



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of
Forests

Quesnel Forest District

MEMORANDUM

File: 12600-20/Lakes

February 22, 1999

To: Dennis Asher, R.P.F.
Major Tenures Officer
Quesnel Forest District

From: Gerry Grant, R.P.F.
District Manager
Quesnel Forest District

Re: Interim Direction for Lake Classification in the Quesnel Forest District.

Attached is the interim direction for Lakes Classification in the Quesnel Forest District. Pursuant to Section 17(2)(a)(i) of *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* and Section 64 of the *Operational Planning Regulation*, the District Manager has the authority to classify lakes greater than 5 hectares.



A lake class under the authority of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* means a designation, made by the District Manager, for a L-1 lake. A lake class includes the width of a Lakeshore Management Zone (LMZ) around a lake and the practices that are appropriate within the zone. A lake classification only applies to tenure holders of agreements made under the *Forest Act* or *Range Act* on Crown land and Schedule A land included in these tenures.

The Ministry of Forests does not have the authority to restrict the use of, or manage the watered area of a lake.

The width of the LMZ is attributable to the lake class. Some level of modified harvest in the LMZ is expected for all but Class A lakes. A modified harvest prescription must allow access to all of the adjacent forest (outside of the riparian reserve zone) within one rotation.

This interim direction will guide management practices in the LMZ until a final lake classification can be completed through a sub-regional plan or a landscape unit planning process.

Gerry Grant, R.P.F.
District Manager
Quesnel Forest District

Attachment

File: File: 12600-20 (Lakes)

May 11, 2000

To: Program Managers

From: Gerry Grant, R.P.F.
District Manager
Quesnel Forest District

Re: Quesnel Forest District Lake Classification

This update on Lake Classification in the Quesnel Forest District is intended primarily as a reference for anyone involved in preparing or reviewing operational plans.

A lake class under the authority of the Operations Planning Regulation (OPR) (Section 63), means a designation, made by the district manager (DM), for all lakes with a riparian class of L1, that are >5 hectares (ha) or as designated by the DM.

A lake class includes the width of a lakeshore management zone (LMZ) around a lake and the practices that are appropriate within the zone.



Lake Classification only applies to tenure holders of agreements made under the *Forest Act* or *Range Act* on Crown land and Schedule A1 and included in these tenures.

A lake is further defined as a static body of water greater than 2metres in depth and identified as a lake on the FC1 inventory file.

- Lakes within Schedule A woodlot and tree farm licence private land have been classified.
- Lakes in Goal 2 areas have been reviewed and classified; Goal 2 areas are currently being held in abeyance. The expectation is that Goal 2 areas will either be declared protected or removed from this deferral.
- Classification of lakes in protected areas, private land and Indian Reserves are not within the authority of a DM.

The Ministry of Forests does not have the authority to restrict the use of, or manage the watered area of a lake.

As illustrated in Figure 1, a lakeshore management area (LMA) includes the riparian reserve zone (RRZ) and the lakeshore management zone.

A lake with a riparian class of L1 has a riparian reserve zone of 10 metres applied outward from the edge of the natural boundary of the lake, or wetland that is contiguous to the lake and a lakeshore management zone width established by the DM.

The lakeshore management zone is applied outward from the RRZ or from the lakeshore for lakes greater than 1000 ha. When proposed cutting boundaries include both areas within and outside of the LMZ, the LMZ boundary should be marked on the ground unless the entire block is to be harvested under the same treatment.

Table 1 - Lake Classification Criteria

Table 1 lists some of the attributes or features of a lake that were considered in establishing a classification.

Table 2 (revised) - Lake Classification and Recommended Management Practices

Table 2 provides recommended management practices and width of the LMZ attributable to the lake class.

Some level of modified harvesting in the LMZ is expected for all but Class A lakes. A modified harvest prescription must allow access to all of the adjacent forest (outside of the riparian reserve zone) within one rotation.

The DM may modify this direction in order to deal with extenuating circumstances such as to;

- control a beetle outbreak or to conduct minor salvage operations;
- undertake recreational site development;
- manage fisheries and wildlife/biodiversity values;
- reduce windthrow potential; or
- remove danger trees which threaten worker safety outside the RRZ.

Some appropriate practices in the LMZ may include;

- varying the time or season of proposed activities;
- implementing visual landscape design to achieve the VQOs, through cutblock shape, size and distribution;
- establishing wildlife tree patches;
- maintaining vegetative diversity through retention of deciduous trees and shrubs;
- employing partial cutting systems such as, selection or shelterwood harvesting.

Table 3 and Maps

Each lake reviewed is distinguished by a unique ID number and listed in Tables 3 and identified on 1:75,000 maps. Sets of the maps are available for viewing in Lyle Badger's and in Dennis Asher's office.

523 lakes were reviewed and classified in the district. A summary of the classification is as follow;

Class A - 36 lakes
Class B - 36 lakes
Class C - 208 lakes
Class D - 53 lakes
Class E - 173 lakes

Lakes on private land, federal land and protected areas may have been inadvertently classified by the DM and should be disregarded. A land status check will confirm if the lake classification applies. At least 17 lakes (not on Crown land) were reviewed and designated as Class - N/A on the maps and in Table 3.

