

Vancouver Island Land Use Plan  
Higher Level Plan Order

**Order Establishing Resource Management Zones and Resource Management Zone Objectives within the area covered by the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan, pursuant to sections 3(1) and 3(2), as well as section 9.1 of the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act (the Act)**

- I. Pursuant to section 3(1) of the Act, the following zones, as presented on Map 1 (attached), are Resource Management Zones (RMZ):
- A. Special Management Zones (SMZ) 1 through 14 and 17 through 22;
  - B. Resource Management Zones 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 15, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 36, 38, 40, 42, 43, 44, and 47; these RMZ are also referred to as Enhanced Forestry Zones (EFZ);
  - C. Resource Management Zones 7 and 14; these two RMZ are also referred to as General Management Zones (GMZ).
- II. Pursuant to section 3(2) of the Act, the following provisions are Resource Management Zone objectives:
- A. for Special Management Zones 1 through 14 and 17 through 22:*
- 1. Sustain forest ecosystem structure and function in SMZs, by:
    - (a) creating or maintaining stand structures and forest attributes associated with mature<sup>1</sup> and old<sup>2</sup> forests, subject to the following:
      - i. the target for mature seral forest should range between one quarter to one third of the forested area of each SMZ<sup>3</sup>; and
      - ii. in SMZs where the area of mature forest is currently less than the mature target range referred to in (i) above, the target amount of mature forest must be in place within 50 years;
    - (b) retaining, within cutblocks<sup>4</sup>, structural forest attributes and elements with important biodiversity functions<sup>5</sup>; and
    - (c) applying a variety of silvicultural systems, patch sizes and patch shapes across the zone, subject to a maximum cutblock size of 5 ha if clearcut, clearcut with reserves or seed tree silvicultural systems are applied, and 40 ha if shelterwood, selection or retention silvicultural systems are applied<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The mature seral forest is defined as generally 80 to 120 years old or older, depending on species and site conditions. The structure of mature seral forests generally includes canopies that vary vertically or horizontally, or both. The age and structure of the mature seral stage will vary significantly by forest type and from one biogeoclimatic zone to another.

<sup>2</sup> The old seral forest is defined as generally greater than 250 years old, containing live and dead (downed and standing) trees of various sizes, including large diameter trees, and of various tree species, including broad-leaved trees. The structure of old seral forest varies significantly by forest type and from one biogeoclimatic zone to another.

<sup>3</sup> Mature seral targets will be established through landscape unit planning. See transition provisions under III.

<sup>4</sup> Within cutblocks: generally means non-contiguous with cutblock boundaries.

<sup>5</sup> This includes, but is not limited to snags, wildlife trees, downed logs.

<sup>6</sup> Maximum cutblock sizes refer to net area to be reforested.

# Vancouver Island Land Use Plan

## Higher Level Plan Order

2. Despite subsection 1(c) above, cutblocks larger than 5 or 40 ha, as the case may be, may be approved if harvesting is being carried out to recover timber that was damaged by fire, insects, wind or other similar events and wherever possible, the cutblock incorporates structural characteristics of natural disturbances.
  3. Pursuant to section 2(1) of the Operational Planning Regulation (OPR)<sup>7</sup>, the approval of both the district manager, Ministry of Forests and the designated environment official, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks is required for all forest development plans, or parts of forest development plans that relate to areas within the following SMZs: 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 17, 19, 20 and 21.
- B. for Special Management Zones 8, and 13, and parts of Special Management Zones 1, 3 and 11, which are located within landscape units with higher biodiversity emphasis, as shown on Map 2:**
4. Maintain late-successional habitat elements and attributes of biodiversity<sup>8</sup> in forested ecosystems with emphasis on regionally rare and underrepresented ecosystems, by retaining old seral forest at the site series/surrogate level of representation<sup>9</sup>.
  5. Retain late-successional habitat elements and attributes of biodiversity in patches of variable size.
- C. for the following Special Management Zones with primary visual resource values: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19 and 22, as shown on Map 3:**
6. Maintain the visual quality of known scenic areas in accordance with the recommended visual quality classes in the visual landscape inventory, until the district manager establishes visual quality objectives for the areas.
- D. for all Enhanced Forestry Zones, as shown on Map 1, save and except the parts of those zones which are designated as community watersheds as defined in section 41(8) of the Act:**
7. To increase the short-term availability of timber,
    - (a) a cutblock may be larger than 40 ha pursuant to section 11(2)(a) of the OPR; and
    - (b) pursuant to section 68(4) of the OPR, a cutblock is greened-up if it is adequately stocked and the average height of those trees that are
      - (i) the tallest tree in each 0.01 ha plot included in a representative sample, and
      - (ii) a commercially valuable species or other species acceptable to the district manageris at least 1.3 meters;

<sup>7</sup> BC Reg. 107/98

O.C. 426/98 -

Effective: June 15, 1998.

<sup>8</sup> This includes, but is not limited to: large diameter (> 60 cm) live, decaying and dead standing trees (providing nest and cavity sites); downed wood, including large diameter pieces (50 to 150 cm); deciduous broad-leaved trees, both in riparian and upland areas.

<sup>9</sup> The level of representation of old seral forest will be applied through landscape unit planning.

# Vancouver Island Land Use Plan

## Higher Level Plan Order

unless the district manager determines that a cutblock referred to under (a) or (b) would significantly impact specific hydrological, wildlife, biodiversity, scenic or recreation values.

8. Avoid or mitigate adverse hydrological impacts, which may result from the practices referred to in objective 7, in watersheds with significant watershed sensitivity and significant fisheries values, as determined by the district manager and designated environment official.
9. When proposing the species composition for the purposes of OPR section 39 (3) (o), a person may, pursuant to OPR section 41, select a single species that is ecologically suited to the area, if a mix of species was present on the area before the timber was harvested.
- 9.1 The area that may be subject to selection of a single species pursuant to objective 9 is limited to no more than 20 per cent of the forested area of any variant within a given EFZ.

### **E. for Resource Management Zones 7 and 11:**

10. To avoid severe social and economic consequences, as determined by the district manager and the designated environment official, the full target of 13 per cent for old growth retention in CWHvm1 may be reduced by up to one third provided that ecologically suitable second growth forest is identified to recruit the shortfall<sup>10</sup>.

### **F. for Resource Management Zone 42:**

11. Retain old seral forest in CWHvm1 in accordance with the full old seral target of 13 per cent for the variant.
- 11.1 Despite objective 11, up to one third of the old seral target may be recruited from second growth provided that
  - (a) such recruitment is necessary to avoid severe social and economic consequences;
  - (b) such recruitment will not impact the ability to conserve suitable habitat of identified wildlife in accordance with the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy<sup>11</sup>; and
  - (c) ecologically suitable second growth forest is identified to recruit the shortfall.<sup>12</sup>

### **G. for Special Management Zone 10:**

12. Retain or recruit old growth forest in CWHxm2 in accordance with the full old seral target of 9 per cent for the variant.

### **H. for Resource Management Zone 10**

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<sup>10</sup> The targets for retention or recruitment of old growth forests will be achieved through the establishment of old growth management areas as part of landscape unit planning.

<sup>11</sup> See "Managing Identified Wildlife: Procedures and Measures", Volume 1, February 1999.

<sup>12</sup> The targets for retention or recruitment of old growth forests will be achieved through the establishment of old growth management areas as part of landscape unit planning.

# Vancouver Island Land Use Plan

## Higher Level Plan Order

13. Retain old seral forest in CWHxm2 in accordance with the full old seral target of 9 per cent for the variant.
- 13.1 Despite objective 13, up to one third of the old seral target may be recruited from second growth provided that
  - (a) such recruitment is necessary to avoid severe social and economic consequences;
  - (b) such recruitment will not impact the ability to conserve suitable habitat of identified wildlife in accordance with the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy<sup>13</sup>; and
  - (c) ecologically suitable second growth forest is identified to recruit the shortfall.<sup>14</sup>

### **I. for Resource Management Zone 30:**

14. Retain all remaining old growth forest in CWHxm2 until landscape unit objectives for old growth retention or recruitment have been established in accordance with the full old seral target of 9 per cent for the variant.

### **J. for Resource Management Zones 8, 14, 28 and 43:**

15. Retain old growth forests to meet old seral targets<sup>15</sup> and marbled murrelet habitat requirements<sup>16</sup> in the non-contributing<sup>17</sup> land base to the fullest extent possible.
16. Beyond retention in the non-contributing land base, retain old forests in the timber harvesting land base, up to the full target amount, if the district manager and the designated environment official determine that such retention is required to maintain critical marbled murrelet habitat<sup>18</sup>.

## **III. Transition**

17. Pursuant to section 9.1 of the Act, the following objectives will not be implemented in an area until landscape units and objectives have been established for the area, in accordance with section 4 of the Act:  
Objectives 1(a); 4; 5; 10; 11; 11.1; 12; 13; 13.1; 15; and 16.
18. In the event that landscape units and objectives are not established in an area within 2 years of the date that this order takes effect, the objectives referred to in paragraph 17 will be implemented in the area.

## **IV. Filing the Order**

This order will be filed with the regional manager of the Vancouver Forest Region and will take effect on December 1, 2000.

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<sup>13</sup> See "Managing Identified Wildlife: Procedures and Measures", Volume 1, February 1999.

<sup>14</sup> The targets for retention or recruitment of old growth forests will be achieved through the establishment of old growth management areas as part of landscape unit planning.

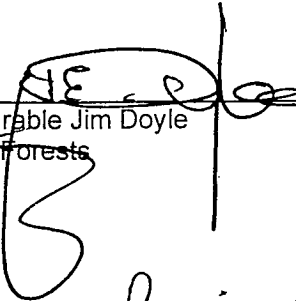
<sup>15</sup> See "Landscape Unit Planning Guide", March 1999.

<sup>16</sup> See "Managing Identified Wildlife: Procedures and Measures", Volume 1, February 1999.

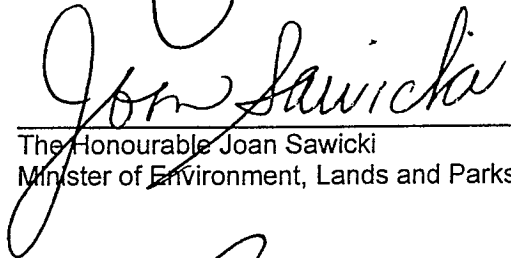
<sup>17</sup> Non-contributing: the crown forested land base that does not contribute to the annual allowable cut, but does contribute to biodiversity objectives and targets.

<sup>18</sup> Retention or recruitment of old growth forests will be achieved through the establishment of old growth management areas as part of landscape unit planning.

Vancouver Island Land Use Plan  
Higher Level Plan Order

  
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The Honourable Jim Doyle  
Minister of Forests

24/OCT/00  
Date

  
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The Honourable Joan Sawicki  
Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks

19/10/00  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
The Honourable Dan Miller  
Minister of Energy and Mines

19/10/00  
Date