



Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Ministerial Order under the Land Act – Land Use Objectives Regulation
Old Growth Management Objectives for the Kamloops Land and Resource Management Plan Area

Interpretive Guidance

The purpose of this document is to provide some background and intent regarding the Kamloops Land and Resource Management Plan Old Growth Management Area Ministerial Order and may be amended upon occasion.

This guidance is not to be interpreted as legal advice, policy direction, or be interpreted as the only means of implementing the order. It is intended to assist the public, government agencies, forest licensees and others by providing an understanding of the intent of the order and its expected implementation over time.

The interpretive guidance is shown in boxes in italics following the main sections of the order.

As per section 93.4 of the Land Act, this order is solely for the purposes of the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) and has been developed in that context. Depending on the legislation, tenure, or decision maker this order may or may not apply to other statutes or certain activities, including some of those conducted under the FRPA. Contact local Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) staff for further information.

The one Kamloops LRMP Higher Level Plan (Land Use Objectives) provision regarding old growth in the 2006 Higher Level Plan Order will be cancelled in concert with the approval of this order and this order will be fully consistent with the remaining provisions of that order.

Part 1 - Interpretation

1. This order is being made pursuant to Section 93.4 of the *Land Act* and establishes objectives for old growth management within the *Kamloops Land and Resource Management Plan* (LRMP) area, including the Bonaparte extension area.

This order originates from the Kamloops LRMP approved in 1995 and its various amendments completed over time. Although the amendments to the higher level plan order (HLP/Land Act Objectives Order, 2006 and 2009), did not include the “Bonaparte area of extension” from the Cariboo Chilcotin Land Use Plan (CCLUP) area, government (Interagency Management Committee) has approved this boundary change and it is reflected within the British Columbia Geographic Warehouse. For the purpose of this order the “Bonaparte area of extension” is considered to be part of the Deadman Landscape Unit. A table of approved land use objectives is posted here:

<http://archive.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/slrp/legalobjectives/index.html>

2. Nothing in, under or arising out of this order either abrogates or derogates from any aboriginal rights, aboriginal title or treaty rights of any applicable First Nation, nor relieves the Province of any obligation to consult with any applicable First Nation.
3. Spatial data regarding landscape units under this order are publicly available at <https://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/geometadata/metadataDetail.do?recordUID=51078&recordSet=ISO19115> within the British Columbia Geographic Warehouse (BCGW) under layer named: WHSE_LAND_USE_PLANNING.RMP_LANDSCAPE_UNIT_SVW. In the event of any differences in boundaries shown on the map attached to this order and those within the appropriate BCGW data, the latter shall prevail.
4. Spatial data regarding old growth management areas under this order are publicly available at <https://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/geometadata/metadataDetail.do?recordUID=51680&recordSet=ISO19115> within the BCGW under layer named: WHSE_LAND_USE_PLANNING.RMP_OGMA_LEGAL_CURRENT_SVW. In the event of any differences in boundaries shown on the map attached to this order and those within the appropriate BCGW data, the latter shall prevail.

Note: amendments to this order and OGMA's are expected to occur over time and users of the BCGW data need to be aware of which version they are using. The BCGW is the official source for OGMA data and users of the data should check there for periodic updates. Proposed amendments that are 'in process' and incursions will be available through a government maintained web site, until such time as they are approved and published to the BCGW. Metadata associated with the OGMA data files will contain information on versions and archive information.

Data can be downloaded for the applicable layer by clicking on the 'Download Data' button from the metadata web page (shown above).

OGMA's will need to be mapped in FSPs as per the FRPA.

5. Terms and expressions not defined in this order have the meaning given to them under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* unless the context indicates otherwise.

Reference to the FRPA, includes the terms and words within the regulations made under it. “Primary forest activities” is an example of this, and it is defined within the FRPA “Forest Planning and Practices Regulation” as:

- (a) timber harvesting;*
- (b) silviculture treatments;*
- (c) road construction, maintenance and deactivation*

6. Definitions:

(a) In this order:

Biodiversity Emphasis Option: means the biodiversity emphasis option identified for each landscape unit in Schedule 1.

Landscape Units: means the landscape units named in Schedule 1 and mapped in Schedule 2.

Old Growth Management Area (OGMAs): means areas identified as old growth management areas and mapped in Schedule 2.

Old growth management areas are intended to be OGMAs for the purpose of the FRPA.

Part 2 - Objectives

1. Conserve biodiversity by retaining old forest values and attributes, or rare features within the OGMAs across the landscape units over time.

The intent of this section is to provide some overarching context for why old growth areas are important. Old growth forests are considered a key biodiversity component and coarse filter for maintaining ecological diversity at the landscape level over time. It is recognized that OGMAs are only one tool in maintaining biodiversity. Old growth attributes should also be managed across the landscape at a stand level and may be included via other fine filter tools such as wildlife tree patches, wildlife habitat areas, or other tools that may be used to capture specific features important to old growth and other biodiversity goals. It is accepted that many natural disturbances are a part of the ecological process expected to occur within OGMAs.

It is also recognized that many OGMAs may not necessarily be comprised of "old forests" but may otherwise have been placed to capture unusual or rare features, and/or due to other reasons as a result of the planning process (such as location of non-timber harvesting land base, or important habitats). It should be noted that the OGMAs in this order are the result of many years of negotiation, analysis, government/industry input, and managerial direction.

2. Maintain all timber within OGMA's except as required to accommodate the following purposes:
 - (a) to prevent the spread of insect infestations or diseases that pose a significant threat to forested areas external to the OGMA;
 - (b) to address safety hazards associated with primary forest activities;
 - (c) to provide for guyline clearances and tailhold anchors;
 - (d) to address fuel management concerns and related safety hazards;
 - (e) to provide road access where no alternative practicable option for road location exists; or
 - (f) to facilitate timber harvesting that will result in operationally practicable cutblock boundaries.

The intent of section 2 is to recognize the importance of old growth forests in the landscape by limiting disturbance by primary forest activities. OGMA's are intended to be fixed in place (permanent) and remain largely undisturbed by human activity for extended periods of time.

The planning process has always acknowledged there would be some common low risk situations, or other situations that would not require government approval to authorize primary forest activities. This section is intended to rely on professionals in its implementation. It is recommended that professionals develop a rationale that identifies the operational need (including why the activity could not be conducted outside of the OGMA) as well as any potential significant adverse biological affects. The professional should evaluate the OGMA prior to harvest to determine if there are particular old growth values or unique features that will be affected by the activity.

Activities conducted in OGMA's will result in an incursion and this area and location will need to be tracked for notification purposes and to ensure that incursion limits are not exceeded (section 3, below).

2(f) recognizes that the placement or shape of some OGMA boundaries may not result in optimal boundary locations for timber harvesting. It is possible that some cutblock boundaries placed inside an OGMA may improve windfirmness of the OGMA or reduce the isolation of timber. This flexibility should not be used as a rationale to harvest timber from an OGMA.

3. Primary forest activities conducted for the purposes under section 2 must:
 - (a) be conducted to the minimum extent necessary to accommodate the purpose; and
 - (b) not exceed the lesser of two hectares or 10% of an individual OGMA polygon per 20 year time period.

The intent of section 3 is to limit incursions, due to the purposes listed in section 2, to less than two hectares or 10% of the OGMA, whichever is less. The limitation applies to each individual OGMA polygon, (e.g. at most, 1ha (10%) of a 10ha OGMA polygon may be harvested, or 2ha of a 50ha OGMA polygon) over a 20 year period, on a rolling basis. OGMA incursions will be reviewed periodically to determine the incursion room that remains and the results will be publicly available. Should the incursion limit be reached, there can be no further harvesting until incursion room is freed up or an amendment proposal is approved. It is not expected that this small level of disturbance will trigger future OGMA replacement, however, OGMA's will be monitored for activities over time.

Should an OGMA be amended, the 20 year period is expected to start over given the OGMA is considered to be new.

MFLNRO's role will include periodically monitoring the location, amount and condition of OGMA's. If it becomes apparent that there is an ongoing erosion in the amount of functional old forests due to the flexibility provided within this order, MFLNRO may consider eliminating the flexibility provisions or consider other options to protect

old growth forests.

MFLNRO will track harvest authority applications that create incursions into OGMA's and maintain a spatial file of these incursions. This file will be publically available for reference at the following location

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/dhw/external/publish/OGMA_KLRMP/.

Tenures that harvest under the One Cutting Permit concept do not submit a harvest authority application for every area to be harvested. Given that One CP tenure holders are currently required to submit a notice of commencement to the district manager prior to harvest further details required for OGMA tracking purposes will be obtained at that time.

Part 3 - Effective Date and Transition

1. Application of this order:

- (a) This order takes effect on the date that notice of this order is published in the British Columbia Gazette.
- (b) The applicable period of time specified for forest stewardship plan amendments under section 8(2)(b) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* is six months starting on the date this order comes into effect.

Kevin Dickenson

Regional Executive Director

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Thompson Okanagan Region

Date

Schedule 1: Landscape Units and Biodiversity Emphasis Options

Landscape Unit Number	Landscape Unit Name	Biodiversity Emphasis Option	Landscape Unit Number	Landscape Unit Name	Biodiversity Emphasis Option
1	Hat Creek	Intermediate	18	Clearwater	Low
2	Lower Bonaparte	Intermediate	19	Vavenby	Low
3	Ashcroft	High	20	Raft	Low
4	Deadman	Intermediate	21	Mad	Low
5	Dewdrop	High	22	Mica	Low
6	Upper Guichon	Low	23	Cayenne	Intermediate
7	Tranquille	Intermediate	24	Tum Tum	Intermediate
8	Heffley	Intermediate	25	Avola	Low
9	Campbell	Intermediate	26	Thunder Blue	Low
10	Louis Creek	High	27	Mud	Intermediate
11	Barriere	Low	28	Albreda	Low
12	Adams Lake	Low	29	Upper North Thompson	Intermediate
13	Lower Adams	Intermediate	30	South Kamloops	Intermediate
14	Skull	Low	31	Stump Lake	Intermediate
15	Darfield	Intermediate	32	Lac du Bois	High
16	Bonaparte	Low	33	Dunn	High
17	Nehalliston	Intermediate			

Use this section to record detailed information comparing the ecosystem, landscape and stand level attributes of the original location of the OGMA to the replacement location.

	Original Location	Replacement Location
Prov ID: Kam_TKA OGMA number		
UTM		
Ecosystem Level		
• BEC Variant		
• Tree species (1 & 2)		
• Age (years)		
• Rarity (LUOR Appendix 1)		
Stand Level – Size, Shape, Location		
• Size (ha)		
• Interior Habitat (maximize) ¹		
• Connectivity		
• Fragmentation (minimize)		
• Edge (minimize/reduce ratio)(m of edge/ha)		
• Slope (%)		
• Aspect (N/S/E/W)		
• Elevation (m)		
• Location (adjacent values: Parks, wetlands, etc.)		
• Road density(km/km ²) (limit extent of roads within OGMAs)		
Additional Information		
Other Considerations *		
• Site series		
• Old growth attributes		
• Wildlife values		
• Ecological anchors (nests, dens, etc.)		
• Wildlife trees		
• Coarse woody debris		
• Multi-layer attributes		
• Mixed species		
• Other biodiversity values		
• First Nations values		
• Legal values (WHAs, UWRs, etc.)		

* Where site information available. This is not an exhaustive list.

¹ Interior habitat sustains the viability of the plant and animal communities that depend on its generally stable environmental conditions; therefore, minimizing edge effect generally improves the retention of interior habitat.

Use this section to provide rationale as to how the replacement OGMA is equal or better and what differences exist between the original OGMA and its replacement . Explain how biodiversity values will be maintained or improved. Compare and contrast the `old growthiness` of the original and the proposed replacement. Attach reference map of the original and replacement OGMAs.