



File: ORCS 17580-02/Sproat Lake

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

SPROAT LAKE LANDSCAPE UNIT

Pursuant to Section 4 of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, I hereby establish the Sproat Lake Landscape Unit, an area located near Port Alberni, BC, in South Island Forest District, effective July 18, 2005.

The boundaries of the Sproat Lake Landscape Unit are shown on the Sproat Lake Landscape Unit map dated June 30, 2005, attached to this Order.

In addition, I hereby establish objectives for the Sproat Lake Landscape Unit, as attached to this Order, effective July 18, 2005.

Warren Mitchell
Regional Director
Coast Region
Integrated Land Management Agency
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

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 – Sproat Lake Landscape Unit

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

Objective 1 – Old Growth Management Areas

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 Sproat Lake Landscape Unit map dated June 30, 2005, subject to section 2 below.

2) Permissible Activities

a) Minor OGMA boundary adjustments for operational reasons:

To accommodate operational requirements for timber harvesting and road or bridge construction, boundaries of OGMAs that are 10 ha or greater in size may be 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, and
- iii) suitable OGMA replacement forest of at least equivalent quantity is identified either (in order of priority) directly adjacent to, or in the same variant and landscape unit as the adjusted OGMA.

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 OGMAs. Salvage within OGMAs 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 guylines, clearance, tailhold anchor trees, or danger trees (except high value wildlife 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) Intrusions, other than those specified that affect an OGMA by less than 0.5 hectare in total.

OGMA replacement forest is required as a result of activities under 2b) above, if the total net change to the OGMA exceeds 0.5 ha in size. Replacement forest must be biologically suitable, of at least equivalent quantity 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.

Objective 2 – Wildlife Tree Retention

Maintain stand-level structural diversity, by retaining wildlife tree patches (WTPs).

The holder of an agreement under the Forest Act, except a woodlot licence agreement, who completes harvesting in one or more cutblocks, except minor salvage cutblocks¹, located within the LU during any 60 month period beginning on January 1 of any calendar year following the establishment of this objective, must ensure that, at the end of that 60 month period, the total area covered by wildlife tree retention areas that relate to the cutblocks, meets or exceeds the percent of the total area of the cutblocks by subzone presented in Table 1.

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.

Table 1. Wildlife Tree Retention by BEC subzone in the Sproat Lake Landscape Unit.

Biogeoclimatic Subzone	% WTP requirement
CWH mm (Coastal Western Hemlock, moist maritime)	7
CWH vm (Coastal Western Hemlock, very wet maritime)	5
CWH xm (Coastal Western Hemlock, very dry maritime)	12
MH mm (Mountain Hemlock, moist maritime)	0

¹ A minor salvage cutblock is defined as less than 2.0 ha of harvesting and/or less than total volume of 2,000m³ excluding volume 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 17

Sustain forest ecosystem structure and function within the portion of Special Management Zone 17 located in the Sproat Lake 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.