

Preamble

This order establishes objectives for Old Growth Management Areas within three landscape units located on northern Vancouver Island.

The goal of these objectives is to contribute to biological diversity at the landscape level.

This preamble is intended to provide context and background; it does not, however, form part of the order.

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Ministerial Order

Land Use Objectives for Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) within the Nahwitti, Tsulquate and Marble Landscape Units situated on northern Vancouver Island within the North Island – Central Coast Forest District.

Part 1 - Interpretation

1. Pursuant to Section 93.4 of the *Land Act*, the following objectives are established as land use objectives for the purposes of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and apply to OGMAs within the Nahwitti, Tsulquate and Marble Landscape Units shown on the maps attached as Schedules 1 and 2.
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. Where an objective refers to an area shown on a map and the area is also defined by a spatial dataset, the area as defined by the spatial dataset will apply. All spatial datasets are available at <http://www.geobc.gov.bc.ca>.
4. In the event of any inconsistency between the location of an OGMA boundary as described in a spatial data set and the actual location as determined in the field, the latter shall apply.

Part 2 - Objectives

5. Objectives for Old Growth Management Areas
 - (1) Maintain or recruit old growth forests in established Old Growth Management Areas, as shown on the map attached as Schedules 1 and 2, subject to subsections (2) to (6) below.


- (2) Despite subsection 1, timber harvesting and road or bridge construction are permitted within OGMA's, provided that:
 - i) the area of the OGMA that is subject to timber harvesting or road or bridge construction does not exceed the greater of one hectare or 10% of the area of the OGMA,
 - ii) replacement forest is identified which is
 - i. biologically suitable
 - ii. of equivalent age, structure and area, and,
 - iii. situated in order of priority, either immediately adjacent to the OGMA, or adjacent to another OGMA in the same variant and landscape unit as the existing OGMA, and
 - iii) road or bridge construction, if applicable, is required to access resource values beyond or adjacent to the OGMA and no other practicable option for road or bridge location exists.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(b) and (c), as an alternative to identifying replacement area, a temporary road or bridge site may be permanently deactivated and rehabilitated within four years after construction.
- (4) Within OGMA's, the following activities are permitted:
 - a) First Nations traditional use of trees or understory plants.
 - b) Topping or pruning of trees along boundaries to improve wind firmness.
 - c) Timber harvesting to prevent the spread of insect infestations or diseases that pose significant threat to forested areas outside of OGMA's. Salvage within OGMA's will be done in a manner that retains as many old growth forest attributes as possible.
 - d) Road maintenance, deactivation, removal of danger trees, or brushing and clearing on existing roads under active tenure within the right-of-way for safety purposes.
 - e) Felling for guyline clearance, tailhold anchor trees, or danger trees along cutblock boundaries or within the right-of-way on new road/bridge alignments to meet safety requirements.
 - f) Silvicultural habitat enhancement in recruitment OGMA's.
 - g) Trail and site maintenance or development, and silvicultural treatments to address public safety associated with the management and operation of recreation sites and trails.
- (5) Replacement forest is required if the total area of an OGMA that is subject to the activities pursuant to subsection (4) exceeds the greater of one hectare or 10% of the area of the OGMA. Replacement forest must be biologically suitable, of equivalent age, structure and area, and situated, in order of priority, either immediately adjacent to the OGMA, or adjacent to another OGMA in the same variant and landscape unit as the OGMA.

(6) OGMA adjustments and replacements made in accordance with subsections (2) to (5) must be documented and submitted as digital spatial data to the delegated decision maker at the end of each calendar year.

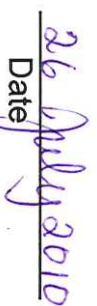
Part 3 - Effective Date and Transition

6. Application of this order

- (1) This order and the land use objectives in this order take effect on the date that notice of this order is published in the Gazette.
- (2) The period of time under section 8 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* is two years.



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Date