Environmental Protection and Management Regulation Decision Rationale

Approval of UWR U-7-026
Northern caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*)
Fort Saint James Forest District

In approving this ungulate winter range (UWR) U-7-026, each of the tests under the *Environmental Protection and Management Regulation* (EPMR) was considered.

**EPMR 31 – Ungulate Winter Range**

1. *The Ungulate Winter Range area contains habitat necessary to meet the habitat requirements of northern caribou.*

I am satisfied that UWR U-7-026 approved by this order contains habitat that is necessary to meet the habitat requirements (higher elevation windswept alpine areas and subalpine forests) of northern caribou. UWR U-7-026 has been developed over a number of years in partnership with forest licensees, provincial government biologists, First Nations and a consultant through several large scale inventories and projects, radio-telemetry work, model development and refinement, accuracy assessments and subsequent herd-specific monitoring.

**EPMR 37 – Notice and Consultation**

2. *Notice of the proposed order was provided to:*
   a. *Organizations representative of persons who*
      i. Conduct geophysical explorations, or
      ii. Construct pipelines but who do not hold an associated drilling license or lease
   b. *Holders of leases or drilling licenses under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act that will be affected by the order.*

3. *Consultation with persons referred to above was provided if the order could have a material adverse effect on that person.*

Due diligence was exercised to ensure that notice of the order was given to:

a) organizations representative of persons who conduct geophysical explorations and construct pipelines, but who do not hold an associated drilling license or lease; and,

b) any holder of an agreement under the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act* that would potentially be affected by this order.
All comments received by MFLNRO were made available for my consideration and I am satisfied that consultation was carried out with holders whom identified the order may have a material adverse effect.

Signed this 27th day of May, 2016
Greg Rawling, Regional Executive Director, Omineca Region
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations