

Building models for conservation of species at risk: elements of forecasting habitat supply

R.S. McNay

Slocan Forest Products – Mackenzie Operations, PO Box 310, Mackenzie, BC V0J-2C0
< mcnays@mackenzie.slocan.com >, Ph: 250-997-2585

In 2002, British Columbia (BC) unveiled a strategy for habitat supply modeling to: i) enable evaluations concerning the sustainable management or restoration of habitats and ii) predict the potential implications of development alternatives on habitat supply. Consistent with that vision, we began building models focused on conservation of species at risk in the Mackenzie Timber Supply Area in north-central BC. Drawing from our 4 years of experiences building habitat supply models for caribou, mountain goats, and grizzly bears, I summarize some of the more significant challenges encountered and successes realized as we attempt to use these models in recovery planning, forest stewardship planning, and as a basis for forest certification.