



The Forest and Range Practices Act

A Habitat Management Tool for
Mountain Goat

December 8, 2008

Outline

- Legislative framework
- General Wildlife Measures
- What been done in the Omineca Region
- Gaps and challenges



Scope of FRPA

- Applies to *Forest Act* and *Range Act* agreement holders
- FRPA envisions stewardship based on finding the right balance among:
 - A tenure-holder's economic interests,
 - Sustainability of the province's timber supply, and
 - The protection of the public's non-timber values.



Managing FRPA values for Wildlife

- Objectives set by government
 - in FRPA regulation;
 - Land Act (e.g. OGMAs);
 - Established by Minister Authorities through the *Government Action Regulation (GAR)*
- Default practice requirements in regulation
- Specific requirements established by the MOE Minister through the *Government Action Regulation (GAR; area designations, measures and features)*



MOE GAR Authorities

- The MOE Minister or delegate establishes species categories, objectives and practice requirements:
 - Species “categories”
 - SAR, Ungulates, Regionally Important Wildlife (RIW)
 - Area designations:
 - Ungulate winter range (UWR)
 - Wildlife habitat area (WHA) for SAR and RIW
 - Fisheries sensitive watershed (FSW)
 - Temperature sensitive stream
 - Features:
 - Wildlife habitat features

Category of Ungulate Species and Ungulate Winter Ranges

- Requirements:
 - Ungulate Winter Range is required for winter survival of the species
- Nine elements listed:
 - Bighorn sheep
 - Black-tailed deer
 - Caribou
 - Elk
 - Moose
 - **Mountain goat**
 - Mule deer
 - Thinhorn sheep
 - White-tailed deer
- 16 approved for goat, 13 pending

Category of Regionally Important Wildlife

- Requirements:
 - Yellow-listed (Vertebrates, invertebrates, plants and plant communities)
 - Are important to a region of British Columbia
 - May be adversely impacted by forest or range practices on Crown Land
 - Rely on habitat that requires species management that is not adequately protected by other mechanisms

Category of Regionally Important Wildlife

- List in development
 - Pilot project developed with Omineca fiscal 06/07 - draft list of species and expanded provincially 07/08
 - Need to engage industry associations
 - Mountain goat is a priority for listing

Wildlife Habitat Areas

- Can be established for both SAR and RIW
– together termed “Identified Wildlife”
- 11 for goat (grandparented from FPC)



Wildlife Habitat Features (WHF)

- MOE has been working with regional staff and industry to refine the list of “localized features”
 - Currently 25 WHFs proposed
 - Representing those localized features, primarily associated with SAR
- Once established requirement will be to not damage or render ineffective the WHF

Significant Mineral Licks

- Under review and comment
- Draft definition:
 - *A significant mineral lick* means an area used on a habitual basis by ungulates to obtain dietary *macro* minerals including sodium, calcium or phosphorous as well as *trace* minerals such as manganese, copper or selenium, that is
 - (a) regionally rare on the landscape;
 - (b) used regularly and annually by one or more species; and,
 - (c) has well-established trails or braided trail systems leading to it.
 - is not applicable where the mineral lick has been created by a primary forest activity (e.g., road construction).

General Wildlife Measures

- GWMs
 - Management practices that must be implemented
 - Applied to a **specified area**, UWR, WHA
 - May prohibit or partially limit activities
 - Prescribe a level of management appropriate to the conservation status of the Identified Wildlife
- An authorized person who carries out primary forest activities on an area must comply with each general wildlife measure that applies to the area.
- A range agreement holder who carries out a range practice in the area must ensure that the range practice is consistent with the general wildlife measure



What's happening in the Omineca Region Mtn. Goat UWR

- Approved UWR
 - U-7-004 – Mtn. Brewster
 - 1 unit (1,374 ha)
- Pending approval
 - U-7-017 – Lower Akie & Pesika
 - 4 units (10,768 ha)
 - U-7-019 – Fort St. James District (ORAM)
 - 357 units (309,670 ha)
- Future work...
 - Identification of additional Mtn. Goat UWR in the Mackenzie District.



U-7-017 – Draft GWM

- GWM 2 – With each Mountain Goat UWR units
 - With the exception of cut blocks and associated roads authorized at the time of the establishment of the ungulate winter range #U7-017, primary forest activities will result in the retention of all forest cover.
 - An exemption is not required to address worker safety: felling of danger trees within these ungulate winter range units along adjacent cutblock boundaries. Danger trees felled within ungulate winter range units will be left onsite to provide coarse woody debris.
 - Primary forest activities will not result in the construction of roads or trails.



Gaps and Challenges

- FRPA is an important piece of legislation, but there are gaps.
 - Sector based
 - authority constrained to certain activities
- Limits on action and GAR tests need to be balanced with biological rationale
- Provincial consistency