

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF LAND AND RESOURCES
IN THE
UPPER CLEARWATER VALLEY**

NOVEMBER 2000

Amendment # 1

Prepared by participants in the
Upper Clearwater Public Input Process

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GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF LAND AND RESOURCES IN THE UPPER CLEARWATER VALLEY

The guiding principles presented in this document are the work of a dedicated group of individuals who have met regularly throughout the past to discuss issues around appropriate stewardship of land and resources in the Upper Clearwater Valley north of Spahats Creek. The Kamloops Land and Resource Management Plan identified the Upper Clearwater area as a General Resource Management Zone and the Upper Clearwater process was initiated to ensure that any resource development activities in the area were carried out in consideration of the interests and values of local residents.

As part of the process, residents of the valley provided statements of interest outlining their values and concerns. Residents also worked hard to gather and map information about resources in the valley, including information about wildlife habitat, land ownership, commercial uses and values, human uses and values and features of geographical and geological interest. This combined information provided the foundation for a set of guiding principles for land and resource use.

These guiding principles were arrived at through an interest-based and consensus-based process. While not everyone agreed wholeheartedly with all aspects of the guiding principles, participants made a consensus agreement to live with the direction shown in this document in the greater interest of all. Appendix 2 contains the Terms of Reference for the Upper Clearwater Public Input Process.

The following introduction was prepared by two residents of the Upper Clearwater Valley, Trevor Goward and Ellen Ferguson. The residents of the valley are a diverse group of people who have settled in the area for a variety of reasons and it has been a challenge to provide an introduction that reflects all of these individual interests. Other residents have provided statements to augment the information in this introduction.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

We, the people of Upper Clearwater, have dedicated considerable time and effort to creating the terms of agreement outlined in the following document. In doing so, we have acted in a spirit of cooperation with the British Columbia Ministry of Forests. We have also acted in a belief that the social and jurisdictional configuration of our valley is unique in Canada and warrants special consideration. The question is this - if the BC Ministry of Forests is not prepared to give priority to the nonconsumptive uses of the Crown lands lying immediately adjacent to Wells Gray Park, then where would such uses be given priority? As citizens of British Columbia, we wish to be reassured that our Crown lands are being managed for a full range of values and have not been dedicated solely to the production of wood fibre.

There can be no question that the Upper Clearwater Valley is a distinctive place. It is distinctive in its rugged setting, distinctive in its virtual enclosure by a wilderness park, distinctive in the solitary dead-end road that connects it with the outside world and distinctive, too, in the people who have chosen to live here. Removed from the stripmall bustle of the late 20th century, we, the residents of Upper Clearwater, are self-selected to be both independent and outspoken.

We who have made our homes in the Upper Clearwater Valley did so in order to enjoy a quiet life in a rural setting. We took up residence on the edge of wilderness in the belief that our properties were, practically speaking, contiguous with the wilds of Wells Gray Park. In exchange for this, we have gladly borne the inconveniences of living at distance from amenities such as schools, post office, shopping centres and fire protection. Until very recently, few of us could have imagined that the narrow parcels of Crown land that in fact separate most of our properties from Wells Gray would be altered through development.

Late in 1996 we learned that our Crown land buffer was being considered for logging. The guiding principles outlined in this document reflect our desire to ensure that any forestry activities that occur on this Crown land recognize the many other values which have adhered to it over the years. Since the 1950s, this land - neither park, nor private property - have promoted annual traditions, now very much a part of our local culture. Here we hunt, hike, ride horseback, pick berries, collect herbs, gather mushrooms and visit our sacred places. Many of these activities are not appropriate in the park itself, and are likely to be even less appropriate in the years ahead as park regulations continue to multiply. For many of us, the Crown lands also provide domestic water supplies.

During the past decade or so, the Crown lands of Upper Clearwater have become important adjuncts to an expanding tourism industry. Our position relative to Wells Gray ensures that tourism will constitute an increasingly important part of our local economy. With nearly 20 tourism-based operations already in existence in Upper Clearwater, thousands of visitors are catered to every year. These businesses benefit directly from the wild, unspoiled character of the valley, including the Crown land adjacent to our properties; whether for guided hiking or for trail rides. It is this which sets our valley apart from most other valleys in the province. The Crown lands in the valley have also been used, to a small extent, for cattle grazing. This document sets the foundation for some local residents to supplement their incomes by the cutting of trees on Crown lands.

