



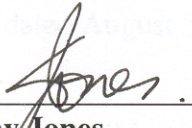
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**ORDER TO ESTABLISH
A LANDSCAPE UNIT AND OBJECTIVES
LOWER NIMPKISH LANDSCAPE UNIT**

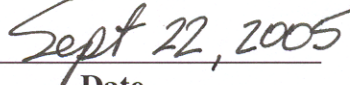
Pursuant to Section 4 of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, I hereby establish the Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit, an area located on northern Vancouver Island in the North Island – Central Coast Forest District, effective October 24, 2005.

The boundaries of the Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit are shown on the Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit map dated August 5, 2005 attached to this Order.

In addition, I hereby establish objectives for the Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit, as attached to this Order, effective October 24, 2005.



Lindsay Jones
Acting Regional Director, Coast Region
Integrated Land Management Bureau
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands



Date



Preamble

The goal of these objectives is to sustain biological diversity at the landscape level. Permissible activities are described to streamline administrative procedures and address operational safety concerns.

First Nations traditional use of forest resources, treaty negotiations or settlements will not be limited by the following objectives.

Legal Objectives – Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit

Pursuant to Section 4 of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, the following are the landscape unit objectives for the Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit.

Objective 1 - Old Growth Management Areas

1. Maintenance or recruitment of old growth forests

Maintain or recruit old growth forests in established Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs), as shown on the attached Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit map dated August 5, 2005, subject to section 2 below.

2. Permissible activities within OGMAs

(a) Minor OGMA boundary adjustments for operational reasons:

To accommodate operational requirements for timber harvesting and road or bridge construction, OGMAs that are 10 ha or greater in size may have boundaries adjusted, provided that

- i) the boundary adjustment does not affect more than 10 per cent of the area of the OGMA, or
- ii) road or bridge construction is required to access resource values beyond or adjacent to the OGMA and no other practicable option for road or bridge location exists, and



- iii) suitable OGMA replacement forest of equivalent age, structure and area is identified either (in order of priority) directly adjacent to or in the same variant and landscape unit as the adjusted OGMA.

In the case of ii) above, as an alternative to finding replacement area the licensee may permanently deactivate and rehabilitate a temporary road or bridge site within four years after construction.

In the case of iii) above, in recognition of surplus suitable old seral forest located in protected areas, riparian reserve zones, or areas required for species at risk management within the Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit, the requirement to identify OGMA replacement forest may be waived in the CWHxm2, vm1, vm2 and MHmm1 variants, provided that the total area of mature and old seral forest maintained in OGMA's plus the contributing old seral forest area in protected areas meets or exceeds the targets in Table A.

Table A: Lower Nimpkish LU Old Seral Minimum Requirements

	Short-term Old	Long-term Old
BEC Unit	Seral Target (ha)	Seral Target ¹ (ha)
CWHxm2	715.4 ²	1,186
CWHvm1	1,198	3,594
CWHvm2	634	1,901
MHmm1	397	1,192
Total	2,944.4	7,873

¹ Long-term: end of third rotation, i.e. 240 years;

² calculated using RMZ 10 target of 6% (679.3 ha) and SMZ10 target of 9% (36.1 ha)

(b) Other permissible activities

- i) Topping or pruning of trees along the boundary to improve wind firmness.



- ii) Timber harvesting to prevent the spread of insect infestations or diseases that pose a significant threat to forested areas outside of OGMA. Salvage within OGMA will be done in a manner that retains as many old growth forest attributes as possible.
- iii) Road maintenance, deactivation, removal of danger trees, or brushing and clearing on existing roads under active tenure within the right-of-way for safety purposes.
- iv) Felling of guyline clearance, tailhold anchor trees, or danger trees along cutblock boundaries or within the right of way on new road/bridge alignments to meet safety requirements.
- v) Construction of rock quarries and gravel pits under authority of forest tenure where the development will be located immediately adjacent to existing roads under tenure and will affect the OGMA by less than 0.5 ha in total.
- vi) Small boundary adjustments for operational reasons, or intrusions, other than those specified above, that result in a net loss to the OGMA of less than or equal to 0.5 ha.

OGMA replacement forest is required as a result of the activities in 2 (b) above if the total net change to the OGMA exceeds 0.5 ha in size and the total area of mature and old seral forest maintained in OGMA plus the contributing old seral forest area in protected areas is reduced below the minimum target area outlined in Table A. Replacement forest must be biologically suitable, of equivalent age, structure and area, and situated (in order of priority), either immediately adjacent to the existing OGMA, or in the same variant and landscape unit as the existing OGMA.

Objective 2 – Wildlife Tree Retention

Maintain stand-level structural diversity, by retaining wildlife tree patches (WTPs). The holder of an agreement under the Forest Act, except a woodlot licence agreement, who completes harvesting in one or more cutblocks, except minor salvage cutblocks², located within the LU during any 60 month period beginning on January 1 of any calendar year following the establishment of this objective, must ensure that, at the end of that 60 month period, the total area

² A minor salvage cutblock is defined as less than 2.0 ha of harvesting and/or less than total volume of 2,000m³ excluding volume from any road clearing width, if the road is required to facilitate the removal of the timber within the minor salvage cutblock.



covered by wildlife tree retention areas that relate to the cutblocks, meets or exceeds the percent of the total harvest area (Net Area to be Reforested + permanent road area) of the cutblocks by subzone presented in Table B.

Table B. Wildlife tree retention (WTR) by BEC unit in the Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit

Biogeoclimatic Unit	% WTR requirement of the harvest area
CWHxm	11
CWHvm	9
MHmm	1

In addition:

- (1) WTPs must be well distributed across the BEC subzone.
- (2) When designated at the site plan level, WTPs must be located within or immediately adjacent to a cutblock.
- (3) No timber harvesting, including single tree selection is to occur within WTPs, except as noted below:
 - (a) Falling of danger trees;
 - (b) Salvage of windthrown timber is permitted within WTPs where windthrow impacts 25% to 50% of the dominant or co-dominant stems. Salvage of windthrown timber and harvesting of remaining standing stems is permitted within WTPs where windthrow exceeds 50% of the dominant or co-dominant stems; or where forest health issues pose a significant threat to areas outside the WTP. Where such salvage/harvesting is planned and authorized, suitable replacement WTP of at least equivalent area must be identified to achieve the retention target.
- (4) WTPs should include, if present, remnant old-growth patches and live or dead veteran trees (excluding danger trees).
- (5) WTPs should include representative larger trees (dbh \geq average operational cruise) for the stand and suitable wildlife trees, if available, as well as identified wildlife habitat features, if present (excluding danger trees).
- (6) BEC subzones and variants will be determined by site plan information.



- (7) In WTPs with a high likelihood of windthrow, pruning and/or topping may be carried out to maintain the integrity of the WTP.

Objective 3 – Special Management Zones 6 and 10

Sustain forest ecosystem structure and function within the portion of Special Management Zones 6 and 10 located within the Lower Nimpkish Landscape Unit, by retaining mature and old forests (≥ 80 years old) on an area covering at least 25 percent of the total forested area of each Special Management Zone portion located within the Landscape Unit.