



ORDER – MOUNTAIN GOAT UNGULATE WINTER RANGE # U-7-029

Mackenzie Natural Resource District; Akie-Pesika, Osilinka and Ospika populations

This order is given under the authority of sections 9(1), 9(2) and 12(1) of the *Government Actions Regulation* (B.C. Reg. 582/2004).

1. The Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, being satisfied that
 - i. the following area contains habitat that is necessary to meet the winter habitat requirements for mountain goat (*Oreamnos americanus*); and
 - ii. the habitat requires special management that is not otherwise provided for under GAR or another enactment;

orders that

- a) the areas shown in the map set out in the attached Schedule A (U-7-029) and contained in the ungulate winter range (UWR) spatial layer stored in the Land and Resource Data Warehouse (WHSE_WILDLIFE_MANAGEMENT.WCP_UNGULATE_WINTER_RANGE_SP) are established as ungulate winter range U-7-029 for mountain goat. The centre point of the line on the attached Schedule A is what establishes the UWR boundary; and
- b) if there is a discrepancy between the areas shown in the map set out in the attached Schedule A and the UWR spatial layer stored in the Land and Resource Data Warehouse (WHSE_WILDLIFE_MANAGEMENT.WCP_UNGULATE_WINTER_RANGE_SP), the areas as detailed in the UWR spatial layer will take precedent.

2. The Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, being satisfied that
 - i. the general wildlife measures (GWMs) described below are necessary to protect and conserve mountain goat and mountain goat habitat; and
 - ii. GAR or another enactment does not otherwise provide for that protection or conservation;

orders that

- a) the GWMs outlined in Schedule 1 are established for UWR U-7-029, and
- b) the GWMs 3, 4 and 5, Schedule 1, are applied to the areas specified in those GWMs.

Schedule 1 – General Wildlife Measures

Definitions

In this schedule:

- a) Word and expressions not defined in this order have the meaning to them in the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and regulations made thereunder, unless context indicates otherwise,
 - b) “deactivate” or “deactivation” refers to either partial or complete treatment of roads and trails with the intent to prevent, as much as possible, motor vehicle access while taking into account site-specific operating constraints; where practicable this activity will include right-of-way revegetation activities to manage long-term access, and
 - c) “mountain goat winter range” are those winter range units established by way of this Order.
1. Primary forest activities must not result in the removal of forest and vegetative cover within a mountain goat winter range, except as provided in GWM 2.
 2. GWM 1 does not apply where:
 - a) guyline anchors and tailholds are required to facilitate timber harvesting adjacent to the goat winter range; or,
 - b) trees are felled in accordance with section 2(3) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*; and,
 - c) trees felled for the purposes in (a) and (b) that fall within the designated mountain goat winter range are retained on-site.
 3. Within 500 meters horizontal distance of mountain goat winter range, primary forest activities must take place during the period starting June 15 and ending October 31.
 4. All roads or access structures within 500 meters of mountain goat winter range will be deactivated for effective access control within one year following completion of primary forest activities.
 5. All helicopter logging activities conducted within 2000 meters line-of-sight of a mountain goat winter range must take place during the period starting June 15 and ending October 31.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2013

Dave Peterson, A/Deputy Minister

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Appendix 1

These appendices are not part of the legal Order for U-7-025. They are intended to provide guidance for meeting the General Wildlife Measures addressed in the Order.

1. As per section 2(2) of the *Government Actions Regulation*, the order entitled “ORDER – Mountain goat ungulate winter range #U-7-029” does not apply in respect of;
 - a. any of the following entered into before the order takes effect;
 - i. a cutting permit;
 - ii. a road permit;
 - iii. a timber sale licence that does not provide for cutting permits;
 - iv. a forest licence to cut issued by a timber sales manager under section 47.6(3) of the *Forest Act*;
 - v. subject to subsection (3), a minor tenure.
 - b. a declared area
 - c. areas described in section 196(1) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*; and
 - d. areas referred to in section 110 of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*.
2. 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.
3. An exemption application should be submitted to the Minister’s delegate (Director, Resource Management – Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) for the Omineca Region) with a rationale describing the nature of the problem and options to integrate winter range conservation with proposed forest practices (a template for exemption requests is available at: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frpa/index.html>). 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. Upon receipt of a complete exemption application, a determination for timing window exemptions will be processed within 10 calendar days, all other exemptions will be handled within 15 working days of arrival at the MFLNRO Regional office. Incomplete packages will be returned to the proponent for resubmission.
4. Exemptions for salvage of dead timber (non-infectious) resulting from severe natural disturbance may only be considered if the proposal is a net benefit to the Ungulate Winter Range species being managed for, as opposed to taking no action.

Appendix 2

Further to GWM 3

The provincial mountain goat management plan provides important guidance when operating near sensitive mountain goat habitats.

(http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/recovery/management_plans/MtGoat_MP_Final_28May2010.pdf) Note Section 4.4, Management Recommendations.

The following UWR units include habitat that is sensitive to disturbance, and also heavily used by mountain goats outside the winter period:

Unit # 25, 28, 48, 88, 122, 178, 200, 257, 269, 325, 336, 342, 345, 348

We recommend primary forest activities (with the exception of silviculture treatments such as spring planting) within 500m of these units occur within the least sensitive timing window of August 15-October 31.

Cross reference to Proposed UWR U-7-028

Proposed Stone's sheep Ungulate Winter Range Specified Area Unit #12 within U-7-028 overlaps with the following U-7-029 mountain goat units:

Unit # 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83

These Units have Mountain Goat listed as the primary species, and Stone's sheep listed as the secondary species. To reduce the considerable risk of disease introduction from domestic sheep and goats to naïve native Stone's sheep populations, the Specified Area Unit #12 as identified in U-7-028 will apply adjacent to those Mountain goat units that have Stone's sheep as a secondary species.

References and links for more information:

Cadsand, B.A. 2012. Responses of mountain goats to heliskiing activity: movements and resource selection. MSc thesis. UNBC, Sept 2012.

Hengeveld, P.E., M.D. Wood, R. Ellis and R. Lennox. 2003. Mountain goat habitat supply modeling in the Mackenzie Timber Supply Area, North-central British Columbia. Version 1.0-December 2003. PWFwCP Report No. 271. Accessed Jan 10, 2013.

http://www.bchydro.com/pwcp/pdfs/reports/pwfwcp_report_no_271.pdf

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. 2013. Draft – Best management practises for helicopter operation and wildlife in the Omineca Region. Landbase Stewardship BMP Series. Feb. 6, 2013.

Mountain Goat Management Team. 2010. Management Plan for the Mountain Goat (*Oreamnos americanus*) in British Columbia. Prepared for the BC Ministry of Environment. Victoria BC. 87pp.
http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/recovery/management_plans/MtGoat_MP_Final_28May2010.pdf

Wright, C., V. Brumovsky and R.K. McCann. 2012. Delineating Ungulate Winter Range for mountain goats in north-central British Columbia. Report No. 385. Wildlife Infometrics Inc., Mackenzie, British Columbia.

DRAFT