The Crown land "buffer" is integral to the maintenance of biodiversity in our portion of the Clearwater Valley. Over the years, most of the valley's wetlands have been dedicated to private ownership, with a lesser share distributed among the Crown lands. By contrast, very little wetland habitat has been included in adjacent portions of Wells Gray Park. This simple fact of topography has profound implications for the valley's wetland species - waterfowl, wetland plants, aquatic invertebrates - many of which nowadays inhabit private lands and Crown lands, but do not occur in nearby protected portions of the Clearwater Valley. As private lands become increasingly subject to development, so must such species depend increasingly on remnant habitats located on Crown lands. In the long term, then, the Crown land "buffer" is key to their persistence in this portion of the Clearwater Valley.

Logging activities in Upper Clearwater must be carried out in consideration of Wells Gray's wildlife species, some of which often pass the winter months in or near inhabited portions of the Clearwater Valley, where snowpacks are moderate. Major wildlife travel corridors, for example, should not be disrupted, nor should grazing areas important to grizzly bears be alienated. Also potentially problematic is the fact that logging often favours the development of willows and other woody species attractive to moose. For at a time when moose habitat is in decline in Wells Gray, the concentration of great numbers of moose in our portion of the Clearwater Valley is likely to attract greater numbers of the moose's main predator, the wolf. The resulting increased likelihood of predation on pets and livestock - with obvious repercussions for Wells Gray's resident wolf population - must very carefully be considered.

In 1989, the University College of the Cariboo established an Education and Research Centre in our community. Since that time, thousands of students and dozens of researchers have come here to study and work. As a focus for outdoor education, Wells Gray Park was, of course, the primary impetus for the decision to establish such a facility in Upper Clearwater. Hardly less important, however, was the existence of undeveloped Crown land on which activities inappropriate in the park itself may take place. Already the Wells Gray Education and Research Centre is beginning to prove its value to our community, for example in guiding future land use decisions in Upper Clearwater

2.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES THAT APPLY TO ALL PLAN AREAS:

- Any activities for plan areas must be undertaken in consideration of the interests of residents for privacy and for peace and quiet.
- Maintain the integrity and habitat quality of all wildlife habitat.
- **Minimize the disruption of wildlife movement within known movement corridors, especially in relation to adjacent portions of Wells Gray Park.**
- Ensure the integrity and habitat quality of wetland areas is maintained.
- Retain wildlife trees as habitat for large cavity nesting birds (e.g. owls and large woodpeckers).
- Maintain existing habitat features of winter moose habitat. Any plans to enhance moose habitat within any of the plan areas by opening up the forest should consider the potential for drawing wolves into developed areas where they risk being shot or poisoned. BC Parks is urged to improve winter moose habitat within the park boundaries to encourage wolves to remain within the park.
- **The right of the public to use all plan areas for purposes of recreation on and enjoyment of Crown land must be respected, encouraged and not infringed upon. Activities such as hiking, wildlife observation, hunting, fishing, skiing, showshoeing, berry picking and associated activities are recognized as legitimate and appropriate uses of Crown land. All other uses of Crown land must respect the importance of public recreation.**
- **Any proposals for commercial backcountry trail use must go through the formal application process with BC Lands (the British Columbia Backcountry Recreation Program).**
- Ensure that the integrity and aesthetic quality of recreational trails is maintained.
- Maintain the condition and reduce the environmental impact of commercial recreation trails, with special care taken in wet and boggy areas. Trail maintenance is the responsibility of the tenure holder.
- **Any horse trails are to be set back from private property lines in consideration of landowners privacy.**
- Strategies should be used to minimize the potential for spread of noxious weeds.
- Standard fire-fighting procedure will apply to all plan areas. Any activities must minimize the risk of wildfires. Forestry operations should not be scheduled during periods of high fire hazard.
- No airport should be constructed in any of the plan areas.

3.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES THAT APPLY TO SPECIFIC PLAN AREAS:

PLAN AREA A

Location: Plan Area A is the parcel of Crown land lying between the base of Battle Mountain in the east, District Lots (DL) 2891, 2892, 2893 and 5039 in the west and DL 2890 to the south.

