



June 11, 2012

Resource Values Assessment: Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan

State of Knowledge

- The Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan (CCLUP) is a legal higher level plan that established numerous land use designations in the Quesnel, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House Timber Supply Areas.
- The plan represents a careful economic, social and environmental balance, which reflects the values of the people and communities in the region and protects the values found on the land.
- Cabinet approved CCLUP as a higher level plan under the *Forest Practices Code* in 1996, and established its zones, objectives, targets and strategies as legal requirements as they applied to operational forestry planning.
- Since then, extensive planning at the sub-regional level – in consultation with industry, interest groups and First Nations – has further refined and mapped many of the land uses.
- Attachment 1 shows legal objectives under the *Land Use Objectives Regulation* (2010) or the *Government Actions Regulation* (various dates). This was done with support from forest licensees in the Cariboo-Chilcotin.
- Under current regulations, any significant change to legal objectives associated with CCLUP would require full consultation with stakeholders and First Nations before amendments could be made.

Current Condition

- The legal land use objectives represent a careful balance among all the interests in the region. Assessments were done with respect to the complete package of land use designations and reflect, foremost, the achievement of targets across the region.
- The timber target required non-timber values have a maximum impact on the productive forest land base of 21%. Timber harvesting access is available in modified harvest areas and for specified forest health and operational needs in no-harvest areas. The designated land use areas also contribute to mitigating some impacts on First Nations rights.
- In certain ecosystems, the mountain pine beetle has affected forest condition in pine stands across both the constrained and unconstrained land base. However, impacts to non-timber values vary by stand type, understory condition, land use value, and mortality level. Significant ecological values remain in many impacted stands, including residual green trees, intact understory soils and shrubs, snags and coarse woody debris.

Sustainability Risk

- Harvesting of areas designated under the land use plan, like old growth management areas, will threaten the maintenance of the ecological services, especially those associated with specialized species dependent upon older interior forest.
- It will also have implications for human use and economic activities like tourism, recreation, hunting and culture. Removing land use designations may also affect embedded site specific environmental and First Nations cultural values, many of which are not documented.
- Treaty negotiations have focused attention on certain CCLUP land use designations, particularly respecting treaty settlement lands. If these designations are altered, First Nations may increase demands for land areas, if they are not subject to special management per land use policy.
- Many of the designated land uses were mapped and overlapped with each other wherever possible, especially with old growth management areas. Therefore removing an old growth management area may not provide timber benefit because another conservation designation may still apply.
- Even stands with a dead component are vital for biodiversity, hydrologic balance and wildlife. They represent islands of important habitat over the landbase.

Attachment 1:

Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan Established Legal Objectives

Under the *Land Use Objectives Regulation* and *Government Actions Regulation*, there are established legal objectives in the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use plan pertaining to the following:

Land Use Order

Community Areas of Special Concern
Old Growth Management Areas
Critical Habitat for Fish
Lakeshore Management Zones
Wildlife Tree Retention Targets
Scenic Areas
Stream Wetland and Lake Riparian Areas
Mature Birch Retention
Buffered Trails
Grizzly Bear Key Habitats
Grassland Benchmark
Key Wetlands for Moose
Lake Management Classes

Government Actions Order

Winter Range:
Mule deer
Wildlife Habitat Areas
Woodland Caribou - mountain
Woodland Caribou - northern
Grizzly Bear
American White Pelican
American Badger
Great Basin Spadefoot
Prairie Falcon
Great Blue Heron

Other legal direction in the original CCLUP includes: maintenance of timber and range targets, hydrologic stability, fish habitat and salmon, species at risk, furbearers, rare plant associations, California bighorn sheep, wildcraft, access, backcountry recreation, fisheries sensitive watersheds, white pelicans, visuals and backcountry recreation along the Alexander Mackenzie trail, spruce and deciduous stands (for wildlife and biodiversity), Beecher prairie pothole habitat, and community watershed values for Clinton Creek watershed. Management for mature and old forest seral targets was also considered part of the legal direction stemming from the CCLUP biodiversity direction.