

APPENDIX B

Forest Plan Amendment Number 36

USDA Forest Service
Northern Region
Custer National Forest
Billings, MT

The Custer National Forest and Grasslands Land and Resource Management Plan is amended as follows:

This amendment will, site specifically, allow the continued use of 16 acres within Management Area H for the Timberline Snow Survey Course on the Beartooth Ranger District. The Timberline Creek Snow Survey Course is located in Section 10, T. 8 S., R. 19 E., P.M.M.

This Forest Plan Amendment does not change current Management Area allocations. This area will remain in Management Area "H" (16 acres), with the same overall goals and objectives. This Amendment will be reconsidered if Congress enacts legislation that would change this area from Management Area "H", Proposed Wilderness to Management Area "I", Wilderness. This amendment does not make an irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources. Based on the analysis in the Decision Memo (p. 5), this amendment does not alter any of the long term relationships between the levels of goods and services projected in the Forest Plan. Therefore, this amendment is non-significant under the regulations implementing the National Forest Management Act [36 CFR 219.10(f)] and Forest Service Manual 1922.51.

The Visual Quality Objective for Management Area "H" is retention. Concern was expressed that the Timberline snow monitoring course survey posts and markers located on the Timberline Lakes Trail do not meet the visual quality standard of preservation for the management area. Thus, the Forest Service has coordinated with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) regarding this issue. Survey signs and markers will be reduced in size and painted to blend in with the surrounding area. These mitigation measures are considered "Conditions of Approval" which will be incorporated into final project design and implementation and would be consistent with Forest Plan direction to meet Visual Quality Objectives for the management area.

Refer to the attached map for the location of the Timberline Creek Snow Survey Course.

-End Amendment Number 36-