

Walker Rainforest Wilderness Ecotourism Strategy: Park Rationale



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report documents the scientific and socio-economic reasons why the Walker Rainforest Wilderness (WRW) should be legislated as a new provincial Park by the BC Cabinet. The WRW is currently 80% legally protected by several government agencies, under several different types of legislation, or is unloggable due to landscape conditions. We show how management under one status for this area located directly south of Kakwa Park makes much more sense, and that this management will economically benefit the Region and Province.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

A Globally Significant Opportunity

Residents of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George are truly fortunate to have an exceptional opportunity of global significance. We have the land base, the wide-ranging support, and the economic and ecological needs to capitalize on one of the greatest yet fading opportunities in the 21st century: The chance to protect the largest Inland Rainforest wilderness remaining anywhere in the world outside of Parks, The Walker Rainforest Wilderness (WRW; 284,000 ha). The extraordinary WRW is the largest, unprotected wilderness remaining within the world's only Inland Temperate Rainforest. It is the only unprotected wilderness left in the Rocky Mountains that contains Ancient Cedar Rainforest, endangered mountain caribou, and grizzly bears that feed on ocean-going salmon. Unprotected high-calibre large wilderness areas equivalent to the WRW no longer exist in BC. This vast area is not only important for biodiversity and watershed protection; it also has enormous importance for ecosystem services, such as offsetting global warming and climate change.

Protection of the WRW as a Provincial Park has been independently recommended by economic consultants as key to enhancing Robson Valley's economic base through the enticement and facilitation of unique ways of doing business for local communities (Miller Dickinson Blais Inc., Robson-Canoe Valleys Economic Opportunities Plan, 2010). Protecting the WRW as a Provincial Park will be a major step towards the long-term sustainability of what remains of the world's only Inland Temperate Rainforest, and a major step towards sustainable economies for the Region.

Conservation Means Jobs

Conserving WRW will not cost jobs, yet instead will create them. Economists have found that tourism is generating wealth faster than the Canadian economy as a whole, is producing jobs at twice the pace of all other industries, and wilderness tourism is leading this growth (Wilderness Committee, Western Canada's Provincial Parks Report Vol. 26, No. 6, Summer/Fall 2007). Employment and personal income levels in "wilderness" counties grew faster than in "resource-extraction" counties throughout the Pacific Northwest for the last 30 years

(R. Rasker and A. Hackman, Economic Development and the Conservation of Large Carnivores, In Conservation Biology, Vol. 10, No. 4, August 1996). Additionally, regions with wilderness areas also showed higher degrees of economic diversification and lower unemployment rates.

A healthy, intact ecosystem is estimated by scientists to provide 100 times more value to society than when altered (L. Horsfall and S. Harrington, Safeguarding Canada's Wealth: Bringing Stewardship and Conservation into Ecological, Economic Valuation, 2004). Ecotourism and recreation offer advanced resource efficiency that contribute to local economies through more productive and sustainable use of local resources.

The Ministry of Forests allocated more than half of the insignificant Timber Harvesting Land-Base within the WRW to several licensees over the last 20 years. All past licenses were abandoned because logging was uneconomical (Chief Forester Rationale Reports for Robson Valley and Prince George Timber Supply Reviews 2006, 2009). Therefore, the WRW is both economically and ecologically more valuable intact when one considers tourism, timber, and non-timber values of the area.

Robson Valley Holds An Enormous Attraction As An International Tourism Destination

Local communities and the province as a whole stand to vastly benefit from tourism income generated by a legislated WRW park, given the fact backcountry wilderness is a rapidly diminishing fundamental tourism offering. Independent consultants have determined that Wilderness promises to play an increasingly important part in the economic future of Robson Valley's tourism industry, given the shrinking availability of quality wilderness elsewhere in the world and the growing demand for it by an affluent traveling public (Miller Dickinson Blais Inc., Robson-Canoe Valleys Economic Opportunities Plan, 2010). Depletion of WRW's wilderness qualities will severely limit future ecological, recreational, and economic opportunities for this region.

Robson Valley must identify and capitalize upon new opportunities and existing strengths to position the valley at the leading edge of new economies (Miller Dickinson Blais Inc., Robson-Canoe Valleys Economic Opportunities Plan, 2010). Activities supported by parks represent a significant source of jobs and regional economic activity (Coopers & Lybrand Consulting, Economic Benefits of British Columbia Parks, April 1995). Parks bring in expenditures from outside a region and create opportunities for local residents to make and spend money within their region.

The availability of a high quality wilderness park will:

- Influence business start-up, relocation, and expansion.
- Create a demand for new consumer goods.
- Stimulate marketing, product development, events, visitor activities, extended visitor stays, advertising, visual arts, and souvenir product lines.
- Provide high quality recreation that is compatible with conserving the natural environment.
- Attract internationally acclaimed artists that draw upon protected landscapes, habitats, and wildlife to create their valued works.
- Attract substantial amounts of tourism expenditures throughout the region.
- Protect the long-term viability of the growing ecotourism industry.

BC's Globally Unique Rainforest

Alberta has Jasper National Park, Vancouver Island has the West Coast Trail, Tumbler Ridge has dinosaur tracks, and Robson Valley has Walker Rainforest Wilderness that lies within the world's only Inland Temperate Rainforest. Indisputably, the Ancient Rainforest is Robson Valley's most outstanding natural feature, and a powerful magnet

for attracting visitors that already brings many tourism dollars to this valley every year (Connell 2011, Ancient Forest Trail generates \$151,000 in direct benefits from tourism, In, Socio-economic Benefits of Non-timber Uses of BC's Inland Rainforest Research Bulletin, May 2011).

The Robson Valley still contains an extensive and fully functioning Rainforest ecosystem of maximum ecological significance, an absolute rarity in the world. Biodiversity, in all its forms and the natural processes that support it are said by scholars to be the actual wealth of the world (Coopers & Lybrand Consulting, Economic Benefits of British Columbia Parks, April 1995). This extraordinary Rainforest ecosystem supports some of the highest biodiversity for mammals and birds in North America (over 350 vertebrate species) and removes significant amounts of carbon dioxide to reduce global warming and climate change, more than ANY typical forest, making its sustainability of paramount global importance (Save-The-Cedar League 2009).

Included are:

- Some of the oldest (2000 years) and widest (15 feet) Red Cedar known to exist anywhere, that nourish some of the most productive ecosystems on earth.
- Most of the last remaining watersheds where grizzly bears still feed on wild ocean-going salmon in all the Rocky Mountains.
- The largest federally endangered Mountain caribou herd left in the world.
- The only watershed left in North America where three federally-provincially recognized, at-risk, Woodland caribou ecotypes are found.
- An annual grizzly bear gathering where up to 25 Rainforest grizzlies can be viewed.
- The largest Core Conservation Area remaining within the Inland Rainforest of BC outside of Parks for maintaining the 7 focal species of Conservation Biology Science recognized to define wilderness: Mountain caribou, grizzly bear, wolverine, Chinook salmon, lynx, gray wolf, and cougar.
- High volumes of pure, clean water that emerge from some of the oldest forests remaining on earth. The high volume of quality water flowing from this Rainforest significantly contributes to the Fraser River's biological processes giving it paramount importance as a water producer and purifier for the Pacific Northwest.

Outstanding Walker Rainforest Wilderness Conservation Biology Science and Tourism Facts

It is a matter of good fortune that WRW has remained intact until today. Our opportunity for its conservation should not be squandered by poor planning, neglect, and apathy, but we must immediately seize this opportunity to protect the entire WRW today!

Save-The-Cedar League (STCL) delineated Ancient Rainforest Conservation Area Design planning in our 2009, 50-page "Robson Valley Ecoguide and Conservation Biology Plan, 2nd Edition." The Conservation Plan therein promotes WRW and Rainforest conservation. Protection of the internationally significant WRW as a provincial park is essential to maintaining ecologic and economic integrity of the region. The choice to protect the WRW is not between the environment and the economy; conserving Robson Valley's biodiversity- rich, Inland Rainforest has been documented by independent consultants to make both economic and environmental sense. Only 57,380ha (20%) of the WRW could be logged if every marketable tree were cut. However, more than 75% of this was licensed for logging and all past licenses were abandoned due to economic inoperability (Chief Forester 2006, 2009).

Conservation Area Design data from several conservation biologists indicate that 75% of the WRW is used daily by all six of the key focal species of mammals that signify wilderness in BC (grizzly bear, mountain caribou,

wolverine, lynx, cougar, and wolf). The WRW is the largest remaining undeveloped watershed-cluster in the entire Rocky Mountains where grizzly bears can still be watched fishing for wild, ocean-going salmon. DNA analysis showed these “Salmon-Grizzly” depend upon Chinook salmon for their diet (Weaver and Zammuto, Grizzly Bears and Chinook salmon in the Inland Rainforest, 2004). The WRW contains at least 40 key Chinook salmon, bull trout, and rainbow trout spawning grounds – up to 5000 salmon spawn there (Department of Fisheries and Oceans 1990). The WRW contains a critical, bottleneck wildlife travel corridor used annually for migration by 15 large migratory mammals. It contains Morkill Falls, the largest waterfall with the largest Chinook salmon raceway in the region, adjacent to two other waterfalls over 300 ft. high. The relatively gentle slopes and rounded ridge tops make the WRW some of the best wildlife habitat in the Interior of BC. The mid-elevation band holds rich Inland Temperate Rainforest. The WRW and its Rainforest are significant elements that form a landscape linkage between seven established local Parks adjacent to Southern Canada’s largest protected area network (Banff, Jasper, Kakwa, Kootenay, Mount Robson, Willmore Wilderness, Yoho, and several other parks). This bioregion draws billions of tourism dollars from people wanting to experience landscapes and biodiversity in their natural state.



Morkill Falls is the largest waterfall in the Region. Tourists watch Chinook salmon spawn and grizzly bears fishing for them here, in other parts of the Walker Rainforest Wilderness, and practically nowhere else in the Rocky Mountains.

The WRW is a key addition to BC's Park system, being in a keystone position within Southern Canada's largest, continuous, protected area network. We must grasp this opportunity to protect a rich, unified complex of interacting wildlife and wilderness. Protecting WRW will anchor this integrated system of protected areas while boosting Robson Valley to a destination among the countless world travelers seeking wilderness ecotourism adventure and associated clean air and water, self-propelled recreation, and mountain culture.

Walker Wilderness's extensive high quality outdoor recreation opportunities, scenic landscapes, vast tracts of wilderness, rugged mountains, and bountiful freshwater waterways serve a wide spectrum of recreational, cultural, ecological, and economic interests:

- Backcountry wilderness recreation, wildlife viewing, nature study, backpacking, mountaineering, skiing, and snowshoeing.
- Extended Stay Holiday Destination – based on a varied and unique mix of natural settings, features, and amenities in local communities.
- Enhanced Tourism Travel – offers a “stop along the way” for activities such as wildlife viewing and hiking.
- Local Recreation Opportunities – offers accessible outdoor recreation opportunities to local residents.
- Physical Fitness and Education – outdoor recreation opportunities provide positive lifestyle choices and support balanced educational and physical development.
- Building Blocks of Community Life – quality of the local environment and improved economies contribute significantly to the well-being of communities.
- Large quantities of high quality water and significant river habitats that protect fisheries.
- Abundance and diversity of native species and habitats that support rare, endangered, threatened, vulnerable and a wealth of other species.
- Protection of sensitive areas such as wetlands, watersheds, riparian areas, and critical wildlife habitat.
- Protection of essential ecological processes and life-support systems.
- Significant heritage lands supported for protection by First Nations.

Highly Valued Wilderness Areas

Parks such as Strathcona, Garibaldi, Tatshenshini, Tweedsmuir, Spatsizi, and Willmore Wilderness are largely dedicated to wilderness recreation and preservation. Prohibition of resource extraction and motorized recreation in these protected areas are fundamental to their function of preserving biodiversity in perpetuity in naturally occurring and evolving ecosystems, while generating sustainable conservation-based economies for local communities and the regions in which they occur.

The Save-The-Cedar League, the Willmore Wilderness Foundation, the Wilderness Committee, local residents, and numerous other stakeholders see amalgamation of a legislated Walker Rainforest Wilderness Park with Willmore Wilderness Park as imperative to the initiation of economic renewal in the Robson Valley Region. This wilderness merger would create an exceptionally valuable world-class destination, stimulating many benefits to Robson Valley residents and businesses for many generations to come! Willmore Wilderness Park sustains many of its local entrepreneurs who run conservation-based businesses that create many jobs and diversify the economy near Grand Cache, Alberta. There is no question, Willmore Wilderness Park significantly contributes to the quality of life of Grande Cache residents, serving as a magnet to retain local people, their businesses, and it attracts plentiful visitors. Together, WRW and Willmore Wilderness form a vast region of wild lands that contribute to the long-term viability of wildlife populations in the region, particularly those that require vast habitats, such as grizzly bears and caribou. As Thomas Michael Power explains in his book, “Lost Landscapes and Failed Economies”, Island Press, 1996, “Remnant natural landscapes are scarce, relatively unique, irreplaceable assets. In many cases, if we opt for extractive activity to keep the local economy afloat, we will be sacrificing what is

scarce and unique for what is common and cheap... we as a people can no longer afford such irrational waste. Neither can the planet.”

A Widely Supported Strategy

All Robson Valley sectors recognize and support the value of ecotourism as a growing economic generator and are aware of the special product and appeal of Robson Valley’s Rainforest to non-residents (Miller Dickinson Blais Inc., Robson-Canoe Valleys Economic Opportunities Plan, 2010). Widening circles of community participation and increasingly productive alliances with local businesses and governments, scientists, First Nations, like-minded organizations, and others are promoting protection for WRW. There is a growing desire among many others throughout the world to do the same. Most everyone agrees, non-motorized wilderness ecotourism activities will support the long-term viability of the ecologically sensitive WRW and surrounding Rainforest, and will benefit local and regional economies.

Poll after poll confirms the environment is a key issue for Canadians. Many feel that protected areas are our link to an ecologically stable future because they are places that produce our oxygen, stabilize the hydrological cycle, grow and maintain fish and wildlife, prevent erosion, and ensure the maintenance of ecosystems, native species, genetic diversity, and the processes that shaped them. In addition to environmental and social values, parks are a major source of economic activity for the province. In short, protected areas secure our future.

Wide Ranging Values and Benefits of Protected Areas

It is one thing to say that Robson Valley must expand its economic base by attracting and retaining clean, environmentally friendly businesses to protect the Region’s natural resources, core values, and quality of life, and another thing to achieve. The tourism industry in Robson Valley is recognized as a significant economic generator with tremendous growth potential (Miller Dickinson Blais Inc., Robson-Canoe Valleys Economic Opportunities Plan, 2010). The overall benefits of parks are multidimensional and significantly contribute to the quality of life within a region.

Most in Robson Valley gave nature as their primary reason for living here in a recent Regional District Report (Concept Design, Robson-Canoe Valleys Regional Branding, 2011). Nature was found in this report to define a people drawn to landscapes of untouched peaks, rivers, valleys, and ancient forests. It therefore makes enormous sense to maintain the values people hold dear, while simultaneously developing new, diversified, and stable economies, by helping the business sector enhance viable operations. Our identity as a people and our sense of place are inherently linked to the long-term sustainability of the values that WRW embodies.

Ecological sustainability creates significant economic opportunities in pristine forests based on their tourism and non-timber values. “Parks represent a major export industry for BC, bringing in significant amounts of income from other provinces, the US, and the rest of the world. This *de facto* export industry effect is a highly sustainable source of economic development” (Coopers & Lybrand Consulting, Economic Benefits of British Columbia Parks, April 1995). “Provincial parks generate billions of dollars annually to local economies throughout Western Canada, and BC parks contribute \$10 to local economies for every dollar invested in them” (Wilderness Committee, Western Canada’s Provincial Parks, Report Vol. 26, No. 6, Summer/Fall 2007). Significant portions of the economic benefits are generated by non-residents who come to visit BC Parks. These non-residents’ park expenditures are particularly important in non-urbanized regions of the province like Robson Valley, where the regional economic base is relatively narrow.

A healthy natural environment provided by parks within and near communities contributes to quality of life at a local level and individual well-being. Parks offer places to experience nature with minimal interference by others

and to experience humanity's relative non-interference with nature. Such ethical and spiritual values also have real importance to those who do not visit parks, but who may find value in the knowledge that such places simply exist and will be protected for future generations.

Parks provide a wide range of benefits to human well-being, including: health benefits, outdoor recreation, tourism, traditional use, intrinsic values, economic benefits, cultural heritage, spiritual retreat, ecological benchmarks, scientific research, environmental services, and a wealth of natural beauty.

Deferring Responsibility

Prompt legislative action by the BC Cabinet is essential if the full potential of The Walker Rainforest Wilderness is to be preserved because this unspoiled, globally significant wilderness area has immediate pressures. Multinational and Canadian resource extraction corporations continue to acquire virtual monopolies through the acquisition of long-term tenures to most of the remaining unprotected Crown Land in BC. These companies enjoy a status of extraordinary privilege and freedom from accountability for the immense losses they inflict upon local economies, biodiversity, ecosystem services, watersheds, and the ability of ancient forests to offset global warming and climate change. Plants and animals, along with many other biological treasures, are being wiped out at unprecedented rates in the wake of industry's ecological footprint. "Many towns show surprising vitality after a mine or mill closes and local environmental quality improves. Examples of areas that have prospered in the midst of environmental deterioration are much more difficult to come by" (Thomas Michael Power, *Lost Landscapes and Failed Economies*, Island Press, 1996).

Resource extraction access roads and the human activities associated with them (use of ATV's, snowmobiles, passenger vehicles, motorized boats, poaching, etc.) create immediate challenges that threaten to destroy the wilderness quality and rich wildlife populations of WRW.

Our Fleeting Chance To Act Responsibly

A legislated science-based conservation strategy and land-use plan that addresses key concerns for the WRW, including old-growth forests, wildlife, watersheds, other wilderness qualities, and sustainable economic opportunities is urgently needed. We must legislate management plans because we want to define what condition we want to maintain this wilderness area and what we have to do to ensure that it stays in that condition. Ignoring the issue will not work. Development can lose battle after battle and always return, whereas wilderness can lose only once. A well-developed management strategy for the WRW as a Provincial Park will assure the long-term conservation of resources, the maintenance of biodiversity and ecological functions, protection of mountain culture, the advancement of wilderness adventure ecotourism, and other economic opportunities for communities, while safeguarding the overall quality of life for present and future generations, producing the most benefits for everyone.

In recent years, there has been an alarming global decrease in biodiversity, with an increasing number of plants and animals becoming candidates for threatened or endangered status. Habitat loss is the single most important factor affecting wildlife in BC. WRW will not maintain its universal values and extensive economic opportunities, it will change, and it will be destroyed, if we ignore this important opportunity to protect it.

A comprehensive legislated plan for Park status must provide a long-term vision and day-to-day guidance for stewardship and management and must include:

- Preservation of ecological integrity as paramount.

- Banishment of industrial activities, including but not limited to logging, mining, trapping, hunting, geophysical exploration, hydroelectric power, and other related activities.
- Setting limits for non-motorized and non-resource extractive businesses.
- Limiting off-road-vehicles and remote cabins.
- Creating and maintaining hiking trails, and park-user safety.

A Compelling Call for Wilderness Park Legislation

Protection of WRW is as much about sustainable communities as it is about conservation, as much about people as it is about nature, and as much about sustainable economies as it is about the long-term viability of our precious Ancient Rainforest wilderness resource. The Appendices of this report contain an array of legislated orders within the WRW, and other conservation recommendations from government, scientists, conservation organizations, independent contractors, First Nations, and others that clearly support the establishment of Walker Rainforest Wilderness Park (Appendix A-H). Umbrella legislation for Park status, as shown on the Walker Rainforest Wilderness Proposed Provincial Park Map below makes good management sense because most of the WRW is unloggable or legally protected by legislative orders.

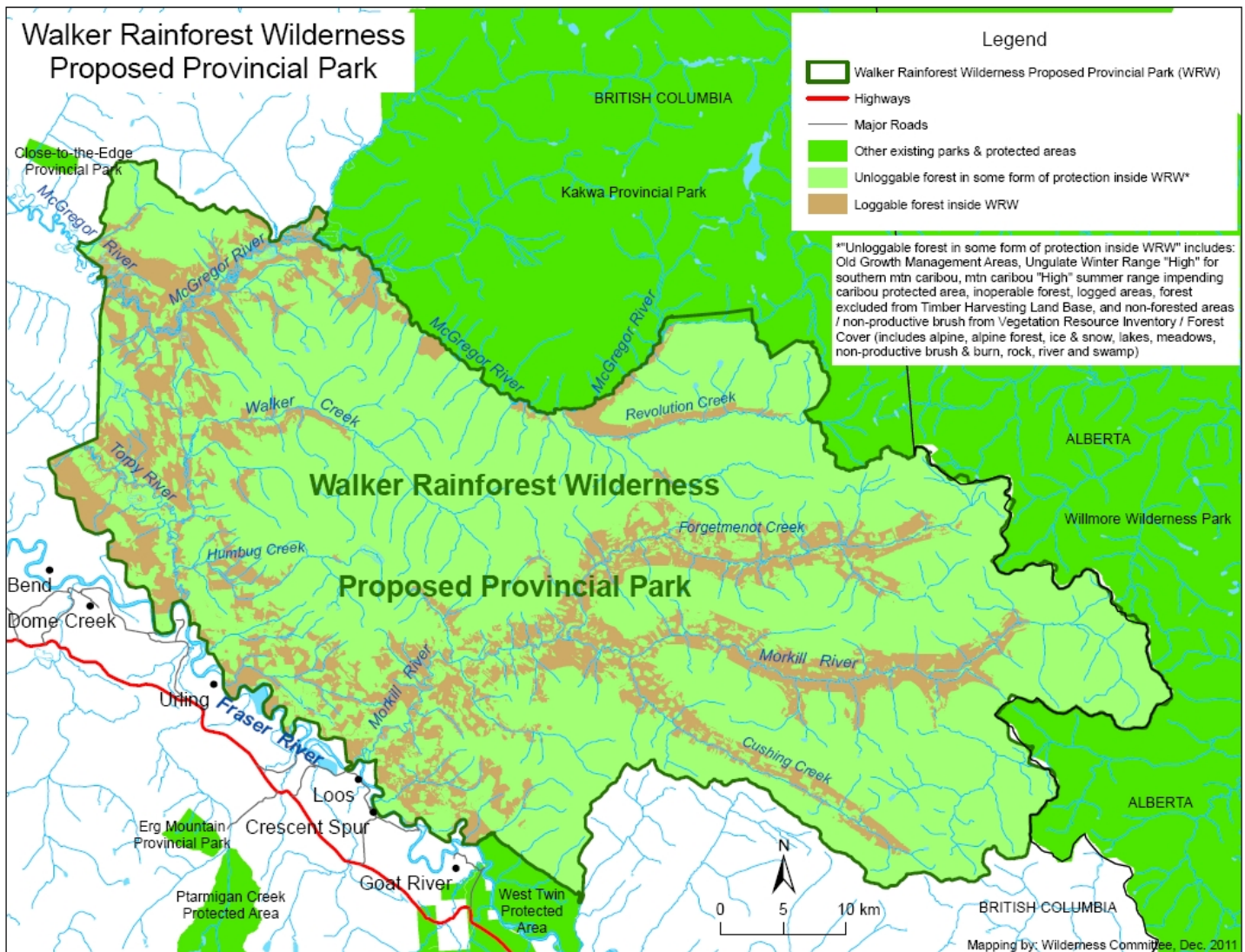
The need for land-use planning that benefits the residents and ecology of the region is made evident by the attached legal and other documents that identify the Walker's already protected values and extraordinary Rainforest values that are in trouble. Legislation to Park status is essential because it provides the legal framework necessary to establish and manage WRW by one Ministry, and puts important safeguards in place to protect the integrity of the entire WRW ecosystem. The focus must be on the protection of natural values and the provision of wilderness recreation opportunities. This approach will complement the tremendous growth today taking place in wilderness ecotourism travel, enabling communities throughout the Region and Province to benefit. Safeguarding the WRW as a provincial park today is extremely valuable, not only from an ecological perspective, but also economically.

