Environmental Protection and Management Regulation Decision Rationale

Approval of UWR U-7-028
Thinhorn (Stone’s) sheep (*Ovis dalli stonei*)
Mackenzie Forest District

In approving this ungulate winter range (UWR) U-7-028, 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-7-028 approved by this order contains habitat that is necessary to meet the habitat requirements (steep, higher elevation windswept alpine areas with microhabitats of little snow cover) of Stone’s sheep. UWR U-7-028 includes winter habitat outside of Finlay-Russel Park, as identified through several inventories and projects, First Nation consultation, best professional advice and herd-specific monitoring. Specified area habitat was delineated by buffering the known range of Stone’s sheep with a disease risk buffer as identified by provincial government wildlife biologists and the provincial wildlife veterinarian.

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 34th day of May, 2016
Greg Rawling, Regional Executive Director, Omineca Region
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations