

Ministerial Order
Land Use Objectives Regulation Order
Version 8.18 – Updated to May 31, 2016
for the
Morice Land and
Resource Management Plan Area



Ministry of Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations

Part 1 - Interpretation

Relationship with the *Forest and Range Practices Act* Objectives

Pursuant to section 93.4 of the *Land Act*, the following Part 2 objectives are established as land use objectives for the purposes of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, and apply to the provincial Crown land portion of the Morice Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) area managed by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations as shown on Map 1 (Order Area).

Any footnote or map referenced in an objective is an integral part of that objective.

Where objectives refer to an area shown both on a map and in a spatial dataset, the boundaries of the area defined by the spatial dataset on the legal layer of the BC Geographic Warehouse apply in the event of any inconsistency.

This order takes effect on the date that notice of the Order is published in the Gazette.

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Part 2 – Objectives

Objective 1: Maintain a distribution of seral classes across the Morice LRMP area as outlined in Table 1 for the General Forested Area¹ as shown on Map 1, and for each High Biodiversity Emphasis Area (HBEA), as shown on Map 2.

Table 1. Seral Class Distribution Requirements for the Morice LRMP

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ZONE	BEC VARIANT	Early* Seral ² Maximum (%)	Mature* + Old* Seral Minimum (%)	Old* Seral Minimum (%)
General Forested Area ²	CWHws ₂ and MHmm ₂	27	64	62
	ESSFmc and ESSFmv ₃	38	37	34
	ESSFmk	9	83	82
	SBSdk	64	10	8
	SBSmc ₂ and SBSwk ₃	48	20	17
Nanika River HBEA	CWHws ₂ and MHmm ₂	16	70	70
	ESSFmc and ESSFmv ₃	28	70	42
	ESSFmk	7	70	84
	SBSdk	50	70	16
	SBSmc ₂ and SBSwk ₃	37	70	26
Friday/Nakinilerak/ Hautête Lakes HBEA	CWHws ₂ and MHmm ₂	16	71	70
	ESSFmc and ESSFmv ₃	28	48	42
	ESSFmk	7	86	84
	SBSdk	50	21	16
	SBSmc ₂ and SBSwk ₃	37	33	26
Morrison Lake HBEA	CWHws ₂ and MHmm ₂	16	71	70
	ESSFmc and ESSFmv ₃	28	48	42
	ESSFmk	7	86	84
	SBSdk	50	21	16
	SBSmc ₂ and SBSwk ₃	37	33	26
Thautil/Gosnell Rivers HBEA	CWHws ₂ and MHmm ₂	16	71	70
	ESSFmc and ESSFmv ₃	28	48	42
	ESSFmk	7	86	84
	SBSdk	50	21	16
	SBSmc ₂ and SBSwk ₃	37	33	26

¹ For the purposes of meeting the early and old seral class requirements, Area Specific Management Areas are considered part of the General Forested Area. Objectives 2 and 3 specify different requirements for the mature+old seral class in the Nadina/Owen, Grease Trail, Nadina River, and Le Talh Giz (Old Fort Mountain) Area Specific Management Areas.

² Unharvested mountain pine beetle-killed stands will not contribute to early seral for the next 40 years following the effective date of this order.

Upper Morice River HBEA (above Thautil-Gosnell confluence)	CWHws ₂ and MHmm ₂	16	70	70
	ESSFmc and ESSFmv ₃	28	70	42
	ESSFmk	7	70	84
	SBSdk	50	70	16
	SBSmc ₂ and SBSwk ₃	37	70	26
Lower Morice River HBEA (below Thautil-Gosnell confluence)	CWHws ₂ and MHmm ₂	16	50	70
	ESSFmc and ESSFmv ₃	28	50	42
	ESSFmk	7	50	84
	SBSdk	50	50	16
	SBSmc ₂ and SBSwk ₃	37	50	26

* Early is defined as <40 years; Mature is 100-140 years; Old is >140 years.

** CWHws₂ and MHmm₂ are combined due to their small incidence in the plan area and similarity in Range of Natural Variation.

*** ESSFmv₃ is combined with ESSFmc, and SBSwk₃ is combined with SBSmc₂ due to their small incidence in the plan area.

Objective 2³: Retain 70% of the forested area as mature and old in the following Area Specific Management Areas⁴, shown on Map 3:

- Nadina/Owen, and
- Grease Trail – from 100 metres beyond the trail to 500 metres beyond the trail.

Objective 3³: Retain 50% of the forested area as mature and old in the following Area Specific Management Areas⁴, shown on Map 3:

- Nadina River – within the 500 metre buffer beyond the 100 year floodplain, and
- Le Talh Giz (Old Fort Mountain).

Objective 4³: Manage for old growth forests by retaining all the crown forested area⁵ located within Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs), as identified on Map 4.

Objective 5: Achieve structurally complex mature and old forest over the rotation by retaining wildlife tree retention (WTR) areas⁶ distributed across the Morice LRMP area, as shown on Map 1, for each cutblock according to a) and b):

- a) For cutblocks greater than or equal to 250 hectares, as per the requirements set out in Table 2, and

³ Meeting the requirements for Objectives 2, 3 and 4 can contribute to meeting the requirements in Table 1.

⁴ The Crown forested areas within all Area Specific Management Areas will contribute to the seral condition targets of the General Forested Area; however, Objectives 2 and 3 specify different requirements for the mature+old seral class in the Nadina/Owen, Grease Trail, Nadina River, and Le Talh Giz (Old Fort Mountain) Area Specific Management Areas.

⁵ All crown forested land within OGMAs is considered old.

⁶ “Wildlife tree retention area” means an area occupied by wildlife trees that is located (a) in a cutblock, (b) in an area that is contiguous to a cutblock, or (c) in an area that is sufficiently close to the cutblock that the wildlife trees could directly impact on, or be directly impacted by, a forest practice carried out in the cutblock.

- b) For cutblocks less than 250 hectares, as per the *Forest and Range Practices Act, s. 66 Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*.

Table 2. Wildlife Tree Retention (WTR) Requirements for each Cutblock \geq 250 ha

Resource Management Zone	BEC Variant	Average % WTR	Minimum % WTR
General Forested Area and Area Specific Management Areas combined	ESSF combined	15	10
	SBSdk	15	10
	SBSmc ₂ and SBSwk ₃ combined	15	10
High Biodiversity Emphasis Area	ESSF combined	25	20
	SBSdk	25	20
	SBSmc ₂ and SBSwk ₃ combined	25	20

Objective 6: For the purposes of Objective 5, ensure that all wildlife tree retention areas include one or more of the following high value wildlife tree attributes:

- Diversity of wildlife tree retention strategies (e.g., a range of patch sizes combined with dispersed trees);
- Diversity of habitat types;
- Internal decay (heart rot or natural/excavated cavities present);
- Crevices present (loose bark or cracks suitable for bats);
- Large brooms present;
- Active or recent wildlife use;
- Tree structure suitable for wildlife use (e.g., large nest, hunting perch, bear den);
- Large trees for the site (height and diameter) and veterans;
- Representative of the size, age and species of the pre-harvest stand;

Objective 7: Retain 100% of the forested area within “No Timber Harvesting Areas”⁷ identified on Map 5:

1. Babine Lake East Arm 30 metre buffer
2. Bulkley 100-year floodplain
3. Grease Trail 100 metre buffer
 - a) Timber harvesting may be allowed to address a reasonable concern as determined by the Regional Executive Director, provided that the overall effectiveness of maintaining the integrity of the values within the Grease Trail NTHA will not be diminished. Examples of reasonable concerns may include:
 - New road development and maintenance where no practicable alternatives exist, and subject to these roads being deactivated once operational activities are complete.
 - To access timber beyond the NTHA that otherwise would be isolated from harvest, where no practicable alternative exists.

⁷ The Crown forested areas within No Timber Harvesting Areas, Parks and Protected Areas will contribute to the seral class requirements of the General Forested Area.

- To address a forest health factor within the NTHA where this poses a significant and substantiated forest health risk to forests within or outside the NTHA and where harvesting constitutes an appropriate and effective control action.
 - To address a public or industrial safety concern, or an environmental hazard, including by widening the hydro powerline right-of-way, where no practicable alternative exists.
- b) All requests to harvest timber within the Grease Trail NTHA must be reviewed and approved by the Regional Executive Director prior to the submission of a cutting permit or road permit.

4. Herd Dome
5. Lower Nadina River 100-year floodplain
6. Upper Nadina River 100-year floodplain
7. Morice Range/Nanika Lake 1
8. Morice Range/Nanika Lake 2
9. Morice Range/Nanika Lake 3
10. Upper and Lower Morice River 100-year floodplains
11. Morrison Lake 30 metre buffer
12. Nanika River 100-year floodplain
13. Starr Creek
14. Swan Lake/China Nose 1
15. Swan Lake/China Nose 2
16. Tahtsa-Troitsa

Part 3 – Implementation

Effective Date

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*.

The applicable period under Section 8(2) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* is within one year of the effective date of this order.

Eamon O'Donoghue
Regional Executive Director
Skeena Region
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Date