WALKER RAINFOREST WILDERNESS PARK RATIONALE

- 1) Whereas on 1 August 2003, the Order Establishing Spatial Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAS) in the Humbug Landscape Unit, within the proposed Walker Rainforest Wilderness Park was signed (Order and Maps in Appendix A), and
- 2) Whereas on 26 November 2003, the Order Establishing Southern Mountain Caribou Ungulate Winter Range #U7-013, within the proposed Walker Rainforest Wilderness Park was signed (Order and Map in Appendix B), and
- 3) Whereas on 20 October 2004, the Order Establishing Landscape Biodiversity Objectives for the Prince George Timber Supply Area established Spatial Old Growth Management Areas on all the inoperable area, within most of the proposed Walker Rainforest Wilderness Park was signed (Order and Maps in Appendix C), and
- 4) Whereas on 30 January 2006, the Order Establishing the Crescent Spur, Lower Morkill/Cushing, Forget-Me-Not, Upper Morkill, North Trench and Goat Landscape Unit Objectives, within the proposed Walker Rainforest Wilderness Park was signed (Order and Maps in Appendix D), and
- 5) Whereas in 2007, the MOE submitted an Official Referral to establish Northern Mountain Caribou Ungulate Summer Range for most of the Upper Morkill watershed within the WRW (Map in Appendix E), and
- 6) Whereas in September 2008, The Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, whose territory encompasses the proposed Walker Rainforest Wilderness Park agreed that the Walker Rainforest Wilderness Area should be protected as shown on the Map in Appendix F, and
- 7) Whereas on 9 December 2009, the Order Establishing Ungulate Winter Range #U-7-003, Mountain Caribou – Upper Fraser, Hart Ranges and Mount Robson Planning Units, within the proposed Walker Rainforest Wilderness Park was expanded by the federal and provincial governments under the Species At Risk Act, and signed (Order and Map in Appendix G), and
- 8) Whereas on 16 December 2010, the 118 page Robson-Canoe Valleys Economic Opportunities Plan, commissioned by The Regional District Of Fraser-Fort George, determined that the Walker Rainforest Wilderness be designated as an official protected area as one of the best two ways to enhance the economy of the region (<http://www.rdffg.bc.ca/uploads/748/RobsonCanoeEcOppPlan-pdf>), and
- 9) Whereas in spring 2011, Canada's largest citizen-funded, membership-based wilderness preservation organization ranked the proposed Walker Rainforest Wilderness Park 3rd in priority among 50 proposed Parks for BC, in the report British Columbia's Special Places Vol. 30, No.3 (Appendix H).

THEREFORE

We contend that all of the above legislative orders and data, the First Nation's published approval (Appendix F), the Regional District's independent economic report, and several other reports lead to the conclusion that the Walker Rainforest Wilderness would today be best managed if legislated as a Provincial Park by an Order in Council from the BC Cabinet, according to the Walker Rainforest Wilderness Proposed Provincial Park Map on the next page. The light green on the map below combines unloggable areas with areas in some form of legal protection. The brown is the insignificant Timber Harvesting Land-Base (THLB) within the WRW that amounts to less than 20% of the proposed Park. The Ministry of Forests allocated 75% of this THLB to several licensees over the past 30 years. All licenses were abandoned because logging was uneconomical (Chief Forester Rationale Reports for Robson Valley and Prince George Timber Supply Reviews 2006, 2009).



Appendix A

Order and Maps Establishing Spatial Old Growth Management Areas in the Humbug Landscape Unit of the Prince George Timber Supply Area, within the proposed Walker Rainforest Wilderness Park.

Order to Establish the Humbug Landscape Unit and Objectives

Pursuant to section 4 (1) of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* (the Act), the Humbug Landscape Unit in the Prince George Forest District (Omineca Peace MSRM Region), as indicated on Map 3, is established as a landscape unit.

Objectives for the Humbug Landscape Unit

Pursuant to section 4 (2) of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, the following are landscape unit objectives for the Dome Landscape Unit.

Objective 3. Meet the distribution of old growth for each Landscape Unit / Biogeoclimatic Unit (variant) by maintaining the old growth management areas (OGMAs) as shown on Map 3.

Strategy 3.01 Maintain old growth management areas, which are established as shown on the attached Map 3.

Strategy 3.02 Cutting trees within OGMAs, is limited to circumstances where it is absolutely necessary for insect or disease infestation control. When intervention in OGMAs is required because of a forest health threat to adjacent areas, retain structural features of old growth, as much as possible.

Strategy 3.03 Permanent roads may be constructed and maintained in OGMAs where there are no other practicable options. Temporary roads may also be constructed in OGMAs where there are no other practicable options. Any temporary roads that are built in OGMAs must be deactivated, rehabilitated and planted as soon as possible.

Strategy 3.04 Fire suppression is permitted within OGMAs for the purposes of maintaining the integrity of the OGMAs.

Transition

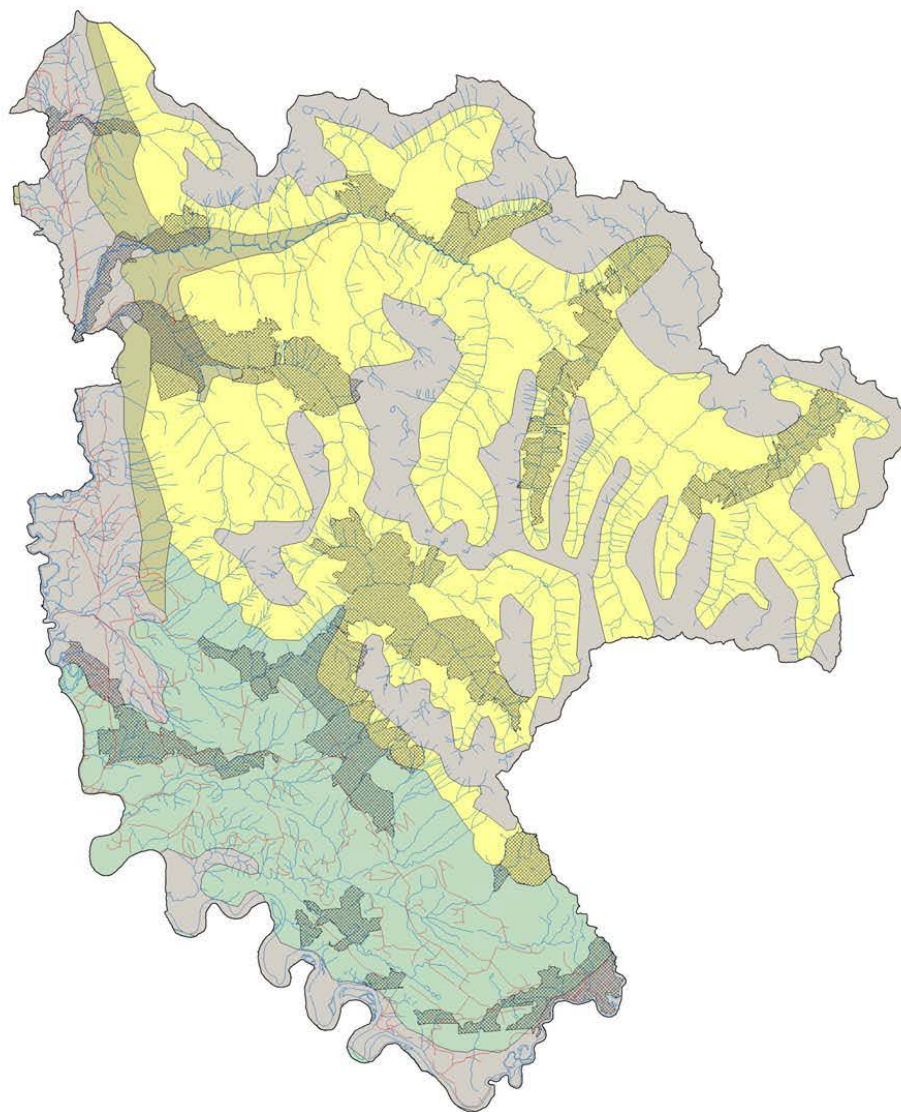
Pursuant to Section 10 (1) (d) (ii) of the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act, forest development plans submitted for approval on or following the effective date of the order are to be consistent with the objectives of this order.

Effective Date of Order

This Order takes effect on August 1, 2003.

original signed
T. P. (Phil) Zacharatos, R.P.F.
Regional Director
Omineca-Peace Region
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

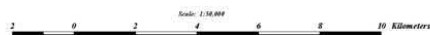
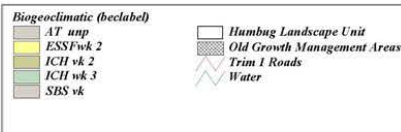
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Date

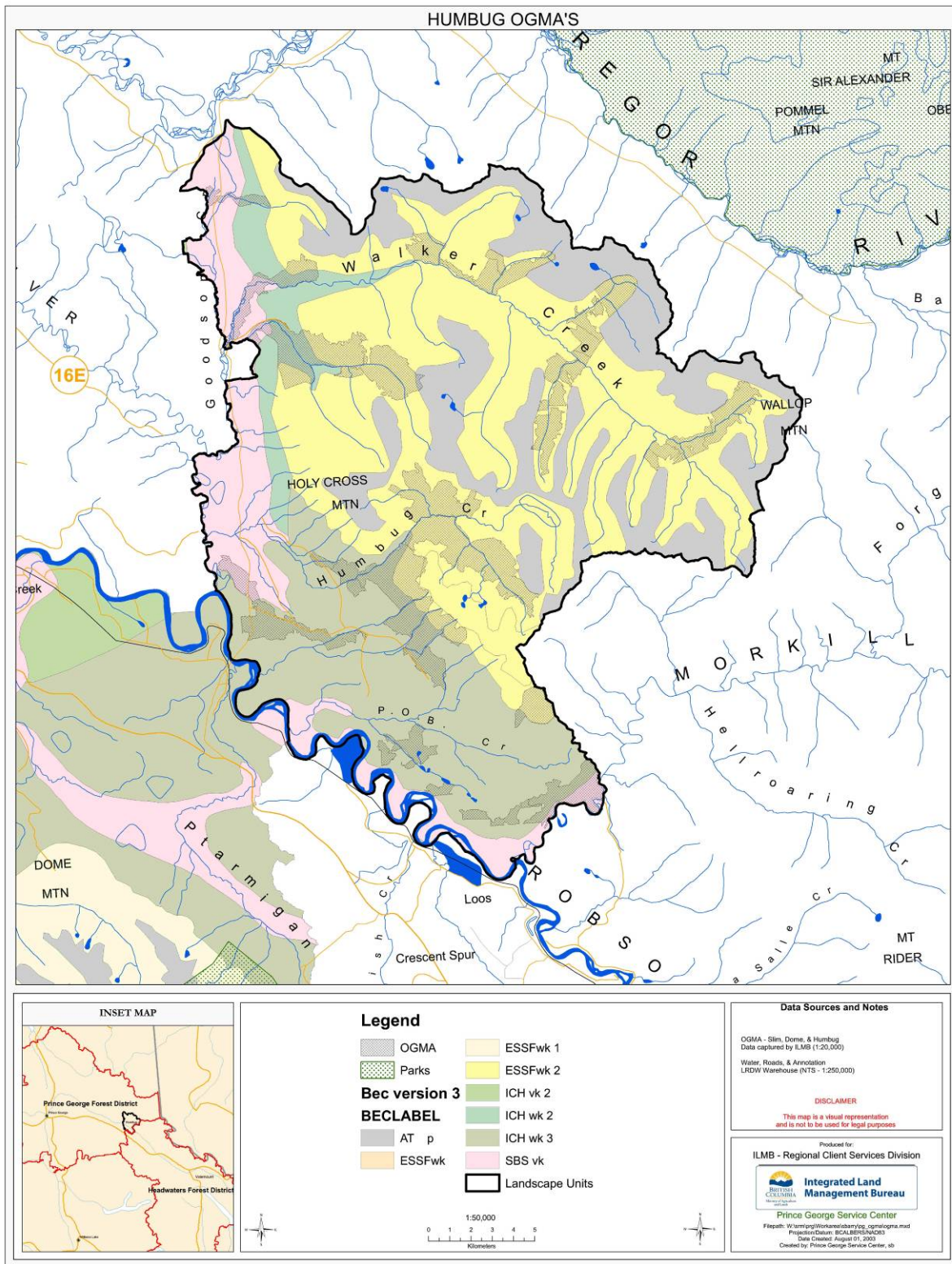


**Established Old Growth Management Areas
Humbug Landscape Unit
August 1, 2003**

Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
Omboua Peace Region (Prince George)
August 16, 2003

Disclaimer:
This map is a visual representation
and not to be used for legal purposes.





Order and Map Establishing Mountain Caribou Ungulate Winter Range #U7-013 within the proposed Walker Rainforest Wilderness Park.



