



File: ORCS 17580-30/Shushartie Landscape Unit

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

SHUSHARTIE LANDSCAPE UNIT

Pursuant to Section 4 of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, I hereby establish the Shushartie Landscape Unit, an area located on northeastern Vancouver Island in the North Island Central Coast Forest District, effective January 26, 2005.

The boundaries of the Shushartie Landscape Unit are shown on the Shushartie Landscape Unit map dated December 17, 2004 attached to this Order.

In addition, I hereby establish objectives for the Shushartie Landscape Unit, as attached to this Order, effective January 26, 2005.

(Original signed by)

Handwritten signature of Warren K. Mitchell in blue ink.

Warren Mitchell
Regional Director, Coast Region,
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Handwritten date "January 7, 2005" in blue ink.

Date



Preamble

The goal of these objectives is to sustain biological diversity at the landscape level; permissible activities are described to streamline administrative procedures and address operational safety concerns.

First Nations traditional use of forest resources, treaty negotiations or settlements will not be limited by the following objectives.

Legal Objectives – Shushartie Landscape Unit

Pursuant to Section 4 of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, the following are the landscape unit objectives for the Shushartie Landscape Unit.

Objective 1

1. Maintenance or recruitment of old growth forests

Maintain or recruit old growth forests in established Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs), as shown on the attached Shushartie Landscape Unit map dated December 17, 2004, subject to section 2 below.

2. Permissible activities within OGMAs

(a) Minor OGMA boundary adjustments for operational reasons:

To accommodate operational requirements for timber harvesting and road or bridge construction, OGMAs that are 10 ha or greater in size may have boundaries adjusted, provided that

- i) the boundary adjustment does not affect more than 10 per cent of the area of the OGMA,
- ii) road or bridge construction is required to access resource values beyond or adjacent to the OGMA and no other practicable option for road or bridge location exists,
- iii) suitable OGMA replacement forest of at least equivalent age, structure and area is identified either (in order of priority) directly adjacent to or in the same variant and landscape unit as the adjusted OGMA, and

- iv) boundary adjustments and OGMA replacements areas are documented, mapped and submitted to the delegated decision maker at the end of each calendar year.

In the case of ii) above, as an alternative to finding replacement area the licensee may permanently deactivate and rehabilitate a temporary road or bridge site within four years after construction.

(b) Other permissible activities:

- i) Boundary pruning of trees to improve wind firmness.
- ii) Timber harvesting to prevent the spread of insect infestations or diseases that pose a significant threat to forested areas outside of OGMA. Salvage within OGMA will be done in a manner that retains as many old growth forest attributes as possible.
- iii) Maintenance, deactivation, removal of danger trees, or brushing and clearing on existing roads under active tenure within the right-of-way for safety purposes.
- iv) Felling of 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.
- 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 less than 0.5 ha in total.
- vi) Small boundary adjustments for operational reasons, or intrusions, other than those specified above, that result in a net loss to the OGMA by less or equal to 0.5 hectare.

OGMA replacement forest is required as a result of the activities above when the total cumulative area affected exceeds 0.5 ha in size. Replacement forest must be biologically suitable, of equivalent age, structure and area, and situated (in order of priority), either immediately adjacent to the existing OGMA, or in the same variant and landscape unit as the existing OGMA. Boundary adjustments and OGMA replacement areas must be documented, mapped and submitted to the delegated decision maker at the end of each calendar year.

Objective 2 – Wildlife Tree Retention

Maintain stand-level structural diversity, by retaining wildlife tree patches (WTPs). Over each five year period, commencing on the date the objectives are established, the target percentage of the harvest area as noted in the table below must be achieved, by each licensee and tenure, through retention of adequate amounts of wildlife tree patches on cutblocks, except minor salvage cutblocks in which harvesting has been completed¹.

In addition:

- (1) WTPs must be well distributed across the BEC subzone.
- (2) When designated at the operational site plan level, WTPs must be located within or immediately adjacent to a cutblock.
- (3) No timber harvesting, including single tree selection is to occur within WTPs, except as noted in (4) below
- (4) Salvage of windthrown timber is permitted within WTPs where windthrow impacts 25% to 50% of the dominant or co-dominant stems. Salvage of windthrown timber and harvesting of remaining standing stems is permitted within WTPs where windthrow exceeds 50% of the dominant or co-dominant stems; or where forest health issues pose a significant threat to areas outside the WTP. Where salvage/harvesting is planned and authorized, suitable replacement WTP of at least equivalent quantity must be identified concurrently to achieve the retention target.
- (5) WTPs should include, if present, remnant old-growth patches and live or dead veteran trees (excluding danger trees).
- (6) WTPs must include representative larger trees for the stand (dbh > average operational cruise) and any moderate to high value wildlife trees if available (excluding danger trees).
- (7) BEC subzones and variants will be determined by operational site plan information.
- (8) In WTPs with a likelihood of windthrow, pruning and/or topping may be carried out to maintain the integrity of the WTP.

Wildlife Tree Retention in the Shushartie Landscape Unit.

Biogeoclimatic Subzone	% WTP requirement	
	within SMZ 1	Outside SMZ 1
CWH vh (Coastal Western Hemlock, very wet hypermaritime)	1	0

¹ A minor salvage cutblock is defined as less than 2.0 ha of harvesting and/or less than a total volume of 2000 m³ excluding volume harvested from any road clearing width, if the road is required to facilitate the removal of the timber within the minor salvage cutblock.

Objective 3 – Special Management Zone 1

Sustain forest ecosystem structure and function within the portion of Special Management Zone 1 located in the Shushartie Landscape Unit, by retaining mature and old forests (i.e. >80 years of age) on an area covering at least 25 per cent of the total forested area of the SMZ portion located within the landscape unit.

<i>W.K. Mitchell</i>	<i>Jan. 7, 2005</i>
Warren Mitchell	Date