

TFL 55 RECREATION INVENTORY UPDATE

Introduction

A recreation resource inventory was completed in 1991 to MoF recreation inventory standards. Since that time there has been an increase in recreational activities within the TFL particularly with the addition of heli-skiing and heli-hiking areas. Canadian Mountain Holidays Inc. (CMH) has established lodges near the confluence of Norman Wood and Stitt Creeks (Adamants Lodge) and near the confluence of French Creek and Goldstream River (Gothics Lodge). Heli-skiing and heli-hiking facilities are also being planned for the Mica camp area. CMH is currently updating their recreation maps to identify both heli skiing and heli hiking areas throughout the TFL These maps will be made available in the spring of 2000.

During this period there has been an additional opportunity for recreational activities such as hunting and hiking as a result of new road construction and deactivation. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes (ROS) have also been modified to include semi-primitive motorized access (Class 3) that addresses motorized access on trails and primitive roads.

Purpose:

The main purpose is to update the recreation resource inventory to current standards that reflect recreation activities/access within the TFL. The location of heli skiing areas was based on maps (1997) provided by CMH. The recreation resource update includes:

1. Re-assessment of ROS classes
2. Re-assessment of feature related recreational activities
3. Re-assessment of feature significance and feature sensitivity classification

Methodology

The general approach was to determine the current status of the assigned categories and identify changes in recreation activities within the TFL. The ROS classes assign the degree of remoteness and naturalness of an area. Seven classes are used to determine recreational opportunities in terms of types and availability of recreational experience. These classes are:

ROS Class	Symbol	Code
Primitive	P	1
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	SPNM	2
Semi-Primitive Motorized	SPM	3
Roaded Resource Land	RRL	4
Rural	R	5
Urban	U	6
Unclassified		7

Table 1 provides a detailed description of each ROS category. In determining ROS classes, forest development plans with the 1998 road access were used. The Ministry of Forests is currently revising the recreation mapping for the Columbia Forest District. The following steps were taken to complete the recreation resource inventory update:

1. Identify the current level of road access from forest development plan maps for the TFL.
2. Identify current heli skiing areas from maps provided by Canadian Mountain Holidays and update existing recreation resource inventory polygons within TFL.
3. Update ROS classes, feature related activities and significance.
4. Prepare draft recreational maps.
5. Finalize recreation maps.
6. Digitize and enter data into database.
7. Generate area summaries by ROS categories, feature related recreational activities and significance and prepared recreation report.

Summary

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Classes

Recreation inventory boundaries throughout the TFL generally remained unchanged. ROS categories were updated to reflect current road access since the 1991 recreation inventory and incorporate changes to the ROS classification to include Semi-Primitive Motorized access. The recreation inventory data is summarized by ROS category in Table 2. The table also compares the changes by ROS categories since the 1991 recreation inventory data.

Table 2: Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

ROS	Class	Area (1991) (ha)	Area (1999) (ha)	Change
P	Primitive	17,655	17,713	+58
SPNM	Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	43,061	41,118	-1,943
SPM	Semi-Primitive Motorized	----	5,176	+5,176
RRL	Roaded Resource Land	31,556	28,697	-2,859
	Total	92,272	92,705	+432

Feature Related Recreational Activities and Significance

Feature related recreational activities and their significance were updated to reflect the increase in heli-skiing areas since the 1991 recreational inventories. Recreational polygons were revised using one of the following methods:

1. Recreational polygons that had recreational activities that were previously identified as “z” or “other” activities were revised to “x” to include heli-skiing.
2. Polygons in which only one or two recreational activities were identified were revised to include heli-skiing.

3. Some polygons with three activities were revised to include heli-skiing in light of the extensive heli-skiing areas within these polygons. In these polygons, camping (i) had been identified as the primary recreational activity however heli-skiing is now a more appropriate activity.

The updating was based on current mapping provided by Canadian Mountain Holidays. Feature recreational significance provides the basis for management decisions regarding the protection and/or development of alternative areas. Recreational significance is based on quality, uniqueness and availability of a recreational feature. Recreation polygons containing heli-skiing have been revised from code D-common recreation features to code C-moderate recreation resource value to reflect the increase in the local significance of the recreation resource. Table 3 summarizes the change in feature significance from 1991 to 1999 as a result of the heli-skiing.

Table 3: Summary of Heli-skiing areas by Recreational Significance

Recreational Significance	1991			1999		
	Other (z)	Heli-skiing (x)	Camping (i)	Other (z)	Heli-skiing (x)	Camping (i)
A	10,689	183	11,269	3,026	10,313	11,452
B	8,336	13	16,631	528	16,543	8,717
C	---	---	2,491	---	37,651	2,421
D	1,976	---	---	---	4,351	---
Totals	21,001	196	30,391	3,554	68,858	22,590