Environmental Protection and Management Regulation Decision Rationale

Approval of UWR U-7-029
Mountain goat (Oreamnos americanus)
Mackenzie Forest District, Ospika, Osilinka and Akie-Pesika populations

In approving this ungulate winter range (UWR) U-7-029, 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-7-029 approved by this order contains habitat that is necessary to meet the habitat requirements (higher elevation steep escape terrain and associated warm exposure alpine areas and subalpine forests) of mountain goat. UWR U-7-029 has been developed as the result of a number of years of collaborative work with forest licensees, provincial government biologists, (including Peace Williston Fish and Wildlife compensation program biologists), First Nations and a consultant through several large scale inventories and projects (including experimental harvesting), radio-telemetry work, model development and refinement, accuracy assessments and 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 24 day of May, 2016
Greg Rawling, Regional Executive Director, Omineca Region
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations