

APPENDIX 1

THE GRAND FORKS ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AREA

AN HISTORICAL AND ACCOMPLISHMENT RESUME

TO DECEMBER 1974 WITH MANAGEMENT PLAN PROPOSALS

by:

J.N. Bone

Wildlife Technician

The grassland and contiguous forested slopes north of the Kettle River within the Grand Forks Environmental Management Area (Fig. 1) are heavily used by mule deer and whitetail during winter and spring "green-up" periods. Up to an estimated 1000 deer have seasonally used this area within recent years.

Much of this land is privately owned and has been heavily used by domestic stock. Wildlife managers and hunters have long been concerned about the condition of the range in relation to the welfare of the deer.

In late 1971 the owner of Boothman Ranch, a 1500 acre property ideally located within the deer winter/spring range, indicated his intention of selling, Members of the Grand Forks Fish and Game Association, the Trail Wildlife Association and the West Kootenay Outdoorsman proposed that the

government purchase this property for wildlife management purposes. In early 1972, the Fish and Wildlife Branch, with other public groups, joined in urging the acquisition of this land with supporting land description and wildlife value data.

Coincident with these negotiations the Grand Forks Fish and Game Association, the West Kootenay Outdoorsmen and the Fish and Wildlife Branch, severally and in concert, urged the National Second Century Fund to purchase two additional nearby properties within the Gilpin deer winter range.

One of these is the former Esouloff property in Morrissey Creek - an area heavily used by wintering deer. It consists of D.L. 2736 S.D.Y.D. and S.L.14 L2700 Map 118, a total of 301 acres. The other area is the former Tallarico property, a particularly important deer spring range in Overton Creek watershed adjacent to the west boundary of Grand Forks. The lot number was L494 Pl. B1703 and portion of L493, a total of approximately 175 acres. In October, 1972, following a tour of these properties by the chairman of the National Second Century Fund, Fund directors, a Grand Forks Fish and Game Association representative and a Fish and Wildlife Branch member, the decision was made to purchase these properties and lease them, in perpetuity to the Fish and Wildlife Branch for wildlife management purposes. (Note: the lease was finally arranged in November, 1974).

At an October 17, 1972 meeting in Grand Forks, called by the Fish and Wildlife Branch and attended by British Columbia Forest Service representatives, a proposed cooperative range management plan was outlined for the Gilpin Range. This area is north of the Kettle River including, in general, creek drainages from Moody Creek west to Sand Creek. Within its boundaries were the former Boothman, Esouloff and Tallarico properties. The meeting agreed that wildlife values within the area were of primary concern. However, good integrated land management was to be demonstrated.

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On January 23, 1973 at Grand Forks, Fish and Wildlife Branch, B.C.F.S. and Parks Branch Representatives further delineated the bounds of the Management unit (Add. 1), titled it the Grand Forks Environmental Management Area and reiterated the primary emphasis of management to be the provision of adequate requirements of deer for

winter/spring range. Additionally the integrated development of further objectives were projected i.e. upland game bird management, waterfowl management, logging, livestock grazing, less intensive public recreation and public education. During this meeting two committees were struck.

For overall planning, a committee to be known as the Regional Committee would consist of representatives from government departments and concerned citizen groups (add. 2). The intent is that this committee be augmented as the need arises by persons with particular expertise.

The other committee, the District Management Committee, was formed to handle day to day management problems. It consists of a B.C.F.S. member and a Fish and Wildlife Branch member.

To date (December, 1974) much of the work done on the G.F.E.M.A. has consisted of inventory (mapping etc.) fencing, clean up and maintenance preparatory to long range planning. Addendum 3 outlines these accomplishments.

Future management plans are as follows:

1. Deer Habitat Manipulation

- (i) The physiology of forage plans will be manipulated for the benefit of grazing deer by introducing domestic stock on a planned rotational grazing system.

Inherent in this plan is the continued monitoring of vegetation and the demonstration of all aspects of good integrated land management.

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- (ii) Additional openings will be cut in aspen groves to allow seedling growth for deer browse.

