

**Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Ministerial Order**

**Land Use Objectives for Biodiversity
Morice Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) Area**

Part 1 - Interpretation

Relationship with the *Forest and Range Practices Act* Objectives

Pursuant to section 93.4 of the *Land Act*, the following objectives are established as land use objectives for the purposes of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, and apply to the area shown on Map 1. Any footnote or map referenced in an objective is an integral part of that objective.

This order takes effect on the date that notice of the Order is published in the Gazette.

Part 2 – Objectives

Objective 1: Maintain seral stages across the Morice LRMP area as specified in Tables 1 and 2 for the High Biodiversity Emphasis Areas and General Forested Area, respectively, as shown on Map 2.

Table 1. Seral Stage Distribution for each High Biodiversity Emphasis Area (HBEA)

BEC Variant	% Representation Across Each HBEA		
	Early* Seral Maximum	Mature* + Old* Seral Minimum	Old* Seral Minimum
ATp	N/A	N/A	N/A
CWH ws2 and MHmm2**	16	71	70
ESSF mc and ESSF mv3***	28	48	42
ESSF mk	7	86	84
SBS dk	50	21	16
SBS mc2 and SBS wk3***	37	33	26

* Early is defined as <40 years; Mature is 100-140 years; Old is >140 years.

** CWHws2 and MHmm2 are combined due to their small incidence in the plan area and similarity in Range of Natural Variation.

*** ESSFmv3 is combined with ESSFmc, and SBSwk3 is combined with SBSmc2 due to their small incidence in the plan area.

Table 2. Seral Stage Distribution for the General Forested Area (GFA)

BEC Variant	% Representation Across the General Forested Area		
	Early* Seral Maximum	Mature* + Old* Seral Minimum	Old Seral Minimum
Atp	N/A	N/A	N/A
CWH ws2 and MH mm2**	27	64	62
ESSF mc and ESSF mv3***	38	37	34
SBS dk	64	10	8
SBS mc2 and SBS wk3***	48	20	17

* Early is defined as <40 years; Mature is 100-140 years; Old is >140 years.

** CWHws2 and MHmm2 are combined due to their small incidence in the plan area and similarity in Range of Natural Variation.

*** ESSFmv3 is combined with ESSFmc, and SBSwk3 is combined with SBSmc2 due to their small incidence in the plan area.

Objective 2: Maintain seral stages across the Morice LRMP area as specified in Tables 3(a) and 3(b) for the following areas as shown on Map 3:

- Nanika River High Biodiversity Emphasis Area;
- Nadina/Owen Area Specific Management Zone;

- Upper Morice River High Biodiversity Emphasis Area, and;
- Grease Trail Buffer – within the area between 100 and 500 metres adjacent to the trail.

Table 3(a). Seral Stage Distribution for the Nanika River High Biodiversity Emphasis Area and the Upper Morice River High Biodiversity Emphasis Area:

BEC Variant	% Representation		
	Early* Seral Maximum	Mature* + Old* Seral Minimum	Old Seral Minimum
Atp	N/A	N/A	N/A
CWH ws2 and MH mm2**	16	71	70
ESSF mc and ESSF mv3***	28	70	42
ESSF mk	7	86	84
SBS dk	50	70	16
SBS mc2 and SBS wk3***	37	70	26

* Early is defined as <40 years; Mature is 100-140 years; Old is >140 years.

** CWHws2 and MHmm2 are combined due to their small incidence in the plan area and similarity in Range of Natural Variation.

*** ESSFmv3 is combined with ESSFmc, and SBSwk3 is combined with SBSmc2 due to their small incidence in the plan area.

Table 3(b). Seral Stage Distribution for the Nadina/Owen Area Specific Management Zone and the Grease Trail Buffer– within the area between 100 and 500 metres adjacent to the trail:

BEC Variant	% Representation		
	Early* Seral Maximum	Mature* + Old* Seral Minimum	Old Seral Minimum
Atp	N/A	N/A	N/A
CWH ws2 and MH mm2**	27	70	62
ESSF mc and ESSF mv3***	38	70	34
SBS dk	64	70	8
SBS mc2 and SBS wk3***	48	70	17

* Early is defined as <40 years; Mature is 100-140 years; Old is >140 years.

** CWHws2 and MHmm2 are combined due to their small incidence in the plan area and similarity in Range of Natural Variation.

*** ESSFmv3 is combined with ESSFmc, and SBSwk3 is combined with SBSmc2 due to their small incidence in the plan area.

Objective 3: Maintain seral stages across the Morice LRMP area as specified in Table 4(a) and 4(b) for the following areas as shown on Map 4:

- Le Talh Giz Area Specific Management Zone;
- Nadina River Area Specific Management Zone – within the 500 metre buffer beyond the 100 year floodplain; and,

- Lower Morice River High Biodiversity Emphasis Area;

Table 4 (a). Seral Stage Distribution for the Le Talh Giz Area Specific Management Zone, and Nadina River Area Specific Management Zone – within the 500 metre buffer beyond the 100 year floodplain:

BEC Variant	% Representation		
	Early* Seral Maximum	Mature* + Old* Seral Minimum	Old Seral Minimum
Atp	N/A	N/A	N/A
CWH ws2 and MH mm2**	27	64	62
ESSF mc and ESSF mv3***	38	50	34
SBS dk	64	50	8
SBS mc2 and SBS wk3***	48	50	17

* Early is defined as <40 years; Mature is 100-140 years; Old is >140 years.

** CWHws2 and MHmm2 are combined due to their small incidence in the plan area and similarity in Range of Natural Variation.

*** ESSFmv3 is combined with ESSFmc, and SBSwk3 is combined with SBSmc2 due to their small incidence in the plan area.

Table 4(b). Seral Stage Distribution for the Lower Morice River High Biodiversity Emphasis Area:

BEC Variant	% Representation		
	Early* Seral Maximum	Mature* + Old* Seral Minimum	Old Seral Minimum
Atp	N/A	N/A	N/A
CWH ws2 and MH mm2**	16	71	70
ESSF mc and ESSF mv3***	28	50	42
ESSF mk	7	86	84
SBS dk	50	50	16
SBS mc2 and SBS wk3***	37	50	26

* Early is defined as <40 years; Mature is 100-140 years; Old is >140 years.

** CWHws2 and MHmm2 are combined due to their small incidence in the plan area and similarity in Range of Natural Variation.

*** ESSFmv3 is combined with ESSFmc, and SBSwk3 is combined with SBSmc2 due to their small incidence in the plan area.

Objective 4: Manage for old growth forests by retaining all timber within Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs), as identified on Map 5.

Objective 5: Maintain structurally complex mature and old forest by retaining wildlife tree retention (WTR) areas¹ distributed across the Morice LRMP area as per Tables 5 and 6.

Table 5: Proportion of Mature and Old Forest to be Retained by Landscape Unit and BEC Subzone

Landscape Unit	BEC Zone	BEC Subzone	Minimum % Retention of total area of all cutblocks harvested by an agreement holder within a one-year period (April 1 to March 31)	Minimum (%) Retention of the area of each cutblock that is >5 ha and <=250 ha	Minimum (%) Retention of the area of each cutblock that is >250 ha
Buck	SBS	dk	9	4	9
Buck	ESSF	mc	8	4	8
Buck	SBS	mc2	9	4	9
Buck	ESSF	mcp	11	6	11
Burnie	ESSF	mk	10	5	10
Burnie	ESSF	mkp	10	5	10
Fulton	ESSF	mc	6	3	6
Fulton	SBS	mc2	9	4	9
Fulton	ESSF	mcp	15	8	15
Gosnel	ESSF	mc	8	4	8
Gosnel	SBS	mc2	9	5	9
Gosnel	ESSF	mcp	17	8	17
Gosnel	ESSF	mk	8	4	8
Gosnel	ESSF	mkp	10	5	10
Granisle	ESSF	mc	9	4	9
Granisle	SBS	mc2	8	4	8
Houston_Tommy	SBS	dk	8	4	8
Houston_Tommy	ESSF	mc	7	4	7
Houston_Tommy	SBS	mc2	9	4	9
Houston_Tommy	ESSF	mcp	14	7	14
Kidprice	ESSF	mc	7	4	7
Kidprice	SBS	mc2	9	4	9
Kidprice	ESSF	mk	9	4	9
Morice_Lake	SBS	mc2	2	1	2
Morice_Lake	ESSF	mc	8	4	8
Morrison	ESSF	mc	6	3	6
Morrison	SBS	mc2	8	4	8
Morrison	ESSF	mv	8	4	8
Nadina	SBS	dk	9	4	9
Nadina	ESSF	mc	5	3	5

¹ “Wildlife tree retention area” means an area occupied by wildlife trees that is located (a) in a cutblock, (b) in an area that is contiguous to a cutblock, or (c) in an area that is sufficiently close to the cutblock that the wildlife trees could directly impact on, or be directly impacted by, a forest practice carried out in the cutblock.

