



## **ORDER – UNGULATE WINTER RANGE #U7-005**

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 (#U7-005) is established;
2. the ungulate winter range referred to in section 1 is approved for Rocky mountain elk (*Cervus elaphus nelsoni*); and
3. the following practices are established as management objectives inside the ungulate winter range referred to in section 1:

Maintain elk winter ranges to provide high suitability foraging opportunities (desired habitat attributes include: burns, south-facing slopes dominated by grasses, riparian shrub communities), screening and snow interception cover. This will be accomplished by applying the following specific management objectives to the proposed UWRs:

### **Habitat Condition**

Maintaining a minimum of 40% of winter range area forested stands in age class 6 (>100 years) or greater with a crown closure >40%.

### **Forest Health**

Manage forest health to reduce conflicts between elk and bark beetle management.

In the event of a bark beetle outbreak, limit harvesting for forest health sanitation or salvage activities to within the limits set by the Habitat Condition objective and Range Management objectives, unless a variance is approved by the MWLAP Statutory Decision Maker.

### **Range Management**

For all UWR units

- Manage for elk habitat to reduce conflicts between elk and livestock.
- Livestock use will not exceed more than 10% of current year's shrub growth.
- Maintain a minimum stubble height of 25cm for preferred grass species including, but not limited to, western porcupine grass, western wheat grass, northern wheat grass, hairy wild rye, and bluejoint. Maintain a minimum stubble height of 35 cm for riparian sedge species.

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- Manage for a desired plant community to provide a dense cover of willows and sedges in riparian areas. On uplands and south facing slopes manage for plant communities that include, but are not limited to, willow, rose, snowberry, poplar regeneration, red osier dogwood, blueberry, choke cherry, low bush cranberry, saskatoon and native perennial grass species.
- Avoid concentrating livestock in riparian areas through appropriate management tools.

### **Fire Management**

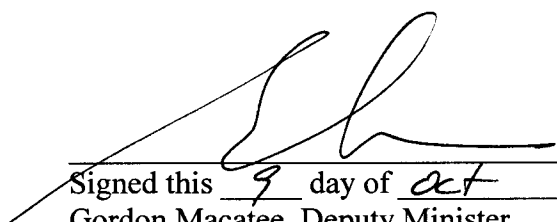
For all UWR units minimize the amount of shrub encroachment on grazing areas by:

- Limiting fire suppression within winter range units, which do not pose a significant risk to adjacent forest lands.
- Reflecting UWR objectives in the Ministry of Forest District Fire Management Plan.
- Allowing for prescribe fires or natural fires within winter range units area to reduce loss of grazing habitat due to encroachment of woodlands/shrubs.

### **Access Management**

For all UWR units:

- Maintain elk winter range by minimizing human disturbance and access.
- Where reasonable alternatives exist, plan the location and design of major/secondary access routes to avoid the winter range units.
- Where road/trails are constructed within this winter ranges, de-build or plant road/trails to limit access to open south facing slopes, forested movement trails and licks.
- Where reasonable alternative exist, plan and locate infrastructure development (i.e. reload area, airstrip, logging camp and ferry landing) to avoid the area east of Schooler Bay (UWR unit number E-002), to reduce human disturbance.

  
Signed this 9 day of oct, 2003

Gordon Macatee, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection