

## **PREAMBLE**

The preamble is meant to provide context and does not form part of the order.

The Revelstoke and Area Land Use Planning Final Recommendations (October 1999) developed by the Revelstoke Minister's Advisory Committee were endorsed by government in April 2001. This document provided comprehensive guidance for the management of resource values that exist within the area. Key recommendations were selected from the report for establishment as a higher level plan order under Part 2 of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*. Other provisions were not included in the higher level plan order because:

- they are satisfactorily addressed by the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* and the *Forest and Range Practices Act*;
- they will be addressed through provisions and procedures of other legislation;
- they do not relate to strategic and operational plans under the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* and the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and;
- the potential social and economic impacts of some provisions have not been analyzed.

Implementation of this Order should be guided by the contents of implementation policies and data preparation reports developed to support this Order. Future policy and information documents can be found on the following website- <http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/kor/hlp/rev.htm>.

Government has established a goal of maintaining full access outside of protected areas for subsurface resource exploration and development. Consequently, the objectives established by this higher level plan order are not intended to have an impact on the permitting of subsurface resource exploration and development.

# **REVELSTOKE HIGHER LEVEL PLAN ORDER**

**ORDER ESTABLISHING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ZONES AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ZONE OBJECTIVES WITHIN THE AREA COVERED BY THE REVELSTOKE AND AREA LAND USE PLAN AS A HIGHER LEVEL PLAN PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 3(1) AND 3(2) OF THE *FOREST PRACTICES CODE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA ACT* (THE ACT)**

## **PART 1**

### **Establishment of Resource Management Zones**

**Pursuant to Section 3(1) of the Act, the following zone as presented on Map 1.0 (attached) is established as a Resource Management Zone (RMZ):**

- A** Revelstoke Resource Management Zone;

## **PART 2**

### **Resource Management Zone Objectives**

**The Revelstoke Higher Level Plan Order establishes Resource Management Objectives. Pursuant to Section 3(2) of the Act, objectives 1 to 4 in Part 2 of this order are established as Resource Management Zone objectives for the RMZ established above.**

#### **1) Biodiversity Emphasis:**

- a) For the sole purpose of implementing objective 2 (old and mature forest), biodiversity emphasis is assigned within landscape units as outlined on Map 1.1.

#### **2) Old and Mature Forest:**

- a) To contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, maintain mature and old and old seral forests to the levels indicated in tables 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and as specified in subsection b) below. Requirement levels are to be met at the biogeoclimatic subzone variant level using the variants mapped on map 2.1.

**Table 2.1 Seral Distribution for Natural Disturbance Type (NDT) 1  
(percentage of forest<sup>1</sup> area within the biogeoclimatic unit of each landscape unit by area above and below the operability line)**

Biogeoclimatic Units and Seral Stage	Seral Requirements by Biodiversity Emphasis (%)		
	Low	Intermediate	High
Interior Cedar Hemlock (ICH) Mature and Old	>17	>34	>51
ICH Old	>13	>13	>19
Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine Fir (ESSF) Mature and Old	>19	>36	>54
ESSF Old	>19	>19	>28

<sup>1</sup>This includes all Crown Land including protected areas, National Parks, Provincial Parks, any woodlot tenures that are granted following the implementation of this order, and private land in Tree Farm Licences. This does not include non-productive forest as defined in the Landscape Unit Planning Guide (March 1999).

**Table 2.2 Seral Distribution for NDT 2  
(percentage of forest<sup>1</sup> area within the biogeoclimatic unit of each landscape unit by area above and below the operability line)**

Biogeoclimatic Units and Seral Stage	Seral Requirements by Biodiversity Emphasis (%)		
	Low	Intermediate	High
Interior Cedar Hemlock (ICH) Mature and Old	>15	>31	>46
ICH Old	>9	>9	>13
Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine Fir (ESSF) Mature and Old	>14	>28	>42
ESSF Old	>9	>9	>13

**Table 2.3 Seral Distribution for NDT 3  
(percentage of forest<sup>1</sup> area within the biogeoclimatic unit of each landscape unit by area above and below the operability line)**

Biogeoclimatic Units and Seral Stage	Seral Requirements by Biodiversity Emphasis (%)		
	Low	Intermediate	High
Interior Cedar Hemlock (ICH) Mature and Old	>14	>23	>34
Interior Cedar Hemlock (ICH) Old	>14	>14	>21

- b) In Tree Farm License 55 and 56, there are no mature and old seral requirements for low biodiversity emphasis areas and old seral requirements are reduced to 1/3 of the old seral requirements in low emphasis areas. Full old seral requirements must be achieved within 240 years.
- c) Seral requirements must be met independently above and below the operability line for each variant within a landscape unit (map 2.1).
- d) Seral requirements for c) above can be adjusted provided:
  - i) the seral requirements are achieved for the combined area above and below the operability line within a biogeoclimatic unit and within a landscape unit and old growth conservation values are maintained or enhanced considering the stand age, presence of old growth attributes, successional status, human impact, dispersion/connectivity of the stand, and the rarity of the stand or;
  - ii) the regional director Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) is satisfied that such adjustments to seral targets will benefit caribou habitat.
- e) Mature and old and old seral forests are defined as shown in Table 2.4.

**Table 2.4 Mature and Old and Old Seral Forest Age Definitions**

NDT	Biogeoclimatic Unit	Mature and Old Seral Age (years)	Old Seral Age (years)
1	ICH	>100	>250
1	ESSF	>120	>250
2	ICH	>100	>250
2	ESSF	>120	>250
3	ICH	>100	>140

- f) Where a registered professional forester or registered professional biologist determines that a forest stand has sufficient biological value to be classified as mature and old or old seral forest considering the stand age, presence of old growth attributes, size of the stand (ha), the amount of human impact, dispersion/connectivity of the stand and rarity of the stand, then that stand may be used in meeting the targets as opposed to solely using age provided:
  - i) The area identified is mapped and the map(s) are available for review by government and to other licensees with adjacent operating areas and;
  - ii) the areas are tracked and are incorporated in seral analysis reports;
- g) Where minimum seral requirements can not be achieved due to deficits in suitably aged stands, deficits must be recruited from the oldest available stands within the applicable unit. An alternate recruitment area to replace a stand recruited above may be used provided:
  - i) the area identified is equal or larger in size;
  - ii) the area has equal or superior value for future old growth conservation, considering stand age, elements of old growth attributes, size of the stand (ha), the amount of human impact, dispersion/connectivity of the stand and rarity of the stand and;

- iii) the area identified is mapped and the map(s) are available for review by government and available to other licensees with adjacent operating areas and;
- iv) the areas are tracked and incorporated in seral analysis reports.
- h) Where mature and old or old seral forest is damaged or destroyed by natural events (fire, insect infestation, blowdown, etc.) in a seral deficit area, that forest stand can be salvaged provided the stand is no longer suitable to contribute to old growth conservation considering old growth attributes.
- i) Old seral requirements contained in Objective 2 of this order will cease to have effect upon the establishment of spatial objectives identifying Old Growth Management Areas (OGMA's) by the Minister or his designate, provided the area of OGMA's established is consistent with the old seral requirements noted above.

**3) Caribou:**

- a) Contribute to maintenance and viability of the existing Mountain Caribou subpopulations by retaining seasonal habitats according to the Caribou habitat requirements shown in Table 3.1, within the Caribou habitat areas shown on Map 3.1, and subject to the following conditions in b) through f).

**Table 3.1 Caribou Habitat Requirements**

Location	BEC Zone	Minimum forest retention area		Forest age class
Above Caribou Line	ESSF Parkland	100%		All age classes
	ESSF	≥70%		≥8
	ICH	≥70%		≥8
Below Caribou line	ESSF	<b>Option 1</b>	≥30%	≥8
			≥10%	9
		<b>Plus 20% Partial cut (with minimum 65% basal area maintained)</b>		≥8
		<b>Option 2</b>	≥40%	≥8
			≥10%	9
	ICH	≥40%		≥8
		≥10%		9

- b) Maintain mature and old and old seral forests to the levels indicated in tables 2.1 and 2.2 in those areas identified as intermediate biodiversity management on map 3.1. Mature and old and old are defined as shown in Table 2.4.
- c) For all zones in the Caribou Habitat Requirements table and areas identified as intermediate biodiversity management on map 3.1, forest cover requirements are determined by applying percentages to the Crown forested landbase within mapped caribou habitat of each landscape unit. For this objective, Crown forested land base excludes Provincial Parks, Protected Areas, Ecological Reserves and Federal Parks. The resultant forest cover area requirements are applied to slopes less than 80 percent.
- d) Immature caribou habitat identified on Map 3.1 does not currently contribute to meeting forest retention targets. A spatially explicit recruitment strategy must be in place prior to any harvesting in this area and once the recruitment strategy is in place, the immature area will contribute to caribou forest retention targets.
- e) The “Caribou Line” referred to in Table 3.1 is defined as the Operability Line in effect during 1994 and as shown on Map 3.1.
- f) Where there are deficits in minimum forest retention area percentages, deficits must be recruited from the oldest available stands within the mapped caribou habitat of each landscape unit. The Regional Director Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) may approve an alternate caribou habitat recruitment strategy provided:
  - i) the strategy has been developed by a professional biologist;
  - ii) the strategy contains a professional opinion from the registered biologist indicating that the strategy will benefit caribou habitat in the future;
  - iii) the strategy is spatially explicit;
  - iv) the strategy is not in conflict with any existing caribou recovery plan for the specific herd;
  - v) and the Regional Director MSRM is satisfied that the strategy will benefit caribou habitat.

#### **4) Grizzly Bear Management:**

- a) Contribute to the viability of existing Grizzly Bear populations by retaining a minimum 50 metre width of forest cover adjacent to high value habitat on one side of the avalanche chute, where timber harvesting is proposed parallel to the high value habitat and one of the following conditions apply:
  - i) both sides of the avalanche chute are proposed for harvest;
  - ii) only one side of the avalanche chute is forested;
  - iii) the average forest cover height within 50 metres on either side of the avalanche chute is less than 10 metres; or
  - iv) the width of the forested area is less than 50 metres on either side of the avalanche chute.
- b) Mature and old and old seral forests are to be used in meeting (a) above, if in implementing Objective 2, mature and old and old seral forests must be maintained in the timber harvesting land base. In the absence of such opportunities, forest cover with a minimum height of 10 metres is to be maintained.

- c) High value habitat within an avalanche chute is defined as an area that is:
- i) A herb or low shrub vegetation communities as defined in the BC Land Cover Classification Scheme;
  - ii) Situated on slopes < 70%;
  - iii) Situated on warmer aspects northeast through to northwest (45 degrees through to 315 degrees) and;
  - iv) Situated in an avalanche chute that is 20 metres wide or greater between forested edges, excluding forest stands situated within the avalanche chute.

### **PART 3**

#### **Monitoring and review**

The implementation of the higher level plan order will be monitored on an ongoing basis to assess the social, economic and environmental impacts of the order. Government may initiate a review of the plan to deal with specific issues or where the plan is felt to be outdated. Government may also initiate a full review of this order where a forest licensee or local government can show that this order, variances to this order or other circumstances outside the plan such as a Caribou recovery plan have a material adverse impact on timber supply or the delivered cost of wood.

### **PART 4**

#### **Filing the Order**

This order will be filed with Regional Director, Southern Interior Region, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management on March 25, 2005.

### **PART 5**

#### **Effective Date**

This order comes into effect immediately. Despite subsection 16 (2) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, all forest stewardship plans submitted after the effective date must be consistent with this order.

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**The Honourable George Abbott**  
**Minister of Sustainable Resource Management**

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**Date**