



ORDER – UNGULATE WINTER RANGE #U7-002

On being satisfied that the establishment of the ungulate winter range dealt with in this order is necessary to meet the habitat requirements of the ungulate species, and that the management objectives dealt with in this order are necessary to maintain the ungulate species within those areas, and under the authority of section 69 (1) (a) and (b) of the Operational and Site Planning Regulation, B.C. Reg. 107/98, the Deputy Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection orders that

1. the ungulate winter range shown in the map set out in the attached Schedule A (#U7-002) is established;
2. the ungulate winter range referred to in section 1 is approved for mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus hemionus*); and
3. the following practices are established as management objectives inside the ungulate winter range referred to in section 1:

The following proposed management objectives reflect the goal to maintain mule deer winter range to provide high suitability snow interception, cover and foraging opportunities (shrubs, conifer and arboreal lichen litterfall):

Desired Habitat Condition

1. Within each ungulate winter range (UWR) Unit numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, and 14, maintain a minimum of 40% of winter range area in age class 8 (>140 years) or greater at all times with a crown closure of >56% (Douglas-fir, spruce).
2. Within each UWR Unit numbers 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, and 18, maintain a minimum of 50% of stands in age class 8 (>140 years) or greater and with a crown closure of mature forest >66% (Douglas fir, spruce).
3. Within all UWR Units, maintain species composition as Douglas-fir leading, with a minimum of 50% Douglas-fir.
4. Within all UWR Units, maintain 10—40% shrub cover of preferred deciduous forage species.

Timber Harvest

5. Within UWR Unit number 19, no commercial forest harvesting.
6. Within all UWR Units except Unit Number 19, keep timber harvesting openings irregular in shape, < 1 ha in size and < 250 m wide.
7. Schedule winter forest operations during the period of least disturbance to mule deer.
 - a) Avoid winter forestry development (including harvesting) between December 15th and April 15th.

Forest Health

8. Within all UWR units, maintain high suitability winter habitat attributes by managing bark beetle populations to maintain low levels of beetle brood in the UWR.¹
 - a) Sanitation or salvage activities may occur within the limits of UWR desired habitat condition objectives.

¹ “Low levels” reflect endemic population levels, with high suitability winter habitat attributes still available.

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Fire Management

9. Within all UWR Units, reflect UWR objectives in appropriate fire management plans.
10. Consider the use of prescribed fire to reduce understory fuel loading and improve UWR forage characteristics.

Range Management

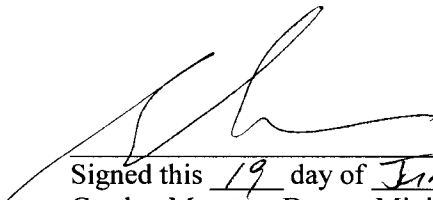
11. Within all UWR Units, reduce or prevent conflicts between mule deer and livestock.
 - a) Do not increase Animal Unit Month (AUM) allotments or issue new tenures.

Access Management

12. Within all UWR Units, manage road access to limit human disturbance to mule deer.
 - a) Construct roads to the lowest class practicable while maintaining safety and environmental standards.
 - b) Where reasonable alternatives exist, plan the location and design of major/secondary access routes to avoid the UWR.
13. Within all UWR Units, minimize new road construction and other access development.
 - a) Maintain the existing length of active roads by permanently deactivating roads in a 1:1 ratio to the amount of new road construction.
14. Within UWR Unit number 19, do not construct any new roads.

Recreation Management

15. Within all UWR units, avoid promoting winter recreational activity on the ungulate winter range.


Signed this 19 day of June, 2003
Gordon Macatee, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection