



ORDER – UNGULATE WINTER RANGE #U7-010

This order is given under the authority of sections 9(2) and 12(1) 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 and table set out in the attached Schedule A (#U7-010) is established;
2. the ungulate winter range in the attached Schedule A is established for mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus hemionus*);
3. the general wildlife measures outlined in Schedule 1 are established for the ungulate winter range in the attached Schedule A;
4. where there is any discrepancy between the ungulate winter range boundaries as shown in the attached Schedules 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; and
5. 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.

Schedule 1 – General Wildlife Measures

Snow Interception and Thermal Cover:

- 1) Within each ungulate winter range (UWR) Unit numbers, RVD-002 and RVD-003 (Morkill, Big Eddy) maintain a minimum of 50% of the winter range area in age class 8 and 9 (mature and old forest) with a minimum of 66% canopy closure.
- 2) Within each UWR Unit number RVD-001 (Morkill-Hellroaring) maintaining a minimum of 50% of the winter range area in age class 8 and 9 (mature and old forest) cedar/hemlock forest with a minimum of 66% canopy closure.
- 3) Within all UWR units, conduct fire suppression such that low intensity ground fire, which may be of benefit to habitat, are allowed to burn, but intensive fires, or those during unsuitable burning conditions, receive aggressive first response.

Forest Stand Species Composition and Effective Cover and Thermal Protection:

- 4) Within all UWR units, maintain, or use silvicultural practices to produce, a species composition that retains Douglas-fir in the main and emergent canopy layers.

Access to Food:

- 5) Within all UWR units, maintain, or use silvicultural practices to produce, a species composition that retains Douglas-fir, cedar and hemlock in the emergent canopy layer.

Access to Cover:

- 6) Within all UWR units keep timber harvesting openings irregular shaped, no greater than 1 ha in size and less than 250 m wide for any harvesting.

Prevention of Stress to Ungulates During Winter:

Within all UWR units:

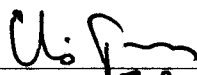
- 7) Limit road extent to a maximum of the existing length of active forest industry oriented roads by permanently closing and rehabilitating roads in at least a 1:1 ratio to the amount of new road construction.
- 8) Avoid promoting winter recreational activity (snowmobiling) on winter ranges by restricting snow ploughing to those roads needed for active hauling and silviculture
- 9) After harvest occurs close and rehabilitate roads built for harvesting access. Where the access road is needed for multiple-year harvesting, take steps to avoid non-industrial use between harvest entries.

Forest Health:

- 10) For all UWR units maintain high suitability winter habitat by managing bark beetle populations and other forest pests to maintain low levels of brood in the UWR. "Low levels" are those that still allow for maintenance of high suitability winter habitat attributes. Sanitation thinning (partial harvest) may occur within UWR only if it is within the limits set by General Wildlife Measures 1, 2, 3 and 6. Sanitation is defined as harvest of trees with live brood only.

Range Management:

- 11) For all UWR units, avoid displacement of Mule Deer by livestock by not developing range development features such as, but not limited to, waterholes, fences, salt blocks, corrals, access road or trails, that would result in concentration of livestock in the UWR


Signed this 30th day of March, 2006
Chris Trumpy, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Environment

Supporting Information:
Ungulate Winter Range #U7-010

Appendix 1

1. Authority to consider an exemption from these general wildlife measures is provided in Section 92(1) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*. In instances where it is not practicable to comply with these measures, a person proposing to conduct forestry activities should consider seeking an exemption from the requirements to comply with the applicable General Wildlife Measures.

An exemption application should be submitted to the Minister's delegate (Regional Manager – Ministry of Environment, for the Region that the Ungulate Winter Range is located) with a rationale describing the nature of the problem and options to integrate winter range conservation with proposed forest practices. This submission will assist in timely consideration of the matter, and will inform the conditions, if any, of the exemption that may be granted prior to commencement of activities.

Salvage of dead timber (non-infectious) resulting from severe natural disturbance may be proposed as an exemption if the proposal is a net benefit to Ungulate Winter Range species being managed for, as opposed to taking no action.