Nadina	SBS	mc2	9	4	9
North_Babine	SBS	dk	7	4	7
North_Babine	SBS	mc2	8	4	8
North_Babine	ESSF	mv	8	4	8
Owen	SBS	dk	8	4	8
Owen	ESSF	mc	7	3	7
Owen	SBS	mc2	9	4	9
Owen	ESSF	mcp	12	6	12
Parrotts	SBS	dk	9	4	9
Parrotts	ESSF	mc	7	4	7
Parrotts	SBS	mc2	9	4	9
Parrotts	ESSF	mcp	12	6	12
Sibola	SBS	mc2	9	5	9
Sibola	ESSF	mk	3	1	3
Sibola	ESSF	mkp	10	5	10
Sibola	MH	mm	20	10	20
Sibola	CWH	ws2	20	10	20
Tahtsa	SBS	dk	8	4	8
Tahtsa	ESSF	mc	6	3	6
Tahtsa	SBS	mc2	9	4	9
Tahtsa	ESSF	mk	3	2	3
Thautil	ESSF	mc	7	4	7
Thautil	SBS	mc2	9	5	9
Thautil	ESSF	mcp	14	7	14
Tochcha_Natowite	SBS	mc2	9	4	9
Tochcha_Natowite	ESSF	mv	6	3	6
Tochcha_Natowite	ESSF	mvp	17	8	17
Tochcha_Natowite	SBS	wk	6	3	6
Topley	ESSF	mc	4	2	4
Topley	SBS	mc2	8	4	8
Topley	ESSF	mcp	10	5	10
Troitsa	SBS	mc2	9	5	9
Troitsa	ESSF	mk	3	1	3
Troitsa	ESSF	mkp	10	5	10
Troitsa	MH	mm	20	10	20
Valley	SBS	dk	6	3	6
Valley	ESSF	mc	5	3	5
Valley	SBS	mc2	8	4	8
Valley	ESSF	mcp	10	5	10
Whitesail	ESSF	mc	6	3	6
Whitesail	SBS	mc2	9	4	9
Whitesail	ESSF	mk	7	3	7

Objective 5a): For cutblocks greater than 250 hectares, retain additional mature and old forest as wildlife tree retention (WTR) areas² for at least 70 years after harvesting, according to the targets outlined in Table 6.

Table 6: Proportion of Mature and Old Forest to be Retained In Cutblocks >250 ha For A Minimum of 70 Years

Management Zone	Average % Retention	Minimum % Retention
General Forested Area	15 minus Retention %	10 minus Retention %
Friday Lake/Nakinilerak/Hautete Lakes High Biodiversity Emphasis Area (HBEA)	25 minus Retention %	20 minus Retention %
Morrison Lake HBEA	25 minus Retention %	20 minus Retention %
Morice River HBEA (Upper and Lower Morice River HBEAs combined)	25 minus Retention %	20 minus Retention %
Gosnell/Thautil HBEA	25 minus Retention %	20 minus Retention %
Nanika River HBEA	25 minus Retention %	20 minus Retention %

Note: The WTR % is derived from Table 5.

Objective 6: For the purposes of Objectives 5 and 5a, ensure that all wildlife tree retention areas include one or more of the following high value wildlife tree attributes:

- Diversity of wildlife tree retention strategies (e.g., a range of patch sizes combined with dispersed trees);
- Diversity of habitat types;
- Internal decay (heart rot or natural/excavated cavities present);
- Crevices present (loose bark or cracks suitable for bats);
- Large brooms present;
- Active or recent wildlife use;
- Tree structure suitable for wildlife use (e.g., large nest, hunting perch, bear den);
- Large trees for the site (height and diameter) and veterans;
- Representative of the size, age and species of the pre-harvest stand;

Objective 7: Retain 100% of the forested area within “No Timber Harvesting Areas” identified on Map 6:

- Grease Trail 100m buffer
- Morrison Lake 30m buffer
- Babine Lake East Arm 30m buffer
- Bulkley River floodplain
- Swan Lake/China Nose
- Morice River floodplain
- Nadina River floodplain
- Nanika River floodplain
- Starr Creek

² “Wildlife tree retention area” means an area occupied by wildlife trees that is located (a) in a cutblock, (b) in an area that is contiguous to a cutblock, or (c) in an area that is sufficiently close to the cutblock that the wildlife trees could directly impact on, or be directly impacted by, a forest practice carried out in the cutblock.

- j. Herd Dome
- k. Morice Range/Nanika Lake
- l. Tahtsa-Troitsa

Part 3 – Implementation

Effective Date

This order and the land use objectives in this order, take effect on the date that notice of this order is published in the *Gazette*.

The applicable period under Section 8(2) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* is one year, starting on the date this order comes into effect.

Eamon O'Donoghue
Regional Executive Director
Skeena Region

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Date