

APPENDIX 2 — WINTER RECREATION MANAGEMENT UNIT STRATEGIES

Winter Recreation Management units (see Map 2) have been defined based on stewardship requirements, the existing winter recreation activities, and the opportunities for expanded or new activities. As technology changes and the number of people enjoying winter recreation activities increases, so too increases the potential for conflict between different types of activities, negative impact on the environment, and degradation of the recreation experience. This planning Chapter provides direction to focus compatible uses in specified units. Strategies are detailed for each unit to guide implementation of the management objectives and ensure that there are a variety of sustainable winter recreation experiences available.

The references to “activities that could be compatible” in the Desired Future Conditions statements describe activities that could be appropriate within the defined unit if they are made consistent with the objectives of the Chapter. Where activities might overlap, collaborative agreements should be pursued to maximize opportunities for multiple uses and minimize conflict. They may be public or commercial. The activities mentioned in the Desired Future Conditions are intended to indicate an activities focus, and are not intended to be an exhaustive list. Other activities may be compatible.

As detailed in the main chapter document and Appendix 1, all Winter Recreation Management Units are within Simpcw (North Thompson Indian Band)/Secwepemc claimed traditional territory. For all units, winter recreation activities should not affect the ability of First Nations to continue traditional sustenance, cultural, and spiritual activities. The biological richness and services of terrestrial and aquatic processes (for example, water quality, soils and vegetation productivity, species richness, predator/prey interactions, etc.) should be maintained at all scales through time.

1. RIDGE UNIT

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

The primary objective for this unit is to ensure that the needs of key wildlife species including mountain goat and caribou are not compromised by winter recreation. Activities will typically be non-motorized; although some heli-skiing and road- or trail-based snowmobile touring will be enjoyed where the risk to sensitive wildlife species is minimal. Historical recreation activities will be modified to mitigate wildlife impacts. New or expanded activities that could be compatible in this unit include backcountry ski touring and ice climbing outside the *Mountain Goat Critical Range*, and low intensity heli-skiing outside the *Mountain Goat Habitat Buffer*. Low intensity snowmobile use, mainly on existing roads and trails may be developed where it does not impact mountain caribou.



STRATEGIES:

- Encourage winter recreation activities that are consistent with the Desired Future Condition statement above.
- Manage this backcountry unit as generally non-roaded. Some two-wheel drive and four-wheel drive roads and trails will exist.
- Develop winter recreation infrastructure and conduct winter recreation activities in the mapped *Caribou Calving Area*, *Mountain Goat Critical Range*, *Modified 2000m Goat Habitat Buffer* (see Map 1) in a manner consistent with the objectives and strategies, including unit-specific direction, for mountain goat and caribou in Appendix 1 (see Section 7).
- 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.¹
- Maintain current levels and distribution of snowmobiling in this unit until additional scientific data including mapping is available to confirm the compatibility of snowmobiling and mountain caribou.²

¹ For example, review and consider relocating certain heli-ski runs to areas outside of the *Modified 2000m Goat Habitat Buffer*.
² This information should be available by September 2004.

2. REDSANDS/PARBERRY UNIT

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

As a result of continued collaboration between the Blue River Powder Packers snowmobile club, Mike Wiegele Heli-skiing, and new commercial recreation operators, users of this unit will enjoy a diverse selection of motorized activities. Careful joint management will result in maintained quality experiences and ensure that there is no encroachment into key wildlife areas. New or expanded activities that could be compatible in this unit include snowmobiling, snowmobile touring, helicopter and snow-cat skiing.



In the Redsands area, including within the *Modified 2000m Goat Habitat Buffer* (see Map 1), opportunities exist for public snowmobiling, guided snowmobile touring, snow-cat skiing, and combinations of these activities. Activities in this area will need to be formally managed through a tenure or a land use designation, either under the Forest Practices Code or the Land Act, to minimize recreation use conflicts and potential impacts to mountain goat habitat.

STRATEGIES:

- Encourage winter recreation activities that are consistent with the Desired Future Condition statement above.
- Implement a cooperative, managed winter recreation approach in the Redsands area to minimize winter recreation use conflicts and potential impacts on mountain goat habitat.
- Manage Redsands and Parberry Forest Service Roads to maintain access to this unit for controlled motorized recreation use.
- Develop winter recreation infrastructure and conduct winter recreation activities in the mapped *Mountain Goat Critical Range* and *Modified 2000m Goat Habitat Buffer* (see Map 1) consistent with the objectives and strategies, including unit-specific direction, for mountain goat and caribou in Appendix 1 (see Section 7).

3. NORTH MUD LAKE UNIT

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

This unit will be developed for intensive heli-skiing. In addition to backcountry heli-ski runs,³ frontcountry heli-ski runs (two open terrain ski runs and four managed forest ski runs) will be established.⁴ User groups, including tenure holders, have collaborated to ensure access to the Redsands/Parberry unit is maintained and managed. New and expanded activities that could be compatible in this unit include snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling on designated access routes, and snowmobile touring.



STRATEGIES:

- Encourage winter recreation activities that are consistent with the Desired Future Condition statement above.
- Manage Redsands and Parberry Forest Service Roads to maintain access routes to recreation areas beyond this recreation unit.
- Establish controlled access points into the Redsands and Parberry areas for

snowmobile use if required.

- Maintain existing levels of roaded access to and within this unit.
- Develop winter recreation infrastructure and conduct winter recreation activities in the mapped *Mountain Goat Critical Range* and *Modified 2000m Goat Habitat Buffer* (see Map 1) consistent with the objectives and strategies, including unit-specific direction, for mountain goat and caribou in Appendix 1 (see Section 7).

4. SADDLE MOUNTAIN COMMERCIAL RECREATION AREA

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

This unit is tenured as a Commercial Recreation Area to Mike Wiegele Heli-Ski (MWH), and will be managed according to this tenure, with heli-skiing being the dominant recreation use.



STRATEGIES:

- Avoid disturbing mountain goats in the mapped *Modified 2000m Goat Habitat Buffer* (see Map 1) by maintaining a minimum altitude of 2000m above the ground for all helicopter or aircraft flights November 1 to July 15.
- Develop winter recreation infrastructure and conduct winter recreation activities in the mapped *Modified 2000m Goat Habitat Buffer* in

a manner consistent with the objectives and strategies, including unit-specific direction, for mountain goats in Appendix 1 (see Section 7).

- Develop and follow helicopter flight plans to existing backcountry and frontcountry heli-ski runs, that approach from, and depart to, the northwest to reduce recreation disturbance of goats and goat winter habitat use in adjacent critical ranges.

³ Backcountry heli-ski runs refer to traditional high elevation heli-ski runs that do not require intensive forest stand management.
⁴ **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 Ski Runs: Permanent frontcountry heli-ski runs (200 metre 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 Ski Runs: Permanent frontcountry heli-ski runs (200 metre maximum width) created primarily to accommodate heli-skiing, and ultimately removed from the timber harvesting land base. Retained 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.

5. PTARMIGAN MOUNTAIN UNIT

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

This unit has been developed for intensive heli-skiing. In addition to backcountry heli-ski runs, new front country heli-ski runs (two open terrain ski runs and nine managed forest ski runs) will be established. Compatible winter recreation activities should be developed to integrate with heli-skiing. New and expanded activities that could be compatible in this unit include ice climbing, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing.



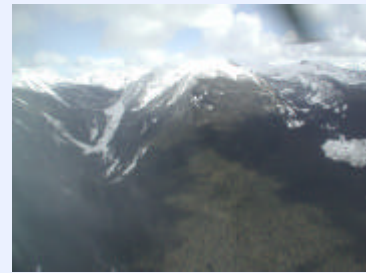
STRATEGIES:

- Encourage winter recreation activities that are consistent with the Desired Future Condition statement above.
- Maintain existing levels of roaded access to and within this unit. As part of operational plan development, (using the "total chance concept"⁵), recreation proponents may need to relocate access routes to minimize conflicts between user groups.
- Develop winter recreation infrastructure and conduct winter recreation activities in the mapped *Modified 2000m Goat Habitat Buffer* in a manner consistent with the objectives and strategies, including unit-specific direction, for mountain goats in Appendix 1 (see Section 7).
- Develop and follow helicopter flight plans for planned frontcountry heli-ski runs, to approach from, and depart to, the west to reduce recreation disturbance of goats and goat winter habitat use in adjacent critical ranges.

6. FROTH UNIT

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

This unit will be developed for intensive heli-skiing. In addition to backcountry heli-ski runs, new frontcountry heli-ski runs (one open terrain ski run and two managed forest ski runs) will be established. Compatible winter recreation activities should be developed to integrate with heli-skiing. New and expanded activities that could be compatible in this unit include snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.



STRATEGIES:

- Encourage winter recreation activities that are consistent with the Desired Future Condition statement above.
- Develop winter recreation infrastructure and conduct winter recreation activities in the mapped *Modified 2000m Goat Habitat Buffer* in a manner consistent with the objectives and strategies, including unit-specific direction, for mountain goats in Appendix 1 (see Section 7).
- Develop and follow helicopter flight plans for planned frontcountry heli-ski runs, to approach from, and depart to, the west or south to reduce recreation disturbance of goats and goat winter habitat use in adjacent critical ranges.