Guiding principles for Plan Area A:

- Ensure the integrity and habitat quality of grizzly and black bear spring and early summer habitat is maintained and that bears are not disturbed when feeding in these areas. Bear feeding areas consist of wetlands with features such as skunk cabbage, grassy meadows, aspen stands and berry-producing areas (open stands and openings). Thermal and hiding cover are also key components, as well as movement corridors that provide hiding cover to allow movement from wetlands to other seasonal use areas.
- Recreational trails should not be located within proximity of bear feeding areas.
- Ensure the integrity and habitat quality of the mapped wetland area is maintained.
- Maintain the integrity of bird nesting areas, e.g. for sandhill crane and snipe by not disturbing shallow water areas (bogs, fens and marshes).
- Maintain the habitat features of mountain caribou winter range (e.g. sustained lichen production and availability, snow interception cover) including the stand of old growth timber in the Trout Creek headwaters.
- Maintain the water quality of adjacent landowners.
- Do not build new roads into this area.
- Do not develop this area, either through resource development activities or through subdivision and sale of the land.

PLAN AREA B

Location: Plan Area B is comprised of two UREPs established in 1960 for wildlife habitat. The UREPs are located on DLs 3179, 3180, 3181, 3183, 3184, 3185, 3186 and 3187. These adjoining parcels of land begin at the top of Mailbox Hill, continue north and then east to include all of Moose Corral Ridge.

Guiding principles for Plan Area B:

- Ensure that the integrity and quality of wildlife habitat is maintained and that potential for wildlife movement is not disrupted. There is a pre-eminent and highly complex north/south travel corridor in this area for a variety of large mammals, including moose, deer, bear and wolves. Any management plan for this area must incorporate a wildlife management plan that fully investigates and incorporates existing habitat features and the implications of harvesting activities on wildlife.

Water quality and quantity are critical issues in Plan Area B, particularly along Mailbox Ridge. Numerous water licences, both domestic and for irrigation, are held in this area. Ensure that any planned activities (e.g. timber harvest; road or trail construction) are preceded by a hydrological study to ensure that water quality, quantity and flow are maintained. Ensure that no roads or trails cross streams unless using appropriate methods such as approved bridges or culverts.

- Rehabilitate areas around springs and streams where it is demonstrated that water quality has been impacted by resource development activities.
- Ensure that the integrity and aesthetic quality of mapped recreational trails is maintained, e.g. the trail into Jesse's Bee Farm.
- Maintain visual quality from viewpoints along Clearwater Road and from Corral Road.

Any proposed activities will be referred to the Upper Clearwater Referral Group (Tom Dickinson, Trevor Goward, George Briggs, Al Henderson, Steve Murray and Tony Lively).

- Any activities must be scheduled in consideration of aesthetics and safety along Corral Road and recreation trails and in consideration of wildlife needs.
- Respect all existing and future research activities.
- All proposed roads and trails in Plan Area B will be referred to the Upper Clearwater Referral Group who will assess the proposals to ensure that they have adequately considered the following issues:
 1. Not increasing the potential for hunting and poaching, particularly since this is an important movement corridor for animals.
 2. Water quality.
 3. Privacy and safety of local landowners.
 4. Safety from logging trucks along the roads.
 5. Concern that roads not adversely affect wildlife movement or habitat.

Guiding Principles for roads:

- Do not create loop or through roads.
- Roads will be located in consideration of other activities in the area (hiking, skiing, etc.).
- Other suggestions for road location to be considered for incorporation into a management plan on a site-specific basis:
 - a. Locate any main haul road, if required, along the centre of the ridge away from wetlands and private lands.
 - b. Consider using existing roads and cat trails.
 - c. Use gating, where necessary, to reduce potential for poaching.
 - d. Deactivate existing and planned haul roads.
 - e. Winter is a preferred season for logging.
- The Upper Clearwater group has agreed to the possibility of harvesting in Plan Area B in consideration of the outcome of Phase 1 of a research and inventory gathering project, to be completed by March 31, 1999. Upon completion of Phase 1, the group will reconvene to decide among the following options:
 - Option a. Logging should not be considered in Area B due to potential impacts to wildlife and/or economic values:
 - Option b. Logging may occur in Area B but more research is needed before any activity takes place: or
 - Option c. Logging occurs in Area B and may proceed with ongoing research to monitor affects.

Other options may arise as a result of the review of Phase 1.

The inventory gathered in Phase 1 for Area 'B' should be used to assess potential impacts of other human activities in the plan area.

Should any harvesting activities occur following Phase 1, the following conditions must be considered:

1. The Guiding Principles listed above must be adhered to;
2. Any harvesting must be accompanied by a wildlife management plan;
3. Tenure for harvesting in this area should be held locally because local residents have knowledge of the area and are more closely tied to the community; and
4. The community must be provided with substantial opportunity for input and review into the management plan. Ideally, members of the community would have the opportunity to participate directly in the development of the management plan.

PLAN AREA C

Location: Plan Area C is the parcel of Crown land lying between the Flatiron/Hemp Creek canyon lands area of Wells Gray Park to the west, DLs 2887, 2888 and 5038 to the east and DL 3177 in the south.

Guiding principles for Plan Area C:

- Maintain the integrity of nesting sites and migration resting areas for waterfowl.
- Maintain the integrity and quality of black bear summer habitat by maintaining the integrity of feeding areas and adjacent thermal and hiding cover as well as opportunities for movement between spring and summer feeding areas.
- Maintain the water quality of Trout and Battle Creeks for wild trout stocks and domestic water use by adjacent landowners.
- Respect ongoing education and research activities in the area, e.g. geological features and bird, mammal and lichen studies.
- Due to the high density of creeks in this area, in order to maintain water quality, new roads should not be built into this area.
- The only forestry activity **acceptable** in this area is removal of trees for pest control, where there is a threat of the infestation spreading through the surrounding forest. To treat beetle infestation, downed trees may be stripped of their bark and the bark burned. Trees will be bucked up and removed in pieces rather than hauling out to minimize impacts to the area. Any plans by Ministry of Forests to undertake pest control activities will be referred to the following group of people: Tom Dickinson, Trevor Goward, George Briggs, Al Henderson, Steve Murray and Tony Lively. This group will decide if the matter warrants bringing to the larger group for discussion. The Ministry of Forests will also put a notice in the paper notifying the public of their intent to remove trees from this area.

PLAN AREA D

Location: Plan area D is that parcel lying between the Wells Gray Education and Research Centre to the west and Wells Gray Park to the east. Plan area D contains a UREP for research and education located to the east of DLs 2888, 2887 and the northern half of DL 3062. The southern boundary of the plan area is Grouse Creek. University College of the Cariboo has applied to make the UREP area into an Forest Interpretive Site

Guiding principles for Plan Area D:

- Maintain the functional integrity and quality of wildlife movement corridors. The area contains a documented east/west travel corridor for a variety of large mammals, including moose, deer, bear and wolves.
- Consider and protect the habitat features required by mountain caribou (e.g. sustained lichen production and availability, snow interception cover).
- Maintain the integrity and habitat quality of Grouse (Moul), Philip, Battle and Clover Creeks for wild trout stocks.
- Maintain water quality in Grouse (Moul), Philip, Battle and Clover Creeks for domestic use by downstream users.
- Existing recreational trails should be maintained and upgraded. Additional recreational trails are recommended.
- Maintain the UREP (or equivalent) status of the area to ensure the area is available for education and research.
- Salvage logging may occur in the area in keeping with the guiding principles and will respect research activities by University College of the Cariboo. Logs will be removed by long-line or other low impact methods (not skid trails). Any plans for salvage logging will be discussed with UCC before approval to ensure that the plans are in keeping with research projects in the area and to allow UCC the opportunity for education/ training into proper methods of salvage logging.
- Do not build new permanent roads into this area.

PLAN AREA E:

Location: Plan Area E lies east of the Coal Creek/ southern Hemp Creek area of Wells Gray Park and west of DLs 3056 and 3053.

