

File: 12560-25/1-003

February 28, 2003

WHA-1-003

Mark W. Carter, RPF
TFL Forest Ltd.
Honeymoon Bay Operations
Bag 5000
Crofton, BC
V0R 1R0

Dear Mark Carter:

SPECIES NAME DATA SENSITIVE
CONTACT MOP FOR MORE
INFO

On February 13, 2003 the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection advertised, in the British Columbia Gazette, the establishment of Wildlife Habitat Area 1-003 for [REDACTED] located in the vicinity of Mt. Edinburgh within Tree Farm License 46 in the South Island Forest District. Details of the order may be obtained from the Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, 2080A Labieux Road, Nanaimo, BC V9T 6J9.

As per Section 1 of the Operational and Site Planning Regulation (BC Reg. 107/98 Deposited April 2, 1998, O.C. 0426/98 effective June 15, 1998 and consolidated to December 17, 2002) this Wildlife Habitat Area is designated as "Known" information.

This information is made Known as of March 10, 2003 and must be incorporated into related operational plan submissions four months after this date.

If you have any questions contact either the undersigned or Dan Biggs, Planning Officer, at 250-731-3000.

Yours truly,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Cindy Stern
District Manager
South Island Forest District

CC: R.H. Heath, Regional Manager, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, 2080A Labieux Road, Nanaimo, BC V9T 6J9.

SPECIES NAME DATA SENSITIVE
CONTACT MOF FOR MORE INFO

This is to inform you that Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA) 1-003 for [REDACTED] (Mt. Edinburgh) was established on December 6, 2002 in the South Island Forest District under the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* and the regulations made under the Act. Notification of this WHA will be published in the February 13, 2003 issue of the BC Gazette.

Changes to the Forest Practices Code regulations for Transition, effective December 17, 2002, removed joint-ministry statutory authorities. The Deputy Minister of Water Land and Air Protection now has the sole statutory authority for WHAs.

A plot file of the map and a digital copy of the boundaries of the WHA can be downloaded from the following ftp site:

Location: <ftp://ribftp.env.gov.bc.ca/pub/outgoing/cdc_data/wha/r1>

Filename: twha_1-003.zip

File format: Zipped E00

Projection: BC Albers

Zip password: [REDACTED]

If there are any problems with accessing the file at the ftp site, please contact Annika Livingston at aeliving@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca. The data will remain at the above location indefinitely so that additional digital copies can be downloaded as required. This digital boundary is the final approved version. Please ensure that any draft versions you may have received are deleted.

The following general wildlife measures have been established for the wildlife habitat area:
(modified measures in bold)

General

The breeding season is from **February 15** through September 1. However, breeding times may vary yearly and by site. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection should be consulted for site-specific breeding times. Activity restrictions may be removed after June 30 for inactive or unsuccessful nests.

Nest Areas

Access

- Do not construct roads within the nest areas unless the district manager and regional fish and wildlife manager are satisfied there is no other practicable option and the variance is approved by the district manager and regional fish and wildlife manager. The nest areas in this Wildlife Habitat Area are mapped to exclude the existing road at the south end of the Post Fledging Area.

Silviculture

- Do not harvest or salvage within nest areas, except for treatments aimed at maintaining or improving stand structure for nesting; (i.e., understory thinning to maintain or promote desired stand structure: single storied, crown closure $\geq 60\%$, and uniform trees ≥ 60 cm dbh). If these practices are planned, avoid breeding period (February 15 to September 1).

Post-fledging area (PFA) - 253 hectares

Access

- No blasting should occur within 1 km of an active nest during courtship and nest establishment (i.e. February 15 - June 30). Actual times may vary by site and year. Consult MWLAP for site-specific times or variances.
- No road construction or modification of existing roads with the exception of guy-line clearances, minor quarries, or minor intrusions with approval of MWLAP biologists should occur within the Post-fledging area.

Silviculture

- Do not harvest, salvage or stand-tend within the PFA, except for treatments aimed at maintaining or improving stand structure for goshawk habitat or aboriginal traditional use and are jointly approved by the District Manager and Regional Fish and Wildlife Manager. This restriction of harvest may be revised in future on analysis of [REDACTED] research findings.
- No prolonged hauling (i.e., > 3 days) on existing roads should occur within 200 m of an active nest between February 15 and September 1 unless variance is approved by the District Manager and Regional Fish and Wildlife Manager.

Foraging Area (FA) - 1882 hectares

Silviculture

- Use a harvest sequence that will minimize road density.
- Plan the harvest sequence to create a mosaic of successional stages interspersed in patches, with at least 20% in the closed-canopy old growth and 40% in mature forest (or old if mature is unavailable). The remaining 40% should be managed with no more than 20% in young forest (0-20 years). Regenerating stands in the General Foraging Area that are treated to enhance canopy closure and open understory may be considered as mature forest at >50 years if these forest stands are suitable [REDACTED] habitat.
- Maintain coarse woody debris
- Leave stands with dense canopy cover and an open understory.
- When harvesting in within mature and old seral stages, leave snags and mature, old live trees in clumps.
- When harvesting within mature forest and old seral stages, use silvicultural techniques (including harvesting methods) that will reduce the density of shrubs, saplings, and small poles while maintaining or enhancing the canopy of large trees.

If you require more information on this WHA, you can contact myself or the regional MWLAP designate, Erica McClaren (Acting for Trudy Chatwin).

Regards,
Stewart Guy
Project Manager
Wildlife Conservation Planning
Biodiversity Branch
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection