

Preamble

This Order establishes objectives for old growth management areas and wildlife tree retention across the Renfrew Sustainable Resource Management Plan area.

The goal of these objectives is to contribute to biological diversity at the landscape level. Permissible activities are described to streamline administrative procedures and address operational safety concerns. The objectives may be periodically updated to incorporate new knowledge and address changing environmental, economic and social conditions.

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

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

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Ministerial Order

Land Use Objectives for the Renfrew Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP)

File: ORCS 17730-02/Renfrew

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 within the Renfrew SRMP area shown on the map attached to this order dated February 1, 2012 except any lands situated within Tree Farm Licence 61.
2. The Renfrew SRMP area is composed of the Caycuse, Gordon, Nitinat, San Juan and Walbran landscape units. It is located on Southern Vancouver Island, in the South Island Forest District.

Part 2 – Objectives

3. Objectives set for Old Growth Management Areas
 - 3.1. Maintain or recruit old growth forests in established Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs), as shown on the attached Old Growth Management Area maps dated February 1, 2012 subject to sections 3.2 and 3.3 below. The boundaries of the established OGMAs are defined by the spatial data set contained in the provincial Geo BC Geographic Warehouse (GGW) accessible through Geo BC at: <http://www.geobc.gov.bc.ca>.

3.2. Permissible activities

- (a) Minor OGMA intrusions and/or boundary adjustments for operational reasons:

Minor timber harvesting operations, and road or bridge construction required to access resource values beyond or adjacent to the OGMA, are permitted in OGMAs that are 10 ha or greater in size, provided that

- i) the operation or boundary adjustment does not affect more than 10 per cent of the area of the OGMA,
- ii) no other practicable option for road or bridge location exists,
- iii) suitable OGMA replacement forest of 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) intrusions, 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 temporary roads or bridge sites placed within OGMAs, 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 within OGMAs:

- i) Salvage harvesting to prevent the spread of insect infestations or diseases that pose a significant threat to forested areas outside of OGMAs. Salvage within OGMAs will be done in a manner that retains as many old growth forest attributes as possible.
- ii) 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.
- iii) 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.
- iv) 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.
- v) Small boundary adjustments for operational reasons, or intrusions, other than those specified above, that result in a net loss to the OGMA of less than or equal to 0.5 hectare in total.
- vi) First Nations traditional use of trees or understory plants.

OGMA replacement forest is required as a result of the activities in 3.2(b)(i) to (v) above if the total net change to the OGMA exceeds two ha in size. Replacement forest must be 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.

3.3. Exemptions

The permissible activities under 3.2(a) and 3.2(b)(i) to (v) above do not apply to OGMA 317 and 367.

4. Objective set for wildlife tree retention

4.1. Retention of wildlife tree patches (WTP)

Maintain stand-level structural diversity by retaining wildlife trees subject to the following:

- (a) The holder of an agreement under the Forest Act who completes harvesting in one or more cutblocks, except minor salvage cutblocks¹, located within the Renfrew SRMP area during the sixty month period beginning on April 1, 2007 or during the term of the agreement, whichever is shorter, must ensure that at the end of this and any subsequent sixty month period the total area covered by wildlife tree retention areas that relate to the cutblocks meets or exceeds the percent requirement by landscape unit and biogeoclimatic subzone presented in Table A.

Table A: Wildlife Tree Retention by LU and BEC subzone in the Renfrew SRMP.

Landscape Unit	Biogeoclimatic Subzone	% WTP requirement
Caycuse	CWH vm (Coastal Western Hemlock, very wet maritime)	11
	CWH mm (Coastal Western Hemlock, moist maritime)	14
	CWH xm (Coastal Western Hemlock, very dry maritime)	14
	MH mm (Mountain Hemlock, moist maritime)	4
Gordon	CWH mm	14

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.

	CWH vm	10
	CWH xm	13
	MH mm	5
Nitinat	CWH mm	14
	CWH vh (Coastal Western Hemlock, very wet hypermaritime)	2
	CWH vm	12
	CWH xm	15
	MH mm	4
San Juan	CWH mm	11
	CWH vm	12
	CWH xm	7
	MH mm	5
Walbran	CWH vm	6
	MH mm	0

- (b) WTPs must be well distributed across the BEC subzone.
- (c) When designated at the operational site plan level, WTPs must be located within or immediately adjacent to a cutblock.
- (d) No timber harvesting, including single tree selection is to occur within WTPs, except as noted in (e) below
- (e) 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 area of at least equivalent quantity must be identified concurrently to achieve the retention target.
- (f) WTPs should include, if present, remnant old-growth patches and live or dead veteran trees (excluding danger trees).
- (g) 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).
- (h) BEC subzones and variants will be determined by operational site plan information.
- (i) In WTPs with a likelihood of windthrow, pruning and/or topping may be carried out to maintain the integrity of the WTP.

Part 3 – Effective Date and Transition

5. Application of this order

- 5.1. 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.
- 5.2. The four month period referred to in section 16(2) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* applies to the land use objectives in this order.
- 5.3. The period of time under section 8 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* is two years.
- 5.4. This order repeals objectives established by the Order Establishing Provincial Non-Spatial Old Growth Objectives (June 30, 2004) for the area to which this order applies.

**District Manager
South Island Natural Resources District
Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations**

Date