

APPENDIX 1 — SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

This Appendix provides additional detail to support implementation of the objectives of this Sustainable Resource Management Planning (SRMP) Chapter. The objectives and companion strategies are intended to foster sustainable growth of the winter recreation¹ sector while seeking ways to mitigate potential impact on other resource-based sectors and the environment. They reflect all three pillars of sustainability—community/social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

The objectives have been grouped into categories in order to provide common support information. The following information is provided for each category:

- Background information including discussion of winter recreation management issues for the planning area that fall within the defined scope of this planning process;²
- Reference to relevant management direction from the Kamloops Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP);
- Desired Future Condition to demonstrate the intended outcome for each category of objectives;
- Results-based objectives;
- Implementation strategies for each objective, and links to strategies for specific Winter Recreation Management Units detailed in Appendix 2; and
- Initial results-based measures of success which will be monitored to evaluate whether the objectives are met.

All land and resource-based activities must be consistent with the objectives of this planning Chapter. The strategies detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 are guidelines that should be followed in order to ensure the objectives are met. As better scientific information becomes available and innovative operational practices are developed, alternative strategies can be followed provided the objectives of this Chapter are met.

¹ For the purpose of this planning process, "winter recreation" includes both public and commercial recreation, unless otherwise specified, and includes both snow- and ice-based activities and the associated infrastructure including trails and ski runs. All winter recreation activities, including harvesting activities undertaken to support winter recreation activities, shall be consistent with the objectives of this SRMP Chapter.

² Issues identified through this planning process that fall outside the scope set out in the project Terms of Reference are detailed in the Eight Peaks SRMP Winter Recreation Chapter Consultation Log.

1. FIRST NATIONS

Aboriginal people use the area for sustenance, cultural and spiritual activities. Historically, their survival depended on the land and its resources, a fact reflected in their culture, language and heritage. Conservation and sustainable use of the environment is of key importance to the Simpcw people.

Aboriginal people contribute significantly to the area's monetary economy and also participate in their own informal, traditional economy. The Simpcw people seek sustainable economic development opportunities that benefit themselves and their neighbours.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

Access to and use of the land and resources for traditional, cultural and spiritual activities by aboriginal peoples is maintained. Archaeological sites and properties, spiritually significant sites, burial sites, and traditional use areas are respected. A strong local economy with First Nations opportunities for diverse and sustainable economic development.

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

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| <p>1.a. Consider First Nations information and knowledge to strengthen land and resource management.</p> <p>1.b. Consider aboriginal rights and traditional uses in resource management. Implementation strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant agencies, industry, and recreation proponents will consult with First Nations to ensure that aboriginal rights and title are duly considered and that appropriate accommodation is made when required. • Relevant agencies, industry, and recreation proponents strive to consider and accommodate First Nations interests when developing and implementing management plans. • Provincial agencies to negotiate protocol agreement(s), interim measure(s), or treaty with First Nations to address issues outside the scope set out in the Terms of Reference. | <p>1.c. Identify and pursue initiatives with First Nations that support sustainable economic development. Implementation strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the development of new First Nations businesses and business partnerships. • Encourage the negotiation of business partnerships or joint ventures between First Nations, forest licensees, or recreation development proponents. |
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INITIAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- √ Open dialogue and constructive, positive relationships between First Nations, agencies, industry, and recreation proponents.
- √ Protocol agreement, interim measure, or treaty negotiated between First Nations and provincial agencies or government.
- √ New First Nations businesses and business partnerships or joint ventures negotiated between First Nations, forest licensees, or recreation development proponents.

2. COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

The economic base and quality of life of the community of Blue River is closely tied to the local landscape. The forest industry, commercial outdoor recreation, and transportation sector have provided employment and business development opportunities. Residents have enjoyed the serenity of the rural lifestyle, the spectacular setting, and the extensive outdoor recreation opportunities.

Maintaining a diversity of economic opportunities is key to healthy communities and sustainable economies. Diversification should include both the local development of different economic sectors and local involvement in different components of existing activities. Continuing to develop a strong local economy based on natural resources is a key interest of the community and of residents of the North Thompson Valley. This interest includes supporting a diversity of businesses as well as a high quality of life to retain and attract residents. Given the mountainous landscape and exceptional snow conditions, development of winter recreation activities is an identified opportunity.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

A diversity of winter recreation businesses will contribute to both Blue River and North Thompson Valley economies. The winter recreation community will work together to encourage compatible activities. Conflicts will be addressed before they escalate and negatively impact the quality of the recreation product. The resulting certainty will draw further financial investment into the community.

KAMLOOPS LRMP (1996) DIRECTION:

No Direction Provided

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

2.a. Encourage a diversity of compatible winter recreation tenures and associated businesses consistent with direction provided in the main document, this Appendix and Appendix 2 for each specific Winter Recreation Management Unit (see Map 2). Implementation strategies include:

- Consider existing land and tenure interests.
- Identify compatible tenure opportunities for potential new businesses.

- Strive to resolve real or perceived incompatibilities with innovative approaches.

INITIAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- √ A diversity of new businesses are established in Blue River that offer winter recreation products or support services.
- √ Existing tourism operations diversify the products they offer by working with commercial recreation operators to develop new product packages.

3. FORESTRY

The majority of the forests within the planning area are included in the Provincial Forest, and a substantial portion of the area is available and suitable for timber harvesting. Four tenure holders and the BC Timber Sales Program have operating areas within the planning area.

In many areas of the province, forestry and tourism activities have competed for the same land base, resulting in conflicts and increased costs for both sectors. However, in this planning area, there are opportunities to integrate winter recreation with forest management to derive greater level of benefit for the community and the region. An example of integration is the proposal to create managed forest heli-ski runs, where innovative forest management techniques will be piloted to create rotational open and managed forest heli-ski runs.³ Innovative forest management techniques will be piloted to create opportunities to regenerate portions of the runs while supporting heli-skiing over the

full rotation. The impact on the timber supply over the Timber Supply Area (TSA) in the event the trials do not result in merchantable regeneration is considered minimal, and thus the risk associated with the pilots can be incurred.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

The planning area will continue to support a viable forest industry that collaborates with public and commercial winter recreation groups to identify and implement opportunities to integrate both sectors, thereby providing ongoing benefits for the Blue River and North Thompson economies. Cooperation, innovation, and flexibility will ensure neither sector is unduly constrained by the other.

KAMLOOPS LRMP (1996) DIRECTION:

General Resource Management Zone (Section 2.1.13)

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

- 3.a. Integrate winter recreation activities with forest management to optimize economic and social benefits derived from both (for example, modified silvicultural requirements on heli-ski runs). Implementation strategies include:
- Relevant agencies, forest industry, and recreation proponents work together to identify and implement opportunities to integrate the different land-based conditions required for winter recreation and to ensure safe, effective forest stand management.
 - Coordinate and share planning information between forestry and recreation sectors as early as possible to facilitate efficient integration of harvesting with proposed winter recreation.
 - Continue collaboration between sectors as new management plans for each are developed (for example, as Forest Stewardship Plans, Commercial Recreation Tenure Management Agreements or operational level recreation management plans are developed or amended).
 - Design long vertical openings (e.g., ski runs) to minimize potential forest health losses (such as blowdown and beetle infestation), incorporating techniques that can be contained within the opening width rather than on adjacent forested land.
 - Wherever stand level integration of forest and recreation management is feasible, such as for rotational and managed forest runs, regenerate the site to continue producing merchantable timber as part of the harvestable land base.

⁶ **Rotational heli-ski runs:** Temporary heli-ski runs, making use of recently harvested and fully restocked areas until such time as regeneration height impedes skiing or skiing may cause damage to regeneration. At that time, skiing will cease on that area and may move to another recently harvested and fully restocked area. Rotational runs continue to fully contribute to the area timber supply.
Managed forest heli-ski runs: Permanent frontcountry heli-ski runs (200 meter maximum width) created and managed to provide for ski terrain. Forest cover is retained or regenerated to reduce timber availability impacts on adjacent working forest lands by contributing to improved visual management, prompt hydrologic green-up to reduce the equivalent clear-cut area identified within these runs, improved environmental values, and reduced natural hazards. While these runs may be removed from the timber harvesting land base, they will be used to pilot innovative silviculture techniques in an effort to regenerate at least part of the run with merchantable timber for future harvesting.
Open terrain heli-ski runs: Permanent frontcountry heli-ski runs (200 meter maximum width) created primarily to accommodate heli-skiing, and ultimately removed from the timber harvesting land base. Retained or managed forest cover and vegetation on these runs contributes to visual management, environmental values, and ski terrain design, ensuring undue constraints are not imposed on adjacent harvestable lands.

