

**Project Name:** Grizzly Bear habitat inventory, North Coast Plan area

**Program Area** Ecological Integrity

**Project No.** EI 02 a Phase 1

**Related Projects** EI 02 c - Focal and Fine Filter Species Analysis to inform full implementation of EBM  
DS04 – Co-location Modelling to Inform Old Growth Reserve Selection  
EI03 –Ecological Baseline

**Start Date** March 31, 2008

**Completion Date** May 31, 2008

**Overview:**

This project proposal will address Grizzly Bear inventory gaps in the north coast plan area to provide the basis for spatially-defined habitat protection measures as a key building-block of EBM.

Grizzly Bear habitat assessment in the NC LRMP area is based on predictive Ecosystem mapping – no field work has been completed to date. The existing Schedule 2 map is considered incomplete and of inadequate resolution to effectively guide placement of focal species reserves.

This project will:

1. using air photos, map polygons of important spring and/or summer grizzly bear foraging habitat onto 1:20,000 Terrain Resource Inventory Management (TRIM) map sheets or equivalent;
2. characterize habitat units within polygons as an existing or proposed ecosystem class or site series, wherever possible;
3. qualitatively assess relative differences in habitat importance within a polygon and rate each polygon on a six-class scale from high to nil;
4. discuss the importance of each delineated polygon in the context of available grizzly bear foraging habitat in that drainage; and
5. identify post-logging second growth forests that are candidates for spacing to improve grizzly bear forage quality.

**Objectives:**

To conduct Grizzly Bear inventories and mapping to support fine-filter focal species protection measures and co-location of coarse filter reserves for old growth representivity in the North Coast plan area.

**Expected Use/User/Benefits:**

- Further spatial coverage of Grizzly Bear habitat will guide fine-filter habitat protection measures and help guide co-location of coarse filter biodiversity elements, in keeping with ecosystem-based management principles.
- Project outcomes will enable comparison with existing modelling approaches, facilitating refinement of models for future application to help guide the recovery strategies by providing more accurate estimates of suitable focal species habitat. This will ensure that decisions regarding spatial reserve locations are based on accurate information, maximizing benefits to focal species while reducing socio-economic impacts co-location of coarse filter and fine-filter reserve elements to the extent possible.

**Key Tasks**

To be executed by the Ministry of Environment:

- Contract administration
- Prioritisation of inventory efforts according to gap analysis results (Janz 2007)
- Provide local knowledge and expertise to contractor(s)
- Collation of existing resource information relevant to the project
- Assist contractor(s) in stratification of study areas
- Participate in field surveys
- Provide editorial input on draft reports

To be executed by contractor(s):

- Coordinate and conduct habitat inventories for focal species identified in the North and Central Coast plan areas, according to inventory gaps identified by MOE Regional staff.
- Identify key areas for habitat inventory priority by focal species in consultation with regional MOE staff and considering available resource information (i.e. air photos, TEM mapping, etc.)
- Develop criteria for stratification of inventory efforts, including but not limited to: environmental risk, land status, development pressures, status of species inventory in plan areas, overlap with current Detailed Strategic Planning efforts and ability to support decision making in a timely fashion.
- Ensure inventory methods employed are consistent with accepted methodologies, according to focal species habitat being assessed.
- Develop a map of key habitats for focal species in support of Wildlife Habitat Area delineation and placement of coarse filter reserves under EBM.
- Provide recommendations for refinement of existing habitat models to guide future focal species habitat identification and prioritization

**Scope Considerations:**

- Discussions have occurred with forest licensees in the plan area to ensure coordination of inventory activities.

**Deliverables:**

- Spatially define Grizzly Bear habitat inventory in the North Coast plan area in support of fine-filter components of EBM.
- Spatialize habitat polygons and write a report explaining methodology and results.
- Complete mapping of the Marbled Murrelet low level flight data collected in March 2007. Submit a report and polygon layer showing habitat rankings.

**Milestones:**

- June 2008 Identify contractors, data gaps, available resources to stratify inventories
- July 2008: contractor selected
- July 2008: contract signed
- July – August 2008: conduct aerial photos inventories in selected areas
- Oct 30 2008: end of contract

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

- This project will be lead by the Ministry of Environment. Project outcomes will be reported back to the EBM Working Group.

**Links to EBMWG Research Needs:**

- EI 02B - Focal and Fine Filter Species Analysis to inform full implementation of EBM: The results of this (EI 02A) project will be assessed in EI 02B by both focal species domain experts and peer reviewers to identify the quality, and associated confidence, of the data and compare these results with previous Grizzly Bear habitat inventory models (pre 2007).
- DS04 – Co-location Modelling to Inform Old Growth Reserve Selection: The spatially explicit focal/fine filter species habitat modelling information from this (EI 02A) project will be used as inputs to maximize overlapping values for spatial reserve scenarios in co-location modelling in DS 04. In addition under DS 04 the combined updated spatially explicit focal/fine filter species habitat modelling information will be compared to previous focal/fine filter species habitat models (pre 2007) to identify if there are significant differences between this information that would influence the optimal selection of reserve areas under.
- EI03 –Ecological Baseline: Current condition of focal/fine filter species habitat inventory maps compared to original conditions may inform expert opinion on risk associated with particular scenarios. The results of EI 02A are a key component of the current condition of focal/fine filter species.

**Budget:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Source</b>
EBM working group	\$50000.00	EBM Working Group
MOE FIA allocation	0	0
Forest Licensee FIA	0	0

**Contact Information**

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