ORDER – UNGULATE WINTER RANGE #U7-013

On being satisfied that the establishment of the ungulate winter range dealt with in this order is necessary to meet the habitat requirements of the ungulate species, and that the management objectives dealt with in this order are necessary to maintain the ungulate species within those areas, and under the authority of section 69 (1) (a) and (b) of the Operational and Site Planning Regulation, B.C. Reg. 107/98, the Deputy Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection orders that:

1. the ungulate winter range shown in the map set out in the attached Schedule A (#U7-013) is established;
2. the ungulate winter range referred to in section 1 is approved for mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus hemionus*); and
3. the following practices are established as management objectives inside the ungulate winter range referred to in section 1:

The following proposed management objectives reflect the goal to maintain mule deer winter range to provide high suitability snow interception, cover and foraging opportunities (shrubs, conifer and arboreal lichen litterfall):

Habitat Condition:

1. Within each ungulate winter range (UWR) Unit numbers PGD-004, PGD-008, PGD-010, PGD-011, PGD-013, PGD-015, PGD-023, PGD-026, PGD-027, PGD-028, PGD-029, PGD-031, PGD-038, PGD-040, PGD-041 through PGD-052, PGD-055, PGD-063, PGD-064, and PGD-065, maintain a minimum of 40% of winter range area in age class 8 (>140 years) or greater at all times with a crown closure of >56% (Douglas-fir, spruce). Stands with higher basal area (composed of larger trees) are preferred.
2. Within each UWR Unit numbers PGD-001, PGD-002, PGD-0012, PGD-014, PGD-019, PGD-020, PGD-021, PGD-022, PGD-035, PGD-054, and PGD-066, maintain a minimum of 50% of stands in age class 8 (>140 years) or greater and with a crown closure of mature forest >66% (Douglas fir, spruce). Stands with higher basal area (composed of larger trees) are preferred.
3. Within all UWR units, maintain species composition as Douglas-fir leading, with a minimum of 50% Douglas-fir. Where Douglas-fir presence is below the target range, select white spruce, hemlock or cedar to fill shortage (preferred over pine or tamarack), and choose silvicultural practices to increase Douglas-fir presence.
4. Within all UWR units, Manage for a desired plant community with abundant shrub species composition that will maintain a 30-40% cover of deciduous shrubs that are

ORDER – UNGULATE WINTER RANGE #U7-013

preferred browse species including, but not limited to, Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), Prickly Rose (*Rosa acicularis*), Common Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), Choke Cherry (*Prunus spp.*), Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), Willow sp. (*Salix sp.*), Black Twinberry (*Lonicera involucrate*), Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum edule*), Black Huckleberry (*Vaccinium membranaceum*), Douglas Maple (*Acer galbrum*) and Trembling Aspen regeneration (*Populus tremuloides*)

Timber Harvest

5. Within UWR Unit numbers PGD-005 and PGD-006, no commercial forest harvesting.
6. Within all UWR units except Unit Numbers PGD-005 and PGD-006, keep timber harvesting openings within cutblocks irregular in shape, < 5 ha in size and < 250 m wide.
7. Within all UWR units schedule winter forest operations during the period of least disturbance to mule deer. Avoid winter forestry development (including harvesting) between December 15th and April 15th.

Forest Health Management

8. For all UWR units
 - a) Maintain high suitability winter habitat attributes by managing bark beetle populations to maintain low levels of beetle brood in the UWR “Low levels” are those that still allow for maintenance of high suitability winter habitat attributes. Sanitation thinning (partial harvest) may occur within UWR, only if it is within the limits of UWR Habitat Condition objectives, unless a variance is approved by the MWLAP statutory decision maker.
 - b) Where pest impacts render unreachable the retention of the required levels of functional live forest cover, treatment may be varied. An approach applying the “Habitat Condition rationale to the degree possible for the stand, combined with a silviculture plan to restore the needed values, may be applied if a variance is approved by the MWLAP statutory decision maker

Fire Management

9. Within all UWR units, reflect UWR objectives in appropriate Fire Management Plans.
10. Consider the use of prescribed fire to reduce understory fuel loading and improve UWR forage characteristics.

Range Management

11. For all UWR units
 - a) Avoid displacement of Mule Deer by livestock.
 - b) Livestock use will not exceed more than 10% of current year's shrub growth.
 - c) Manage for a desired plant community with abundant shrub species composition that will maintain a 30-40% cover of deciduous shrubs that are preferred browse

ORDER – UNGULATE WINTER RANGE #U7-013

species including, but not limited to, Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), Prickly Rose (*Rosa acicularis*), Common Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), Choke Cherry (*Prunus spp.*), Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), Willow sp, (*Salix* sp), Black Twinberry (*Lonicera involucrate*), Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum edule*), Black Huckleberry (*Vaccinium membranaceum*, Douglas Maple *Acer galbrum*) and Trembling Aspen regeneration (*Populus tremuloides*).

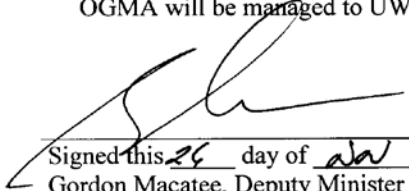
- d) No livestock grazing will occur on south facing slopes until shrub leaf out.
- e) New range development features such as, but not limited to, waterholes, fences, salt blocks, corrals, access road and trails, that would result in concentration of livestock in the UWR unit will not be developed within the UWR unit.

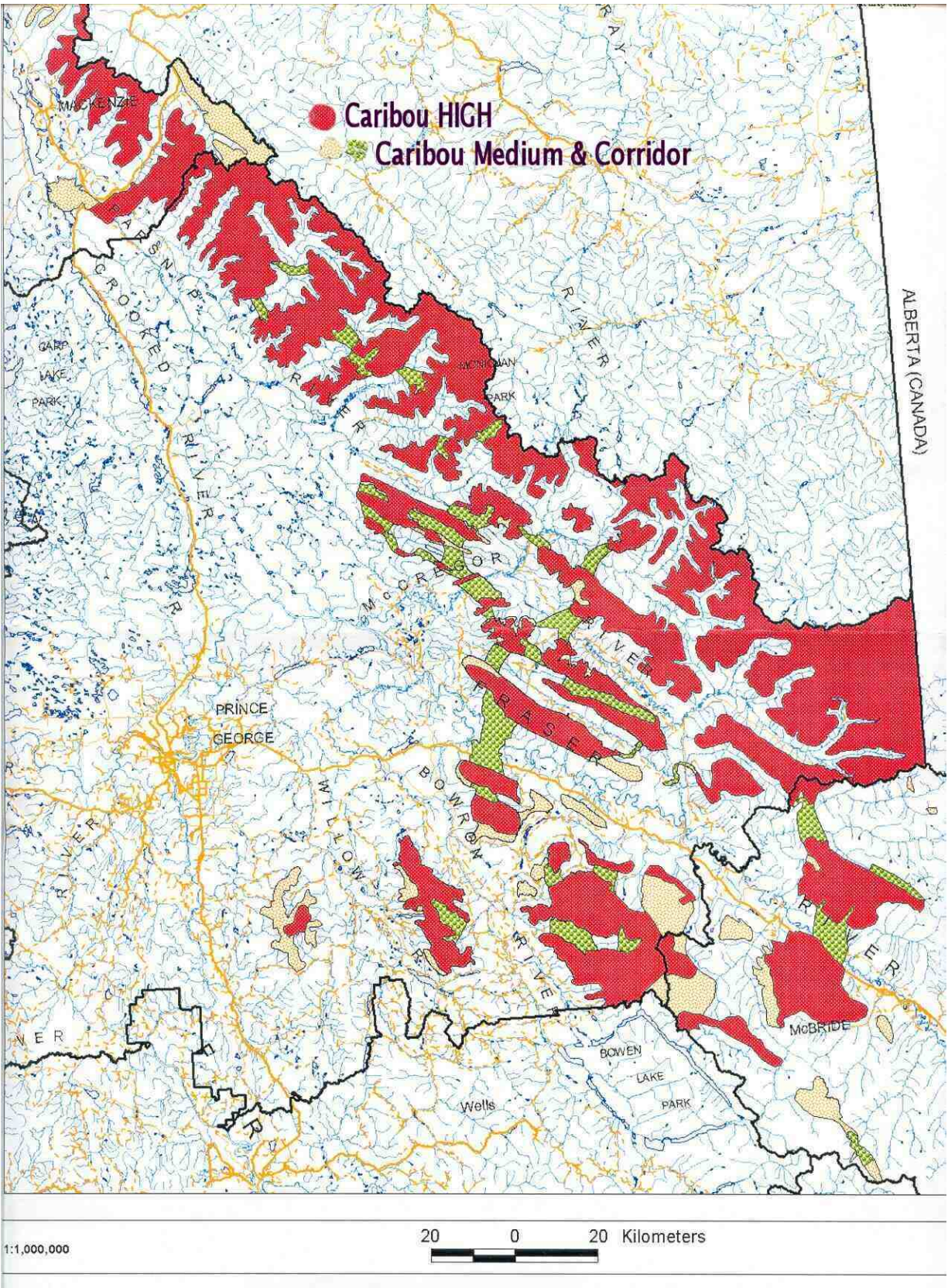
Access Management

- 12. Within all UWR units, manage road access to limit human disturbance to mule deer.
 - a) Where reasonable alternatives exist, plan the location and design of major/secondary access routes to avoid the UWR.
 - b) Construct roads to the lowest class practicable while maintaining safety and environmental standards.
- 13. Within all UWR units, minimize new road construction and other access development.
 - a) Maintain the existing length of active forest industry oriented roads by permanently closing and rehabilitating roads in a 1:1 ratio to the amount of new road construction.
 - b) New roads for harvesting access will be permanently closed and rehabilitated after harvest occurs. Where the access road is needed for multiple-year harvesting, take steps to avoid non-industrial use between harvest entries.
 - c) Roads for mineral or oil and gas exploration or development may be constructed in UWR where workable alternatives do not exist. Management objectives to address point 12 above and to limit open public use in the spirit of 13 (b) are to be employed.
- 14. Within UWR Unit numbers PGD-005 and PGD-006, do not construct any new roads.

Old Growth Management Areas

- 15. Where UWR overlaps an Old Growth Management Area (OGMA), the forest cover management objectives for that portion of the UWR which is within the OGMA will be the forest cover management objectives for the OGMA. Access management objectives will be UWR access management objectives. That portion of the UWR outside the OGMA will be managed to UWR management objectives.


Signed this 26 day of Jan, 2003
Gordon Macatee, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection



Appendix C

Order and Maps Establishing Landscape Biodiversity Objectives for the Prince George Timber Supply Area containing the proposed Walker Rainforest Wilderness Park.

Order Establishing Landscape Biodiversity Objectives for the Prince George Timber Supply Area October 20, 2004

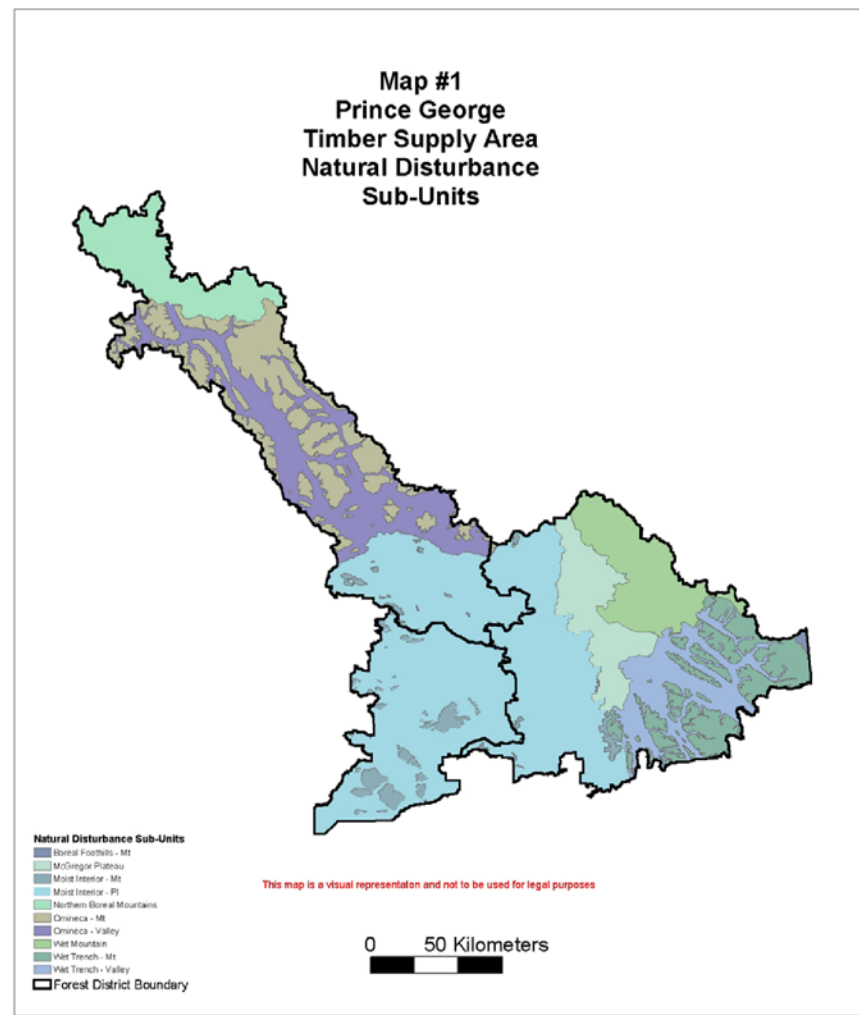
Order

I. Pursuant to section 4(1) of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* (the Act), landscape units are established for the Prince George Timber Supply Area, as per Map #2 (Merged Biogeoclimatic Units).

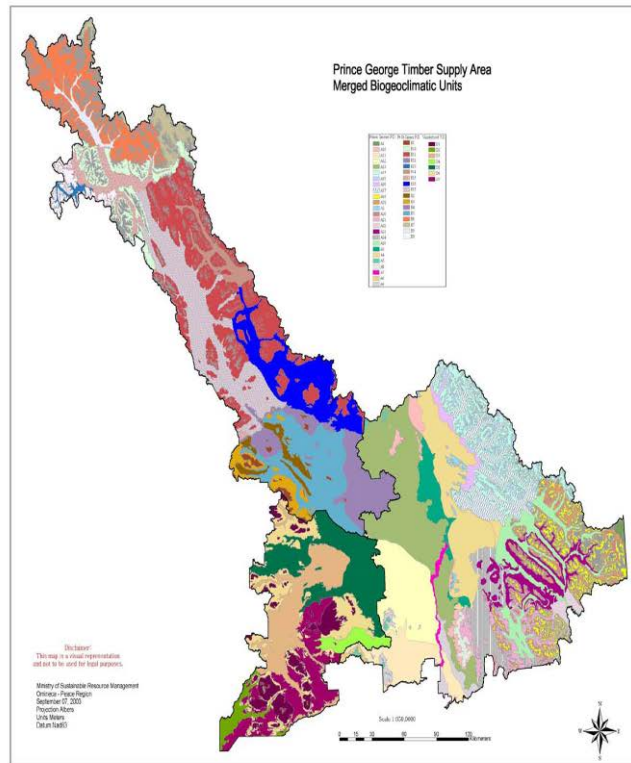
II. Pursuant to section 4(2) of the Act, the following objectives A through D are established as per Map #1(objective C) and Map #2 (objective A and B).

III. These objectives apply to all Crown land in the Prince George Timber Supply Area (TSA), and do not apply to the lands covered by woodlot licences, tree farm licences or community forests licences. These objectives replace objectives established in the Order Establishing Provincial Non-Spatial Old Growth Order (June 30, 2004) for this area.

MAP #1



MAP #2



A. Old Forest Retention Objective (continued)

Table 3. Prince George Forest District Old Forest Retention Requirements

| Unit Label | Natural Disturbance Unit (NDU) | Merged Biogeoclimatic Units (mBECs) | Minimum percent of the CFLB retained as Old Forest |
|------------|---|---|--|
| A1 | Boreal Foothills - Mountain | ESSF wcp3, ESSF wc3, ESSF mvp2, ESSF mv2 | 33 |
| A2 | McGregor Plateau | EESF wc3, ESSF wk2, ESSF wk1 | 26 |
| A3 | McGregor Plateau (combined with A13) | SBS mk1, SBS mh | 12 |
| A4 | McGregor Plateau | SBS wk 1, SBS vk | 26 |
| A5 | Moist Interior - Mountain, Omineca - Mountain | ESSF wk2, ESSF mv3, ESSF mv1, ESSF mv3 | 29 |
| A6 | Moist Interior - Mountain | ESSF wk1 | 29 |
| A7 | Moist Interior - Plateau | SBS mh | 17 |
| A8 | Moist Interior - Plateau | SBS mc3, SBS mc2 | 12 |
| A9 | Moist Interior - Plateau | SBS mw | 12 |
| A10 | Moist Interior - Plateau | SBS wk1 | 17 |
| A11 | Moist Interior - Plateau | SBS dw2, SBS dw1 | 12 |
| A12 | Moist Interior - Plateau | SBS dw3 | 12 |
| A13 | Moist Interior - Plateau, Omineca - Mountain | SBS mk1 | 12 |
| A14 | Wet Mountain | ESSF mvp2, ESSF wcp3, ESSF mv2, ESSF wk2 | 50 |
| A15 | Wet Mountain | ESSF wc3 | 84 |
| A16 | Wet Mountain | SBS wk1 | 26 |
| A17 | Wet Mountain | SBS vk | 50 |
| A18 | Wet Trench – Mtn. | ESSF wcp3 | 80 |
| A19 | Wet Trench - Mountain | ESSF wcp3, ESSF mm1, ESSF mmp1, ESSF mvp2, ESSF mv2, ESSF wk2 | 48 |
| A20 | Wet Trench – Mtn. | ESSF wc3 | 80 |
| A21 | Wet Trench – Mtn. | ESSF wk1 | 48 |
| A22 | Wet Trench - Valley | ICH wk3 | 53 |
| A23 | Wet Trench - Valley | ICH vk2 | 53 |
| A24 | Wet Trench - Valley | SBS wk1, SBS mw, SBS mk1 | 30 |
| A25 | Wet Trench - Valley | SBS vk | 46 |

B. Old Interior Forest Objective (continued)

Table 6. Prince George Forest District Old Interior Forest Requirements

| Unit Label | Natural Disturbance Unit (NDU) | Merged Biogeoclimatic Units (mBECs) | Minimum percent of the Old Forest required in Tables 1 to 3 that must be Old Interior Forest |
|-------------------|---|---|---|
| A1 | Boreal Foothills - Mountain | ESSF wcp3, ESSF wc3, ESSF mvp2, ESSF mv2 | 40 % |
| A2 | McGregor Plateau | EESF wc3, ESSF wk2, ESSF wk1 | 40 % |
| A3 | McGregor Plateau | SBS mk1, SBS mh | 25 % |
| A4 | McGregor Plateau | SBS wk 1, SBS vk | 10 % |
| A5 | Moist Interior - Mountain, Omineca - Mountain | ESSF wk2, ESSF mv3, ESSF mv1, ESSF mv3 | 40 % |
| A6 | Moist Interior - Mountain | ESSF wk1 | 40 % |
| A7 | Moist Interior - Plateau | SBS mh | 10 % |
| A8 | Moist Interior - Plateau | SBS mc3, SBS mc2 | 25 % |
| A9 | Moist Interior - Plateau | SBS mw | 10 % |
| A10 | Moist Interior - Plateau | SBS wk1 | 25 % |
| A11 | Moist Interior - Plateau | SBS dw2, SBS dw1 | 25 % |
| A12 | Moist Interior - Plateau | SBS dw3 | 10 % |
| A13 | Moist Interior - Plateau, Omineca - Mountain | SBS mk1 | 25 % |
| A14 | Wet Mountain | ESSF mvp2, ESSF wcp3, ESSF mv2, ESSF wk2 | 40 % |
| A15 | Wet Mountain | ESSF wc3 | 40 % |
| A16 | Wet Mountain | SBS wk1 | 25 % |
| A17 | Wet Mountain | SBS vk | 25 % |
| A18 | Wet Trench – Mountain | ESSF wcp3 | 40 % |
| A19 | Wet Trench - Mountain | ESSF wcp3, ESSF mm1, ESSF mmp1, ESSF mvp2, ESSF mv2, ESSF wk2 | 40 % |
| A20 | Wet Trench - Mountain | ESSF wc3 | 40 % |
| A21 | Wet Trench - Mountain | ESSF wk1 | 40 % |
| A22 | Wet Trench - Valley | ICH wk3 | 40 % |
| A23 | Wet Trench - Valley | ICH vk2 | 40 % |
| A24 | Wet Trench - Valley | SBS wk1, SBS mw, SBS mk1 | 10 % |
| A25 | Wet Trench - Valley | SBS vk | 25 % |

D. Contributions, Interpretations and Alternatives

D.1. Contributions from Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) and Parks

OGMAs and their associated objectives established prior to the enforcement of this order will continue. The entire area of these OGMAs and any new spatially located old forest retention areas established after the enforcement of this order will contribute to meeting the Old Forest Retention and the Old Interior Forest objectives of this order.

Parks and protected areas may contribute to meeting the objectives of this order.

D.2. Merged Biogeoclimatic Units (mBEC) that overlap Forest District Boundaries

For the purposes of the Old Forest Retention and the Old Interior Forest objectives of this order, where a forest licensee has similar mBECs in multiple forest districts, licensees and BC Timber Sales, may meet the combined requirement of those objectives over the combined area of the mBECs.

D.3. Epidemic or Catastrophic Events

A representative portion of stands that have been affected by an epidemic or catastrophic event may contribute to meeting the Old Forest Retention and the Old Interior Forest objectives. Due to the current Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic, licensees and BC Timber Sales must ensure a representative portion of stands that have not been affected by the epidemic (i.e. non-pine forest) are used to meet the Old Forest Retention and the Old Interior Forest objectives.

D.4. A Portion of Younger Age Classes

Where it can be demonstrated that equal or better conservation benefits would result, up to 20% of the Old Forest Retention and Old Interior Forest objectives may be comprised of younger age classes.

D.5. Alternatives to the Order

(a) Where either the old forest retention or the old interior forest objectives can not be achieved, with consideration of the timely and economic harvesting of timber rights, then a recruitment strategy must be submitted and complied with. The recruitment strategy must contain results or strategies that will result in a forest condition that is consistent with the objectives in the shortest time as is practicable, with consideration for the timely and economic harvesting of timber rights. The recruitment strategy must be submitted to and approved by the designate of the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management.

(b) Where the Young Patch Size Distribution objectives can not be achieved, a rationale must be submitted that contains results or strategies that will result in a forest condition that is consistent with the objective in the shortest time practicable, with consideration for the timely and economic harvesting of timber rights.

E. Effective Date and Future Orders

This Order comes into effect immediately.

For the purposes of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, all new forest development plans and all major amendments to forest development plans submitted following a date four months after the effective date of this Order must be consistent with the Order.

This Order does not affect any Category A cutblocks approved pursuant to the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* on or before the effective date.

For the purposes of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, and despite subsection 16(2) of that Act, all forest stewardship plans submitted after the effective date must be consistent with this Order.

When a new order of the Minister or designate establishes old forest objectives, this Order will, on the effective date of the new order, cease to have effect for the area or areas specified in the new order.

Original Signed by Herb Langin, Oct 20th, 2004

Regional Director, Northern Interior Region
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Appendix D

Order and Maps Establishing the Crescent Spur, Lower Morkill/Cushing, Forgetmenot, Upper Morkill, and North Trench Landscape Unit Objectives within the proposed Walker Rainforest Wilderness Park.

Order to Establish the Crescent Spur, Lower Morkill/Cushing, Forgetmenot, Upper Morkill, North Trench and Goat Landscape Unit Objectives

Pursuant to section 4 (1) of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* (the Act), the Crescent Spur, Lower Morkill/Cushing, Forgetmenot, Upper Morkill, North Trench and Goat Landscape Units in the Headwaters Forest District (Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Integrated Land Management Bureau, Northern Region), as indicated on Maps 1-6, are each established as a landscape unit.

Objectives for the Crescent Spur, Lower Morkill/Cushing, Forgetmenot, Upper Morkill, North Trench and Goat Landscape Units

Pursuant to section 4 (2) of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, the following are objectives for the Crescent Spur, Lower Morkill/Cushing, Forgetmenot, Upper Morkill, North Trench and Goat Landscape Units are established as landscape unit objectives.

These objectives replace objectives established in the Order Establishing Provincial Non-Spatial Old Growth Order (June 30, 2004) for the Landscape Units listed above.

Objective 1.0 Meet the distribution of old growth for each Landscape Unit / Biogeoclimatic Unit (variant) by maintaining the old growth management areas (OGMAs) as shown on each Landscape Unit map (Maps 1-6) subject to the following points:

- Cutting trees within OGMAs, is limited to circumstances where it is absolutely necessary for insect or disease infestation control because of a forest health threat to adjacent areas. When intervention in OGMAs is required for the above reasons:
 - (a) small intrusions are acceptable for sanitation purposes and no notification to the Integrated Land Management Bureau is necessary but
 - (b) where more than 10% of an OGMA is proposed for removal where the OGMA is less than 50 hectares in size, or, where more than 5% of an OGMA is proposed for removal where the OGMA is more than 50 hectares in size, written notification to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Integrated Land Management Bureau, Northern Region Manager Client Services must occur, and an evaluation will be undertaken by a qualified professional to determine if the OGMA can continue to meet old growth objectives of biodiversity. If it is determined to fail in this regard, then a suitable replacement OGMA will be established.
- When an OGMA is damaged or destroyed by natural events (for example; fire, flood, insect infestation) it will be evaluated based on forest attributes by a qualified professional for its ability to continue to meet biodiversity objectives. If it is determined to be unsuitable for meeting old growth biodiversity objectives, then a suitable replacement OGMA may be established to replace the lost OGMA.