Expectations

- Harvesting proposed in the LMZ should be consistent with the practices recommended in **Table 2 (revised)**.
- Small patches of timber should not be isolated in a stand to avoid proposing activities in the LMZ.
- Wildlife tree patches should be located in the LMZ when the appropriate attributes are present.
- Other, more restrictive harvesting constraints, such as, higher level plan direction, approved VQOs, archaeological sites, identified wildlife habitat or unique biodiversity requirements may take priority over this direction and necessitate enhanced management practices than those stated in **Table 2 (revised)**.
- To reduce planning conflicts with other licencees, the recommended management practices in the LMZ (e.g. maximum allowable percent clearcut or partial cut) apply to the harvesting practices allowed within the LMZ of each block. This approach should provide an opportunity for more than one licensee to plan around the same lake while still maintaining basal area retention requirements for the entire LMZ of that lake. Green-up requirements for adjacent blocks must still be met.

As new information becomes available this direction may be revised again.

APPENDIX A

DEFINITIONS OPERATIONAL PLANNING REGULATION (OPR)

“lake class” means a designation, made by the district manager, for lakes with a riparian class of L1 that indicates the width of a lakeshore management zone and the practices that are appropriate within that zone;

“lakeshore management area” means an area

- (a) established adjacent to a lake with a riparian class of L1, and
- (b) consisting of
 - i) a riparian reserve zone determined in accordance with Part 8, and
 - ii) a lakeshore management zone;

“lakeshore management zone” means that portion of the lakeshore management area established by the district manager around a lake

- (a) that is outside of any riparian reserve zone, if the lake has a class of L1 under Part 8, or
- (b) that is located adjacent to the lake, if the lake has no riparian reserve zone;

“riparian reserve zone” means that portion, if any, of the riparian management area or lakeshore management area located adjacent to a stream, wetland or lake of a width determined in accordance with Part 8.



Gerry Grant, R.P.F.
District Manager
Quesnel Forest District

Attachments:

Table 1**Lake Classification Criteria**

Attributes	<u>Class A</u>	<u>Class B</u>	<u>Class C</u>	<u>Class D</u>	<u>Class E</u>
Fisheries	Lake contains rare or endangered species; rare genetic stocks. Spawning habitat for regionally important fish species.	Lake offers uncommon angling experience. Wild indigenous stock.	Lake supports a regionally important fish species or has the characteristics to support such species.	No regionally important fish species	Lake has no existing or potential fishery.
Wildlife and Biodiversity	Lake or lakeshore provides rare ecosystem or habitat. The ecosystem is vulnerable to damage by disturbance.	Lake or lakeshore provides threatened ecosystem habitat. The ecosystem is vulnerable to damage by disturbance.	Ecosystems with rare or infrequent stand-initiating events (NDT 1 & 2). Lake is naturally surrounded by old and mature forests.	Ecosystems with frequent stand-maintaining events (NDT 4). Lake is naturally surrounded by uneven-aged Douglas-fir forests that are regularly modified by wildfires.	Ecosystems with frequent stand-initiating events (NDT 3). Wildfires commonly burn up to the lakeshore.
Recreation and Visual Quality	Lake has provincial or higher feature significance. Very high public recreation. Lakeshore has low visual absorption capability (VAC) and high visual sensitivity.	Lake has regional feature significance. High public recreation. Lakeshore has low to medium VAC and high visual sensitivity.	Lake has local feature significance. Medium public recreation. Lakeshore has medium VAC and medium visual sensitivity.	Lake has common local feature significance. Low public recreation. Lakeshore has high VAC and medium visual sensitivity.	Lake has minimal feature significance. Very low public recreation. Lakeshore has low or no visual sensitivity.
Water Quality	Lake is very sensitive to additional nutrient loading and has a high recreational value.	Lake is sensitive to additional nutrient loading or temperature increases.	*	*	

Note: Not all Attributes in a given class need to be present for a lake to be in that class.

*Water quality should be adequately protected by the Class E riparian reserve and lakeshore management zone shown in Table 2. However, additional protection is required for water sources that are used for human consumption.

Figure 1. Sample of a lakeshore management area (LMA = RRZ + LMZ) (Not to scale)

