



Integrated Land Management Bureau

File: 17730-50/MERRITT-OGMA

August 21, 2007

Charles van Hemmen, District Manager
Cascades Forest District
Ministry of Forests and Range
PO Box 4400 Station Main
Merritt BC V1K 1B8

Dear Mr. Charles van Hemmen:

Re: Old Growth Management Areas, Merritt Timber Supply Area

The Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) has completed its work on identifying spatial old growth management areas (OGMAs) for the Merritt Timber Supply Area (TSA). ILMB's strategy for completing legacy biodiversity planning is attached, as well as a guidance document for the ongoing management of spatial OGMAs.

These spatial OGMAs are being made available to help forest licensees and BC Timber Sales (BCTS) meet the current biodiversity requirements in the *Order Establishing Provincial Non-Spatial Old Growth Objectives*. The ILMB spatial OGMAs for the Merritt TSA meet the intent of this legal order. Although licensees and BCTS are not obligated to use these spatial OGMAs, this information will be useful for developing results or strategies for forest stewardship plans (FSPs). Data files and supporting information regarding these OGMAs are available through the following web site:

http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/south/inf_res_inv/img/spatial/index.html in the folder OGMAs_SIR.

ILMB will continue its role of assessing the effectiveness of biodiversity-related legal objectives and will be responsive to priority issues identified by other agencies, First Nations or clients who identify a need to establish legal targets or spatial OGMAs. A corporate business plan approach involving other agencies will be employed by ILMB to determine whether, when and where to establish legal objectives. The Interagency Management Committee will be responsible for evaluating these business plans and providing recommendations to ILMB.

Note that ILMB has no plans to maintain or further update these OGMAs beyond the date of this letter, unless further legal objectives are established. ILMB will respond to questions regarding the spatial OGMAs, supporting information supplied or interactions with legal objectives. If licensees and BCTS choose to use the spatial OGMAs in FSP

results or strategies, they will need to ensure that results or strategies are consistent to the prescribed extent with the legal objective. Since ILMB will no longer be managing this information, licensees and BCTS will need to consider how they will manage OGMA information and changes to OGMAs to ensure due diligence. ILMB is available to meet and discuss transitional issues regarding these OGMAs.

Please contact ILMB Planning Officer, Susan Omelchuk, if you have any questions.

Yours truly,



Kevin Dickenson,
Manager, Planning & Crown Land Adjudication
Regional Client Services
Thompson Okanagan Service Centre
SO/

Attachments:

- *New Direction Strategy for Completing Legacy Biodiversity Planning in 2007-08*
- *Old Growth Management Area Guidance Thompson Okanagan*

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