3. FORESTRY (CONTINUED)

- Winter recreation developers will address related forestry costs for new infrastructure openings, including but not limited to engineering, harvesting, road construction, landing construction, in excess of what would normally be allowed by the Ministry of Forests through the appraisal system (for example, by negotiating third party agreements with forest licensees).
- 3.b Pursue opportunities to minimize the loss of timber volumes and productive forest land base due to winter recreation development. Implementation strategies include:
- MOF, licensees and recreation proponents work together to identify and implement opportunities to minimize the area removed from the timber harvesting land base (THLB) for winter recreation infrastructure and activities.
 - Implement management techniques to mitigate impact on the THLB from within the openings created for winter recreation activities (for example, manage for blow down and forest health concerns within the area managed as a heli-ski run, not in the adjacent forest).
 - Bring forward development strategies for proposed winter recreation infrastructure development as early as possible in order to allow sufficient time to foster integration with licensees' silviculture and stand management plans and prescriptions.
 - On managed forest heli-ski runs, develop and pilot innovative silvicultural practices such as modified reforestation stocking standards, retention of portions of the original stand, and alternative site preparation to demonstrate the viability of integrating forest management and winter recreation on the same site.
- Where openings created for recreation developments are no longer required or effective, the areas should be brought back into forest production.
- 3.c. Design all openings for winter recreation activities to maintain availability of adjacent timber without creating undue constraints on harvesting. Implementation strategies include:
- Implement effective management of these openings, including consideration of cumulative visual impact and equivalent clear-cut area implications, to ensure that undue constraints are not created on adjacent harvestable lands. This includes openings created under a License to Cut.
 - Winter recreation developers should collaborate with forest licensees to develop an operational recreation management plan for proposed openings that incorporates 'total chance planning'⁴ to minimize the impact on the THLB.
- 3.d. Manage access within the planning area to integrate winter recreation and resource-based industrial requirements. Implementation strategies include:
- Regular communication with the winter recreation sector, agencies, and other industrial users to develop collaborative strategies for access management to minimize conflict and risk to all road and trail users, while balancing the needs of various user groups and industries.
 - Consider winter recreation use in road deactivation plans to minimize the impact on these users while achieving deactivation objectives.
 - Design access routes to retain the quality of the experience for winter recreation activities (for example, minimize the number of crossings of an

⁴ "Total Chance Planning" is preliminary long term integrated resource management planning over an entire development area for the best realization of all broader or strategic objectives. It often serves as the link between strategic planning direction and operational details.

3. FORESTRY (CONTINUED)

established ski run or the number of roads being put into an area where non-motorized recreation is focused).

- Ensure adequate notice is given to the winter recreation community when road and trail closures are proposed.

INITIAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- √ Openings for winter recreation activities do not create undue constraints on harvesting of adjacent forested lands.
- √ The cumulative net reduction to the timber supply for the Kamloops Timber Supply Area due to winter recreation use of the harvestable land base is minimal.
- √ The total area required to develop and maintain open and managed frontcountry heli-ski runs in the planning area does not exceed removing more than 1350 ha from the timber harvesting land base in the long term.
- √ Innovative silviculture techniques based on scientific decision-making are piloted to find viable methods for keeping land used for managed forest ski runs as part of the THLB.
- √ Partnerships are developed to monitor and assess the effectiveness of innovative silviculture techniques and to determine if these techniques may have broader provincial application.
- √ Local timber availability and supply is not significantly affected due to winter recreation infrastructure development.
- √ Access planning and management is collaborative, involving the forest sector, government agencies (including WLAP) and winter recreation user groups and tenure holders.

4. MINING

Government policy is to maintain full access outside of protected areas for subsurface resource exploration and development. Consequently, the direction provided in this Chapter is not intended to impede the permitting of subsurface resource exploration and development. However, mineral activities can directly or indirectly affect access and site conditions that are needed to support winter recreation. The following objectives are intended to sustain access for mining while mitigating adverse impacts to winter recreation infrastructure and activities.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

Mineral lands within the planning area will remain open for mineral exploration and development. Cooperation, innovation, and flexibility will ensure neither sector is unduly constrained by the other.