Guiding principles for Plan Area E:

- **Maintain the integrity and habitat quality of wildlife areas.**
- Consider the visual quality from Second and Third Canyons and from Spahats Creek Park.
- Consider the visual quality of landowners in the area, in particular the views of Grouse Hill.
- Roads must not connect with the access road to DL 3050.
- Employ creative forestry practices to maintain the quality of forests and the forest environment.
- Maintain the visual and aesthetic quality along the Crown land portion of the road to Clearwater Chalet.
- **A woodlot tenure in Plan Area E is acceptable, subject to adherence to the guiding principles.**
- Any forestry activities must respect safety along the road to Clearwater River Chalet. Winter is the preferred season for harvest in the buffer area along the north side of the road to ensure increased safety and in consideration of the aesthetic values in the area. Wherever safe and practicable, trees should be fallen away from the road.
- **The question of the appropriateness of a buffer between private land and a woodlot licence area will be addressed in the management plan for the woodlot.**

The current woodlot owner and owner of Clearwater River Chalet have reached the following agreement on management within Area E:

- a. The portion of the area south of the road to Clearwater River Chalet will not be harvested and will be managed as a wildlife reserve.
- b. There will be a 200 m buffer, with no bladed roads, and selection harvesting to the north of the road to Clearwater River Chalet.

Three options have been put forward to the district manager for management immediately adjacent to the road on the north side:

- Option 1 . 100 ft. no machine zone - removal of dead and fallen trees only (safety).
- Option 2 . 200 ft. no machine zone - removal of dead and fallen trees only.
- Option 3 . No buffers in Area E other than required riparian management zone along Grouse Creek.

PLAN AREA F:

Location: District Lots 3045, 3046, 2181 and eastern portions of 3049 and 2183. This area includes the northeast side of the protected area adjacent to Moul Falls.

Guiding principles for Plan Area F:

- Maintain the integrity and quality of black bear spring and fall habitat. Plan any activities at a distance from identified bear dens during winter months.
- Maintain habitat requirements of deer habitat, including maintaining the integrity of identified fawning areas.
- Maintain visual quality from Clearwater Road and from Spahats Creek Park. Consider the visual quality of landowners in the area.
- Maintain the water quality of Grouse (Moul) Creek for domestic use.
- The existing log structure at old homestead location should be left as is, on site.
- Any activities must respect the existing cattle grazing lease.
- Ensure that the integrity and aesthetic quality of mapped recreational trails is maintained, in particular the trail to Moul Falls. Provide a selectively logged buffer to either side of identified public and commercial recreation trails. Buffer size is to be dictated by conditions of the forest stand. Ensure that any skid trails across trails are cleaned up.
- Maintain access to Moul Falls. A parking lot is needed, with a sign to identify the access trail to the falls to visitors. **A subcommittee will assess the location and signage of the parking lot to the Moul Falls Trail (see Appendix 3) and make a recommendation to the appropriate agency pending establishment of the final protected area boundary.**
- Respect the safety of recreational users of the area. Winter logging is preferred as safety is particularly an issue from May to September.
- Recommend the re-creation of the original valley pack-trail, which goes through this area.
- **A woodlot tenure in Plan Area F is acceptable, subject to adherence to the Guiding Principles.**
- Suggested silviculture systems for this area are selection harvesting and removal of small groups of trees.
- An access management plan should be included in the woodlot management plan indicating roads to be deactivated or closed to public access.

PLAN AREA F: (continued)

- **The question of the appropriateness of a buffer between private land and a woodlot licence area will be addressed in the management plan for the woodlot.**
- Tenure for harvesting in this area should be held locally because local residents have knowledge of the area and are more closely tied to the community.
- The community must be provided with substantial opportunity for input and review into the management plan. Ideally, members of the community would have the opportunity to participate directly in the development of the management plan. Ensure that any tenure holders (including commercial guiding operations and grazing leases) in the area are informed of any planned forest development activities.

PLAN AREA G:

Location: Parcel of Crown land lying north of Spahats Creek bordering Wells Gray Park on the west and Trophy Mountain to the east - "the canyons".

Guiding principles for Plan Area G:

