

2 Strategic Plans

Operations in W1832 are guided by the *Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan Order*² (KBHLP). The KBHLP is subdivided into 10 sections, and is the subject of *Implementation Guidelines* and of the *Strategies for the Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan*³ (the Strategies).

The KBHLP is considered in this FDP as follows:

- Section 1 of the KBHLP sets out the source of biodiversity emphasis mapping. W1832 is within Unit N513 – Pedro Creek, a medium biodiversity emphasis area.
- Section 2 sets targets for old and mature forest retention targets to maintain biodiversity. This section does not apply to Woodlots.
- Section 3 addresses caribou habitat needs. Caribou do not occur in W1832.
- Section 4 addresses green-up heights and harvest opening sizes. This section does not apply to Woodlots.
- Section 5 addresses grizzly bear habitat needs. We are not aware of grizzly bear habitat or sign in W1832.
- Section 6 addresses Consumptive Use Streams. The Strategies note that:

The primary objective within stream side management zones of S5 and S6 streams licensed for human consumption, is to provide for the protection and management of water quality associated with these streams. The best management practices of S4 streams (interior), as set out on page 50 of the Riparian Management Guidebook, will help in the development of the specific measures to safeguard water licensed for human consumption in Objective 6 (1) (a) (ii). The best management practices may be modified when an alternate could provide better results for water quality protection.

As explained in Section 4.4 of this FDP, proposed operations will meet or exceed the best management practices for S4 streams.

- Section 7 deals with Enhanced Resource Development Zones for Timber. This does not apply to W1832.
- Section 8 applies to fire maintained ecosystems, and provides possibilities for restoration work in dry forest ecosystems. This may apply in the future to the ungulate range area discussed in Section 4.5.5, but is not a factor in this FDP.
- Section 9 of the strategies addresses visual management. Section 4.7 of this FDP which addresses visual management is in compliance with Section 9 of the Strategies.
- Section 10 sets a minimum cutting rate for the area affected by the KBHLP. This does not directly affect W1832.

² <http://www.winlawwoodlot.ca/backgrnd/order.pdf>

³ http://www.winlawwoodlot.ca/backgrnd/kb_strat.pdf

Other general measures for forest, wildlife, biodiversity, and water management are contained in the *Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan Implementation Strategy* (KBLUP-IS) which are not technically part of the approved KBHLP or the Strategies. However, the KBLUP-IS can be considered useful guidance for measures needed to “manage and conserve the forest resource”, as required under Section 41(1)(b) of the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act. We therefore use it for guidance with regard to watershed management in Section 4.2 of this FDP.

Winlaw Creek is a subunit considered in the KBLUP-IS. Objectives for the Winlaw Creek Unit are:

1. to maintain the regional connectivity corridor from the West Arm of Kootenay Lake through Lemon Creek, and
2. to maintain ungulate habitat through the application of biodiversity emphasis under the Forest Practices Code.

Activities in W1832 have no impact on the first objective.

With regard to the second objective, Woodlot Licences are excluded by the Strategies from Sections 2 and 4 of the KBHLP which set targets for retention of old forests and disturbance patch size. The patch size and old forest retention targets are the main landscape level biodiversity protection restrictions contained in the KBHLP. The exemption for Woodlots is likely because the total area of a Woodlot Licence in some cases equals the area of the disturbance patches or old forest patches envisioned.

Nevertheless, biodiversity resources will be conserved within W1832 at the individual stem, small clump, and small patch levels. Management provisions will be made to retain:

- currently valuable wildlife trees,
- current coarse woody debris levels,
- full cycle trees to meet future wildlife tree and coarse woody debris needs,
- riparian reserve zones,
- ungulate winter range forest (managed old growth patches), and
- wildlife tree patches.

This depth of legislation, regulation, and policy, replete with overlaps, revisions, and amendments, produces a challenging regulatory environment within which to carry out Forest Development Planning. The challenge may be even greater for community members who wish to evaluate this FDP. Where feasible, we have provided background information or references to background information in this FDP.

The regulatory environment is further examined in Section 3.4 on Known Items, below.