



ORDER – Ungulate Winter Range #U-8-005 – 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 mountain goat (*Oreamnos americanus*);
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. 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
8. 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.

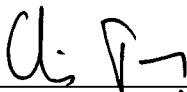
Schedule 1 – General Wildlife Measures

Harvesting and silviculture

1. To the extent it would result in the disturbance of wintering mountain goats and considering the mitigating effects of topographic features, avoid heli-logging or blasting within 2 kilometers of winter ranges from December to April.
2. To the extent it would result in the disturbance of wintering mountain goats and considering the mitigating effects of topographic features, avoid ground based or cable logging activities within 500 meters of winter ranges, from December to April. This

measure is not applicable where those activities have been prescribed to protect other resource values.

3. Subject to FPPR 92 (1), utilize uneven aged silviculture systems that retain at least 50% of the pre-harvest basal area in mature stems (> 100 years) within winter ranges. This GWM does not apply to those portions of the area defined as winter ranges that are upslope of the slope-break.
4. In areas where even aged silviculture systems are used, either upslope of the slope break or where an exemption has been provided,
 - a) cutblocks are not to exceed 5 ha, or 200 meters in one dimension;
 - b) no more than 33% of the forested area of each winter range is to be less than 33 years of age; and
 - c) forest harvest is to reflect a minimum 3 pass system with a 100 year rotation in lodgepole pine leading forests, and a 150 year rotation in forests of other leading types.
5. Within 200 meters upslope of the slope break adjacent to southern winter ranges, uneven aged silviculture systems can be applied to all stands provided a height class of 2 and a crown closure of 4 is maintained.



Signed this 24th day of July, 2006
Chris Trumpy, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Environment

Appendix 1

Note that the appendix is not part of the legal Order for U-8-006. It is intended to provide guidance for meeting the General Wildlife Measures addressed in the order.

1. The winter ranges identified on Schedule A are traditionally occupied on an annual basis. However, in some years, or periods of the winter, the traditional use may not occur. Monitoring of the winter range for use prior to activities occurring will allow for the exercise of judgement granted in GWMs 1 and 2.
2. In reference to the defining of the slope-break in GWM 3: Mountain goat winter ranges in the southern portions of the Okanagan Shuswap Forest District were defined at a scale of 1:100,000. There have been several instances where the winter range upper elevation boundary is not consistent with actual area to be managed as winter range (i.e. in some cases it is less, and in some cases it is more). In the southern portions of the forest district, the area to be managed as winter ranges are to include the steep ground dominated by open forest and/or rock, and a 200 meter closed canopy forested buffer immediately upslope of the slope break. It is recognized that the winter range boundaries will be refined, and digital files updated over time. However, in the short term, there is flexibility provided to the actual application of the General Wildlife Measures, as it applies to the upper elevation boundaries of winter ranges. Through operational planning it is possible to refine the area of application of the General Wildlife Measures without seeking an exemption under FPPR 92 (1), provided there is a documented rationale.
3. Mountain goat winter ranges in the northern portion of the forest district are usually associated with the upper elevations of 'V' shaped valleys in NDT1. These winter ranges have been identified primarily through aerial surveys, with boundaries being mapped at 1:50,000 or 1:100,000 scale mapping. It is anticipated that additional winter ranges will be identified subsequent to this mapping vintage. Additionally, it is possible for the proponent to refine the area of application of the General Wildlife Measures without seeking an exemption under FPPR 92 (1), provided there is a documented rationale.
4. Southern winter ranges are characterized by dry-belt fir types and plateau habitats upslope, and are associated with the Similkameen drainage and Okanagan Lake and its immediate tributaries. Northern winter ranges are characterized by ICH and/or ESSF forests associated with the Shuswap River drainage, and tributaries to Shuswap Lake.