

CHAPTER III

Current Forest Plan Direction that Would Be Removed Under This Benchmark

Under Alternatives 2 through 7, the following direction from the Gallatin National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), 9/87, would be deleted and replaced with the goals, objectives, standards, guidelines and travel planning area direction described in Chapters I and 2:

1. Forest-wide standard 6.a.2., page II-17 which states:

“The recommendations and guidelines found in the publication: “Coordinating Elk and Timber Management, Final Report of the Montana Cooperative Elk-Logging Study, 1970-1985 will be used in evaluating the quality of elk habitat and formulating prescriptions for timber sales and road development projects.”

2. Forest-wide standard 6.a.4., page II-18 which states:

“The 1982 Elk Logging Study Annual Report contains procedures for analyzing elk habitat security as it is affected by timber harvest and road construction activities. An “elk effective cover” analysis based on this report will be conducted for timber sales and effective cover ratings of at least 70 percent will be maintained during general hunting season.”

3. Forest-wide standard 11.a.4., page II-24 which states:

“Access and transportation systems for minerals development will be coordinated during the preparation of the resource area analysis for that area.”

4. Forest-wide standard 12.b.1., page II-26 which states:

“Road and trail rights-of-way will be acquired across non-National Forest lands to assure adequate protection, administration, and utilization of National Forest resources. Areas where access is needed to meet the objectives of the Forest Plan including public access are identified on the Management Area Map.”

5. Forest-wide standard 12.b.2., page II-26 which states:

“The Forest will cooperate with other landowners in developing roads or road systems which serve mutual needs.”

6. Forest-wide standard 12.b.3., page II-26 which states:

“A satisfactory jurisdictional status for roads on National Forest and other public land will be sought in cooperation with appropriate authorities.”

7. Forest-wide standard 12.b.4., page II-26 which states:

“Define National Forest interest on all existing system roads and trails and acquire necessary additional interests, as needed, to meet management objectives.”

8. Forest-wide standard 12.b.5., page II-27 which states:

“Rights-of-way across National Forest lands will be granted in situations involving a statutory right of access, subject to compliance with applicable rules and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture.”

9. Forest-wide standard 13.1., page II-27 which states:

“Analysis for transportation needs will be integrated into resource area analysis and will be completed prior to transportation project work.”

10. Forest-wide standard 13.2., page II-27 which states:

“Road and trail management will be determined as part of area transportation analysis and will be based on management area needs, such as recreation access, wildlife security, soil protection, economics, and protection of the investment. The Forest Travel Map will display road, trail, and area restrictions. See Executive Order 11644.”

11. Forest-wide standard 13.3., page II-27 which states:

“Road and trail use may be restricted to meet management needs.”

12. Forest-wide standard 13.4., page II-27 which states:

“Roads and trails will be designed to standards that meet resource management objectives.”

13. Forest-wide standard 13.5., page II-27 which states:

“The Hyalite road will be reconstructed and maintained to provide for recreation and timber management and public safety.”

14. Forest-wide standard 13.6., page II-27 which states:

“Areas now under cost-share agreement may be modified or new agreement areas created if analysis shows the action will be economically advantageous to the government, consistent with the management area goals, and in the public’s interest.”

15. Forest-wide standard 13.7., page II-27 which states:

“Roads and trails that have been disrupted by management activities and are required for continued use will be restored to serviceable condition prior to completion of the project.”

16. Forest-wide standard 13.8., page II-27 which states:

“Noxious weeds along roads and trails will be treated.”

17. Forest-wide standard 13.9., page II-28 which states:

“Existing roads and trails will be maintained consistent with management area goals.”

18. Forest-wide standard 16.e., page II-29, pertaining to eligible Wild and Scenic River segments which states:

“Paralleling roads or railroads can be constructed and maintained on one or both river banks. Access roads leading to the river and bridges across the river may be constructed.”

19. Forest-wide standard 16.h., page II-28, pertaining to eligible Wild and Scenic River segments which states:

“Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, prohibited or restricted. Controls will usually be similar to surrounding lands and waters.”

20. Management Area 1 standards on page III-2 and III-3 which state:

“Maintain existing recreation opportunities consistent with the rural and urban recreation opportunity spectrum classes.”

“Design, construct, reconstruct, and maintain trail consistent with management area goals.”

21. Management Area 2 standards on page III-4 and III-5 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are rural and urban.”

“Design, construct, reconstruct, and maintain roads and trails consistent with management area goals.”

22. Management Area 3 standards on page III-6 and III-7 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are semi-primitive motorized or semi-primitive non-motorized.”

“Roads will not be constructed for surface management, except to provide public access. Allow roads for private land access, special use mineral activity, or to provide access to other management areas if the soil and water values can be protected.”

“The Forest Service investment in road and trail maintenance will be at a minimal level necessary to protect the investment and provide for soil and water protection and user safety.”

23. Management Area 3a standards on page III-8 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes and semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized.”

“No road or trail construction will occur.”

“Existing trails may be closed and reseeded or relocated.”

24. Management Area 5 standards on page III-14 and III-16 which state:

“Manage these areas to provide roaded recreation opportunities in a natural appearing forest setting. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are roaded natural appearing and roaded modified.”

“Design, construct, reconstruct, and maintain roads and trails consistent with management area goals and traffic demands.”

“Coordinate with other agencies to improve roads under their jurisdiction to achieve the goals of this management area.”

25. Management Area 6 standards on page III-17 and III-18 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are semi-primitive motorized or semi-primitive non-motorized.”

“Develop trails and end-of-road facilities to provide access and disperse use throughout the area.”

“Conflicting recreational uses such as hiking, trail biking, horse riding, snowmobiling, and skiing may be separated or restricted in some areas.”

“Identify opportunities and restrictions on the Forest Travel Map.”

“Roads will not be constructed for surface management purposes, except to provide public access. Allow roads for private land access, special use mineral activity, or to provide access to other management areas.”

26. Management Area 7 standards on page III-19 and III-20 which state:

“All recreation opportunity spectrum classes are included in this management area.”

“Restrict off-road vehicle use, except snowmobiles, to roads and trails.”

“Locate roads and trails outside of riparian areas where possible. Minimize amount of material from road and trail construction wasted into riparian areas. Follow best management practices that apply to road construction.”

“Design road drainage to minimize the entry of sediment into streams. Road design will also provide for low risk of drainage failure and mass failure.”

“Minimize the number of stream crossings. Locate and design approaches to stream crossings to minimize damage to the riparian area. Design all crossings located in fishery streams to allow for upstream fish passage.”

“Avoid channel realignment where possible.”

“Minimize short-term sedimentation during bridge or culvert installation.”

27. Management Area 8 standards on page III-24 and III-25 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are roaded natural appearing and roaded modified.”

“Local roads and some collector roads will be closed as needed to protect the road surface, reduce maintenance costs, and protect other resources.”

28. Management Area 9 standards on page III-27 and III-28 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum class is roaded natural appearing.”

“Manage roads for dispersed recreation and to protect other resources.”

“Dispersed recreation opportunities will be provided with moderate levels of investment in trail and recreational road maintenance, trailhead facilities, and in the event of disruption from timber harvest activities, trail relocation.”

“Trailhead facilities will be installed as necessary to disperse use throughout the area.”

“Identify opportunities and restrictions on the Forest Travel Map.”

“Design, construct, reconstruct, and maintain roads and trails consistent with management area goals.”

“Maintain the trail system to enhance dispersed recreation.”

“Provide trailhead facilities.”

29. Management Area 10 standards on page III-30 and III-31 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are roaded natural appearing and roaded modified.”

“Dispersed recreation opportunities will be provided with moderate levels of investment in trail and recreational road maintenance, trailhead facilities, and in the event of disruption from timber harvest activities, trail relocation. Management activities will be oriented toward reducing the impacts associated with recreation activities on other resource values, including protection of soil and water quality.”

“Design, construct, reconstruct, and maintain roads and trails consistent with management area goals.”

30. Management Area 11 standards on page III-33 and III-35 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are roaded natural appearing and roaded modified.”

“A variety of dispersed recreation activities are compatible with the management area goals. Winter recreation activities will not be allowed on important winter range when they disrupt big game use.”

“Trailhead facilities will be installed as necessary to disperse use throughout the area.”

“Locate roads and trails to avoid important wildlife areas such as wallows, licks, calving, and fawning areas.”

“Implement road use restrictions to achieve an elk habitat effectiveness level of at least 60% or a specified elk hunter opportunity objective.”

31. Management Area 12 standards on page III-37 and III-38 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized.”

“A variety of dispersed recreation activities are compatible with the management area goals.”

“Roads will not be constructed for surface management, except to provide public access. Allow roads for private land access, special use mineral activity, or to provide access to other management areas.”

“Locate roads and trails to avoid important wildlife areas such as wallows, licks, calving, and fawning areas.”

“Manage roads and trails to provide for dispersed recreation activities consistent with wildlife goals.”

“Construct trailhead facilities to enhance recreation opportunities.”

32. Management Area 13 standards on page III-40 and III-42 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are roaded natural appearing or roaded modified.”

“Developed recreational capacity will not be increased above the existing level, except to accommodate increase in winter sports activity.”

“Dispersed recreation opportunities will be provided with moderate levels of investment in trail and recreational road maintenance, trailhead facilities, and, in the event of disruption from timber harvest activities, trail relocation.”

“Trailhead facilities will be installed as necessary to disperse use throughout and beyond the area.”

“Locate roads and trails to avoid important wildlife areas.”

