



**NOTICE – INDICATORS OF THE AMOUNT, DISTRIBUTION AND ATTRIBUTES OF  
WILDLIFE HABITAT REQUIRED FOR THE WINTER SURVIVAL OF UNGULATE  
SPECIES IN THE STRATHCONA TIMBER SUPPLY AREA**

This notice is given under the authority of section 7(2) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* (B.C. Reg. 14/04) and 9(3) of the *Woodlot Planning and Practices Regulation* (B.C. Reg. 21/04).

The following notice includes indicators of the amount, distribution and attributes of wildlife habitat required for the winter survival of the ungulate species outlined in Schedule 1.

This Notice applies as specified within the Strathcona Timber Supply Area, excluding parks and protected areas.

Schedule 1

**Strathcona Timber Supply Area**

**Ungulate Species:**

Black-tailed deer, Roosevelt elk and Mountain goat

***Amount:***

13,280 ha, not exceeding an impact to the timber harvesting landbase of 7448 ha.

***Distribution:***

The amount of habitat referenced above must be distributed to provide:

**I) Black-tailed deer and Roosevelt elk**

- Individual winter ranges of suitable size (minimum 40 ha, but where possible > 80 ha). Smaller areas 20-40 ha are generally considered too small, but may be worth maintaining if other larger alternatives do not exist.
- Deer winter ranges located in areas of high capability. Deer winter range capability is usually highly variable in coastal watersheds, and it is always best to locate individual winter ranges in areas of highest capability. In areas of relatively uniform habitat capability, individual deer winter ranges can generally be separated by approximately 2 to 5 km. Distribution will be largely dependent upon deer habitat capability within the watershed, and the size of the individual winter ranges.

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- Suitable distribution of individual elk winter ranges which will be highly variable depending on elk habitat capability within the watershed and the size of the individual winter ranges.

## **II) Mountain goat**

- Winter ranges of the size and spatial distribution typical of ungulate winter ranges for Mountain Goat in the Strathcona TSA

### ***Attributes:***

#### **I) Black-tailed deer**

Critical black-tailed deer winter habitat includes:

- 1) Stand structure features providing snow interception cover that results from large, well-developed crowns; small openings within a variable overstorey canopy that averages 50-90% closure; and multiple canopy layers within an understorey of shade tolerant conifers. Old-growth coniferous forest habitats with appropriate topographic features satisfy deer winter range requirements in moderate and deep snow pack zones; minimum 10 m height coniferous forests in the low snowpack zone may suffice.
- 2) Preferred topographic features: southerly aspects; moderate to steep slopes (40-100%); low-moderate elevations (< 1000 m); minimal shading from adjacent mountains; and presence of rock outcrops or bluffs.
- 3) Preferred winter forage species: Western redcedar; Douglas-fir; Deer fern; Huckleberry; Salal; and Arboreal lichens.

#### **II) Roosevelt elk**

Critical Roosevelt elk winter habitat includes:

- 1) Stand structure features providing snow interception cover that results from large, well-developed crowns; small openings within a variable overstorey canopy that averages 50-90% closure; and multiple canopy layers within an understorey of shade tolerant conifers. Old-growth coniferous forest habitats with appropriate topographic features satisfy elk winter range requirements in moderate and deep snow pack zones; minimum 10 m height coniferous forests in the low snowpack zone may suffice.
- 2) Preferred topographic features: low elevation valley bottoms. During deep snow packs (>30cm), moderately steep 10-50% slope southerly aspects at low-moderate elevations

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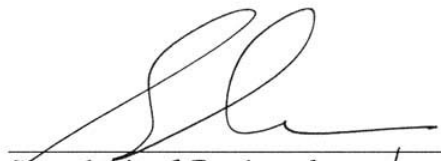
(<1000 m), with minimal shading from adjacent mountains, and the presence of rock outcrops or bluffs may be preferred.

- 3) Preferred winter forage species: grasses; sedges; Deer fern; Twinflower; Willows; Cottonwood; Elderberry; Devils club; Salal; Dull Oregon-grape; Western redcedar; Western Hemlock; Salmonberry and Huckleberry.
- 4) Preferred foraging habitats during mild winters; natural openings and recent clear cuts. When snow depths exceed 30cm; densely canopied mature or old-growth forests on floodplains or moderately steep southerly slopes are preferred for foraging.

### **III) Mountain Goat**

Critical mountain goat winter habitat includes:

- 1) Stand structure features providing snow interception cover that results from large, well-developed crowns; small openings within a variable overstorey canopy that averages 50-90% closure; and multiple canopy layers within an understorey of shade tolerant conifers. Old-growth coniferous forest habitats with appropriate topographic features are required to satisfy mountain goat winter range requirements in moderate and deep snow pack zones; minimum 10 m height coniferous forests in the low snowpack zone may suffice.
- 2) Escape terrain: rock outcrops or cliffs that provide good visibility for vigilant goats and are sufficiently rugged to be generally inaccessible to predators; slopes >60% and <175% preferred.
- 3) Accessible and abundant forage in close proximity to escape terrain: areas of low snow-loading that allow goats to access available forage: forest canopies with high snow interception characteristics, and/or warm, southerly aspects with high melt and snow-shedding characteristics; elevations <1200 m; areas that provide high quality forage.
- 4) Evidence of winter use by mountain goats or use by mountain goats in nearby areas (<1250 m across slope,  $\pm$  100 m elevation).

  
Signed this 27 day of July, 2004  
Gordon Macatee, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection