

**ORDER OF THE MINISTER OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL
RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Forest and Range Practices Act

Ministerial Order No.

I, Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, being satisfied that the following described area contains habitat that is necessary to meet the habitat requirements for moose (*Alces alces*); and the habitat requires special management that is not otherwise provided for under the Government Action Regulation (GAR) or another enactment, order that ungulate winter range (UWR) u-7-018 and u-7-020 in the Stuart Nechako Forest District, u-7-022 and u-7-024 in the Prince George Forest District, and u-7-027 in the Mackenzie Forest District are established as set out in Schedule A and managed as provided in Schedule B.

MARCH 30, 2022

Date

Lori Borth

Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development
(or authorized signatory)

Lori Borth, Regional Executive Director, Omineca

LORI BORTH, REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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. 582/2004) ss. 9(2) and 12(1) and 12(2).

Schedule A – Attachment

Schedule A Ungulate Winter Ranges u-7-018; u-7-020; u-7-022; u-7-024; u-7-027

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) “**competition**” for the purposes of this order is defined as having the meaning described in the most recent version of BC Ministry of Forests Lands Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Silviculture Survey Procedure Manual;
 - b) “**dominant**” means trees with crowns extending above the general level of the canopy and receiving full light from above and partially from the side. Dominant trees are taller than the average trees in the stand, with well-developed crowns;
 - c) “**herbicide**” means a micro-organism or material that is intended to be used as a plant growth regulator, plant defoliator or plant desiccant;
 - d) “**livestock attractant**” means nutritional supplements intended for livestock;
 - e) “**noxious weed**” means a weed designated by regulation under the *Weed Control Act* to be a noxious weed and includes the seeds of the noxious weed;
 - f) “**preferred moose browse**” means any or all of the following: trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera* spp. *trichocarpa*) less than or equal to 3 metres in height, paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) less than or equal to 3 metres in height, Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *glauca*), subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), high-bush cranberry (*Viburnum edule*), willow (*Salix* sp.), black twinberry (*Lonicera involunrata*), saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), beaked hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*), elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), mountain ash (*Sorbus* sp.) raspberry (*Rubus* sp.), current (*Ribes* sp.), rose (*Rosa* sp.), and Douglas maple (*Acer glabrum* var. *douglasii*);
 - g) “**rehabilitate**” means:
 - i. de-compacting compacted soils,
 - ii. returning displaced surface soils, side-cast, and berm materials, and
 - iii. managing for erosion and sedimentation;
 - h) “**reserve**” means an area that meets including all of the following:
 - i. is classified as group reserves (Code G) as contained in the Reporting Silviculture Updates & Land Status Tracking System (RESULTS) spatial layer stored in the British Columbia Geographic Warehouse, (WHSE_FOREST_VEGETATION.RSLT_FOREST_COVER_RESERVE_SVW),
 - ii. is representative of the forest present prior to timber harvesting,

- iii. is mapped as a minimum of 3 contiguous hectares in area,
 - iv. is at least 60 years of age, and
 - v. is at least 40% conifer;
- i) “security cover” means an area with:
- i. stem density that obscures 90% of the moose at a distance of 60m, measured using a 2 metre x 2 metre dark surface area and having only 0.4 m² visible between the period of November 21 to April 25,
 - ii. stem height averages greater than 3 metres, and
 - iii. minimum size of 3 hectares.

Part 2: Establishment of ungulate winter range

1. With respect to Ungulate Winter Range (UWR):
- a) The areas shown in the map set out in the attached Schedule A (u-7-018, u-7-020, u-7-022, u-7-024 and u-7-027) and contained in the UWR spatial layer stored in the BC Geographic Warehouse (WHSE_WILDLIFE_MANAGEMENT.WCP_UNGULATE_WINTER_RANGE_SP) are UWR u-7-018, u-7-020, u-7-022, u-7-024 and u-7-027 for moose. The centre points of the lines on the attached Schedule A are what establish the UWR boundaries;
 - b) If there is a discrepancy between the areas shown on the map attached as Schedule A and the UWR spatial layer 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.

Part 3: General Wildlife Measures (GWMs)

The following measures are established.