⁵ "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.

7. NORTH THOMPSON RIVER VALLEY UNIT

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

A variety of new and existing motorized and non-motorized frontcountry activities will be enjoyed on this unit that buffers the highway. Activities will be largely focused on roads and trails, and will not be reliant on the sense of remoteness. New and expanded activities that could be compatible in this unit include snowmobiling, snowmobile touring, snowshoeing, and



STRATEGIES:

- Encourage winter recreation activities that are consistent with the Desired Future Condition statement above.
- The local recreation community should establish an advisory committee to seek opportunities to integrate activities and resolve conflicts between overlapping uses before they escalate.

8. WHITE RIVER SOUTH UNIT

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

This unit will support a mix of new and existing motorized and non-motorized uses including high elevation heli-skiing, snowmobiling, limited new frontcountry heli-skiing (one open terrain ski run and three managed forest ski runs) and ski-touring in the White River Valley. All activities will be pursued following a code of conduct that fosters the behaviour necessary to support the mountain caribou. A strict policy of avoidance of mountain goat and caribou will be practiced by all winter recreation users. Activities that could be compatible in this unit include heli-skiing, ski-touring in the White River Valley, snowmobiling, and snowmobile touring.



STRATEGIES:

- Encourage winter recreation activities that are consistent with the Desired Future Condition statement above.
- Where existing heli-ski and snowmobile use overlap, commercial recreation tenure holders and snowmobile user groups should cooperatively develop agreements to reduce conflicts.
- Where needed, maintain existing levels of roaded access to and within this unit. As part of operational plan development, (using "total chance concept"), recreation proponents may need to relocate access routes to minimize conflicts between user groups.
- Manage to maintain access to this unit and beyond for controlled motorized recreation use.
- Avoid establishing new roaded access through this unit into the Diamond Head area or into high elevation⁶ subalpine and alpine habitats.
- Develop winter recreation infrastructure and conduct winter recreation activities in the mapped *Early Winter Caribou Habitat*, *Mountain Goat Critical Range*, and *Modified 2000m Goat Habitat Buffer* (see Map 1) in a manner consistent with the objectives and strategies, including unit-specific direction, for mountain goat and caribou in Appendix 1 (see Section 7).
- Maintain current levels and distribution of snowmobiling in this unit until additional scientific data is available to confirm the compatibility of snowmobiling and mountain caribou.

⁶ Generally above 1600 m in the planning area.

9. DIAMOND HEAD UNIT

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

This unit will be used for new and existing low intensity, non-motorized winter recreation activities including backcountry skiing and snowshoeing in Cook Creek and the White River Valley, and for high elevation heli-skiing and limited new frontcountry skiing (two open terrain ski runs and one managed forest ski run). Activities will be managed to maintain the conditions necessary to support key wildlife species including mountain goat and caribou.



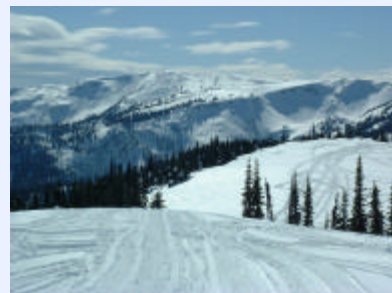
STRATEGIES:

- Encourage winter recreation activities that are consistent with the Desired Future Condition statement above.
- Develop winter recreation infrastructure and conduct winter recreation activities in the mapped *Early Winter Caribou Habitat*, *Mountain Goat Critical Range*, and *Modified 2000m Goat Habitat Buffer* (see Map 1) in a manner consistent with the objectives and strategies, including unit-specific direction, for mountain goat and caribou in Appendix 1 (see Section 7).
- Maintain current levels of snowmobiling in this unit until additional scientific data, including mapping, is available to confirm the compatibility of snowmobiling and mountain caribou.

10. WHITEWATER UNIT

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

This unit will be used for a variety of new and existing non-motorized activities including snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and backcountry skiing. Snowmobiling is enjoyed along the eastern boundary of the unit. Activities will be managed to maintain the conditions necessary to support key wildlife species including mountain caribou.



STRATEGIES:

- Encourage winter recreation activities that are consistent with the Desired Future Condition statement above.
- Establish a community recreation committee to bring users together to seek opportunities for integration and resolve conflicts.
- Develop winter recreation infrastructure and conduct winter recreation activities in the mapped *Early Winter Caribou Habitat* (see Map 1) in a manner consistent with the objectives and strategies, including unit-specific direction, for mountain goat and caribou in Appendix 1 (see Section 7).
- Maintain current levels and distribution of snowmobiling in this unit until additional scientific data, including mapping, is available to confirm the compatibility of snowmobiling and mountain caribou.