- (iii) Deer browse species will be planted. Initially this program will be experimental. The first trials will include snowbush (Ceanothus velutinus) and Saskatoon(Amelanchier spp.).

2. Waterfowl Habitat Development

- (i) Waterfowl habitat in the "old oxbow"

area will be improved by installation of water control devices, dredging and construction of islands.

(ii) Goose tubs and wood duck nest boxes will be installed in the old oxbow area and at appropriate sites along the river.

(iii) Domestic stock will graze the waterfowl area at the appropriate season to manipulate the vegetation for the benefit of grazing geese.

3. Upland Bird Habitat Manipulation

(i) Cover in the form of brush piles and plantings will be provided on appropriate sites.

(ii) Seed type planting and feeders will be provided for winter food (particularly for exotic upland species),

4. Public Recreation Information and Education

(i) An information centre and hiking trails to points of interest will be provided based on input from Parks Branch, East Kootenay Naturalists and Selkirk College.

(ii) Picnic sites and facilities will be provided at appropriate sites along the river based on input from Parks Branch.

To summarize, the G.F.E.M.U. Regional Committee propose, by means of the application of proven land management principles, to increase and maintain the productivity of this area for the benefit of wildlife, domestic stock and people.

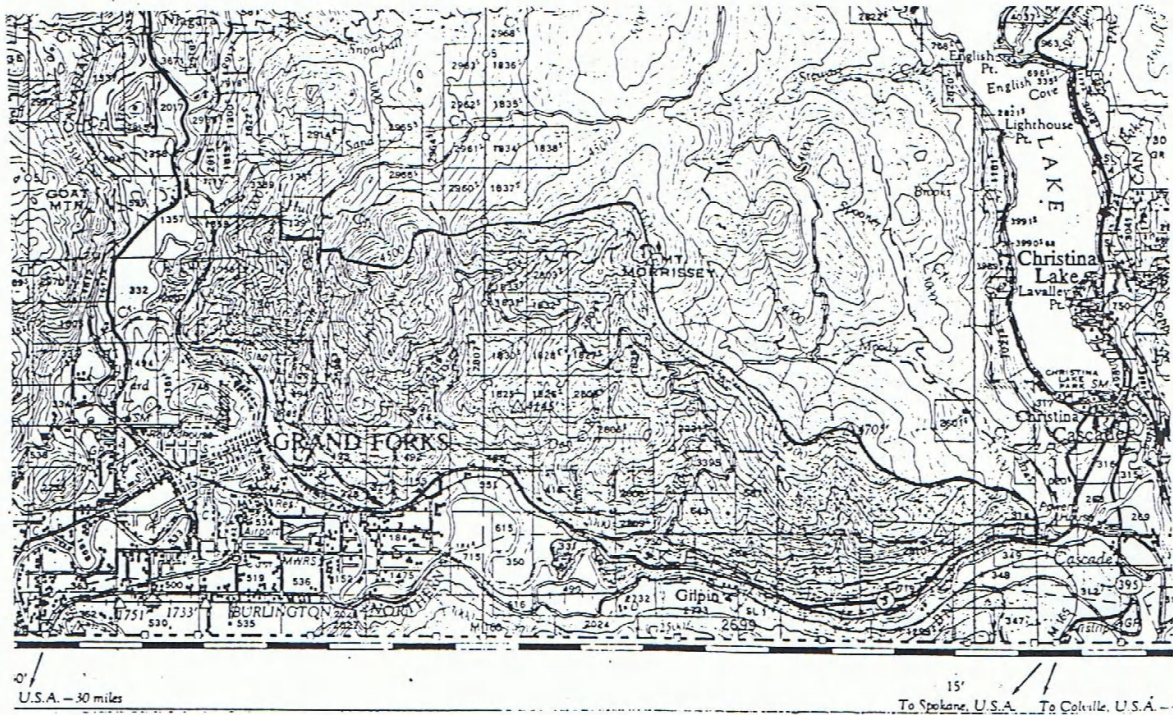


Fig 1. The Grand Forks Environmental Area.

GRAND FORKS ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AREA Addendum 1

Commencing at a point on the left bank of Kettle River (vicinity Cascade, B.C.) intersected by the east boundary of L.314 S.D.Y.D.; thence In a general northwest-by-went direction following the height of land between Moody Creek and the Kettle River to the summit called Christina Mountain (Morrissey Lookout of the B.C. Forest Service) being the southernmost peak on the mountain chain separating Granby River watershed from the Christina Lake watershed; thence generally westerly following the height of land between Sand Creek on the North and Morrissey and Overton Creeks on the south to a point approximately 10 chains due south and 40 chains due east of the S.E. corner of Lot 139 S.D.Y.D.; thence approximately 40 chains due west to a point approximately 10 chains due south of the southeast corner of L139 SDYD; thence due north to the southeast corner of the lot, thence westerly along the south boundary and northerly along the west boundary of L139 SDYD to the southeast corner of Lot 3389 SDYD thence westerly along the south

boundary of said lot and continuing due west to a point of interception with the left bank of Granby River thence generally southerly along the left bank of Granby River to the point where it is intercepted by South Trans-provincial highway #3; thence generally eastward following the north boundary of said highway # 3 right-of-way for a distance of approximately 4 ½ miles to the point of its entrance upon that portion of L.331 SDYD procured by the Crown through Greenbelt Protection Fund purchase, 1972 (a more detailed description is available under the subdivision plan DD 4846) thence generally southerly, westerly and southerly following the western margin of the said Crown purchase to its junction with the left bank of the Kettle River and thence generally easterly along the left bank of Kettle River to the point of commencement, save and excepting thereout privately owned land or Crown leased land and containing a total of 17,000 acres more or less.

Addendum 2

Departments and organizations presently represented on the Grand Forks Environmental Management Area Regional Committee –
December, 1974

Grand Forks **Wildlife** Association

Grand Forks Stockbreeders Association

Trail Wildlife Association

West Kootenay **Outdoorsmen**

West Kootenay Naturalists Association

Selkirk **College**

B.C. Forest Service - **Grazing** Division

Parks Branch

Fish and Wildlife Branch

Addendum 3

Grand Forks Environment Management Unit- Accomplishment Report to Dec 1974

Inventory

1. A 1" = 400' 25 foot contour topographical map of the Gilpin unit showing gross vegetative changes has been completed.
2. A 1" = 200' foot contour topographical map of the "old oxbow" area was completed.
3. Six grassland vegetative macroplots were established at four sites. Data from these plots provide initial vegetative composition and productivity and will show changes over the years.
Two sites are on the Gilpin Unit. One is on the bench at the southeast corner. The other is on the slope above Gilpin Creek. At each of the sites there is a total enclosure plot and an open plot. Open plots have been established on the Overton Creek unit and Morrissey Creek unit.
4. A deer spring range vegetative use survey was completed.
5. A deer rumen sample analysis series was initiated.
6. An inventory of trees, shrubs and grasses of the G.P.E.M.U. was compiled.
7. A collection of 61 plant species was collected and mounted.

Wildlife Habitat Improvement

- 1, Openings were created in aspen to stimulate seedling growth for deer browse.
2. A gallinaceous guzzler was installed on the Gilpin unit. This will provide water for upland birds.
3. Winter feeders for upland birds were constructed for use when necessary.
4. A 40 (approximate) acre site on the western Gilpin unit was seeded to Crested

wheatgrass. This may not prove successful.

Maintenance and Clean-up

1. An extension of the Gilpin east boundary fence was completed.
2. A massive clean-up of 80+ years of debris was completed. This included removal of old fences, barbed wire, old Machinery etc.
3. Repairs were made to both houses, including water systems, and a new septic tank installed at the main house.
4. Large areas of knapweed were burned and areas of dead and down pine cleaned up.
5. Signs were placed off this highway to inform the public of the G.F.E.M.O
6. An irrigation system was laid out and purchased for the bottomland pasture.