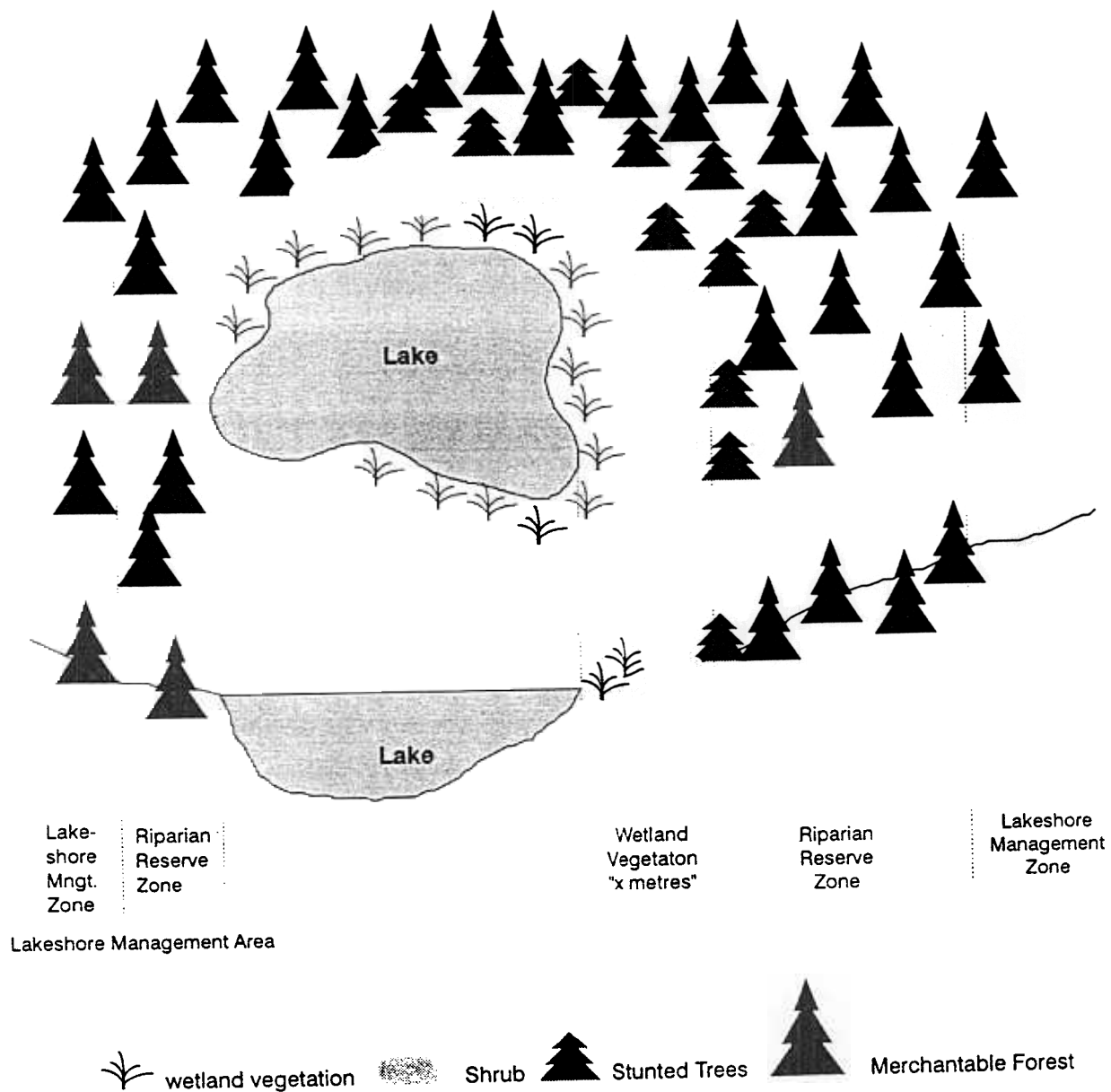


Table 2 (revised)	Lake Classification and Recommended Management Practices				
Changes in <u>underlined bold italics</u>					
	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D	Class E
Recreational feature significance	Provincial	Regional	Local common	Very common	Very common
Lakeshore Management Zone Width (LMZ)	200 meters(m)	150 meters	100 meters	25 meters	25 meters
Riparian Reserve Zone Width (RRZ)	10 meters No harvest	10 meters No harvest	10 meters No harvest	10 meters No harvest	10 meters No harvest
Management Practices in the LMZ by block (maximum % allowable clear cut or partial cut)*	0% - no harvest* (except for the reasons listed below)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10% clear cut or, 25% partial cut (partial cut => 50% basal area retention) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>20% clear cut</u> <u>or,</u> <u>40% partial cut</u> (partial cut => 50% basal area retention) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30% clear cut, or <u>60% partial cut</u> (partial cut => 50% basal area retention) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% clear cut or, 100% partial cut (partial cut => 50% basal area retention)
Maximum lateral distance of block along the LMZ/RRZ interface	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 300 m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 400 m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 m
Roads and Landings (within the LMZ and adjacent to the RRZ)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads outside the LMZ Landings >200 m from RRZ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads outside the LMZ Landings >100 m from RRZ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads - > 75 m from the RRZ Landings > 40 m from RRZ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads - > 30 m from the RRZ Landings > 30 m from RRZ
Skid roads (bladed trails)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 m from the RRZ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 m from the RRZ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 m from the RRZ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 m from the RRZ

- * The DM may vary the LMZ widths and management practices to;
- control a beetle outbreak or to conduct minor salvage operations;
 - undertake recreational site development;
 - manage fisheries and wildlife/biodiversity values;
 - reduce windthrow potential; or remove danger trees which threaten worker safety outside the RRZ.

Revised Sept 1999