Late 1970’s  Ministry of Environment biologists realize that mule deer winter range (MDWR) values are being lost through timber harvesting that does not consider mule deer requirements.

1980  Research conducted by the B.C. Forest Service starts within the region to address what mule deer need in the winter and how forest management can meet those needs.

1983  Pilot block of experimental logging using low-volume selection system on MDWR is conducted on the Knife Creek winter range in the Williams Lake District.

1984  First replicated experimental low-volume selection system on MDWR is conducted on the Knife Creek winter range.

1985  Replicated research on low-volume selection system is conducted on the Big Lake South MDWR in the 100 Mile Forest District.

1986  Land Management Handbook 13, the Mule Deer Handbook, is released.

1986  Juvenile spacing trials are initiated on MDWR in the 100 Mile Forest District.


1987  University of British Columbia/Alex Fraser Research Forest is created, including two winter ranges. Ongoing operational testing of mule deer habitat management is initiated.

Late 1980’s  MDWR boundaries are revised by the Ministry of Environment, substantially reducing and early 1990’s the area (reduced by ~ 42 000 ha) in managed winter range (13 MDWRS are completely removed).

Late 1980s  Revised MDWR boundaries are used for Timber Supply Review (TSR 1).

1988–1998  Numerous articles are published in journals, government publications, and conference proceedings to document research results on MDWR.

1990  “Clumpy spacing” is developed and a trial established on the Knife Creek MDWR.

1994–1995  Cariboo Chilcotin Land-Use Plan (CCLUP) and supporting documents are released identifying MDWR as an important management objective and specifying the MDWRS to be managed.

1996  MDWR Strategy as mandated by the CCLUP is released by MDWR Committee, documenting status of the approximate 100 MDWRS in the region.

1998  CCLUP Integration Report is released, providing short- and long-term direction on mule deer management.

1998  Stand structure mapping of MDWRs begins.

1999  First MDWR management plan is released as a draft template.

2000  “Grassland Benchmark” from the Grassland Strategy is incorporated into spatial long-term
objectives for MDWR.

2000 Extensive review of draft MDWR plan template by Cariboo Lumber Manufacturers’ Association is completed.

2000 Revisions are made to MDWR plan template, including but not limited to:
- non-productive land mapped and out of long-term objectives; and
- OGMAs to overlap “high” habitat and “topographic buffers” as much as possible.

2000 Extension Note #25A, Structural Definitions of MDWR Habitat in the IDF Zone, is released.

2000 Interim guidelines are provided for MDWRS prior to plan completion, including specific direction by snowpack zones:
1) shallow and moderate snowpack zones
2) transition snowpack zone
3) deep and very deep snowpack zones

2001 The Cariboo Mid Coast Inter-Agency Management Committee (IACM) endorses the Williams Lake–Chimney Mule Deer Winter Range Management Plan as the template for completion of the remaining winter range plans.

2001 Web site is created to easily access status of MDWR planning.

2001 Greatly simplified planning approach is developed and presented to IACM and Cariboo Lumber Manufacturers’ Association (CLMA), including four components:
1) Management Plan for Shallow and Moderate Snowpack Zones;
2) Management Plan for Transition and Deep Snowpack Zones;
3) Long-term Objectives Map for Individual Winter Ranges; and
4) Transition-period Harvest Opportunity Plans for Individual Winter Ranges.

2001–2004 Boundary adjustments are completed for MDWR in the 100 Mile, Williams Lake, and Quesnel Timber Supply Areas (TSAs). This substantially reduced the area to be managed as MDWR, including:
- four MDWRS removed completely;
- 80 144 ha net reduction in area of MDWR; and
- 8918 ha net reduction in Douglas-fir area of MDWR.

2002 Management Plan for Mule Deer Winter Ranges in the Shallow and Moderate Snowpack Zones is completed, incorporating the following changes, including:
- increasing maximum area in skid trails to 10%;
- increasing non-target harvest of Douglas-fir to 15% and 5% for small and large trees, respectively; and
- increasing the availability of harvest opportunities.

2002 Stand structure mapping is completed for 34 winter ranges.

2004 Boundaries for mule deer ungulate winter range are legalized under Government Action Regulation for purposes of planning using the Forest and Range Practices Act.