GWMs 1 and 2 apply to the following no harvest ungulate winter range units as identified in Schedule A and in the table below:

UWR TAG	UNIT NO
u-7-018	1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16
u-7-020	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17
u-7-022	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26
u-7-027	1

Forest Practices

- 1. No primary forest activities.

Range Practices

2. No Livestock Attractants or new range developments may be placed in the units.

GWMs 3 to 12 apply to the following conditional harvest ungulate winter range units as identified in Schedule A and in the table below:

UWR_TAG	UNIT_NO
u-7-018	2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18
u-7-020	4, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21
u-7-022	3, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31
u-7-024	1
u-7-027	2

Forest Practices

3. No new permanent access structures within 500 metres horizontal distance of a no harvest ungulate winter range unit as identified in Schedule A and in the table below:

UWR_TAG	UNIT_NO
u-7-018	1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16
u-7-020	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17
u-7-022	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26
u-7-027	1

4. The net area to be reforested for the cutblock must not exceed 60 hectares, or the cutblock must not exceed 100 hectares and must retain 40% or more of the basal area of the stand that was on the cutblock before timber harvesting.
5. The distance from any point within the net area to be reforested, to either a Reserve or Security Cover, must not exceed 125 metres.
6. To be measured at free growing date, outside of road and roadside processing and decking areas, and within the net area to be reforested, retain if present, one Dominant deciduous stem per 100 m² achieved either through selection and retention of mature deciduous during harvest or natural regeneration.
7. Within one year of the commencement date:
 - a. Rehabilitate the end of all temporary access structures that extend within 300 metres of the outer boundary of the net area to be reforested; and
 - b. deactivate all remaining temporary access structures in accordance with the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation sec 82(1).
8. Within four years of the commencement date Rehabilitate the first 100 metres of the temporary access structure from the junction with permanent access structures.

9. To be measured at free growing date, outside of road and roadside processing and decking areas, retain if present, contiguous areas of Preferred Moose Browse or mature deciduous less than one hectare in size.
10. The use of Herbicide is permitted only for the control of invasive plants and/or Noxious Weeds.
11. No brushing within 20 metres of the outer boundary of the net area to be reforested.
12. Outside of the areas specified in GWM 11, retain all Preferred Moose Browse not in direct Competition with a crop tree.

Part 4: Objective

The following Objective is established and applies to the conditional harvest ungulate winter range units as identified in Schedule A and in the table below:

UWR_TAG	UNIT_NO
u-7-018	2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18
u-7-020	4, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21
u-7-022	3, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31
u-7-024	1
u-7-027	2

1. Promote stand heterogeneity by using a diversity of tree species identified in an approved stocking standard.

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Ungulate Winter Ranges u-7-018; u-7-020; u-7-022; u-7-024; u-7-027

Omineca Moose Ungulate Winter Ranges

Supplemental Document to
UWRs u-7-018, u-7-020, u-7-022, u-7-024 and u-7-027

This document is provided as background and guidance to support the long-term implementation and management of moose winter habitat in the Omineca and is not part of the legal ministerial order under the Government Actions Regulation.

Omineca Moose Ungulate Winter Ranges

An Ungulate Winter Range (UWR) is defined as an area necessary to meet the winter habitat requirements of a specified ungulate species. Moose (*Alces alces*) are one category of ungulate species defined by legal order under section 13(3) of the Government Actions Regulation (B.C. Reg. 582/2004) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*.

Under the authority of sections 9(2) and 12(1) of the Government Actions Regulation of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, General Wildlife Measures (GWM) may be established for an UWR. GWMs are practice requirements that specify, with precise language, what activities can or cannot occur or how activities must be conducted. GWMs apply to the activities of both *Forest Act* and *Range Act* agreement holders as well as off tenure activities of mineral/coal exploration and placer mining agreement holders for which various authorizations under the *Forest Act* are required. GWMs must be measurable, verifiable, and enforceable. After an order comes into effect, permit compliance and enforcement monitoring can be done based on the GWMs.

