

This elk winter range unit is located south of the Nanaimo River, in the Nanaimo Landscape Unit. It has a total area of 1732.3 ha and an effective reserve area of approximately 346.4 ha (i.e. 20 % netdown). Elevations range from 180 m to 340m, placing it in the Shallow Snowpack Zone and Submontane Very Dry CWH Variant. The site consists of several broad benches interspersed with knolls and numerous wetland/riparian habitats. Forest cover is dominated by regenerating stands of Douglas-fir up to 60 years old, with a lesser occurrence of western hemlock, western redcedar, and grand fir. Moderate levels of winter use by elk (and a few deer) were observed by the authors in 2002. The nearest designated EWR is 3 km to the south, in the vicinity of Haslam Creek. The McKay Lake UWR was assigned a high overall rating, with an aggregate score of 29.5 points out of a possible 51, or 58 %.

Haslam Creek UWR No. 1158

This elk winter range unit is located south of Haslam Creek, in the Nanaimo Landscape Unit. It has a total area of about 491.2 ha and an effective reserve area of approximately 100 ha (i.e. 20 % netdown). Elevations range from 200 m to 400 m, placing it in the Shallow and Moderate Snowpack Zones. Like the McKay EWR, it is situated within the Submontane Very Dry CWH Variant. The site encompasses the lower slopes of Mt. Hayes, and benches from an unnamed peak to the southwest. It contains several wetlands and riparian floodplain habitats. Forest cover is dominated by densely regenerating stands of Douglas-fir up to 60 years old, with a lesser occurrence of western hemlock, western redcedar, and grand fir. Low levels of winter use by elk (and a few deer) were observed by the authors in 2002. The nearest designated EWR is 3 km to the north, in the vicinity of McKay Lake. The Haslam Creek UWR was assigned a low overall rating, with an aggregate score of 21 points out of a possible 51, or 41 %. However, overall habitat values can be greatly improved through stand manipulation over the next 5 to 10 years.

Mt. Coronation UWR Units

A group of 11 GP UWR's and 1 AOI in the Mt. Coronation area were assessed by Sally Leigh-Spencer, Ecologic Consulting, in March 2001. As the areas have been previously logged, and the age classes ranges from 2 to 6, the winter range unit assessments were based on the future capability of the site, rather than assessing each unit for suitability.

A cluster of deer winter range units (Mt. Coronation AOI-1, 1197, 1198, and 1199) and one individual unit (1190) are considered moderately important. The other 5 GP winter range units within the Mt. Coronation area did not meet the essential criteria, ranked "Very Low" and therefore presented in the latter part of this section.