



Old Growth Management Areas Added to Area-based Analysis

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) is adding Old Growth Management Areas (OGMA) to Area-based Analysis (ABA) to help conserve biodiversity and old forest characteristics in the Dawson Creek Timber Supply Area (TSA).

There are currently 240 OGMA in the Dawson Creek TSA. The intent of OGMA is to recognize the importance of old growth forest characteristics, limit disturbance and maintain biological function over time. The Commission considers all OGMA in decision-making, however greater consideration is given to those legislated under the Environmental Protection Management Regulation (EPMR).

In considering whether activities proposed in OGMA will have a material adverse effect on old forest value, the Commission will rely on the Managed Development Allowance (MDA) guidance which allows for up to 10 per cent disturbance in OGMA less than 100 ha, and five per cent or 10 ha (whichever is greater) in OGMA greater than 100 ha. The Commission monitors disturbance in OGMA via ABA and identifies those areas that exceed the MDA as regulatory policy.

The EPMR states that operating areas should not be located within OGMA unless it will not have a material adverse effect on old seral stage forest representation in that area. The MDA should not be interpreted by industry as general consent to impact an OGMA to the allowance threshold. The preference is for operators to avoid OGMA, but where avoidance is not practicable, to proceed in a way that is sensitive to the old growth values in the OGMA.

Activity within normal status OGMA will proceed as routine applications provided the applicant adheres to the planning and operational measures in the Environmental Protection and Management Guideline. Activities that impact regulatory policy OGMA require a mitigation strategy signed by a qualified professional. These applications will be subject to the enhanced review process and additional permit conditions where applicable. OGMA will supersede ABA Old Forest consideration for old growth retention in the Dawson Creek TSA.

Once an OGMA has exceeded the MDA, activity will only be permitted if the operator can demonstrate in a mitigation strategy the OGMA is below the MDA, or that the proposed activity will not have a material effect on biodiversity and old forest characteristics in the OGMA.

ABA Status information for OGMA is published in [online reports](#) and industry shapefiles on the Commission's [ABA web page](#). Current analysis shows that 186 OGMA are ABA Status normal and 54 are regulatory policy. Additional information regarding ABA can be found in [Supplementary Information for Area-based Analysis](#). Applicants are reminded that all ABA enhanced management and regulatory policy areas should be mapped on construction plans.

OGMA Currently Designated as Regulatory Policy (June 2018)

FSJ_DC_bel_01	FSJ_DC_bea_06	FSJ_DC_lmo_05	FSJ_DC_kis_27	FSJ_DC_lmo_03
FSJ_DC_kin_07	FSJ_DC_kin_10	FSJ_DC_umo_18	FSJ_DC_ois_11	FSJ_DC_dck_11
FSJ_DC_red_01	FSJ_DC_ois_09	FSJ_DC_pug_13	FSJ_DC_ois_04	FSJ_DC_gwi_01
FSJ_DC_kin_06	FSJ_DC_bea_08	FSJ_DC_gwi_05	FSJ_DC_kis_07	FSJ_DC_pug_09
FSJ_DC_bea_02	FSJ_DC_bea_09	FSJ_DC_ois_15	FSJ_DC_ois_10	FSJ_DC_ois_07
FSJ_DC_bel_04	FSJ_DC_kin_11	FSJ_DC_kis_22	FSJ_DC_dck_08	FSJ_DC_gwi_08
FSJ_DC_kin_01	FSJ_DC_red_09	FSJ_DC_pug_05	FSJ_DC_dck_02	FSJ_DC_gwi_09
FSJ_DC_bea_01	FSJ_DC_lmo_02	FSJ_DC_kis_23	FSJ_DC_dck_07	FSJ_DC_gwi_11
FSJ_DC_gwi_07	FSJ_DC_lmo_13	FSJ_DC_pug_14	FSJ_DC_sep_03	FSJ_DC_pbo_13
FSJ_DC_wap_06	FSJ_DC_hhp_12	FSJ_DC_dck_05	FSJ_DC_kis_04	FSJ_DC_pug_11
FSJ_DC_wap_12	FSJ_DC_ppa_15	FSJ_DC_dck_03	FSJ_DC_lmo_12	

Area-based Analysis allows the Commission to measure cumulative impacts to OGMA and monitor the effectiveness of regulations aimed at conserving biodiversity and old forest characteristics over time.

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