

Bulkley Land and Resource Management Plan - Higher Level Plan Order



Order Establishing Resource Management Zones and Resource Management Zone Objectives within the area covered by the *Bulkley Land and Resource Management Plan, March 1998* Pursuant to Sections 3(1) and 3(2) of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act (the Act)*

Pursuant to section 3(1) of the Act, the Bulkley Timber Supply Area, the Agriculture/Wildlife Zone, Special Management Zones 1, and Special Management Zones 2 as presented on Map 1 (attached) are Resource Management Zones.

Bulkley Timber Supply Area

Pursuant to section 3(2) of the Act, the provisions in Appendix 1 are Resource Management Zone objectives for the Bulkley Timber Supply Area.

Agriculture/Wildlife Zone

Pursuant to section 3(2) of the Act, the provisions in Appendix 2 are Resource Management Zone objectives for the Agriculture/Wildlife Zone.

Special Management Zones 1

Pursuant to section 3(2) of the Act, the provisions in Appendix 3 are Resource Management Zone objectives for Special Management Zones 1.

Special Management Zones 2

Pursuant to section 3(2) of the Act, the provisions in Appendix 4 are Resource Management Zone objectives for Special Management Zones 2.

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Filing the Order

This order will be filed with the regional manager of the Prince Rupert Forest Region and will take effect on December 29, 2000.

Original signed
The Honourable Gordon Wilson
Minister of Forests

December 19, 2000
Date

Original signed
The Honourable Glenn Robertson
Minister of Energy and Mines

December 14, 2000
Date

Original signed
The Honourable Ian Waddell
Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks

December 19, 2000
Date

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APPENDIX 1 - OBJECTIVES FOR THE BULKLEY TIMBER SUPPLY AREA (TSA)

The term "maintain" in this order means "to preserve from failure or decline; to cause to continue" as defined in the 1998 "Guide to Writing Resource Objectives and Strategies".

1) Biodiversity

Maintain biodiversity by:

- maintaining seral stage distribution¹, including but not limited to mature and old forest,
- maintaining stand structure¹ and species composition¹,
- distributing and designing cutblocks to mimic natural disturbance patterns¹,
- maintaining an ecosystem network consisting of core ecosystems² for ecosystem representation and interior forest conditions, and landscape corridors² for connectivity, based on 1:250,000 scale biophysical ecosystem inventory¹,
- not expanding range use in core ecosystems², and
- harvesting timber in core ecosystems² within the Bulkley TSA excluding Special Management Zones 1, only when necessary for:
 - protecting the integrity and function of the ecosystem,
 - mineral and energy³ exploration and development,
 - providing access to timber outside the core ecosystem that would otherwise be isolated, or
 - forest health control where there is risk to operable timber outside of the core ecosystem².

2) Timber

Enhance the available timber supply and improve timber quality in areas⁴ with a high potential for timber growth and where timber values have little conflict with other resource values, within the Bulkley TSA, excluding Special Management Zones 1 and 2 and the Agriculture/Wildlife Zone, by targeting these areas for intensive silviculture practices.

3) Wildlife

Provide for wildlife habitat⁵ and populations by implementing and timing road location, development and maintenance activities in a manner that minimizes the effects on these values¹.

4) Deer (Whitetail and Mule)

Provide for the following important whitetail and mule deer habitat⁵ elements:

- woody browse during winter,
- mature cover adjacent to steep, south facing slopes,
- thermal and snow interception cover during the winter months, and
- visual screening.

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5) **Moose**

Provide for the following important moose habitat⁵ elements:

- woody browse during winter,
- visual screening on winter range, and
- security and thermal cover in moose winter range.

6) **Mountain Goat**

Provide for the following important mountain goat habitat⁵ elements:

- forested cover adjacent to escape terrain,
- thermal and snow interception cover, and
- winter forage

7) **Woodland Caribou**

Provide for the following important habitat⁵ elements for the Telkwa Caribou Herd:

- long-term supply of terrestrial and arboreal lichen forage
- forests with mature and old characteristics,
- near natural disturbance patterns by biogeoclimatic zones,
- security cover, and
- large areas of inactivity over a rotation where forest development is permitted.

8) **Grizzly Bear**

Provide for the following important grizzly bear habitat⁵ elements:

- high-value habitat buffered for security and bedding, and
- opportunities for movement with minimal disturbance from humans between important landscape features.

9) **Fish Habitat and Water Quality**

- a) Provide for water quality for critical spawning areas⁶ and for domestic consumption in community watersheds by implementing and timing industrial activities in a manner that minimizes the effects on these values¹.
- b) Provide for lakes containing high value fish habitat by maintaining lakes in a full spectrum of settings⁷ including semi-primitive and primitive settings.

10) **Visual Quality**

Provide for visual quality⁸ along major river and highway corridors, at recreation focus points and at specific viewpoints including the Suskwa community, Touhy Lake, Mooseskin Johnny Lake, and Jack Mould Lake.

11) **Range**

Use existing range resources to capacity where operationally feasible, prior to developing new range opportunities.