Under the authority of sections 9(2) and 12(2) of the Government Actions Regulation of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, Objectives may also be established for an UWR. Objectives are planning requirements that describe the desired outcome or intent. Objectives are not as prescriptive as GWMs and there is more flexibility in the language used. Objectives apply to *Forest Act* agreement holders who require an approved Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP). Objectives are used in situations where there is not adequate site or area specific information required for a measurable, verifiable, and enforceable GWM to be written. Objectives allow for innovation in resource management through the incorporation of a result or strategy in the FSP. Under Section 8 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, a FSP holder is to propose and submit for approval an amendment to the FSP to account for a new objective within 2 years. Compliance and enforcement monitoring is based on the amended result and/or strategy in a FSP.

The GWMs and objective of these UWRs address the key life requisites and potential risk factors to moose. The intent of UWRs u-7-018, u-7-020, u-7-022, u-7-024 and u-7-027 is to identify and provide long-term protection for areas that contain habitat that is necessary to meet the specific winter habitat requirements of moose in the Omineca Region.

Supporting Information for General Wildlife Measures (GWMs) and Objective

There are two types of ungulate winter range in the FRPA GAR order:

1. No Harvest UWR
The intent of no harvest UWR is to preserve thermal Cover, snow interception, and static forage.
2. Conditional Harvest UWR
The intent of conditional harvest UWR is to ensure that in perpetuity, moose have access to mixed stands that will provide access to suitable habitat.

No Harvest UWR

Further to GWM 1: the intent is to protect the integrity and interior condition of the moose no harvest ungulate winter range by eliminating disturbance from primary forest activities.

Further to GWM 2: the intent is to minimize grazing and browsing pressure on preferred moose browse species within the moose no harvest ungulate winter range. It will also minimize disturbance to moose resulting from livestock and range tenure activities.

Conditional Harvest UWR

Further to GWMs 3, 7 and 8: the intent is to mitigate hunting pressure and predation risk on moose using habitat in the no harvest or conditional harvest UWR by minimizing the length of time access structures exist and thus also decreasing the Line-of-Sight of hunters and/or predators.

Further to GWM 7 specifically, the intent is that operational planning results in harvesting, initial rehabilitation (part a) and deactivation of remaining temporary access structures (part b) being completed within one year so that there is no use by hunters in vehicles (e.g. pickups) and patterns are not established.

Further to GWM 4: the intent is to promote a diversity of smaller irregular openings, thereby creating edge benefits for moose. Cutblock modelling and analysis conducted by FLNRORD indicated that implementation of GWM 4 and GWM 5 together results in irregular harvest boundaries consistent with practices beneficial for moose. The option to increase the size to 100 hectares, while retaining 40% or more of the basal area of the stand that was on the cutblock before timber harvesting is intended to allow for partial harvesting.

Further to GWM 5: the intent is to provide stand level retention within and adjacent to the gross block area that is effective for moose for security cover through providing structural diversity, connectivity, and visual cover.

Further to GWM 10: the intent is to protect, promote and maintain available high-quality preferred moose browse in addition to enhancing the visual screening of moose.

Further to GWMs 6, 9, 11, 12 and Objective 1: the intent is to ensure, in perpetuity, that moose have access to mixed stands which will in turn, provide for preferred moose browse.

Further to Mineral or Coal Exploration and Placer Mining Activities

Limitations on Actions

Under the GAR Section 2 'Limitations on actions' the UWR does not apply retroactively to permits entered into before the order takes effect

GWMs Applicable to Mineral or Coal Exploration and Placer Mining Activities

The specific management requirements (GWMs) of the proposed moose UWRs order that affect mineral or coal exploration and placer mining activities are:

For on-tenure activities in No Harvest UWR Areas

GWM 1. No primary forest activities

For off-tenure road construction, use, or maintenance a special use permit (SUP) is generally required. New SUPs for off tenure mineral or coal exploration and placer mining activities related to new road construction, maintenance, and use, may be required to comply with the revised GWM 3, related to the location of new permanent access. In site specific situations where a Notice of Work (NOW) is not consistent with revised GWM 3 an exemption request may be required.

Exemptions

If a proponent proposes a development in the UWRs that is inconsistent with the GWMs they must apply for an exemption under the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation Sec 92(1). Exemption requests will be evaluated based on the potential impacts of the proposed development on habitat values, and clear actions taken to avoid, limit or mitigate activities and impacts.