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March 31, 2006

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This letter is to inform you that for the purposes of Section 8 of the Order Establishing *Provincial Non-Spatial Old Growth Objectives* the following landscape units within the Merritt Timber Supply Area (TSA) have approved draft old growth management areas (OGMAs):

Landscape Unit	Official Map Date
1. Lower Nicola Landscape Unit	March 31, 2006
2. Swakum Landscape Unit	March 31, 2006
3. Upper Nicola Landscape Unit	March 31, 2006
4. Spius Landscape Unit	March 31, 2006
5. Coldwater Landscape Unit	March 31, 2006
6. Otter Landscape Unit	March 31, 2006
7. Summers Landscape Unit	March 31, 2006
8. Hayes Landscape Unit	March 31, 2006
9. McNulty Landscape Unit	March 31, 2006
10. Tulameen Landscape Unit	March 31, 2006
11. Similkameen Landscape Unit	March 31, 2006
12. Smith Willis Landscape Unit	March 31, 2006

These draft old growth management areas do not affect approved category A cutblocks approved pursuant to the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* on or before the date of this letter.

Integrated Land Management Bureau Ministry of Agriculture and Lands Regional Client Services Division Southern Interior Region Mailing/Location Address: Floor 3 145 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Kamloops BC V2C 3M1 /2

Telephone: 250-377-2377 Facsimile: 250-377-7036 Web Address: http://www.al.gov.bc.ca The draft old growth management areas in the Merritt TSA were identified over approximately a 12 month process. The process involved a significant amount of forest industry, First Nations and government agency input. It is our expectation that these areas will be retained and be managed for old forest values. We would ask your assistance in communicating this new information to licensees operating within the Merritt TSA.

The official maps and ArcView GIS shape files of the draft OGMAs are available at: <u>ftp://ftpkam.env.gov.bc.ca/pub/outgoing/dist/OGMA\_Merritt\_2006\_draft\_final/</u>. A copy of the order can be found by following the "Old Growth Order" links on <u>http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/rmd/</u>.

If you have any questions or require assistance in accessing the digital files or map files please contact ILMB Planning Officer Susan Omelchuk at susan.omelchuk@gov.bc.ca.

Yours truly

Steve Carr MSc. RPF Regional Executive Director

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