NC LRMP - Impact Assessment
Recreation Opportunities Spectrum Classes

The following assessment was completed due to concerns that Objective 1 in the Non-Commercial Recreation chapter may potentially be constraining on the timber industry. The objective is currently agreed to in principle by the table (Dec. 13, 2003 meeting) as follows:

Objective	Implementation indicator(s)	Targets	Management considerations
1. Manage land-based conditions to support a wide range of outdoor recreational activities and experiences.	Presence across the land-base of each Recreation Opportunity Spectrum class.	All ROS classes present where currently present. Representative samples of all present BEC subzones and variants to be maintained according to EBM as per remainder of the GMD.	

The intent of the objective is to maintain a variety of recreational opportunities across the North Coast plan area that are representative of the range of ecosystem types and elevational gradients (i.e. so not all primitive opportunities are limited to the alpine areas, but can be found at all elevations).

Background Information

The Recreation Opportunities Spectrum (ROS) is a static inventory, a snapshot in time of the current landscape. ROS was completed in 2002/2003. One variation of the inventory from the provincial standard is that boat traffic on waterways was considered within the road category when the inventory was completed.

The ROS classes constitute a spectrum from primitive to urban recreational opportunities. Development moves an area from the primitive end of the spectrum towards the more developed classes. As such, it was assumed that the only potentially constraining classes would be those toward the primitive end of the spectrum. Table 1 describes the defining attributes of these more primitive classes. Potential constraints would come in due to the class definitions around distance from road and size of polygon.

Table 1. ROS Category Attributes

ROS Class	Distance from Road	Size	Motorized Use	Evidence of Humans
Primitive (P)	> 8 km	> 5000 ha	occasional air access only	little on-the-ground evidence of other people
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)	$\geq$ 1 km	$\geq$ 1000 ha	very low or no motorized access / use	little on-the-ground evidence of other people
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	$\geq$ 1 km	$\geq$ 1000 ha	low degree of motorized access / use	some on-the-ground evidence of other people

Prepared by the GTT
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Qualitative Assessment

A qualitative assessment for potential timber supply constraints was conducted by overlaying the ROS map with the BEC map and comparing it to the current THLB. Opportunities to spatially maintain certain polygons in each class were identified. These opportunities for maintaining representation were assessed using the results of the LRMP Table discussion for protection on December 13, 2003, which identified the following types of areas:

1. current protected areas
2. areas which table agreed in principle to 'protection'
3. areas which were undecided about protection values.

Areas which the table agreed to manage for under the general management direction were not considered as options for meeting this objective, unless they were the only area in which the condition could be met.

Where representation for a particular ROS class by BEC variant could be met by current protected areas, or areas which the table had agreed in principle to 'protection', this objective was considered non-constraining on timber supply. If representation for a particular ROS class by BEC variant could only be met by areas about which the table was undecided about protection values, a qualitative assessment with the THLB coverage was conducted to see if target may be potentially constraining. For those ROS x BEC subzone/variant targets that may be met by areas about which the table is currently undecided about on the protection issues, the final recommendations on the 'protection' package will influence whether these targets may or may not be constraining.

Table 2 summarizes the results of this assessment. It also includes the current % representation of each ROS class by BEC variant (based on GIS overlay exercise, see attachment for complete summary). The vast majority of the CWHvm subzone (235,000 ha of 300,400 ha) is currently not differentiated according to variant, so assessment was completed at a subzone level.

Table 2. Summary of Qualitative Assessment

ROS Class	**BEC Variant**	**Current % Representation**	**Opportunities for Representation**			**Potential for Constraint**
			Existing Protected Areas	*Agreement in Principle to 'Protection'*	*Other Areas*	
P	AT	16.4	Khutzeymateen	Stagoo	Kitsault Khyex	No
	CWHvh2	25			Banks Island Pitt Island Aristazabal	No (based on THLB overlap)
	CWHvm	9.4			Khyex Sparkling Johnston Kitkiata Kwinamass	**YES** (pending outcome of 'protection' discussions)
	CWHwm	11.5	Khutzeymateen	Stagoo		No

	CWHws1	0.2			Kitsault*	**YES** (pending outcome of 'protection' discussions)
	CWHws2	1			Kitsault*	**YES** (pending outcome of 'protection' discussions)
	MHmm1	24	Khutzeymateen	Stagoo	Ktisault Khyex	No
	MHmm2	5.3			Kitsault*	**YES** (pending outcome of 'protection' discussions)
	MHwh	5.2			Banks Island Pitt Island	**YES** (pending outcome of 'protection' discussions)
SPNM	AT	1.5			Khyex	**YES** (pending outcome of 'protection' discussions)
	CWHvh2	34		Campania Brown		No
	CWHvm	23		Brown	Khyex	No
	CWHwm	0.6			Kshwan Estuary*	No (based on THLB overlap) **YES** (for other development that would require a road)
	CWHws1	1			Kitsault*	**YES** (pending outcome of 'protection' discussions)
	CWHws2	1.9			Kitsault*	**YES** (pending outcome of 'protection' discussions)
	MHmm1	26		Brown	Kitsault	**YES** (pending outcome of 'protection' discussions)
	MHmm2	0.6			Kitsault*	**YES** (pending outcome of 'protection' discussions)
	MHwh	11.4		Campania Brown		No
SPM	AT	0.5			Kwinamass Peak*	**YES** (due to size limits of ROS class)
	CWHvh2	58		Dundas/Melville Bonilla		No
	CWHvm	10.2	Khutzeymateen		Khtada Lake Khyex Chambers	No

	CWHwm	3.1		Gamble / Lowe area		**YES** (due to size limits of ROS class)
	MHmm1	6.7			Khtada Lake Chambers	**YES** (pending outcome of 'protection' discussions)
	MHwh	9.5		Gamble/Lowe		**YES** (due to size limits of ROS class)
*These areas represent the only location where this particular ROS x BEC variant is currently present.						

Further Steps

It is recommended that any further analysis on this issue be postponed until after the table recommendations are made around the protection package. At that point, the above table can be reassessed to determine if any of the targets are still potentially constraining, and additional quantitative analysis completed to determine constraints.