

Order to Establish the Obo River and Fox Landscape Units and Objectives

Pursuant to section 4 (1) of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* (the Act), the Obo River and Fox Landscape Units in the Mackenzie Forest District, as indicated on Maps 1 and 2, are established as landscape units.

Pursuant to section 4 (2) of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, the following are landscape unit objectives for the Obo River and Fox Landscape Units in the Mackenzie Forest District.

1. Biodiversity

A. Contribute to the conservation of biodiversity by:

- a. Maintaining the size and distribution of openings/cutblock areas in each landscape unit consistent with patch size distribution as indicated in Table 1.
- b. Minimizing fragmentation of forested areas by retaining forested patches according to Table 1 for each landscape unit.

Table 1. Patch Size Distribution (%) in each Size Category (ha)

Natural Disturbance Type (NDT)	<40 ha	40 – 80 ha	80 – 250 ha
NDT 2	30 – 40%	30 – 40%	20 – 40%

Natural Disturbance Type (NDT)	<40 ha	40 – 250 ha	250 – 1000 ha
NDT 3	10 – 20%	10 – 20%	60 – 80%

- c. For patch size classes 80-250 ha and 250-1000 ha, patch size may be larger if, in the opinion of the district manager, Ministry of Forests, it is required for caribou management or for forest health or to conform to natural disturbance patterns.
- d. The district manager, Ministry of Forests, for operational reasons, may approve the use of clustered harvest patterns to emulate patch sizes that are greater or equal to 40 hectares.
- e. Short term deviations to patch size distribution targets may be approved by the district manager, Ministry of Forests to address fire damaged stands, forest health issues or other operational constraints deemed significant by the district manager.
- f. Maintaining the seral stages for each landscape unit to the levels indicated in Table 2. Where the amount of mature plus old seral stage is less than the levels indicated in Table 2, the amount of old that is deficient, for each Biogeoclimatic zone variant in the landscape unit, will be identified and mapped from other seral stages excluding the early seral stage and the mapped area will be reserved from harvest.

- g. Seral stage targets indicated in Table 2 should be achieved, where possible, using existing areas constrained from timber harvesting for the purposes of managing other values.

Table 2. Seral Stage Distribution

Natural Disturbance Type (NDT)	Biogeoclimatic Zone	Mature plus Old (%)	Old (%)
NDT 2	ESSF & SWB	42	13
NDT 3	BWBS	34	16
	ESSF	34	21

- i. Retention for BWBS may vary, as specified in the Biodiversity Guidebook, depending on whether a deciduous component is predominant in the landscape unit.
- j. Maintaining connectivity of important habitats using existing areas constrained from harvesting for the purposes of managing other values.
- k. Wildlife tree patch retention targets, as determined using Table 3, will be applied to all openings / cutblocks, unless riparian and wildlife tree patch retention for proposed timber harvesting is detailed in operational plans, and achieves landscape unit retention targets determined through Table 3.

Table 3. Percentage of a Cutblock Area Required in Wildlife Tree Retention

Percent of the Area Available for Harvesting that has Already Been Harvested Without Recommended Wildlife Tree Retention	Percent of the Biogeoclimatic Subzone Within the Landscape Unit Available for Harvest				
	90	70	50	30	10
10	10	8	6	4	3
30	12	10	8	6	4
50	14	12	10	8	6
70	16	14	12	10	8
90	18	16	14	12	10

Note: The table axes refer to the area of the landscape unit.

2. Aquatic Habitat

A. Contribute to the conservation of aquatic habitat through the following provisions:

- a. Maintain aquatic habitat for lake trout by not allowing timber harvesting within 200 metres (slope distance) of Weissener Lake indicated in Table 4 and by managing an additional 50 metres (slope distance) with a 50% basal area volume to be retained.
- b. To permit the refinement of objective 2a to specific local circumstances, the no timber harvesting and managed distances noted in the preceding objective may be varied for a specific area with the approval of the regional director of the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management.

Table 4. Location of Lake

Gazetteer Lake Name	Location (UTM NAD83 – Zone 10)	
	Easting	Northing
Weissener Lake	336161	6403217

Transition

Pursuant to Section 10 (1) (d) (ii) of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, forest development plans submitted for approval on or following the effective date of the order are to be consistent with the objectives of this order.

Effective Date of Order

This Order takes effect on October 24, 2002.

T. P. (Phil) Zacharatos, R.P.F.
Regional Director
Omineca-Peace Region
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Date

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