



British Columbia

Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4
ph: 252-0575 fax: 252-0580

The Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan
Implementation Process

April 20, 1995

Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan

Addendum to the Ninety-Day Implementation Process: Final Report

In the preparation of a complex technical report such as the above, it is normal for a number of unintended omissions and/or factual or text errors to occur.

This Addendum consists of three components:

- 1) an "Errata", which lists various minor text errors and the appropriate corrections to these;
- 2) an attachment to the "Mining Sector Strategy" of Appendix 4-A, which is referred to on page 136 but unintentionally omitted;
- 3) a February 17, 1995 Open Letter regarding the area known as "polygon B-1". This letter, prepared two days after the report went to the printers, was the result of stakeholder discussions to clarify the management intent within that area.

Thank you for filing this Addendum with your copy of the Final Report of the Ninety-Day Implementation Process.

Yours sincerely,

John Allan, Deputy Minister
Chair, Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan Implementation Process

Attachments

ERRATA LIST

1. Page 39, paragraph 3, line 3: "inventorites" should be "inventories".
2. Page 67, paragraph 5, line 1: delete "grizzly bear".
3. Page 84, Recreation section: delete "and areas adjacent to the Stanley-Cariboo Wagon Road".
4. Page 140, point 8, line 2: "cousultation" should be "consultation".
5. Page 144, bullet 1, sub-bullet 1, line 3: delete (repeats line 1).
6. Page 152, final line: should be "Refer to Section 3.6 ...".
7. Page 158, section 5.2, second bullet: replace with:

"logging will be deferred from the area north of Punkunlaenkut Creek until December 31, 1999 or sooner, in order to allow the completion of research to determine an appropriate strategy to maintain a stable caribou habitat while permitting development activities." (Also refer to February 17/95 letter attached to this Addendum).
8. Page 161, Section 6, first bullet: "IRM" means "integrated resource management".
9. Page 170, paragraph 5, first bullet: "LRUP's" means "local resource use plans".
10. Page 172, Strategies section, first bullet: "ALR" means "agricultural land reserve".

MINING IN "SPECIAL MANAGEMENT" ZONES

The "special management" zone designation has become an integral part of recent regional land-use decisions. These zones provide an enhanced level of management to address sensitivities in such resource values as fish and wildlife habitat, visual quality, recreation or cultural/heritage features. On Vancouver Island these are now called "Low Intensity Zones"; in the Cariboo-Chilcotin "Special Resource Development Zones" have been identified; and in the Kootenays, CORE has recommended "Special Management Areas".

CORE's recommendations for these zones confirmed that resource development could occur. However, subjective conditions, such as "priority maintenance" of other values or demonstrating "compatibility" with non-extractive values, confused the issue and limited the "acceptability" of higher impact development activities such as mining.

Government's land-use decisions for Vancouver Island and the Cariboo-Chilcotin have made it clear that resource development activities, such as logging, mineral exploration and mining, are acceptable activities in special management zones. These activities are subject to provincial guidelines and standards and will be carried out in a manner which respects sensitive natural values. Detailed management objectives are being established for each zone in order to implement government's decision.

Managing British Columbia's rich endowment of mineral resources presents some unique challenges to all resource managers within the special zones. Management objectives for mineral resources must encompass a wide spectrum of activities and an accompanying wide spectrum of impacts on the land or other resources.

Initial mineral exploration covers a very extensive land base, but there is little or no impact to other resource values from most exploration activities, therefore it is a simple matter to satisfy all interests in managing these activities. However, advanced exploration and mining activities clearly have impacts on other resource values, but these impacts are limited by being concentrated on a very small land base. Impacts from approved mining activities may turn out to be greater at a particular site in a special management zone than originally anticipated for that zone by other resource managers or user groups.

The multi-resource objectives established for special management zones must be able to adapt to increasing and more localized impacts of advanced exploration and mining activities in order to implement government's overall direction that mining is an acceptable land use in these areas.

Regional land-use plans and government announcements to date have not recognized that special management objectives or targets for some resources may have to be modified when successful exploration work leads to a Mine Development Certificate. As implementation of regional plans proceeds, the concept of adaptive management to accept future advanced exploration and mining activities needs to be highlighted.

Adaptive Management

A strong concern exists that any given special management zone will come to be managed according to certain objectives, such as a specific visual quality objective (VQO), specific wildlife habitat objectives or for certain backcountry, wilderness objectives and that over time, an unroaded or a retention VQO expectation will become entrenched. At the same time, this zone will have an objective to maintain access to the area for mineral exploration and mining, with no controversy or apparent conflict, possibly for a decade or more. "Management expectations" must not become entrenched; they must remain adaptable in order to accept a higher level of impact on specific sites from mining activities.

Adaptive management implies flexibility in accommodating multi-resource objectives and flexibility in boundaries of special management zones where necessary. Adaptive management will recognize the time limited nature of mining operations and of most impacts from these operations. Finally, adaptive management will recognize the comprehensive review and approval process for mining proposals and the requirements for reclamation of disturbances and mitigation of impacts to other resource values.

Implementation

In order to convey certainty to the mining industry and clarity to all resource managers that mining is an acceptable use in special management zones, the following should be incorporated into the implementation of regional plans and into future, more detailed land use plans:

- A clear government policy that approved mining proposals will proceed within special management zones.
- A clear government statement that regional objectives and detailed planning within special management zones will remain flexible and where necessary, will adapt to future exploration and mining activities.
- Recognition that a detailed review procedure, that provides for public or interest group consultation where necessary, exists for assessing advanced exploration and small mining proposals.
- Recognition that mining proposals are subject to thorough review through the Mine Development Assessment Process or the new Environmental Assessment Process.
- Confirmation that advanced exploration and mining proposals in special management zones will only be subject to technical review through the above processes and that these processes are sufficiently flexible and comprehensive to adapt to enhanced review requirements of other resources.
- Government direction that mineral exploration and mining proposals should be reviewed expeditiously, in accordance with the announcements regarding streamlined and efficient permitting processes.

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February 17, 1995

An Open Letter

Re: Itcha-Ilgachuz SRDZ Area and Resource Targets

In the interests of improved communication on a subject of concern to various parties, I am providing the facts on the Itcha-Ilgachuz Special Resource Development Zone and related resource targets.

The Itcha-Ilgachuz SRDZ area includes a section, referred to as polygon B-1, on the southeast that is important habitat for the caribou herd. This area is north of the mainstem of Punkutlaenkut ("Punky") Creek and west of the Chilcotin River between the protected area boundary and its confluence with Punky Creek. At this time there is no bridge across Punky Creek.

The total Itcha-Ilgachuz caribou herd is estimated to be about 1500 animals. A large proportion of this population winters south-east of the Itcha-Ilgachuz Protected Area. The B-1 area is the remaining undeveloped portion of this winter range south-east of the protected area.

In order to complete the necessary wildlife research to determine how development may proceed without unacceptable risk to the stability of this herd, a deferral from development has been proposed in this area. Concerns include management for retention of sufficient arboreal and terrestrial lichen forage, potential increases in predation, potential harassment of wintering animals (causing mortality) by humans, and risk of increased poaching.

A substantial amount of research has already been undertaken in this area. A major radio telemetry study was completed in 1989; this project examined caribou distribution by habitat type and season. It also provided information on migration routes and food habits. A biophysical habitat mapping project has also been completed. This research demonstrated the significance of the B-1 area for caribou and provided the basis for research to identify how to manage development without impacting the stability of the caribou population.

The development of integrated approaches to management of the caribou habitat requires additional research. This work began in the early 1990's and is on-going. This includes:

- examination of the impact of small openings in the forest canopy on caribou food sources (terrestrial lichens);
- assessment of the impact of timber harvesting and ground scarification on terrestrial lichens; and
- assessment of alternative silviculture systems (pilot block will be harvested shortly).

The proposed interim deferral has been incorporated into the cross-sectoral resource targets contained in the final report of the Implementation Team. The report requires that this research be completed which will lead to integrated management approaches that will allow a significant portion of this area to become available for logging in the medium term.


The British Columbia Government recognizes that this interim deferral will significantly alter the immediate plans of the major licensee and its contractors in this area, and consequently has committed that alternative wood supplies will be identified to satisfy the major licensee and its contractors in this area for the next several years. The maintenance of this deferral is conditional on the provision of alternative wood supplies.

The Ministry of Forests is confident that there are alternative sources of wood. The licensee presently has a 1.5 year supply available in an approved plan. Over the next six months, government officials will identify the specific alternative supplies beyond this period. The alternative supplies include early commencement of the second harvesting "pass" in the alternative areas, on the expectation that a significant portion of B-1 would become available later for timber harvesting in a manner consistent with appropriate caribou habitat management. This would be a sustainable approach and would be consistent with the Forest Practices Code over the full cycle. This initiative will be led by the Ministry of Forests and supported by the other provincial resource management agencies.

The final report will ensure that the necessary wildlife research occurs on a timely basis, with routine progress reports to the Regional Resource Board and the Inter-Agency Management Committee.

I trust that these facts shed much needed light on this matter.

Sincerely,



John Allan, Deputy Minister

Chair, Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan Implementation Process