

**Northern Caribou “Ungulate Winter Range” Establishment Under  
Forest Range and Practices Act, Omineca Region, British Columbia.**

**Leslie Yaremko<sup>1</sup> and Joanne Vinnedge<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>R.P.Bio., Ecosystem Officer, Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection, 4051–18<sup>th</sup> Ave.,  
Prince George, BC V2N 1B3, < [Leslie.Yaremko@gems5.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Leslie.Yaremko@gems5.gov.bc.ca) >, Phone: 250-614-9901.

<sup>2</sup>R.P.Bio., Ecosystem Biologist, Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection

The Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection (MWLAP) is establishing “Ungulate Winter Range”(UWR) for section 69 of the Operational and Site Planning Regulation of the Forest Practices Code of BC, and for the new Forest Range and Practices Act (FRPA). Under FRPA, objectives for UWR will be required to provide guidance to forest stewardship plans, range stewardship plans, range use plans, and other operational plans. Thus, forest harvesting, road construction, and range use must be consistent with UWR objectives. In addition to specifying the desired future habitat condition, MWLAP has specified management objectives for UWR relating to access, forest health, fire, predation, and range use. The boundaries of the proposed UWR and the management objectives were developed with input from other government agencies (i.e. Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, and Ministry of Forests) and a variety of stakeholders including Forest Licensees and First Nations. In the Vanderhoof, Fort St. James, and Mackenzie Forest Districts, UWR has been identified for northern caribou from the Tweedsmuir-Entiako, Takla, Wolverine, and Chase herds. The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada has designated these herds as Threatened (COSEWIC, 2002). Thus, species at risk recovery action groups will be able to utilize the UWR proposals in their Recovery Plans, as the UWR were developed using the best information available. UWR are one tool in the conservation of northern caribou under the umbrella of FRPA. They do not contain overall species management; rather, they address critical winter habitat use. The UWR identified by MWLAP will likely contribute to one chapter in overall northern caribou Recovery Plans.