

File: 17580-02/Sayward

**ORDER TO ESTABLISH
A LANDSCAPE UNIT AND OBJECTIVES**

SAYWARD LANDSCAPE UNIT

Pursuant to Section 4 of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, I hereby establish the Sayward Landscape Unit, an area located directly north of the community of Campbell River and within the Coast Region, effective July 1, 2003.

The boundaries of the Sayward Landscape Unit are shown on the 1:50,000 scale map titled *Biodiversity and Wildlife*, dated February 3, 2003, attached to this Order.

In addition, I hereby establish objectives for the Sayward Landscape Unit, as attached to this Order, effective July 1, 2003.

(Original signed by)

Wally Eamer
Regional Director
Coast Region
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Date

Attachments: HLP Objectives, Sayward Plan
Sayward LU *Biodiversity and Wildlife* Map

HIGHER LEVEL PLAN OBJECTIVES FOR THE SAYWARD LANDSCAPE UNIT

OBJECTIVE 1

1. Maintain or recruit old growth forest attributes in designated old growth management areas (OGMA, OGMA/UWR for Deer, and OGMA/UWR for Elk), as shown on the attached Sayward Landscape Unit map, titled Biodiversity and Wildlife. Timber harvesting, including salvage, single tree selection, topping for cone harvesting, and commercial gathering of botanical forest products, will not be permitted within OGMAs except as specified in sections 2 and 3 below.
2. The Delegated Decision Maker (DDM) may allow operations to occur within an OGMA that are not to be established as UWR for Deer or Elk for reasons such as but not limited to the following:
 - (1) To prevent the spread of insect infestations or diseases that pose a significant threat to forested areas outside of OGMAs. This will be done in a manner that retains as many old growth forest attributes as possible.
 - (2) Construction of roads if no other practicable option exists.
 - (3) Partial-cut timber harvesting within immature (<100 years old) portions of OGMAs, where it can be demonstrated that harvesting will accelerate development of old growth forest attributes and improve the stand for biodiversity purposes, without compromising other resource values.
3. The following do not require the approval of the Delegated Decision Maker before proceeding:
 - (1) Maintenance, deactivation, removal of danger trees, or brushing and clearing on existing roads under active tenure within the right-of-way for safety purposes.
 - (2) Felling of guyline clearance, tailhold anchor trees, or danger trees (except high value live wildlife trees¹) along cutblock boundaries or within the right of way on new road/bridge alignments to meet safety requirements. These trees are to be retained on site for coarse woody debris.
 - (3) Intrusions², less than 0.5 hectare in size for OGMA's that are not to established as UWR for Deer or Elk.
 - (4) OGMAs that are not to be established as UWR for Deer or Elk that are >10 ha in size may be modified for operational reasons provided that replacement OGMA of like or better quality and quantity is identified in order of priority, 1) immediately adjacent to the existing OGMA, or 2) in the same variant and landscape unit as the existing OGMA such that OGMA ecological attributes and spatial distribution are maintained or improved in one of the following categories:
 - i) OGMAs ≥ 10 ha to <50 ha in size where the proposed development affects the OGMA by <5 ha,
 - ii) OGMAs ≥ 50 ha to <100 ha in size where the proposed development affects the OGMA by <10ha,
 - iii) OGMAs ≥ 100 ha in size where the proposed development affects the OGMA by <10%.

¹ High value live wildlife trees are characterized as having the presence of black bear dens or visible, large stick nests.

² Intrusions will occur where field engineering more precisely locates OGMA boundaries.

- iv) Construction of $\leq 500\text{m}$ of road or a bridge within an OGMA where there is no other practicable option. As an alternative to finding replacement area, the licensee may deactivate or rehabilitate a temporary road or bridge site within four years after construction.
- v) Construction of rock quarries and gravel pits under authority of forest tenure where the development will be located immediately adjacent to existing roads under tenure and will affect the OGMA by < 0.5 ha.

OBJECTIVE 2

Maintain stand level structural diversity by retaining wildlife tree patches (WTP). Cutblocks for which harvesting has been completed by each licensee by tenure will maintain adequate amounts of wildlife tree patches to ensure that over any 5 year period, commencing on the date the objectives are established, the target percentage as noted in Table A is achieved. In addition:

- (1) WTPs must be well distributed across the BEC subzone or variant.
- (2) No timber harvesting, including salvage or single tree selection, is to occur within Wildlife Tree Patches.
- (3) WTPs must include, if present, live or dead veteran trees (excluding danger trees), or remnant old growth patches.
- (4) WTPs must include larger trees for the stand and any existing moderate to high value wildlife trees (excluding danger trees).
- (5) BEC subzones and/or variants will be determined by site plan information.

Table A. Wildlife Tree Retention by BEC subzone in the Sayward Landscape Unit.

BEC Subzone/Variant	% Wildlife Tree Retention
CWHmm1 (Coastal Western Hemlock, Submontane moist maritime)	13%
CWHmm2 (Coastal Western Hemlock, Montane moist maritime)	10%
CWHxm (Coastal Western Hemlock Very Dry Maritime)	14%
MHmm1 (Mountain Hemlock, Windward moist maritime)	2%

OBJECTIVE 3

Provide for spring forage adjacent to Ungulate Winter Ranges/Deer, as indicated on the Sayward Landscape Unit map, titled Biodiversity and Wildlife by managing seral stages as follows:

- Identifying Ungulate Winter Ranges/Deer within the Strathcona Timber Supply Area and determining all areas within 2 km that are on slopes 40 to 100% and with an aspect of exposure from 90 through 270 degrees and, ensuring that no more than 25% of this area be younger than 20 years old at any point in time; or

Identifying Ungulate Winter Ranges/Deer within Tree Farm Licence 39 and managing as per the Weyerhaeuser Standard Operating Procedure for the Management of Critical Spring Forage Adjacent to Black-tailed Deer Winter Ranges, dated and approved July 9, 2001.

OBJECTIVE 4

Manage stand structure and provide hiding cover for elk in the Elk Visual Cover Areas as identified on the attached Sayward Landscape Unit map, titled Biodiversity and Wildlife, by:

- Maintaining at least 50% of the forested area of each Elk Visual Cover Area at greater than 5 metres in height; and
- Prohibiting further harvesting adjacent to the major riparian feature (swamp, lake or stream) within the Elk Visual Cover Areas identified on the Sayward Landscape Unit map, titled Biodiversity and Wildlife, until the forest on the opposite side of the riparian feature exceeds the 5 metre height requirement for a lateral distance of 100 m from the riparian feature.

OBJECTIVE 5

To manage stand structure and protect Critical Stream Reaches, as shown on the Sayward Landscape Unit map, titled Lakes Classification, and Small Spawning and Rearing Streams (S4) by:

- Retaining all windfirm trees with roots embedded in the streambank; and
- For S4 streams, retaining 50% of the stems, representative of species, age and size, within 10 m of the channel.

OBJECTIVE 6

To establish a patch size objective and pursue enhanced timber harvesting opportunities, within areas not subject to integrated resource management (i.e., ungulate winter ranges, elk hiding cover areas, old growth management areas, recreation resource units, visually sensitive landscapes³, recreation constraint areas, lakeshore management zones, and designated community watersheds) and as shown as Non-constraint Areas on the Sayward Landscape Unit map titled, Non-constraint Areas, by allowing cutblocks up to, but not exceeding 80 ha in size⁴.

³ Visually sensitive landscapes refers to areas with an established VQO of Preservation, Retention, or Partial Retention. Where a proposed cutblock is not entirely within the Non-constraint Areas the portion of the cutblock within the area subject to integrated resource management is restricted to an upper limit of 40 ha within the cutblock size limit of 80 ha.

⁴ Size refers to the net area to be forested.