**Site C – OGMA Replacement**

**Information Sheet**

**Background:**

While “old growth” can be defined in several ways, simply, it can be described as forests containing old trees. The values associated with old growth forests are numerous, including biodiversity values, ecosystem values (i.e. water storage, fire resistance, carbon storage), cultural values, and community values (i.e. recreation, aesthetics) and commercial forestry values.

Old-growth Management Areas (OGMAs) are legally defined areas that contain, or are managed to attain, specific structural old-growth attributes. From a management perspective in BC, old forests are those in which the dominant trees are older than 250 years on the coast and 140 years in the interior. In the Dawson Creek Timber Supply Area (TSA), deciduous forests of 100 years and mixed forests of 120 years are considered “old”.

In May 2009, the Northeast Region identified and designated approximately 190,400 hectares of forests as OGMA in the Dawson Creek TSA. With 117,780 hectares of old forests already protected under different statutory mechanisms, there is approximately 308,200 hectares of old growth forest protected in Dawson Creek TSA.

**Site C:**

In 2015, BC Hydro obtained the necessary authorizations to construct and operate the Site C Clean Energy Project on the Peace River. The footprint of the project will have an impact on OGMAs in the Dawson Creek TSA. While some degree of incursion is allowable, the Site C project exceeds that amount. In particular, the reservoir, dam, and road will impact a total of 3177.31 hectares over 9 OGMAs (see Figure 1 and Table 1 below for further details). These areas need to be replaced.

**Process:**

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) intends to work with First Nations and Forestry Licensees, using the most current geospatial information held by the Province to develop candidate OGMA replacement sites. The candidate sites will be thoroughly reviewed to understand any potential impacts of designating the land as an OGMA, including positive and negative impacts to forestry values and biodiversity values. There will be an opportunity for interested parties to have input into the process, including a 30-day public review period before a decision is made.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact **Lisa Brock** at [lisa.brock@gov.bc.ca](mailto:lisa.brock@gov.bc.ca)or leave a message at **(778) 576 8924, and** someone will return your call as soon as possible.

**Table 1: Incursion details**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **OGMA** | **Area** | **OGMA Intactness (%)** | **Incursion** | **Other Values** |
| DC\_lmo\_1 | 369 | 95.2 | 10.62 (2.9%) | Contains Trumpeter Swan nesting site. |
| DC\_lmo\_2 | 430.6 | 92.9 | 23.45 (5.4%) | Contains Trumpeter Swan nesting site. |
| DC\_lmo\_5 | 267.1 | 94.6 | 7.33 (2.7%) | Contains WHA for Warblers |
| DC\_lmo\_7 | 1480.9 | 98.8 | 16.64 (1.1%) | Contains Trumpeter Swan nesting site. |
| DC\_lmo\_8 | 525 | 97.8 | 0.54 (0.1%) |  |
| DC\_lmo\_11 | 3327.8 | 97.7 | 99.17 (3.0%) |  |
| DC\_lmo\_12 | 1337.9 | 90.5 | 55.30 (4.1%) | Contains WHA for Warblers. Adjacent to Trumpeter Swan nesting site. |
| DC\_lmo\_13 | 877.3 | 94.3 | 27.17 (3.1%) | Contains historic First Nations trail and camp site. Adjacent to Trumpeter Swan nesting site. |
| DC\_pbo\_13 | 14572.7 | 88.2 | 2937.10 (20.2%) | Comprised of the proposed Peace Boudreau Protected Area |
| Red text indicates where incursion limits are exceeded. | | | | |

**Figure 1: Site C OGMA incursion overview**

Chart, map

Description automatically generated