



ORDER – UNGULATE WINTER RANGE #U7-003

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 (#U7-003) is established;
2. the ungulate winter range referred to in section 1 is approved for Mountain Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*); and
3. the following practices are established as management objectives inside the ungulate winter range referred to in section 1:

Caribou Corridor - UWR Units: PC-029, PC-030, PC-031, PC-032, PC-033, PC-034, PC-036, PC-037, PC-038, PC-040, PC-044, PC-046, PC-047, PC-048, PC-049, PC-051, PC-052, PC-056, PC-057, PC-061, PC-062, PC-063, PC-066, PC-072, PC-073, PC-078, PC-080, PC-082, PC-085, PC-002, RC-005, RC-006, RC-016, TC-005, TC-009, TC-010, TC-014.

In areas identified as Caribou Corridor, maintain a minimum of 20% of the forest in each corridor as 100+ years of age in a contiguous, windfirm corridor where no more than 20% of the area is in less than 3m green-up condition at any time by:

- a. managing forest health to reduce conflicts between caribou and bark beetle management. In the event of a bark beetle outbreak, limit harvesting to forest health sanitation activities which maintain the habitat attributes of the Corridor UWR.
- b. encouraging fire suppression within ungulate winter range units to maintain age class distribution and contiguity functions of the UWR, and reflect UWR objectives in appropriate Fire Management Plans.

Caribou High – UWR Units: PC-001, PC-002, PC-003, PC-004, PC-005, PC-006, PC-007, PC-008, PC-009, PC-010, PC-011, PC-012, PC-013, PC-014, PC-015, PC-016, PC-017, PC-018, PC-019, PC-020, PC-022, PC-023, PC-024, PC-025, PC-026, PC-027, PC-028, RC-001, RC-003, RC-008, RC-009, RC-013, RC-019, RC-020, RC-021, RC-022, TC-003, TC-006, TC-016, TC-018.

In areas identified as High, maintain old forests that provide arboreal lichens for forage by:

- 1) prohibiting forest harvesting, except Category A approved cut blocks and associated roads authorized at the time of ungulate winter range designation
- 2) maintaining contiguous, unfragmented forests that provide habitat types that minimize predation; human access and disturbances which can lead to mortality or displacement to less favourable habitats by following management practices to:
 - a) control access and human disturbance:

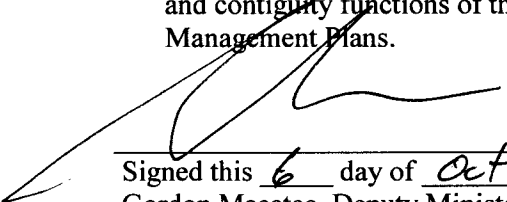
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- i) plan the location and design of major/secondary access routes to avoid the winter range units unless there are no other practicable alternatives for required access. No new roads will be approved without written consultation with the Environmental Stewardship Division of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection;
 - ii) where road/trails are constructed within this winter range, reclaim or plant road/trails to limit access;
 - iii) within adjacent winter range, limit permanent road access within 2 km of this winter range by access restrictions or road deactivation (to reduce human disturbance and illegal caribou harvest);
- b) practice forest health activities only where the District Manager determines that no action would result in a significant negative impact on adjacent timber values. The District Manager may use a similar evaluation to that used for harvesting in a Riparian Reserve.
- c) limit fire suppression within ungulate winter range units which do not pose a significant risk to adjacent forest lands and reflect UWR objectives in appropriate Fire Management Plans.

Caribou Medium – UWR Units: PC-035, PC-039, PC-041, PC-043, PC-045, PC-050, PC-053, PC-054, PC-055, PC-058, PC-059, PC-060, PC-064, PC-065, PC-068, PC-069, PC-070, PC-071, PC-074, PC-075, PC-076, PC-077, PC-079, PC-081, PC-083, RC-004, RC-007, RC-010, RC-011, RC-012, RC-014, RC-015, RC-017, RC-018, TC-001, TC-002, TC-004, TC-007, TC-008, TC-011, TC-012, TC-013, TC-015, TC-017, TC-019.

In areas identified as Caribou Medium, maintain Mountain Caribou habitat values through partial cutting silvicultural practices by:

- 1) managing for $\leq 30\%$ volume removal on a cut block area every 80 years
- 2) limiting openings to a mean opening size ≤ 0.5 ha. (recommended range from 0.1 to 1.0 ha),
- 3) incorporating natural clumps of trees in the openings within the stand while allowing efficient skidding;
- 4) distributing openings throughout the block and keeping openings at least 2 tree lengths apart where practicable.
- 5) maintaining caribou winter range by managing access and human disturbance by:
 - a) planning the location and design of major/secondary access routes to minimize permanent roads in caribou habitat;
 - b) within adjacent winter range, limit permanent road access within 2 km of Caribou High;
- 6) managing forest health to reduce conflicts between caribou and bark beetle management. In the event of a bark beetle outbreak, limit harvesting to forest health sanitation activities which maintain the habitat attributes of the UWR.
- 7) encouraging fire suppression within ungulate winter range units to maintain age class distribution and contiguity functions of the UWR, and reflect UWR objectives in appropriate Fire Management Plans.


Signed this 6 day of Oct, 2003
Gordon Macatee, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection