



ORDER – Ungulate Winter Range # U-8-001 – Okanagan TSA

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

The Deputy Minister of Environment orders that:

1. the ungulate winter range shown in the map set out in the attached Schedule A (#U-8-001) is established;
2. the ungulate winter range is established for mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus hemionus*);
3. the general wildlife measures outlined in Schedule 1 are established for the ungulate winter range as shown on the attached Schedule A;
4. where there is any discrepancy between the ungulate winter range boundaries shown in the attached Schedule A and the GIS file *tuwra_bc*, the boundaries as detailed in the GIS file will take precedent. The centre point of the line on the map denoting the ungulate winter range is what establishes the boundary;
5. for the purposes of section 2(3)(a) of the *Government Actions Regulation*, the general wildlife measures outlined in Schedule 1 apply to minor tenures;
6. woodlot licence agreements are exempt from this Order;
7. 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* for the winter survival of mule deer in the Okanagan TSA;
8. the general wildlife measures outlined in Schedule 1 do not apply for the purposes of exploration, development and production activities when these activities have been authorized for the purpose of subsurface resource exploration, development or production by the *Mineral Tenure Act*, the *Coal Act*, the *Mines Act*, the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act*, the *Pipeline Act* or the *Geothermal Resources Act*; and
9. the general wildlife measures listed below do not apply to the extent they would prevent the following:
 - i. operations required for safety reasons, and
 - ii. recovery of timber damaged by fire, insects or other similar events.

Definition

Non-timber harvesting landbase refers to the non-timber harvesting landbase defined in TSR 2.

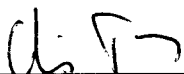
Schedule 1 – General Wildlife Measures

Harvesting and silviculture

1. Forest practices will result in the retention of the amount of snow interception cover (SIC) set out in the feature notes of the GIS file *tuwra_bc* for each planning cell delineated in Schedule A.
2. The SIC amount that is retained for each planning cell, consistent with the feature notes of the GIS file *tuwra_bc*, will exhibit the attributes set out in Table 1 for each BEC unit.
3. Where SIC is not distributed in numerous patches throughout the planning cell, even-aged silviculture system cutblocks must not exceed 200 meters in one dimension.
4. Wildlife tree patches (WTPs) are to be Douglas-fir of at least 140 years of age, where available. Where Douglas-fir of at least 140 years is not available within the cutblock, the next oldest Douglas-fir stems/stands are to be identified as WTPs. This GWM does not apply where large diameter deciduous, ponderosa pine and/or larch are to be used for WTPs for Red and/or Blue-listed species; or where nest trees, or other high value wildlife trees, have no-work zones established to meet safety requirements.
5. Subject to FPPR 92 (1) and where available, retain snow interception cover in a variety of sizes throughout the planning cell.
6. In the Moderate snow pack zone (except the IDFmw), up to 50% of the snow interception cover in each planning cell can be met in the non-timber harvesting landbase (NTHLB), provided the stands are at least 50% Douglas-fir, at least 120 years of age, and have a crown closure of at least 36%.
7. In the IDFmw, there is no restriction on the amount of snow interception cover that can be located in the NTHLB, provided the above stated (see GWM 6) age and species composition are met, along with a canopy closure of at least 50%.
8. In the Moderate Snowpack Zone, 33% of the snow interception cover area is reserved from timber harvest, and uneven aged silviculture systems may occur in the remaining 67% of the area identified as snow interception cover provided no more than 20% of the stems are removed every 40 years. Stems that are removed are to be less than 40 cm dbh, except where trails are developed.
9. In the Moderate Snowpack Zone, snow interception cover must not be located on slopes above 80%
10. Silviculture activities (planting and stand tending) are to result in at least 70% of the well spaced stems at free growing being Douglas-fir in the Moderate and Deep snowpack zones, and at least 50% of the well spaced stems at free growing being Douglas-fir in the Shallow snowpack zone, in each cutblock.
11. GWM 10 is rescinded where the MoE regional manager has approved a landscape level plan to address Douglas-fir composition in areas of 'root rot'.
12. Subject to FPPR 92 (1), in the Moderate snowpack zone, no more than 30% of the planning cell is to be in stands of less than 20 years of age.

Table 1: Snow Interception Cover attributes by snowpack zones

| Snowpack Zone | Biogeoclimatic Units | Dominant Tree Species | Minimum Stand Age (years) | Canopy Closure |
|---------------|--|-----------------------|---|---|
| Shallow | BG PP IDF _{xh} | Douglas-fir | Not less than 140 | None specified Small patches, clumps or 'vets' acceptable |
| Moderate | IDF _{dk} IDF _{dm} IDF _{mw} MS ICH _{dw} | Douglas-fir | IDF _{mw} – not less than 140 All other units – not less than 175; or not less than 40 cm dbh | At least 36% |
| Deep | ICH (except ICH _{dw}) | Douglas-fir | Not less than 100, or not less than 40 cm dbh | At least 46% |


Signed this 1st day of October, 2006
Chris Trumpy, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Environment

Appendix 1

The contents of this Appendix are not part of the legal Order U-8-001, and are intended to provide clarification or further information regarding the intent of the Order.

1. Private lands are excluded from the application of these general wildlife measures as they are not subject to the Forest and Range Practices Act.
2. The most appropriate stands for snow interception cover are those that are comprised of older aged Douglas-fir, with a high canopy closure. In all snow pack zones, the initial allocation of snow interception cover is to Douglas-fir stands with the highest age/height. In planning cells where snow interception cover attributes are not present, forest practices are not to result in the removal of stands, up to the levels defined in the feature notes of the GIS file *tuwra_bc*, that have the likelihood of developing those attributes in the shortest period of time. Stands that have an inappropriate species composition can be removed, and converted to an appropriate species composition.
3. The intent is to have SIC well distributed throughout the planning cell. This allows for reduced distance to cover, and opportunity for greater use of the entire planning cell.
4. It is acknowledged that the Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (OSLRMP) formed the basis for the general wildlife measures included in this Order. The OSLRMP has recommended that research be conducted related to the forage and cover requirements contained within the document. This Order will be assessed based on improved knowledge, resulting from that research, about local conditions and forestry/wildlife interactions, and amendments will be considered.