- Construction of permanent or temporary roads are not to be undertaken in OGMA's unless there are no other practicable options. Any roads that are built in OGMA's must be deactivated, rehabilitated and planted as soon as possible.
- Fire suppression and fuel management options shall be permitted within OGMA's for the purpose of maintaining the integrity of the OGMA, as long as such actions do not detract from the biodiversity value of the OGMA.

Objective 2.0 Where OGMA's fall within declared Ungulate Winter Range-Caribou High, objectives specific to that Ungulate Winter Range will apply to the OGMA's.

Effective Date and Future Orders

For the purposes of the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act, all new forest development plans and all major amendments to forest development plans submitted following a date 4 months after the effective date of this Order must be consistent with the Order.

This Order does not affect any Category A cutblocks approved pursuant to the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act on or before the effective date.

For the purposes of the Forest and Range Practices Act, and despite subsection 16(2) of that Act, all forest stewardship plans submitted after the effective date must be consistent with this Order.

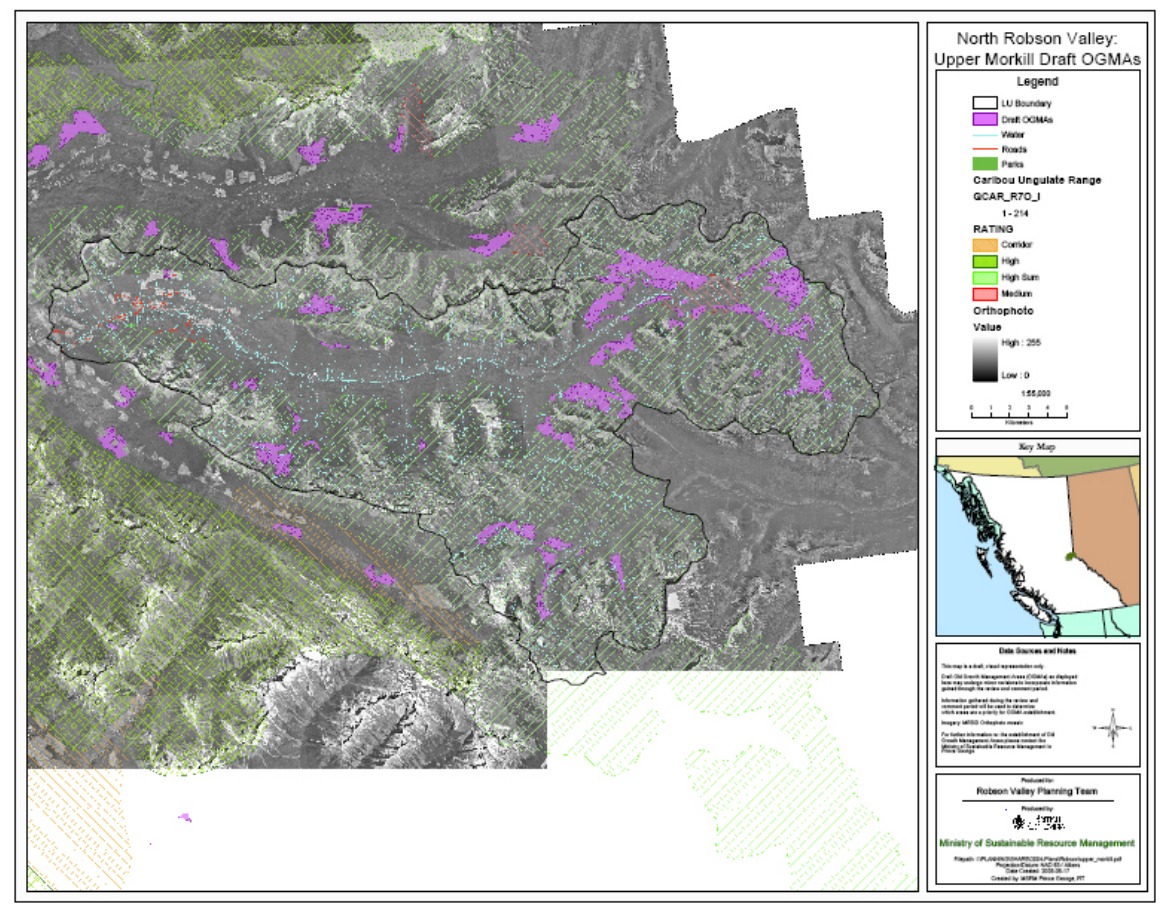
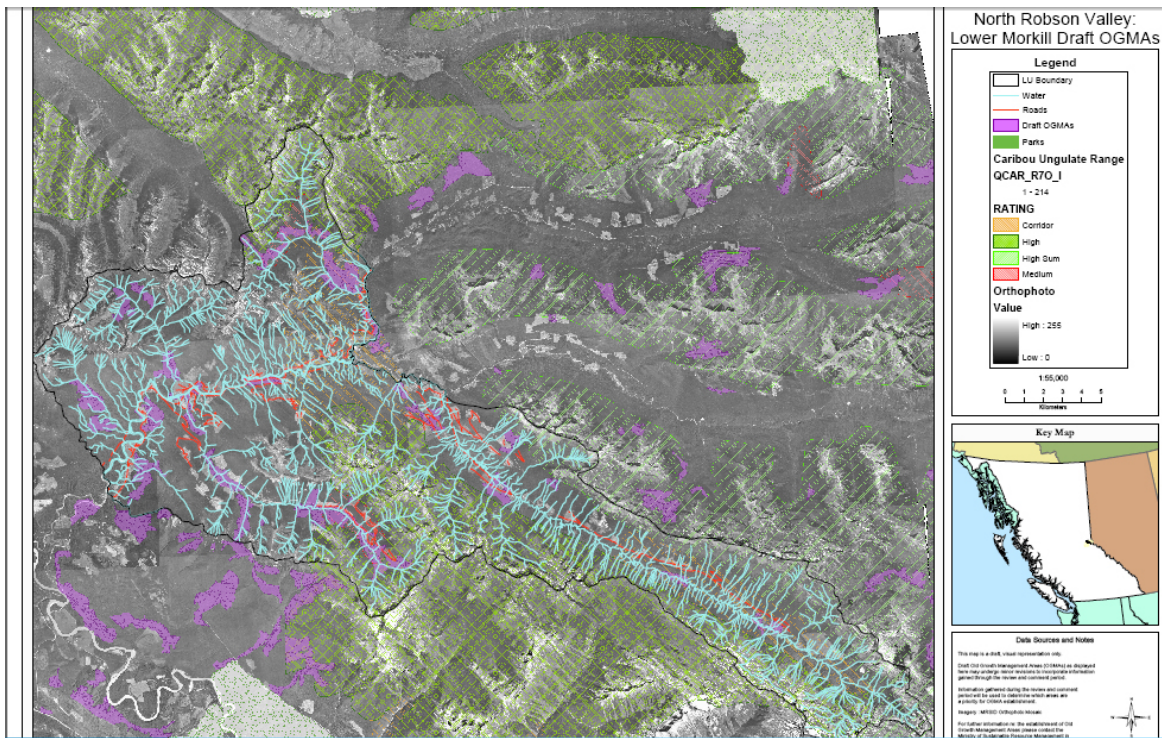
Effective Date of Order

This Order takes effect on, January 30, 2006.

Original Signed by James McGregor

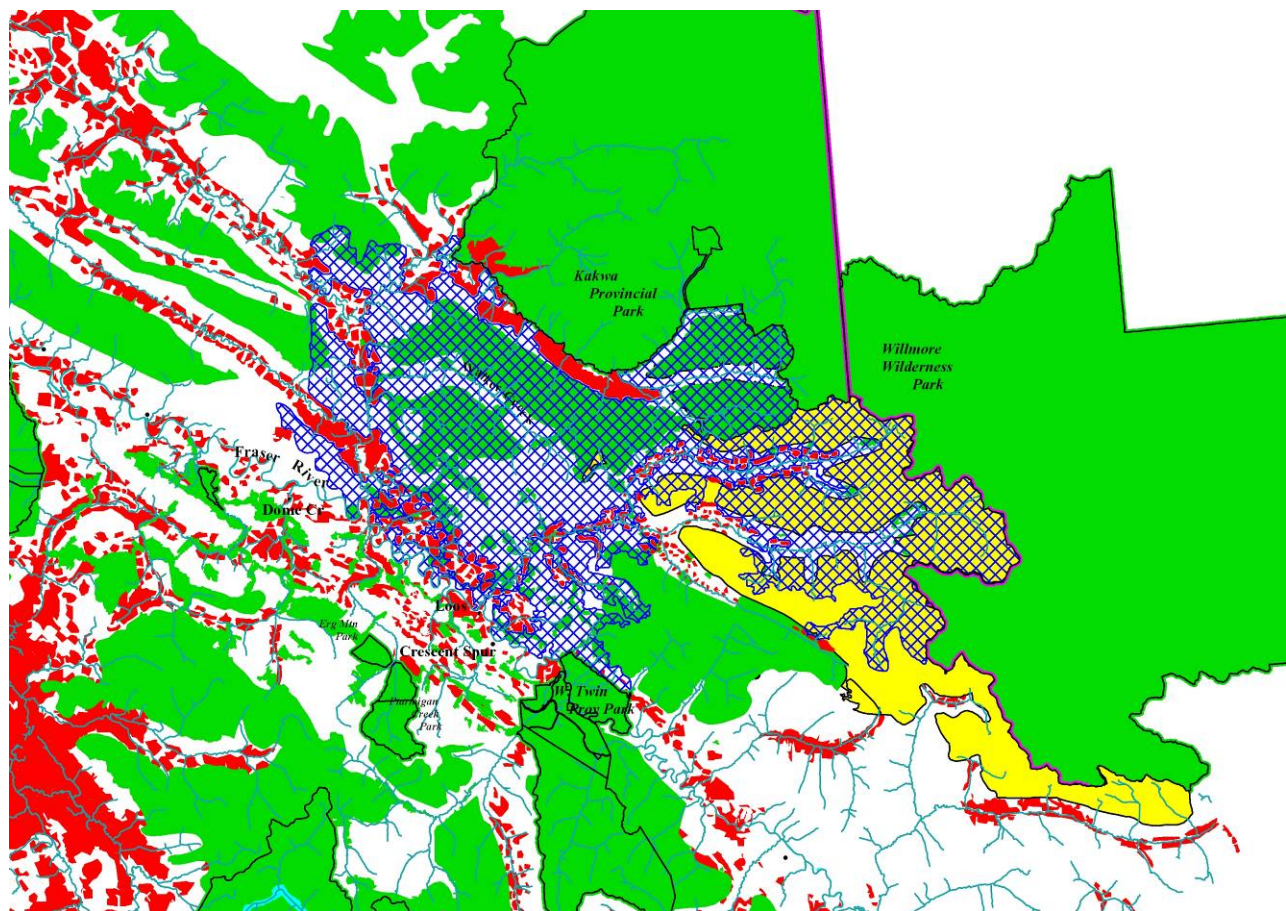
Regional Executive Director
Northern Region Client Services Division
Integrated Land Management Bureau
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Date



