

Current wording of snow stips.

7. Ground operations would only be allowed when frost and snow cover are at sufficient depth, density and structure to protect the tundra. Soils should be frozen to at least 23 degrees Fahrenheit at least 12 inches below the lowest surface height (e.g. intertussock space). Snow depth and snow density should amount to no less than a Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) of 3 inches over the highest vegetated surface (e.g. top of tussock) in the Coastal area and 4.5 inches in the Foothills.

Table 2. Snow Depth x Density to achieve SWE

Snow Specific Gravity	Coastal 3 inches SWE Needed Snow Depth (inches)	Foothills 4.5 inches SWE Needed Snow Depth (inches)
0.1	30	45
0.2	15	22.5
0.3	10	15
0.35	9	13
0.4	8	11
0.45	7	10
0.5	6	9

8. The applicant/operator would develop and provide the BLM a detailed Snow Monitoring Plan that outlines how and when snow depth and density would be measured. The Plan would describe how adequate snow depth and density would be determined using ROP 7 for the protection of vegetation, soils and permafrost.
9. In the spring, when snow depth and density no longer meet the criteria outlined in ROP 7, the AO would order ground operations to cease.
10. Seismic operations and winter overland travel could be monitored by agency representative(s) and operators would be required to accommodate the agency representative(s) during operations.