KAMLOOPS LRMP (1996) DIRECTION:

General Resource Management Zone (Section 2.1.11)

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

- 4.a. Consider opportunities to integrate winter recreation and mineral exploration and development activities. Implementation strategies include:
- Design exploration disturbances on or around winter recreation routes, trails and ski runs.
 - Collaborate with winter recreation tenure holders and user groups to identify opportunities to avoid or mitigate potential conflicts (for example, implement simple and cost-effective mitigation measures such as relocating trails where feasible, redirecting recreation activities at the time of exploration, or timing exploration to avoid conflict in areas frequently used for recreation).
- 4.b. Manage exploration (temporary) and mine (permanent) accesses in a manner that supports public and commercial winter recreation. Implementation strategies include:
- Consider strategies detailed in Appendix 2 for specific Winter Recreation Management Units when planning access routes.
 - Solicit input from winter recreation user groups and tenure holders.
- 4.c. Reclaim surface disturbances promptly to mitigate potential health and safety risks, and to facilitate continued use for winter recreation, on land used for winter recreation, especially where there are trails and ski runs.

INITIAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

- ✓ Mineral land and tenure remain accessible for exploration and development.
- ✓ Access planning and management is collaborative, involving mineral and winter recreation tenure holders and winter recreation user groups.
- ✓ Surface disturbances are reclaimed promptly to facilitate winter recreational use, especially where there are trails and ski runs.

5. RECREATION AND TOURISM

The winter recreation sector in the North Thompson must be economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable. Potential impacts on the environment, wildlife, (including species such as mountain caribou and goats), other user groups, and the quality of the recreational experience must be addressed as recreational use grows in the area.

The opportunity to enjoy winter recreation activities on Crown land contributes directly to the quality of life for residents of the North Thompson valley and beyond. However, with a growing population, changing technology that allows more people to travel deeper into the backcountry, and a growing diversity of recreational pursuits, it is becoming more critical for recreational user groups to work together to share the land base. Compatible uses can be encouraged in this planning area, recognizing that all uses are not compatible in all areas. Collaboration will be critical to ensure all user groups have the opportunity to recreate and enjoy a quality experience.

Recreation proponents must seek opportunities to minimize the impact of their activities on the other sectors. Economic sustainability will come from keeping all components of the regional economy strong.

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

5.a Minimize conflicts between user groups, maintain quality experiences, and retain environmental values by directing winter recreation activities to the appropriate Winter Recreation Management Units (see Map 2), and by incorporating the guidance provided through the Desired Future Condition statements and unit-specific strategies detailed in Appendix 2. Implementation strategies include:

- Integrate new, compatible winter recreation activities consistent with the

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

A variety of new and established sustainable winter recreation activities will be offered within the planning area. Strong collaboration amongst all users in the recreation community will ensure conflicts are avoided and compatible uses are sought, including the integration of new public and commercial activities. Focus areas (based on the Winter Recreation Management Units of this Chapter) will be established to ensure certainty that all users have an opportunity to enjoy their winter recreation pursuits within the planning area. The growth of winter recreation will be through collaboration with other resource industries and will reflect the strong commitment to environmental stewardship.

KAMLOOPS LRMP (1996) DIRECTION:

- *General Resource Management Zone (Section 2.1)*
- *Tourism Objectives and Strategies (Section 2.1.7)*
- *Recreation Objectives and Strategies (Section 2.1.8)*
- *Special Resource Management Zone—Recreation and Tourism (Section 2.6)*
- *General Objectives and Strategies (Section 2.6.1)*
- *Area Specific Objectives and Strategies (Section 2.6.2)*

Desired Future Condition and the strategies for each Winter Recreation Management Unit detailed in Appendix 2.

- Incorporate the management strategies, detailed in Appendix 2, that are specific to the Winter Recreation Management Unit(s) where the activity is proposed.
- Proponents should develop operational plans for new commercial recreation tenures and new public recreation areas clearly detailing how the objectives of this Chapter will be implemented.

5. RECREATION AND TOURISM (CONTINUED)

- The local recreation community should establish an advisory committee to seek opportunities to integrate activities and resolve conflicts between overlapping uses before they escalate.
- 5.b. Integrate winter recreation activities with other resource-based activities to optimize economic and social benefits derived from the diversity of uses, and minimize negative impacts that one resource activity may have on another. Implementation strategies include:
- Design and develop winter recreation infrastructure including roads, trails and ski runs to minimize impacts on other resource industries on adjacent Crown land.
 - Winter recreation developers will address related forestry costs for new infrastructure openings, including but not limited to engineering, harvesting, road construction, landing construction, in excess of what would normally be allowed by the Ministry of Forests through the appraisal system (for example, by negotiating third party agreements with forest licensees).
 - Recreation development proponents should work in partnership with forest operators and relevant agencies to develop and implement an operational level management plan. This management plan should utilize the concept of 'total chance planning.' It should outline and clarify the methods by which Chapter objectives will be met, indicate the ways in which key impacts will be mitigated, and outline the cooperative framework and scheduling of forest harvesting, silvicultural activities, and ongoing forest management responsibilities.
 - Participate in the implementation of corresponding strategies detailed in the Forestry and Mining sections above.
- 5.c. Minimize the disturbance from helicopters on the community of Blue River. Implementation strategies include:
- Develop flight plans that avoid flying directly over Blue River except for emergency purposes.
 - Strategically locate fuel caches to reduce the need to return to the Blue River base to refuel.
 - Develop daily flight plans that minimize the number of flights in and out of the Blue River base.
- 5.d. Manage access in a manner that supports the needs of public and commercial winter recreation, resource-based industries and wildlife in the planning area. Implementation strategies include:
- Plan and develop access routes in collaboration with other winter recreation user groups, and with other resource-based sectors including forestry and mining, considering both short and long term needs for all sectors, including access to lands beyond for industrial or recreation activities.
 - Require detailed management plans from proponents of new winter recreation public use areas and for commercial recreation tenures, including renewals and amendments, that specify how access will be managed to minimize impacts on timber harvesting tenure holders.
 - Costs resulting from access management and maintenance requirements specifically and solely required to support winter recreation activities are the responsibility of the activity proponent.

5. RECREATION AND TOURISM (CONTINUED)

INITIAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- √ A variety of winter recreation activities, including new commercial ventures, are enjoyed within the planning area.
- √ Existing user groups continue to use their traditional areas in ways that are consistent with the objectives of this Chapter.
- √ Operational plans for commercial recreation tenures and public recreation areas clearly detail how the objectives of this Chapter will be implemented.
- √ Winter recreation use and facilities are consistent with the Winter Recreation Management Unit direction provided in Appendix 2.
- √ Recreation activities are integrated with other land-based activities, including forestry and mining, and are enhanced through communication and collaboration.
- √ Access is managed and maintained collaboratively between public and commercial winter recreation users and resource-based industries.
- √ Heli-ski flight plans are developed to avoid direct flights over the community, and to minimize the number of flights over the course of the day departing and returning to the Blue River base.

6. VIEWSCAPES

The planning area is viewed from Highway 5 and the community of Blue River. Currently, the Ministry of Forests requires timber harvesting to be consistent with defined visual quality objectives. The majority of the area is currently managed to achieve Partial Retention - alterations (roads, cut blocks, etc.) may be visible but do not dominate the landscape. On the more distant slopes, alterations may dominate the landscape but the design must borrow from natural features.

Openings created to support winter recreation activities must be designed to ensure they do not appear out of scale or detract from the natural features of the landscape. Such design work should maintain opportunities to harvest adjacent land in the same viewscape.

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

- 6.a. For all new openings, achieve the assigned visual quality objectives as defined through the Kamloops LRMP implementation process. Implementation strategies include:
- Design all openings for winter recreation developments to meet the definition and intent of the established VQOs by applying a wide range of visual design principles, including shape, size, edge diversity, minimum soil disturbance, leave tree/patch retention, etc.⁵
 - Develop management plans in conjunction with new tenures, or amendments or renewals of existing winter recreation tenures, that clearly detail how proposed openings will be designed to meet visual management requirements,⁵ and how monitoring will occur.
- 6.b Consider modifying existing cut blocks and ski runs to improve visual appearance when new cut blocks and other developments are planned in adjacent areas.
- 6.c. Design winter recreation developments in accordance with visual design principles to minimize visual quality constraints on surrounding timber availability.
- Design all openings to minimize cumulative visual impact on adjacent harvestable land by utilizing methods such as Visual Impact Assessments.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

Winter recreation infrastructure blends into the landscape, following the natural line and form, so that viewsapes from the town of Blue River and Highway 5 will meet specified visual quality objectives. Winter recreation developments will not appear visually out of scale or detract from natural features of the landscape. They will also be designed to minimize impacts on adjacent forest management activities.

KAMLOOPS LRMP (1996) DIRECTION:

General Resource Management Zone—Visually Sensitive Areas (Section 2.1.14)

⁵ Meeting percentage alteration guidelines for the established VQOs will be secondary to meeting the definition and intent of the VQOs and the application of visual design principles.

6. VIEWSCAPES (CONTINUED)

INITIAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- √ Management plans for winter recreation infrastructure detail how the resulting openings will be designed to meet visual quality objectives without significantly constraining the ability to harvest the remainder of the viewscape.
- √ Winter recreation developments meet assigned Visual Quality Objectives.
- √ Visual impact of existing cut blocks and ski runs is reduced.
- √ Short term timber availability is not significantly constrained to achieve visual objectives in conjunction with winter recreation infrastructure development.

7(1). KEY WILDLIFE SPECIES—GRIZZLY BEARS

Key wildlife species that interact with winter recreation in the planning area are grizzly bear, mountain caribou and mountain goats (provincially designated as *Identified Wildlife*). Unmanaged recreation use may increase the likelihood of population declines and impacts to habitats required by the three species.

Grizzly bears inhabit the entire planning area. Two grizzly population units overlap the planning area and are separated by the highway. Although both populations are considered viable (not threatened), winter recreation infrastructure development and use may modify or displace bears from critical habitats.⁶ Bears may be displaced from these habitats by early winter or late winter recreation use. Modification of these habitats resulting from winter recreation use (for example, road construction, timber harvesting

for winter recreation development) may also have indirect impacts on spring, summer and fall habitat quality. Bear disturbance and mortality may result from increased road and trail access in any season. Food and garbage attractants may create risks of human/bear encounters and bear mortality.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

Winter recreation activities will incorporate measures to maintain secure, suitable Grizzly Bear habitat. The distribution, quality and quantity of habitat will be sufficient to support healthy, viable Grizzly Bear populations in the planning area. Winter recreation development and activities will not detract from the necessary habitat attributes necessary for denning, feeding, and reproducing.

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

7.a Design winter recreation infrastructure and conduct winter recreation activities to maintain functional integrity of grizzly bear habitat, prevent bear access to human-supplied foods, and minimize bear/human encounters. Implementation strategies include:

- Apply the *Interim Wildlife Guidelines for Commercial Backcountry Recreation in BC* for grizzly bears until guidance is revised.⁷ Apply updated guidance when available.
- Identify critical bear habitats and apply this information to site-specific winter recreation planning.
- Locate new winter recreation infrastructure away from high bear use areas or critical habitats.
- Do not conduct recreation activities in close proximity to known denning areas.
- Minimize road and trail development and apply seasonal road restrictions through access planning where appropriate.
- Prevent bear access to human supplied foods.

KAMLOOPS LRMP (1996) DIRECTION:
No Direction Provided

- Educate public and commercial winter recreation users about appropriate behaviour in bear habitat.

INITIAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- √ Critical bear habitats are identified and used for site-specific winter recreation planning.
- √ New facilities are located away from high use bear areas.
- √ Known denning sites are undisturbed.
- √ Recreation access is developed and managed consistent with the habitat requirements of bears.
- √ Low incidence of bear/human contact and no bear mortalities due to winter recreation.
- √ Commercial recreation operators and public use groups provide Bear Aware training to staff and members.
- √ Communities and residential developments become "Bear Smart Communities."

⁶ Critical grizzly bear habitats include herb-dominated avalanche tracks, riparian areas, meadow/wetland complexes and seepage sites, smaller wetter areas including hygric to subhygric sites, glacier lily complexes, and old burns dominated by *Vaccinium* species.

⁷ Guidelines apply to both commercial and public recreation.

7(2). KEY WILDLIFE SPECIES—MOUNTAIN CARIBOU

Mountain caribou have recently been designated as threatened in Canada and recovery planning is underway for the population that overlaps the Eight Peaks planning area. There is evidence that in the last few decades North Thompson herd populations have declined. Mountain caribou populations across the province continue to decline. Potential causes for these declines include increased predation due to enhanced access, change in the distribution of other ungulate populations, as well as habitat loss and degradation from forest fragmentation and harvest of old forests. Winter recreation infrastructure development and associated timber harvesting have the potential to impact habitat suitability or promote more rapid population declines.

KAMLOOPS LRMP (1996) DIRECTION:

- *Special Resource Management Zone—North Thompson Caribou Habitat General (Section 2.5.2 Zone H1)*
- *Special Resource Management Zone—North Thompson Caribou Habitat/Recreation and Tourism (Section 2.5.2)*

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

7.b Design winter recreation infrastructure and conduct winter recreation activities in such a way as to maintain the natural distribution of caribou, minimize stress caused by human disturbance and maintain the functional integrity of habitat. Implementation strategies include:

- In addition to the caribou direction from the KLRMP, consider all new information available regarding caribou habitat in the planning area when developing new winter recreation uses and infrastructure.
- Apply the *Interim Wildlife Guidelines for Commercial Backcountry Recreation in BC* for caribou (Mountain

Within the planning area, an ongoing study of caribou indicates early winter use is concentrated in the planning area west of the highway and a calving area is located west of Storm Creek (see Map 1). Planning should focus on these key habitats to prevent the displacement or disturbance of caribou. Management for long-term habitat supply is also critical. Within the planning area, there is uncertainty that all winter habitats have been identified.⁸ There is also concern about the lack of information on winter recreation impacts to lichens, a primary caribou food source. Therefore, flexible management approaches are required to consider and incorporate new information as it becomes available.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

Winter recreation activities will be undertaken in a manner that maintain secure, suitable mountain caribou habitat. The distribution, quality, and quantity of habitat will be sufficient to support a healthy, viable caribou population. Winter recreation development and activities will not detract from the necessary habitat attributes necessary for breeding, calving, rearing, and feeding. A strict policy of avoidance of mountain caribou will be practiced by all in the recreation community.

ecotype-Red) until guidance is revised. Apply updated guidance when available.

- From May 15 – July 1, do not snowmobile, heli-ski, make non-emergency use of emergency shelters or fly helicopter or aircraft less than 2000m above the ground within the *Caribou Calving Area* (see Map 1).
- From Nov 1 – Jan 15, do not snowmobile, heli-ski, or make non-emergency use of emergency shelters in *Early Winter Caribou Habitat* (see Map 1).
- Do not construct new winter recreation facilities or infrastructure in mapped *Caribou Calving Areas* and *Early Winter Caribou Habitat* (see Map 1).

⁸The most recent Caribou habitat information was considered in preparing this Chapter, particularly for developing Winter Recreation Management Units (see Map 2) and the unit-specific strategies in Appendix 2. The information pertinent to this Chapter is detailed on Map 1. Additional mapped information is available in the Kamloops LRMP. Comprehensive mapping, including updated winter habitat mapping within the planning area, is available from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

7(2). KEY WILDLIFE SPECIES—MOUNTAIN CARIBOU CONT'D...

- Avoid creating long-term vehicular access to high elevation⁹ subalpine and alpine areas.
 - Develop and use flight paths to limit impacts to caribou in the White River South, Diamond Head and Whitewater Units.
 - Avoid disturbance of mountain caribou encountered within the planning area by immediately leaving the area they occupy.
 - Follow unit-specific direction contained in Appendix 2.
- 7.c Update existing recreation management plans to better reflect the best available wildlife inventory, guidelines and monitoring procedures. Implementation strategies include:
- In White Lake South, Diamondhead and Whitewater Units, address potential impact on functional integrity of caribou habitat that could occur through simultaneous and/or adjacent harvesting of proposed ski runs and Category A approved cut blocks (for example, consider delaying harvest of some cutblocks to manage longer term availability of suitable habitat; do not harvest parallel linear openings in close proximity [retain 200m or more of mature timber between such openings and limit cleared widths to a maximum of 200m wide]; maintain connected patches of habitat across the slope [maintain 200m distance to cover using various techniques including wildlife tree patches]).
- INITIAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS
- √ Absence of new facilities in *Caribou Calving Areas* and *Early Winter Caribou Habitat*.
 - √ Snowmobile use is consistent with Desired Future Condition for mountain caribou.
 - √ During calving season, snowmobile use does not occur in the *Caribou Calving Area*.
 - √ During calving season, helicopters fly at least 2000m above *Caribou Calving Areas*.
 - √ Recreation users adopt and follow a code of conduct that includes avoiding mountain caribou.
 - √ Monitoring results indicate heli-ski and mountain caribou use of an area do not occur concurrently.
 - √ Functional integrity of caribou habitat is maintained consistent with the strategies for applicable recreation management units in Appendices 1 and 2.

⁹ Generally above 1600 m in the planning area.

7(3). KEY WILDLIFE SPECIES—MOUNTAIN GOATS

Mountain goat critical ranges include both kidding and winter range habitat areas and are mapped based on preliminary inventory for the planning area (see Map 1). The project to identify mountain goat ranges is ongoing and thus new information may become available after completion of the Chapter. There is evidence that mountain goats are disturbed by helicopter traffic and use of existing recreation infrastructure near identified critical ranges. Winter recreation facility construction and operation, and timber harvesting during critical seasons may also disturb goats, particularly in winter range and kidding areas. Recreation disturbance may result in reduced reproduction, displacement from preferred habitats and associated population declines. Within the planning area, there is uncertainty that all winter habitats have been identified. There are conflicts between guidance for management of *Mountain Goat Critical Range* (winter range and kidding areas) and existing tenured heli-ski runs. Therefore, flexible management approaches are required to

consider and incorporate new information. Recreation planning will require periodic updates to reflect new inventory, guidelines, and monitoring procedures.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

Winter recreation activities will be undertaken in a manner to maintain secure, suitable mountain goat habitat. The distribution, quality, and quantity of habitat will be sufficient, and the level of disturbance will be minimized to support a healthy, undisturbed, and viable goat population. Winter recreation development and activities will not detract from the necessary habitat attributes required for wintering, breeding, kidding and rearing. A strict policy of avoidance of mountain goat will be practiced by all in the recreation community.

KAMLOOPS LRMP (1996) DIRECTION:

No Direction Provided

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

7.d Design winter recreation infrastructure and conduct winter recreation activities to maintain the natural population distribution of mountain goats, avoid harassment of animals caused by recreation use, and maintain habitat quality. Implementation strategies include:

- Apply the *Interim Wildlife Guidelines for Commercial Backcountry Recreation in BC* for mountain goats until guidance is revised. Apply updated guidance when available.
- Maintain a healthy and viable population of mountain goats within the Eight Peaks planning area.
- Prohibit construction of new winter recreation facilities or infrastructure and new roads or trails that provide access to alpine areas in mapped *Mountain Goat Critical Range*.

- From Nov 1 – Jul 15, do not snowmobile, heli-ski, make non-emergency use of emergency shelters or fly helicopter or aircraft less than 2000m above the ground within the mapped *Mountain Goat Critical Range* (see Map 1).
- From Nov 1 – Jul 15, do not fly helicopter or aircraft less than 2000m above the ground within the mapped *Modified 2000m Goat Habitat Buffer*¹⁰ (see Map 1).
- Coordinate recreation management activities in Ptarmigan and Saddle Mountain Recreation Units to avoid impacting mountain goat use and habitat quality in critical range in the adjacent Ridge Recreation Unit.
- Avoid disturbance of mountain goats encountered within the planning area by

¹⁰ The modified 2000m Goat Habitat Buffer reflects the presence of intervening terrain. The boundary may need to be amended pending field reviews.

7(3). KEY WILDLIFE SPECIES—MOUNTAIN GOATS (CONTINUED)

immediately leaving the area they occupy.

- Develop and use flight paths to limit impacts to mountain goats in Ridge, Saddle, Ptarmigan, and Saddle Winter Recreation Management Units (see Map 2).
- Follow unit-specific direction contained in Appendix 2.

7.e Update existing recreation management plans to better reflect the best available wildlife inventory, guidelines and monitoring procedures. Implementation strategies include:

- In the upper Mud drainage (Ridge unit), address conflicts between the winter recreation use of existing heli-ski runs/ infrastructure (e.g. grizzly hut) and mountain goat use of adjacent critical range.¹¹
- In the drainage on the east side of Ptarmigan Mountain (Ridge unit), use of existing tenured runs together with proposed intensive recreation use in the Ptarmigan Unit will create cumulative risk to adjacent *Mountain Goat Critical Range*. Address the potential for cumulative impacts to mountain goats and inability to establish effective monitoring techniques associated with proposed Ptarmigan Recreation Management Unit heli-ski runs.¹²
- In the Cook Creek drainage (Diamondhead Unit), address conflicts between recreation use of existing heli-ski runs and ongoing assessment of use by mountain goat of adjacent *Mountain Goat Critical Range*.¹³

INITIAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- √ Multi-year monitoring establishes critical habitat mapping, and mountain goat use of critical range is maintained or enhanced.
- √ Absence of facilities in mountain goat winter ranges and kidding areas.
- √ From Nov 1 – Jul 15, helicopters fly at least 2000m above the ground when crossing *Mountain Goat Critical Range* and *Modified 2000m Goat Habitat Buffer*.

¹¹ For example, review and consider relocating certain heli-ski runs to areas outside of the *Modified 2000m Goat Habitat Buffer*.

¹² Operational advice indicates that cumulative impacts to mountain goat populations on the east slopes of Ptarmigan can only be avoided by relocating existing east slope runs to areas outside the *Modified 2000m Goat Habitat Buffer* or by dropping the proposal to develop new runs in the Ptarmigan Unit.

¹³ For example, do not use ski runs within the *Modified 2000m Goat Habitat Buffer* until assessment of range is complete. Address conflicts between recreation use and goats if assessment confirms goats are using the critical range area.