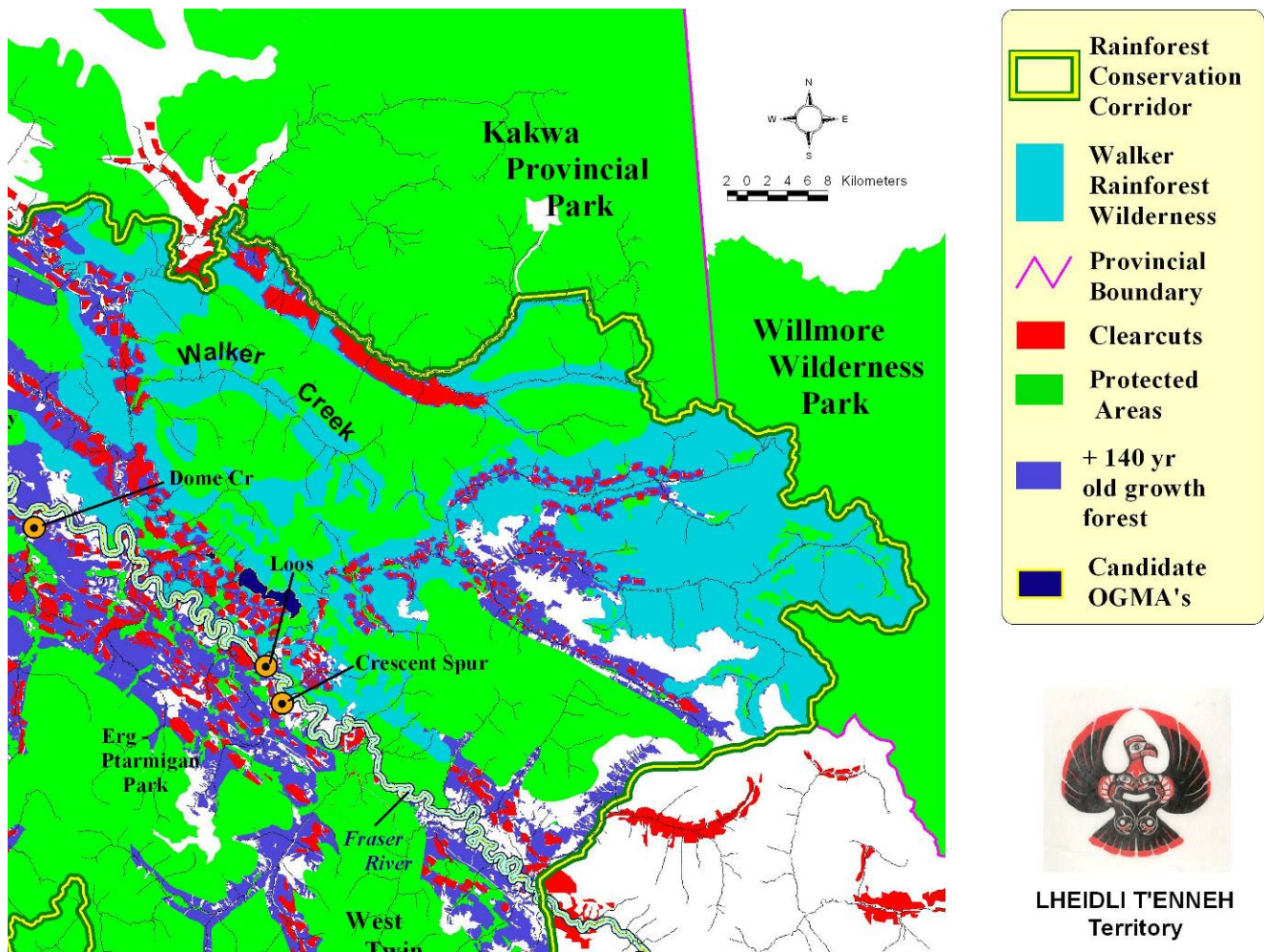
Appendix E

MOE submitted an official Referral in 2007 to establish Northern Mountain Caribou Ungulate Summer Range, shown in yellow on the map below (legally protected areas are green, clearcuts are red). The proposed Walker Rainforest Wilderness Park is shown in cross-hatched blue on the map below. Most of the blue cross-hatching that is not also shown in green is inoperable forest, alpine, or rock outcrop that were legally protected in 2004 but were not mapped. Details of protected forested areas appear in the Tables of Appendix C.



Appendix F

The Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, whose territory encompasses the proposed Walker Rainforest Wilderness Park, approved that the Walker Rainforest Wilderness Area in light blue should be protected as shown on the Map below that was published in 2009.



Appendix G

Order and Map Establishing Ungulate Winter Range #U-7-003, Mountain Caribou – Upper Fraser, Hart Ranges and Mount Robson Planning Units, within the proposed Walker Rainforest Wilderness Park, as expanded by the federal and provincial governments under the Species At Risk Act 2009.



ORDER – Ungulate Winter Range

#U-7-003

Mountain Caribou – Upper Fraser, Hart Ranges and Mount Robson Planning Units

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

1. The Deputy Minister of Environment, being satisfied that
 - i. the following areas contain habitat that is necessary to meet the winter habitat requirements for mountain caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), and
 - ii. the habitat requires special management that is not otherwise provided for under GAR or another enactment.orders that
 - a) this order cancels and replaces the order that became effective on February 19, 2009, entitled "ORDER – Ungulate Winter Range #U-7-003",
 - b) the areas shown in the map set out in the attached Schedule A (U-7-003) and contained in the ungulate winter range (UWR) spatial layer stored in the Land and Resource Data Warehouse (*tuwr_bc*) are established as an ungulate winter range U-7-003 for mountain caribou. The centre point of the line on the attached Schedule A is what establishes the UWR boundary, and
 - c) 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 (*tuwr_bc*), the areas as detailed in the UWR spatial layer will take precedent.
2. The Deputy Minister of Environment, being satisfied that
 - i. the general wildlife measures (GWMs) described below are necessary to protect and conserve the habitat of mountain caribou, 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-7-003.

Schedule – General Wildlife Measures applicable to UWR U-7-003

Definitions:

Words and expressions not defined in this order have the meaning given to them in the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and the regulations made under it unless context indicates otherwise.

helicopter landing means a location where individuals disembark the helicopter, most often at the top of a ski run.

helicopter pickup means a locations where individuals embark the helicopter, most often at the bottom of a ski run.

material adverse in the context of disturbance or impact, “material” means that the disturbance must be real, substantive, or significant. “Adverse” means the disturbance must have negative consequences for the affected species.

mineral exploration activity means an activity involving the cutting of trees or construction and or maintenance of roads and trails related to the exploration and development of a mineral or placer tenure under the *Mineral Tenures Act* and which requires a Notice of Work permit under the *Mines Act*.

mineral cell means a Mineral Titles Online claim acquisition unit and is 16 to 21ha, depending on latitude.

productive forest means the current or future timber harvesting land base designation as identified through timber supply review.

ski run development means cutting non-merchantable timber (<15cm diameter at stump height for PL, < 20cm diameter at stump height for all other species), and removing hazardous stems through primarily hand falling techniques. This includes glading in mature forests, cutting in old burns, spacing in avalanche chutes and alder cutting. This is not considered logging, as no cut trees are extracted from the area.

snow trail means winter snow trails for cat-ski travel. They are developed using snow and may have trees cut or removed for access. Snow trails rarely have side-cuts into mineral soils.

treatment area means the specific geographic area identified in tenure management plans for adventure tourism tenure holders as an individual run and referred to as the “identified ski terrain” or “ski-pod”. Treatment areas can be defined spatially as having a running length and width.

UWR unit means a portion of UWR U-7-003 that is discrete from any other portion. i.e. not contiguous with another portion.

General Wildlife Measures:

GWM 1 – Caribou Corridor.

Within each Caribou Corridor UWR Unit: P-001, P-004, P-005, P-009, P-013, P-015, P-017, P-018, P-026, P-028, P-029, P-039, P-042, P-044, P-046, P-047, P-050, P-051, P-052, P-059, P-061, P-062, P-063, P-070, P-073, R-003, R-008, R-009, R-010, R-014, R-016, T-005, T-009, T-010, T-012.:

- a) Primary forest activities will result in a minimum of 20% of the forest within each unit as greater than 100 years of age in a contiguous, windfirm corridor.
- b) Primary forest activities will result in no more than 20% of the productive forest area of each unit being less than 3 metre green-up condition at any time.

GWM 2 – Caribou High:

Within each Caribou High UWR Unit: P-002, P-003, P-006, P-007, P-008, P-010, P-011, P-012, P-014, P-019, P-020, P-021, P-022, P-023, P-024, P-025, P-030, P-031, P-032, P-033, P-034, P-035, P-036, P-037, P-038, P-040, P-041, P-043, P-045, P-048, P-049, P-053, P-054, P-055, P-056, P-057, P-058, P-060, P-064, P-065, P-066, P-067, P-068, P-069, P-072, P-074, P-075, R-001, R-002, R-004, R-005, R-011, R-018, R-019, R-020, R-021, R-022, R-023, R-300, T-003, T-006, T-014, T-016:

- a) Timber harvesting and road construction must not occur within the UWR except as provided in GWMs 2(b), 2(c), 2(d) and GWMs 4 and 5.
- b) Timber harvesting and road construction may occur where cut blocks and associated roads have been previously approved in a Forest Development Plan prior to the date of the original order for U-7-003 of October 6, 2003.
- c) GWM 2(a) does not apply to road construction, maintenance and deactivation through UWR units R-005, P-015, P-024, P-034, P-058 and P-066.
- d) GWM 2(a) does not apply for the purposes of road maintenance, road deactivation, or road reclamation activities.

GWM 3 – Caribou Medium:

Within each Caribou Medium UWR Unit: R-015, R-017, T-001, T-002, T-004, T-007, T-008, T-011, T-013, T-015, T-017, T-018, T-019:

- a) Timber harvesting will result in less than or equal to 30% volume removal on a cut block area every 80 years, such that:

- i. opening sizes do not exceed 1.0 ha, with a mean opening size of less than or equal to 0.5 ha,
- ii. openings are distributed throughout the cut block area and kept at least two tree lengths apart, where practicable.
- b) Primary forest activities for forest health sanitation activities will be conducted in a manner that does not result in a material adverse impact on the caribou habitat within each UWR unit.
- c) Permanent road access in the Caribou Medium UWR Units will not be constructed within 2 km of any Caribou High UWR Unit.
- d) When Road access is no longer required to meet harvesting and silviculture obligations roads will be deactivated as per sections 82(1)(a),(b) and (c) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* (FPPR).
- e) Where the road is needed for multiple-year harvesting, snow will not be ploughed unless required to facilitate timber harvesting.

GWM 4 - Mineral Exploration Activities:

- a) GWM 1 does not apply for the purposes of mineral exploration activities.
- b) GWM 2 does not apply for the purposes of mineral exploration activities if:
 - a) exploration activities occur outside of the peak calving period of May 15th – June 15th;
 - b) exploration activities use existing clearings, trails and roads unless it is not practicable to do so;
 - c) new trails and roads are not built in areas closed to snowmobile use under the *Wildlife Act* using *Motor Vehicle Prohibition Regulation*, Schedule 7, Section 7.1;
 - d) any necessary tree harvesting avoids mature stands (≥ 80 years old) and avoids the removal of lichen-bearing trees, unless it is not practicable to do so;
 - e) an individual forest opening (defined as the total tree harvested area created for the purposes of mineral exploration and mining activity) is not greater than 1ha, not including forest openings for the purposes of building trails and roads;
 - f) the total of individual forest openings (defined as the total tree harvested area created for the purposes of mineral exploration and mining activity), including those created for the purposes of building trails and roads does not exceed:
 - i. 10 percent of the mineral cell, OR
 - ii. 10 percent of any defined aggregate of mineral cells up to a maximum of 25 mineral cells;
 - g) new trails and roads do not have a running width greater than 6m except for the purposes of safety or culvert placement; and
 - h) actions are taken on newly constructed or reconstructed trails and roads to restrict access. This will be site-specific and could include, but is not limited to:
 - i. Use of signage and gates on active trails and open roads where practicable;
 - ii. Use of signage and safe (defined as large and clearly visible), impassable barricades across seasonal or permanently deactivated road surface widths.
- c) GWM 3 does not apply for the purposes of mineral exploration activities if

- a) an individual forest opening (defined as the total tree harvested area created for the purposes of mineral exploration and mining activity) is not greater than 1ha, not including forest openings for the purposes of building trails and roads.

