or SA4 as identified in U-7-028 will apply adjacent to those mountain goat core winter range units that have Stone's sheep listed as a secondary species.

References and links for more information:

Cadsand, B.A. 2012. Responses of mountain goats to heliskiing activity: movements and resource selection. MSc thesis. UNBC, Sept 2012.

Hengeveld, P.E., M.D. Wood, R. Ellis and R. Lennox. 2003. Mountain goat habitat supply modeling in the Mackenzie Timber Supply Area, North-central British Columbia. Version 1.0-December 2003. PFWWCP Report No. 271. Accessed Jan 10, 2013.
http://www.bchydro.com/pwcp/pdfs/reports/pwfwcp_report_no_271.pdf

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. 2013. Draft – Best management practises for helicopter operation and wildlife in the Omineca Region. Landbase Stewardship BMP Series. Feb. 6, 2013.

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. 2014. A Compendium of Wildlife Guidelines for Industrial Development Projects in the North Area, British Columbia. Interim Guidance.
<http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eirs/finishDownloadDocument.do?subdocumentId=9921>

Mountain Goat Management Team. 2010. Management Plan for the Mountain Goat (*Oreamnos americanus*) in British Columbia. Prepared for the BC Ministry of Environment. Victoria BC. 87pp.
http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/recovery/management_plans/MtGoat_MP_Final_28May2010.pdf

Wright, C., V. Brumovsky and R.K. McCann. 2012. Delineating Ungulate Winter Range for mountain goats in north-central British Columbia. Report No. 385. Wildlife Infometrics Inc., Mackenzie, British Columbia.