12) **Outdoor Recreation**

Maintain or enhance a diverse range of recreational values and opportunities and maintain reasonable access to these recreational values and opportunities¹.

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13) Cultural Heritage Resources

Minimize the impact of forest development on archaeological sites and other identified cultural heritage resources¹.

¹ Specific provisions for maintaining these values will be determined through landscape unit planning using landscape and stand level development strategies.

² Core ecosystems and landscape corridors as defined in Objective 1 as mapped and made available at the landscape level.

³ Energy means petroleum, natural gas and geothermal resources.

⁴ Enhanced Timber Development Areas as mapped and made available at the landscape level.

⁵ Wildlife habitat as mapped and made available at the landscape level.

⁶ Critical spawning areas as mapped and made available at the operational level.

⁷ Lakes as classified and made available at the landscape level.

⁸ View points and associated scenic areas (visual quality areas) as mapped and made available at the landscape level.

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APPENDIX 2 - OBJECTIVES FOR AGRICULTURE/WILDLIFE ZONE

14) Agriculture/Wildlife Zone – (Sub-unit 7-3)

Enhance agricultural capacity and protect high value wildlife habitat⁹ by developing forest resources in a manner that minimizes conflicts between agriculture and wildlife¹⁰.

⁹ High value wildlife habitat as mapped and made available at the operational level.

¹⁰ Specific provisions for maintaining these values will be determined through stand level development strategies.

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APPENDIX 3 - OBJECTIVES FOR SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONES 1 (SMZ1)

15) Barbeau Creek Resource Management Zone (Sub-unit 1-1)

Maintain:

- water quality,
- mountain goat habitat,
- grizzly bear habitat, especially travel corridors and denning areas,
- wilderness recreation opportunities, especially around remote lakes, and
- watershed in a primitive state

by harvesting timber only where required for approved mineral and energy¹¹ exploration and development.

16) Big Onion Mountain Resource Management Zone (Sub-unit 5-2)

Maintain:

- recreational snowmobiling opportunities,
- water quality in creeks and tributaries that serve as domestic water supplies,
- hiking trails, and
- visual quality

by harvesting timber only where required for approved mineral and energy¹¹ exploration and development.

17) Old Cronin Mine Area Resource Management Zone (Sub-Unit 5-3)

Maintain:

- recreational and visual quality of alpine areas and
- hiking trails into the Babine Mountains

by harvesting timber only where required for approved mineral and energy¹¹ exploration and development.

18) Cronin Alpine Resource Management Zone (Sub-unit 5-4)

Maintain:

- recreational and visual quality of alpine areas and
- hiking trails into the Babine Mountains

by harvesting timber only where required for approved mineral and energy¹¹ exploration and development.

19) Howson Range Resource Management Zone (Sub-unit 11-1)

Maintain:

- caribou and goat habitat, especially winter habitat,
- visual quality, especially views from Highway 16 and the ski hill, and
- opportunities for wilderness recreation and backcountry tourism

by harvesting timber only where required for approved mineral and energy¹¹ exploration and development.

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20) Hankin Plateau Resource Management Zone (Sub-unit 11-2)

Maintain:

- caribou and goat habitat and
 - visual quality, especially views from Highway 16 and the ski hill
- by harvesting timber only where required for approved mineral and energy¹¹ exploration and development.

21) Silvern Lakes Resource Management Zone (Sub-unit 12-1)

Maintain:

- backcountry recreational opportunities and
 - visual quality
- by harvesting timber only where required for approved mineral and energy¹¹ exploration and development.

¹¹ Energy means petroleum, natural gas and geothermal resources.

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APPENDIX 4 - OBJECTIVES FOR SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONES 2 (SMZ2)

22) Babine River Resource Management Zone (Sub-unit 2-2)

Maintain the following river-based resource values adjacent to Babine River Provincial Park:

- wilderness recreation opportunities,
- water clarity¹² and hydrologic stability¹² for fish habitat in the tributaries of the Babine River,
- visual quality within view of the Babine River¹³, and
- travel and denning habitat¹⁴ for grizzly bears

by:

- developing timber in a manner which minimizes the effects on these values,
- not constructing new, permanent, unrestricted¹⁵ road access north of the Babine River bridge,
- avoiding road construction to the Babine River corridor boundary, and
- logging by selection harvesting or small clearcuts¹² only.

23) Reiseter Creek Resource Management Zone (Sub-unit 5-6)

Maintain:

- visual quality within view of major river and highway corridors and recreation focus points¹³,
- water quality¹² for domestic consumption, and
- recreational hiking trails to the Babine Mountains¹²

by developing timber in a manner which minimizes the effects on these values, including re-routing trails if necessary.

24) Upper Corya Creek Resource Management Zone (Sub-unit 8-1)

Maintain:

- visual quality within view of major river and highway corridors and recreation focus points¹³, and
- recreational opportunities and access¹²

by developing timber in a manner which minimizes the effects on these values.

25) Jack Mould Lake (Sub-unit 9-2)

Maintain:

- connectivity¹⁶ of mature forest between Kitsequecla and Jack Mould lakes,
- recreational opportunities¹², and
- visual quality within view of Jack Mould Lake and Kitsequecla Lake¹³

by:

- developing timber in a manner which minimizes the effects on these values, and
- maintaining walk-in only status¹⁵ to Jack Mould Lake.

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26) Glacier Gulch Resource Management Zone (Sub-unit 10-1)

Maintain:

- visual quality within view of major river and highway corridors and recreation focus points¹³,
 - rare ecosystems¹⁶, and
 - water quality¹² for domestic consumption and fish habitat
- by developing timber in a manner which minimizes the effects on these values.

27) Hudson Bay Mountain Resource Management Zone (Sub-unit 10-2)

Maintain:

- visual quality within view of recreational focus points¹³, and
 - recreational opportunities and access¹²
- by developing timber in a manner which minimizes the effects on these values.

28) Ski Smithers Resource Management Zone (Sub-unit 10-3)

Maintain:

- visual quality within view of major river and highway corridors and recreation focus points¹³, and
 - recreational opportunities and access¹²
- by:
- not constructing roads onto the grassy tundra, and
 - developing timber in a manner which minimizes the effects on these values.

29) Community Forest Resource Management Zone (Sub-unit 10-4)

Maintain:

- water quality¹² for domestic consumption,
 - the diversity and abundance of existing species¹²,
 - a desired mix of habitats for biodiversity¹²,
 - recreational and educational opportunities¹², and
 - visual quality within view of Highway 16 and recreation focus points¹³
- by developing timber in a manner which minimizes the effects on these values.

30) Mooseskin Johnny Lake Resource Management Zone (Sub-unit 11-3)

Maintain:

- existing commercial backcountry tourism opportunities¹²,
- caribou and goat habitat¹⁴,
- shallow lakes and wetlands¹⁶,
- visual quality within view of Mooseskin Johnny Lake¹³, and
- forest connectivity between the Howson Range SMZ1 and Hankin Plateau SMZ1¹⁶

by:

- developing timber in a manner which minimizes the effects on these values, and
- restricting¹⁵ motorized access on roads.

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31) Telkwa River Resource Management Zone (Sub-unit 11-5)

Maintain:

- water quality¹² and hydrologic stability¹² for fish habitat,
- structural diversity¹² of the riparian area,
- wetlands¹², and
- a corridor for deer and grizzly bear¹⁶

by developing timber in a manner which minimizes the effects on these values.

32) Copper River Resource Management Zone (Sub-unit 12-2)

Maintain:

- visual quality within view of the Copper River corridor and recreational focus points¹³,
- water quality¹² for fish habitat,
- high value fish habitat¹⁴,
- important riparian ecosystems¹⁶,
- red and blue listed plant communities¹⁶, and
- steelhead fishing opportunities in an uncrowded, natural setting along the Copper River

by:

- developing timber in a manner which minimizes the effects on these values,
- not constructing new permanent¹⁵ roads within 1 kilometre of the Copper River,
- not expanding existing range use, and
- including the majority of this corridor within the core ecosystem¹⁷.

33) Serb Creek Resource Management Zone (Sub-unit 12-3)

Maintain:

- grizzly bear habitat¹⁴,
- water quality¹² for fish habitat,
- fish habitat¹⁴,
- visual quality as seen from Serb Creek, Copper River and recreational focus points¹³, and
- the integrity of the watershed¹²,

by:

- not constructing road crossings on Serb Creek¹⁸, and
- developing timber in a manner which minimizes the effects on these values.

34) Mulwain Creek Resource Management Zone (Sub-unit 12-5)

Maintain:

- water quality¹² for fish in the Copper River,
- visual quality for views from the Seven Sisters and Copper River¹³,
- forest connectivity¹⁶ with the Copper River SMZ2, and
- primitive recreation opportunities for the Seven Sisters Protected Area¹²

by:

- developing timber in a manner which minimizes the effects on these values,

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- restricting¹⁵ non-industrial, motorized access to the Seven Sisters Protected Area, and
- designing cutblocks with strategic placement of leave trees and patches, feathered edges and lines from the natural landscape¹².

¹² Specific provisions for maintaining these values will be determined through landscape unit planning using landscape and stand level development strategies.

¹³ View points and associated scenic areas (visual quality areas) as mapped and made available through landscape unit planning. The associated scenic areas which fall into Special Management Zones (SMZ), except Mulwain Creek SMZ, will receive special consideration and may require a higher visual quality objective than scenic areas from the same view point which fall outside special management zones.

¹⁴ Wildlife habitat as mapped and made available through landscape unit planning.

¹⁵ Strategies at the landscape level may include access control points (e.g. a gate), winter roads, or deactivation.

¹⁶ Specific provisions for managing this value will be developed through landscape unit planning and may include using the ecosystem network defined in Objective 1.

¹⁷ Core ecosystems and landscape corridors as defined in Objective 1 as mapped and made available at the landscape level.

¹⁸ Both sides of Serb Creek are potentially accessible through routes on either side of the creek.