“Strive for habitat effectiveness levels of at least 80% for MS-1 and at least 60% for MS-2.” *Note that this standard was removed via Forest Plan amendment 19.*

“Manage roads and trails to control public use in areas where a high potential for human/grizzly bear conflict is identified.”

33. Management Area 14 standards on page III-44 through III-46 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are semi-primitive motorized, semi-primitive non-motorized, and primitive.”

“Dispersed recreation opportunities will be provided with moderate levels of investment in trail and recreational road maintenance and trailhead facilities.”

“Trailhead facilities will be installed as necessary to disperse use throughout this area.”

“Roads will not be constructed for surface management, except to provide public access. Allow roads for private access, special use mineral activity, and access to other management areas.”

“Manage roads and trails to control public use in areas where a high potential for human/grizzly bear conflict is identified.”

“Strive for elk habitat effectiveness levels of at least 80% during the winter period.”

“Strive for elk habitat effectiveness levels of at least 80% for MS-1 grizzly bear habitat and 60% for MS-2 grizzly bear habitat.”

34. Management Area 15 standards on page III-47 and III-48 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are semi-primitive motorized, semi-primitive non-motorized, and primitive.”

“Provide dispersed recreation opportunities with moderate levels of investment in trail and recreational road maintenance and trailhead facilities.”

“Install trailhead facilities as necessary to disperse use throughout this area.”

“Roads will not be constructed for surface management, except to provide public access. Allow roads for private access, special use mineral activity, and access to other management areas.”

“Manage roads and trails to control public use in areas where a high potential for human/grizzly bear conflict is identified.”

“Strive for elk habitat effectiveness levels of at least 80% for MS-1 grizzly bear habitat and 60% for MS-2 grizzly bear habitat.”

35. Management Area 16 standards on page III-50 and III-51 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are roaded natural appearing, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized.”

“Provide dispersed recreation opportunities at a low level of investment, primarily travel planning and maintenance of recreation travel routes that pass through this area.”

“Roads will not be constructed for surface management, except to provide public access. Allow roads for private land access, special use mineral activity, or to provide access to other management areas.”

36. Management Area 17 standards on page III-52 and III-53 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes include semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized.”

“Provide dispersed recreation opportunities at a low level of investment, primarily travel planning and maintenance of recreation travel routes. Winter recreation activities may be controlled or restricted when they disrupt big game use.”

“Roads will not be constructed for surface management, except to provide public access. Allow roads for private land access, special use mineral activity, or to provide access to other management areas.”

“Locate roads and trails to avoid important wildlife areas.”

“Road use restrictions may be used to minimize disturbance to big game.”

37. Management Area 18 standards on page III-54 and III-55 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes include semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized. Restrict summer motorized use to trails designated on the Forest Travel Map.”

“Construct, reconstruct, and maintain trails to accommodate recreation needs.”

“Evaluate the need for a trail connecting the East and Main Fork Hyalite Creek trails.”

“Develop a trailhead on Dry Creek.”

38. Management Area 19 standards on page III-56 and III-57 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized.”

“The Porcupine drainage will be closed to motorized off-route travel. Motorized trail vehicles can use designated routes. The Elkhorn trail will be managed for non-motorized use (see Forest Travel Map).”

“In the Buffalo Horn drainage, off-route vehicle travel is open to snowmobile travel only; other vehicles are restricted to designated routes. There will be no snowmobile use before December 1 (see Forest Travel Map).”

“Roads will not be constructed for surface management, except to provide public access. Allow roads for private land access, special use mineral activity, or to access adjacent management areas.”

39. Management Area 20 standards on page III-59 and III-60 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized.”

“Allow use of motorized vehicles for recreational purposes where such use is compatible with the protection and propagation of wildlife.”

“Allow snowmobile use during periods when there is no conflict with grizzly bear or big game.”

“Allow motorized trail vehicles less than 40 inches wide on designated routes from July 15 through October 30 (see Forest Travel Map).”

“No new road construction will be allowed.”

“Manage the trail system consistent with management area goals.”

“No new trailheads or trails will be constructed until the grizzly bear cumulative effects analysis is complete.”

40. Management Area 21 standards on page III-63 and III-64 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes include primitive, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized.”

“Evaluate road construction necessary to meet RNA objectives on a case-by-case basis.”

41. Management Area 23 standards on page III-65 and III-66 which state:

“Inventory and evaluate potential trails for their suitability and management as part of the National Recreation Trail system.”

“Manage trails for either motorized or non-motorized use, depending on the objective of the individual trail.”

“Trail location, construction, and maintenance will meet the management area goal.”

42. Management Area 24 standards on page III-67 and III-68 which state:

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes include semi-primitive motorized, semi-primitive non-motorized, roaded natural appearing, and roaded modified.”

“Coordinate roads necessary for the development of minerals with goals of adjacent management areas.”

43. A Management Area 25 standard on page III-69 which states:

“All Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are included in this management area.”