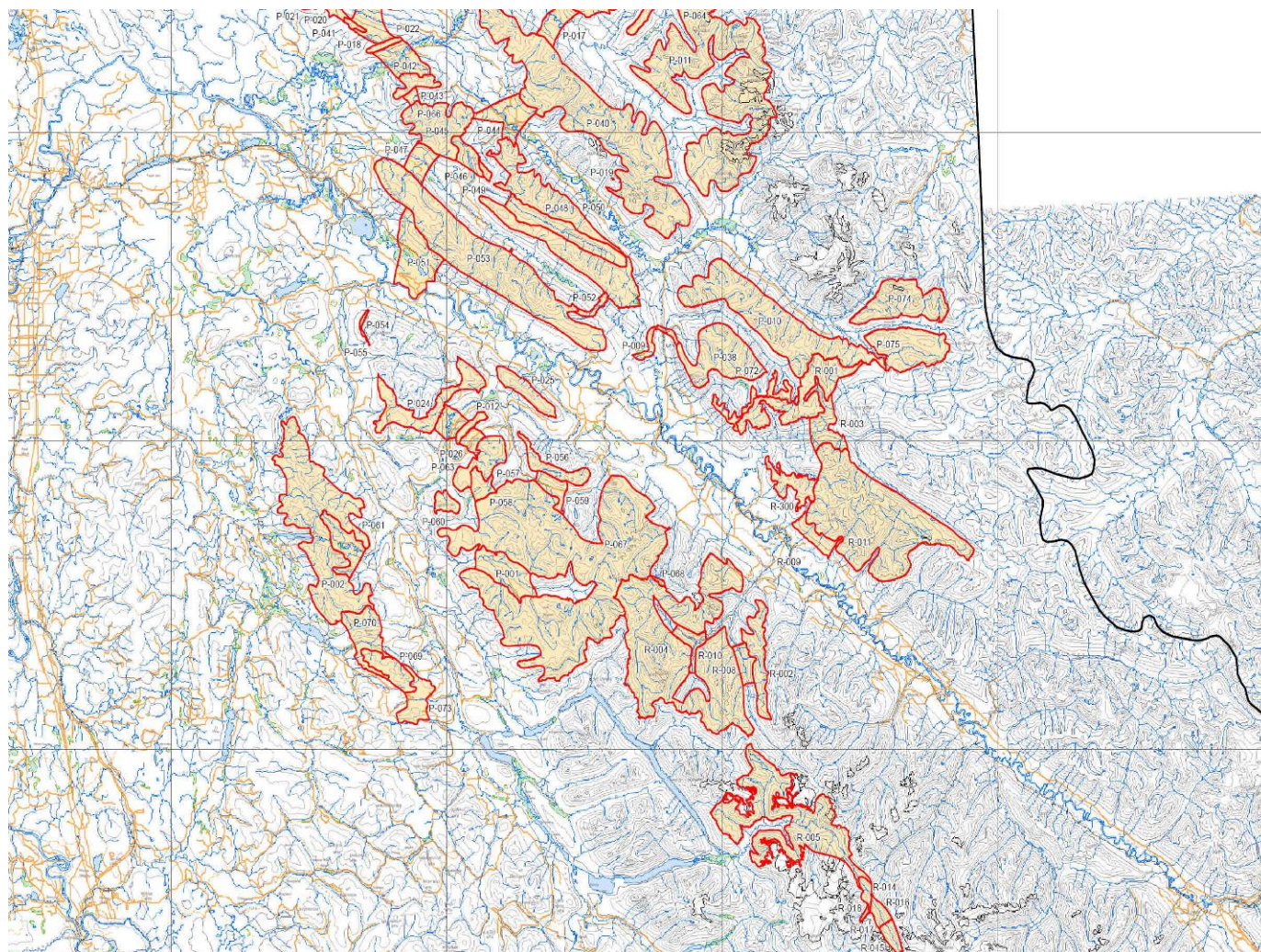
GWM 5 - Guided Adventure Tourism Activities:

- a) GWM 1 does not apply for the purposes of guided adventure tourism activities.
- b) GWM 2 does not apply for the purposes of guided adventure tourism activities if:
 - a) For the purposes of ski run development, construction and maintenance:
 - i. ski run development does not occur within the calving period of May 15th to June 15th;
 - ii. use of existing forestry openings or natural openings is maximized in order to minimize cutting in treatment areas;
 - iii. individual tree spacing within treatment areas is 5-8m, with retention of forest 'clumps' (10-20 trees or 1-2 tree lengths in size) spaced at <100m intervals throughout the treatment area;
 - iv. >90% of conifer stems >20cm DBH in treatment areas are retained from cutting. The full range of tree species, ages and sizes must be represented following treatment, similar to pre-treatment forest stand species composition and size-class distribution;
 - v. individual ski run development/treatment areas are separated from adjacent treatment areas by an area at least 3-4 times the treatment area;
 - vi. forest stands with trees bearing lichen on slopes <40% are avoided when selecting treatment areas, unless there is no other practicable option;
 - vii. any harvesting avoids mature stands (>80 yrs old) and avoids removal of trees bearing lichen, unless there is no other practicable option; and
 - viii. areas of forest stands requiring removal of large veteran legacies or a significant number of standing dead snags to make the work site safe shall be avoided, unless there is no other practicable option.
 - b) For the purposes of helicopter landings and pickup site development, construction and maintenance:
 - i. helicopter landing and pickup site development does not occur within the calving period of May 15th to June 15th;
 - ii. use of existing forestry openings or natural openings is maximized in order to minimize cutting when selecting helicopter landings and pickup sites;
 - iii. where harvesting is required the amount of cutting will not result in the total opening size to exceed 1 ha; and
 - iv. any harvesting avoids mature stands (>80 yrs old) and avoids removal of trees bearing lichen, unless there is no other practicable option.
 - c) For the purposes of snow trail development, construction and maintenance:
 - i. snow trail development does not occur within the calving period of May 15th to June 15th;

- ii. snow trail development does not occur in areas closed to snowmobile use under the Wildlife Act using Motor Vehicle Prohibition Regulations Schedule 7, Section 7.1;
 - iii. existing forestry openings or natural openings are used to minimize cutting when developing snow trails;
 - iv. the volume of timber to be removed does not exceed 50m³ of per 3 km of individual trail when developing a snow trail. An individual snow trail is defined as a contiguous snow trail route used by a snow-cat machines for the purpose of transporting skiers to skiable terrain;
 - v. any harvesting avoids mature stands (>80 yrs old) and avoids removal of trees bearing lichen, unless there is no other practicable option; and
 - vi. actions are taken on snow trails to restrict summer access. This will be site-specific and could include, but not limited to the use of large, impassable boulders, root balls, and felled trees.
- c) GWM 3 does not apply for the purposes of guided adventure tourism activities if:
- a) for the purposes of helicopter landings and pickup site development, construction and maintenance, where harvesting is required the amount of cutting will not result in the total opening size to exceed 1 ha.



Signed this 9 day of Dec., 2009
Doug Konkin, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Environment



Appendix H

Canada's largest citizen-funded, membership-based wilderness preservation organization, The Wilderness Committee ranked the proposed Walker Rainforest Wilderness Park 3rd in priority among 50 proposed Parks for BC in the report British Columbia's Special Places Vol. 30, No. 3, spring 2011.

PRIORITIES FOR PROTECTION...

1 Taku Watershed

Encompassing over two million hectares, the Taku watershed in northwest BC is virtually pristine. It is the largest intact salmon river system in North America. Rising in the interior boreal forests of BC, the river eventually makes its way through the coastal mountains and across the Alaska panhandle to empty into the Pacific Ocean near Juneau.

None of the Taku is currently protected and it is increasingly under pressure from a proposed mine which would come with a 160 kilometre road through the heart of the watershed. The Taku River Tlingit First Nation oppose the proposed mine road project and have entered into negotiations with the government of BC over a land-use plan for the Taku which is expected to result in extensive protected areas.

Conservationists and the Taku River Tlingit First Nation are still concerned that the mine road project may yet go ahead. The best solution for the Taku Watershed and the people, salmon and wildlife that depend on it would be to preserve it all as a conservancy. For more information, check out the website of Rivers Without Borders, one of the conservation groups working to protect the Taku. RiversWithoutBorders.org



Photo above: Marsh and Coast Range peaks in Taku River Valley (Doug Maki). Right: Grizzly Cub (Robert Chen).

2 Clayoquot Sound

The name Clayoquot (pronounced "lak-wot") Sound conjures up visions of ancient forests, emerald islands and sun-pounded shores, a 250,000 hectare slice of paradise on Vancouver Island's wild western side around the village of Tofino. Clayoquot Sound, for many, also means successful environmental protest. Many Canadians remember that the largest civil disobedience campaign in the nation's recent history occurred in Clayoquot during the logging blockades of 1993. Over 800 people were arrested for peacefully protesting logging of ancient forests in the area's remaining unprotected pristine valleys. After the massive protests logging companies stopped trying to log in the pristine valleys and began to sell their logging interests to the First Nations whose territories encompass Clayoquot Sound.

The First Nations formed their own logging company – Isaaq Resources – and in 1999 signed a Memorandum of Understanding with several conservation groups committing to not log in the intact valleys in return for some sort of park protection but, 68,000 hectares of the finest pristine valley ancient forests remaining on Vancouver Island have no formal protection recognized by the province of BC. To help remedy this, the Tlax'quilt First Nation, one of the First Nations of Clayoquot, have declared their territory off limits to logging in intact valleys by designating two tribal parks – Meares Island and H'a'luukmin Tribal Parks.

However, time is running out. The BC government has just granted Isaaq a logging road permit to access a pristine valley on Flores Island, in the heart of Clayoquot Sound. Isaaq is being pushed into logging the intact valleys to help pay off debt. The province needs to step in now and provide debt relief and economic development funding for the First Nations owners of Isaaq, and grant official protected area status for the pristine valleys of Clayoquot Sound.

The Friends of Clayoquot Sound are the local environmental group which has been working to protect Clayoquot for over 30 years. For more

3 Walker Rainforest Wilderness

Imagine an ancient temperate rainforest where chinook salmon power their way up whitewater rivers to spawning grounds where grizzlies patiently await. In this lush place groves of redcedar trees, some over 10 metres in girth and many centuries old, tower over well worn animal trails that lead to the river bank. This is the 200,000 hectare Walker Rainforest Wilderness, the largest unprotected wilderness area remaining in the world's only inland temperate rainforest region. It's located hundreds of kilometres away from BC's coast in the Robson Valley region on the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains, east of Prince George.

A local group, Save the Cedar League, has been working for years to see this forest protected. And they have met with some success, seeing significant areas set aside as wildlife habitat. But more needs to be done. The entire Walker Rainforest Wilderness must be designated as a provincial park or conservancy to put a stop to the industrial logging operations that are fragmenting the forest. Private hydro power projects also threaten the area, unless park protection is gained. This area is home to grizzlies, salmon, wolverines, cougars, wolves, lynx and endangered mountain caribou. It's time to fully protect the Walker!

For more information, visit: SaveTheCedarLeague.org



Photo: Walker Rainforest Wilderness (Carol Fairhead).



Photo: Grey Wolves (Gambro Photos).

4 Flathead Valley

This wildlife rich wilderness area is located in the extreme southeast corner of BC, right on the US border. The Flathead adjoins the world famous Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. The Flathead is an important refuge and key travel corridor for large animals such as grizzly bears and wolves. Conservationists have met with some success, including provincial legislation to prohibit mining and energy development in the Flathead Valley. But other threats remain, including trophy hunting. The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Sierra Club BC and Wildsight are calling for the protection of the southwestern third of the Flathead Valley as a national park, and for the establishment of a Wildlife Management Area in the rest of the valley and adjoining habitat. For more information, visit: flathead.ca



Photo: Flathead Valley (Gambro.com).

5 South Okanagan - Similkameen

British Columbia is the most ecologically diverse province in Canada, with wilderness landscapes including tundra, rainforests, glaciers and wetlands. The South Okanagan - Similkameen putting the area's rare wildlife at risk. It's little wonder that the area is under consideration by the federal government for National Park Reserve status. Unfortunately, after years of churning the area's rare wildlife at risk, it's little wonder that the area is under consideration by the federal government for National Park Reserve status.

the National Park Reserve remains a dream. The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society is the lead group that is working to see the National Park Reserve become a reality. For more information visit: nrcw.ca

THE MAP

This map represents the collective work of many British Columbians who have over several decades put forward their proposals to the provincial government for an expanded park system. The 50 proposed parks we've listed on this map are some of the finest natural areas left anywhere in the world. This list, however, is by no means a complete list of the natural areas required to double BC's park system. See the back page of this report for information about how you can put forward your proposed natural areas for inclusion in BC's expanded protected areas map. Let's work together to double BC's park system in a decade, and make it one of the best on Earth!



Legend:
 Proposed Parks
 BC Parks, Protected Areas & Conservancies
 National Parks

British Columbia's Five Priority Endangered Wilderness Areas

The five areas featured on the centre page of this report – Taku Watershed, Walker Rainforest Wilderness, Clayoquot Sound, South Okanagan – Similkameen, and the Flathead Valley – all require action NOW to ensure that they are protected before important conservation values are lost forever.

PROPOSED PARKS

1 Taku Watershed
 2 Clayoquot Sound
 3 Walker Rainforest Wilderness
 4 Flathead Valley
 5 South Okanagan - Similkameen
 6 San Joaquin - MacJack Rivers
 7 East Creek Rainforest / Kaskish River
 8 Northern Caribou Mountain Range
 9 Bendir Mountain Range



Typical Ancient Cedar grove of the world's only Inland Temperate Rainforest, found in wet, low elevations of the proposed Walker Rainforest Wilderness Provincial Park.