- Ensure that the integrity of fur-bearers' habitat is maintained. Important habitat attributes that should be maintained include briar patches (for grouse), squirrel cones, snags, old cedar trees, hollow logs, caves and hollows and undisturbed rocky outcrops and undercuts. Note that Ida DeKolver holds a substantial trapline in this area running from the Clearwater River to Grouse Creek, which is presently trapped on her behalf by Abigail Rutley. Species noted include cougar, weasel, fox, coyote, marten and fisher.
- Water quality and quantity are critical issues. Numerous water licences, both domestic and for irrigation, are held in this area. Maintain water quality, quantity and timing of flow of the following creeks within their natural range of variability: Case Creek, Shook Brook, Fage Creek; Ordschig Creek, Duncan Creek and Byrd Creek. Ensure that any planned activities (e.g. timber harvest, road or trail construction) are preceded by a hydrological study to ensure that water quality, quantity and flow are maintained. Ensure that no roads or trails cross streams unless using appropriate methods such as approved bridges or culverts.
- Areas of Ordschig Creek are noted as a flood plain and should be managed accordingly.
- Maintain the habitat features of identified fawning areas for deer and denning areas for bears. Early spring habitat is most important because there is less snow, however, these areas are used by wildlife throughout the year.
- **Retain stands of old growth timber in the plan area where these are identified. Only a few stands of old growth have survived the 1926 fire. Existing old growth contributes to biodiversity and provides fur-bearer (e.g. martin) habitat.**
- Maintain visual quality from Spahats Picnic Area and Green Mountain.
- Local residents must be adequately informed of any planned forestry activities and provided opportunity for input. Any forestry activities planned within Plan Area G should be referred to the Upper Clearwater Referral Group (Tom Dickinson, Trevor Goward, George Briggs, Al Henderson, Steve Murray and Tony Lively).

PLAN AREA G: (continued)

- Any activities that occur within Plan Area G must be assessed for their impact on environmental quality, with particular emphasis on soil stability and water quality.
- Any commercial horse or hiking trails in the area must be located to respect the peace and quiet and privacy of local residents. In addition, a hydrological evaluation of the area should precede any type of trail construction.
- Hiking trails should be located away from cougar habitat.
- Mining activities should consider the unique geological values of the area (e.g. Buck Hill). Any impacts of mining must be adequately rehabilitated.
- Proposed mining activities in the area should be referred to residents of the Upper Clearwater Valley and any mining operations should abide by the Guiding Principles.
- There should be no gravel pits in this area.
- Any further high elevation logging on Trophy Mountains will be brought to the public for review and input.

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION, REVIEW AND MONITORING:

An Upper Clearwater Referral Group has been established as a contact for referral of proposals for resource activities in the Upper Clearwater Valley. The referral group is comprised of Tom Dickinson, Trevor Goward, George Briggs, Al Henderson, Steve Murray and Tony Lively. The referral group will review any proposals and decide if a meeting of the larger group is warranted.

The Guiding Principles for the Upper Clearwater Valley will be reviewed annually or as otherwise required. The Upper Clearwater Referral Group will be the contact for problems or issues in need of discussion and will be responsible for arranging review meetings. The next formal review of the Guiding Principles will occur in April, 1999, or following the completion of Phase 1 of the research and inventory gathering project in Plan Area B.

Once forestry activities begin in Plan Areas E and F, the forest service will arrange field trips to allow residents to monitor that the Guiding Principles are being implemented.

Dispute Resolution Process:

1. Where an issue is in need of resolution, the first step will be the formation of a subcommittee who will assess the situation and try to develop a solution. The subcommittee will be coordinated by the Upper Clearwater Referral Group.
2. If the subcommittee is unable to reach a resolution, an independent reviewer will be brought in to assess the situation and make recommendations.
3. If the decision of the independent reviewer is not accepted, then the decision will be passed on to the district manager for determination.

APPENDIX 1

Terms of Reference for the Upper Clearwater Public Input Process, (attached).

TERMS OF REFERENCE

UPPER CLEARWATER VALLEY PUBLIC PLANNING PROCESS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this consultation process is to consult and come to agreement on Forest Stewardship Plans for the Upper Clearwater Valley, North of the Spahats Creek.

PLANNING AREA

The planning area is shown on the attached map.

AUTHORITY

The process and its products will be consistent with the direction provided by the Kamloops Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), the *Forest Act* and the requirements of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* (the Code).

Under the Code the District Manager is the legally designated decision-maker for operational plans. Therefore, the planning process is advisory to the District Manager. Although the District Manager cannot delegate his decision-making responsibilities, he will work co-operatively with this consultation group before making those decisions. If the group can reach agreements which fall within the criteria specified under the Code, and are consistent with the LRMP, they have a high probability of being accepted.

The Code provides the District Manager with specific criteria which must be considered when making decisions about forest practices. Those criteria include public input: this group's recommendations will assist the District Manager in fulfilling his requirement to consider public input and to make a decision.

DECISION-MAKING

The process will be consensus-seeking. Consensus is defined as agreement of all participants on a package of solutions. Where a participant does not support a recommendation, they may:

- ❖ Stand aside; although a participant does not support a recommendation, they may not feel strongly enough to block an agreement that is important for other parties. In these cases they may choose to "stand aside": from the decision, or
- ❖ The participants who do not agree will provide the other participants with a description of their interests which are not met in the proposed recommendation. They will also outline any changes they feel would be required to meet their interest, while still meeting the interests of the other parties around the table.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

UPPER CLEARWATER VALLEY PUBLIC PLANNING PROCESS

FALLBACKS

When the group cannot find a consensus solution to a problem it will take the following steps:

1. **Form a subcommittee:** A subcommittee will be formed and asked to summarize the issue, including the points of disagreement. The subcommittee will seek to find a resolution which it will bring back to the group. If the subcommittee cannot find a solution, it will identify an independent technical expert as outlined below.
2. **Independent Opinion:** The subcommittee will identify an independent expert in the field being discussed and will prepare a brief report which summarizes the nature of the disagreement and the background to the issue. The choice of the independent party will be agreed to by the entire committee. Once selected, the expert will be requested to submit technical and suggested options. These will specifically address the interests of all the parties.

MEETINGS

Chair:

Function:

- facilitate all meetings (being unbiased, fair, keeping members on topic and on time, nurturing open communications).
- produce a meeting agenda and deliver it to the members well in advance of scheduled meetings.
- arrange for guest speakers or provide for additional information as required
- may be asked from time to time to provide advice to the group because of knowledge and experience on issues that the group is dealing with.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Subcommittees may be formed to investigate specified issues and to bring recommendations back to the group. Whenever a subcommittee is formed, the group will:

- assign it with a specified task to accomplish and a reporting time, and
- identify a chair to arrange the meeting, take minutes and report back to the group.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

UPPER CLEARWATER VALLEY PUBLIC PLANNING PROCESS

RESOURCES

The Ministry will provide resources required to run the process such as minutes, photocopying and facilities. Within its funding limits, the Ministry will provide resources for a facilitator, inventories and studies. The group may pursue other funding sources.

PROCESS

STEP 1: PREPARATION

- Develop a fair and open process for discussion, negotiation and decision-making
- (Product is the Terms of Reference)

STEP 2: IDENTIFY OBJECTIVES

- Participants to prepare a statement of interests and objectives

STEP 3: TERM AND TIME

- Develop a short and long term timetable

STEP 4: INFORMATION GATHERING

- To gather information and inventories as deemed necessary, such as:
 - biological and physical inventories that describe the nature and extent of species, habitats and important physical features (e.g. wetlands, riparian areas, meadows, caves, trails, lakes, creeks and cultural sites)
 - describe and map forest cover attributes, stand structure and ecosystem site series
 - describe and map visual quality objectives of Upper Clearwater Valley
 - review current and new forest practices appropriate to the Upper Clearwater area.

STEP 5: DEVELOP AND EVALUATE OPTIONS

- Evaluate the potential impact (negative and positive) of the management scenario(s) proposed as part of the Upper Clearwater planning process, including impacts to biological diversity, visual quality, forest health, hydrology of creeks and streams, and social and economic factors.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

UPPER CLEARWATER VALLEY PUBLIC PLANNING PROCESS

STEP 6: PREPARE A RECOMMENDATION

- Approve recommendations for appropriate forest stewardship practices
- Apply landscape level planning to meet objectives for biodiversity, habitat and recreation
- Recommend visual quality objectives for the Upper Clearwater Corridor → ?

STEP 7: DECIDE

- The Clearwater Forest District Manager will make decisions on forest management in the interest area, taking into consideration the recommendations of this committee.

STEP 8: IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR

- The landowners of the Upper Clearwater area and the Ministry of Forests will take part in the implementation and monitoring of all decisions made by the District Manager.

PARTICIPATION

The process will strive to be inclusive of all parties who could be substantially affected by the group's recommendations. Participants will include:

- ❖ Upper Clearwater Valley Planning Group
- ❖ Ministry of Forests

Parties to be invited: Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ministry of Environment, registered trapper, North Thompson Indian Band and range tenure holders.

CODE OF CONDUCT

See attached.