

Appendix 7. NCDE GBCS Draft Forest Plan Amendments Alternatives — Comparison of Forest Plan Components under Alternative 1 (No action Alternative), Alternative 2 (Modified Proposed Action) and Alternative 3

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Introduction

This document contains detailed information showing current forest plan management direction for the amendment forests, and the changes that would be made under the action alternatives. Forest plan components include desired conditions, standards, guidelines, and monitoring items.

The full text of the forest plan language and a glossary of terms that would be incorporated into the revised Flathead Forest Plan and in the amended Helena, Kootenai, Lewis and Clark, and Lolo Forest Plans under the proposed action modified alternative is found in appendix 7.

The draft NCDE grizzly bear conservation strategy identified a subset of resource management activities that need to be coordinated with grizzly bear habitat needs to support the recovered status of the grizzly bear population. These are: motorized access and secure core, developed recreation sites, livestock grazing, vegetation management, and minerals and energy development. **Only the management direction applicable to this subset of resource management programs is included in this comparison.**

For each national forest in turn, the current forest plan language that is specifically relevant to grizzly bear habitat management is presented. The column identified as alternative 1 directly quotes from the existing forest plan. The columns identified as alternatives 2 and 3 state whether the existing direction would be retained or would be replaced. If it would be replaced, a specific reference to the forest plan component (e.g. NCDE-DC-WL-01) is given.

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Helena National Forest

Current Forest Plan Direction and Changes under the Action Alternatives

Table 7-1 presents the management direction relevant to grizzly bear habitat management that would be included in the Helena National Forest Plan under each of the alternatives. The Helena National Forest contains land within the primary conservation area (PCA), zone 1, and zone 2.

Table 7-1. Helena National Forest (HNF) comparison of no action to alternatives 2 and 3

HNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (Current Forest Plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
Wildlife and Fish	<p>Management will emphasize meeting the recovery target of 18 grizzly bears on the essential habitat, and the maintenance or enhancement of elk and cold water fish habitat throughout the Forest. Programs will also be conducted to provide habitat for small game, furbearers and other existing wildlife and fish species.</p> <p>To achieve grizzly bear objectives the emphasis in the Regional action plan calls for coordination with range management, outfitters and guides, public information programs with hunters, and law enforcement to curtail illegal killing of bears (page II-4).</p>	<i>No change.</i>	<i>No change.</i>
Wildlife and Fish	Desired future condition of the forest - see pp. II-11 to II-13	<p>Add NCDE-DC-WL-01 & 02.</p> <p>Add NCDE-DC-AR-01, 02 & 03.</p> <p>Add NCDE-DC-VEG-01 & 02.</p> <p>Add NCDE-DC-GRZ-01.</p> <p>Add NCDE-DC-SFP-01.</p> <p>Add NCDE-DC-MIN-01.</p> <p>Add NCDE- HNF Zone1-DC-01.</p>	<p><i>Wording change to NCDE-DC-GRZ-01:</i> also applies to zone 1 including the Salish and Ninemile DCAs.</p> <p>NCDE-HNF Zone 1&2-DC-02. Within the expanded grizzly bear distribution zone on the Helena National Forest (see figure 1-58 and glossary), National Forest System lands adjacent to highways are consolidated and conservation easements with willing landowners are supported in a manner that provides habitat connectivity, facilitates movement of wildlife, and reduces barriers to north-south movement of grizzly bears.</p>

HNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (Current Forest Plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
Wildlife and Fisheries: Big Game	Implement an aggressive road management program to maintain or improve big game security (p. II-17). Roads will be managed during the general big game hunting season to limit open road densities. (p. II-18)	<i>No change.</i>	<i>No change.</i>
Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species: Grizzly Bear	Helena Forest Plan p. II-19 Grizzly bear -- Apply the guidelines in Appendix D to the Management Situation 1 and 2 (referred to essential and occupied prior to 1984) grizzly bear habitat on the Forest (see map in Appendix D). Initiate field studies in undesignated areas known to be used by grizzlies, to determine if the areas should be designated as grizzly habitat. Until sufficient evidence is available to determine the status of these areas, manage them according to Appendix E, Grizzly Management Guidelines Outside of Recovery Areas.	<i>Replace first paragraph with NCDE-STD-WL-01.</i> <i>Add NCDE-STD-WL-02, NCDE-GDL-WL-01, NCDE-GDL-WL-02 and NCDE-GDL-WL-03.</i> <i>Retain the second paragraph.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species: Grizzly Bear	In occupied grizzly habitat, to minimize man-caused mortality the open road density will not exceed the 1980 density of 0.55 miles per square mile, which was determined to have little effect on habitat capability.	<i>Remove this standard.</i> [Superseded by NCDE-STD-AR-01 through 04, NCDE-GDL-AR-01 and NCDE-GDL-AR-02 (which apply to PCA); and NCDE-HNF Zone1-STD-01 (which applies to zone 1).]	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i> NCDE-STD-AR-04 is modified to add this sentence: Roads within secure core shall not be opened for temporary motorized use by the public.
Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species: Grizzly Bear	Forest Plan Appendix D, Guidelines for Management of Grizzly Bear Habitat	<i>Replace content (from 1986 IGBG) with map and description of PCA, zone 1 and zone 2.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species: Grizzly Bear	Forest Plan Appendix E, Grizzly Bear Management Outside of Recovery Areas	<i>No change.</i>	<i>No change.</i>

HNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (Current Forest Plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
Facilities. Road Management	<p>Helena Forest Plan Forest-wide Standards p. II-31</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Helena National Forest will generally be open to vehicles except for roads, trails and areas that may be restricted. (See Forest Visitor Map for specific information). The Forest Road Management Program will be used to review, evaluate, and implement the goals and standards of the management areas in the Forest Plan with regard to road, trail, and area wide motorized vehicle use. Road management decisions will be based on user needs, public safety, resource protection, and economics. Most existing roads will be left open. But most <i>new</i> roads will be closed, at least during critical periods for big game. The criteria.... The travel restrictions will be reviewed annually and revised as necessary to meet the goals and objectives of the Forest Plan. Enforcement of the Road Management Program will be a high priority. Weekend patrolling, signing, gating, obliterating unnecessary roads, and public education will be used to improve enforcement. Enforcement will be coordinated with the MDFWP and other State and local agencies. 	<p><i>Retain existing standards.</i></p> <p><i>Add NCDE-STD-AR-01 through NCDE-STD-AR-04, and add NCDE-GDL-AR-01 & 02 (all apply to PCA).</i></p> <p><i>Add NCDE-HNF Zone 1-STD-01 (which applies to zone 1).</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p> <p>NCDE-STD-AR-04 <i>is modified to add this sentence:</i> Roads within secure core shall not be opened for temporary motorized use by the public.</p> <p>Add NCDE-HNF Zone 1&2-STD-02. Within the expanded grizzly bear distribution zone (see figure 1-58 and glossary) located in the Blackfoot and Divide landscapes west of Interstate 15, motorized routes (roads and trails) open to public motorized use during the non-denning season shall not exceed 2.4 mi/mi², calculated as the miles of motorized routes on National Forest System lands divided by the acres of National Forest System lands within the expanded grizzly bear distribution zone. The purpose of this standard is to support grizzly bear presence and the opportunity for movement of male bears from the NCDE to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.</p>
Developed Site	<p>Helena Forest Plan Forest-wide Standards p. II-14</p> <p>New campgrounds and other developed recreation facilities, such as boat ramps or picnic areas, will generally not be constructed. Continue to maintain existing developed sites, but emphasize providing dispersed recreation opportunities. Removal of existing sites may be necessary in some cases, due to site deterioration or excessive maintenance cost.</p>	<p><i>Retain existing standard.</i></p> <p><i>Add NCDE-STD-AR-05 and NCDE-STD-AR-06 and NCDE-GDL-AR-03 (all apply to the PCA).</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2 but with two additional standards:</i></p> <p>NCDE-STD-AR-07. Within the NCDE PCA, new or re-authorized permits for ski areas on National Forest System lands that operate during the non-denning season shall include mitigation measures to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.</p> <p>NCDE-STD-AR-08. Within modeled grizzly bear denning habitat in the NCDE PCA, there shall be no increase above the baseline acreage of areas and miles of routes that are open to over-snow vehicle</p>

HNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (Current Forest Plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
			use on National Forest System lands in the den emergence time period (see glossary).
Grazing	<p>Helena Forest Plan Forest-wide Standards p. II-22</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Riparian condition within livestock allotments will be mapped and become part of the Allotment Management Plan. Where analysis shows range resource damage, the cause will be identified and corrective action will be initiated through an allotment management plan. 2. Chemical spraying should not be used on sagebrush control projects if other control methods are feasible. 3. Best management practices (BMPs) will be used to minimize livestock damage to lakeside soils, streamsides, and other fragile areas. 4. Allotment management plans will specify the utilization standards of key plant species needed to protect the soil and water quality. Allowable forage utilization of these plants should be based on local range conditions, soil stability, and known individual plant requirements. The guides for allowable utilization of key species, by condition classes, are in the Range Management Handbook (FSH 2209.21). 5. Allotment Management Plans will be developed using the interdisciplinary process. 	<p><i>Retain existing Range standards.</i></p> <p><i>Add NCDE-STD-GRZ-01 through 06 and add NCDE-GDL-GRZ-01 and NCDE-STD-GRZ-02 (all apply to the PCA).</i></p>	<p><i>Wording change in NCDE-STD-GRZ-01 through 04 and 06: also applies to zone 1 including the Salish and Ninemile DCAs.</i></p> <p><i>Add one more standard:</i></p> <p>NCDE-STD-GRZ-07. Within the NCDE PCA, sheep grazing allotments shall be closed if the opportunity arises with a willing permittee, to reduce the potential risk of grizzly bear–human conflicts.</p>

HNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (Current Forest Plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
Revegetation	<p>Helena Forest Plan Forest-wide Standards p. II-23</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seeding will be done in a timely manner on disturbed areas, to prevent erosion and to achieve best revegetation results. 2. Seeding mixtures of native plants (naturally occurring) should be used, if practical, in all revegetation projects greater than two acres. On smaller disturbances, the responsible official may authorize the use of exotic species. 3. Seeding guidelines, based on elevation, soil type, parent material, habitat type, and reasonable cost, are listed in Appendix F. 	<p><i>Retain existing revegetation standards.</i></p> <p>[Refer to NCDE-GDL-WL-03 regarding seed mixes in the PCA and zone 1.]</p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>
Timber	<p>Helena Forest Plan Forest-wide Standards p. II-23 and II-24</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Silvicultural examinations and prescriptions will be required before any timber manipulation or silvicultural treatment takes place. Exceptions include cutting of trees that block vision along roads, cutting hazard trees, clearing right-of-way, clearing for mineral development, minor and incidental amounts of free use, and cutting personal firewood. Final determination of what silvicultural system will be used for a particular project will be made by a certified silviculturist after an on-the-ground site analysis. This site specific analysis will determine the appropriate even or un-even age silvicultural system that best meets the goals and objectives of the management area. Standards for applying all silvicultural systems, as well as supporting research references are in the Northern Region guide (June 10, 1983). In addition, broad guidelines are found in Appendix B and M. Even-aged management methods will be used only where it is determined to be appropriate to meet objectives. Clearcutting will be used only where it is the optimum method. 	<p><i>Retain existing Timber standards.</i></p> <p><i>Add NCDE-STD-VEG-01 and add NCDE-GDL-VEG-01 through 05 (all apply to the PCA).</i></p>	<p><i>Wording change in NCDE-STD-VEG-01 and NCDE-GDL-VEG-01 through 05 makes them applicable to the Salish and Ninemile DCAs.</i></p>

HNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (Current Forest Plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
	<p>2. Tree improvement will be conducted in accordance with the current Regional and Forest level tree improvement plans</p> <p>3. Transportation plans and logging systems must be designed jointly to provide for long-term stand management, with full consideration given to topography and slope, the overall economic efficiency of roading and yarding costs, and the needs of other resources.</p> <p>4. Timber stand openings created by even-aged silvicultural systems will normally be 40 acres or less. Creation of larger openings will require a 60-day public review and Regional Forester approval. Exceptions are listed in the Northern Regional Guide.</p>		
Special Forest Products	--	<i>Add NCDE-STD-SFP-01. [This is regarding apiaries; there is no such section in the existing Forest Plan.]</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Minerals-General	<p>Helena Forest Plan Forest-wide Standards (p. II-26)</p> <p>3. Access for development of locatable and leasable minerals will be allowed on a case-by-case basis. Access should be directed toward minimizing resource impacts and be coordinated with other land uses.</p>	<p><i>Retain existing standard.</i></p> <p><i>Add NCDE-STD-MIN-01 through 07 and add NCDE-GDL-MIN-01 through 06 (all apply to locatable and leasable minerals in the PCA and zone 1).</i></p>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>

HNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (Current Forest Plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
Locatable Minerals	<p>(p. II-27)</p> <p>1. Consistent with the Mining and Mineral Policy Act of 1970, continue to encourage the responsible development of mineral resources on National Forest lands. Concurrently, require mitigation measures to protect surface resources.</p> <p>2. Provide guidance to miners and prospectors for planning reclamation and to minimize environmental damage.</p> <p>7. Following mineral development the Forest Service will require reclamation of surface disturbance to prevent or control on- and off- site damage. Reclamation includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Control of erosion and landslides. b. Control of water runoff. c. Isolation, removal, or control of toxic materials. d. Reshaping and revegetation of disturbed areas. e. Rehabilitation of fisheries and wildlife habitat. 	<p><i>Retain existing Locatable Minerals standards.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>
Locatable Minerals	<p>Amendment 19: Withdrawal of areas for locatable minerals on the Lincoln Ranger District</p>	<p><i>Retain existing standards in Amendment 19.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>
Locatable Minerals	<p>Saleable Minerals Forest-wide Standards (p. II-28)</p> <p>1. Common variety mineral permits will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will be issued only if consistent with the management area goals.</p>	<p><i>Retain existing Saleable Minerals standard.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>
Leasable Minerals - Oil and Gas Leasing Availability and Lease Stipulations	<p>Helena Forest Plan Amendment 13 (p. II-28)</p> <p>Helena Forest lands that are unavailable for oil and gas leasing are Wilderness Areas (P-1 and P-2 management areas), Forest Plan recommended Wilderness (P-3 management areas), the Elkhorns Wildlife Management Unit and the Helena City Municipal Watershed (Ten Mile drainage above the city water treatment plan). All other Forest lands with Federal mineral ownership are available for lease and</p>	<p><i>Retain this standard.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>

HNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (Current Forest Plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
	<p>will be recommended to the BLM for issuance. The recommendation will include appropriate stipulations as determined in the ROD for the "Helena National Forest and Deerlodge National Forest portion of the Elkhorns Oil and Gas Leasing EIS" and displayed as the new Appendix N of the Forest Plan.</p>		
<p>Leasable Minerals - Oil and Gas Leasing Availability and Lease Stipulations</p>	<p>Helena Forest Plan Amendment 13 (p. II-28)</p> <p>No Surface Occupancy is allowed in MS-1 grizzly bear habitat pursuant to the IGBGs and if considered important to its conservation, as outlined in an approved grizzly bear conservation strategy, following a change in legal status under the Endangered Species Act.</p> <p>No Surface Occupancy would also applied to overlapping occupied denning and summer habitat in MS-2.</p> <p>Timing limitations would apply to grizzly bear denning areas in MS-2 (October 15 to April 15) and spring habitat in MS-2 (April 1 to June 30).</p>	<p><i>Remove these standards.</i> [See NCDE-STD-MIN-05 which applies to the PCA and zone 1.]</p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2 plus add this standard:</i> NCDE-STD-MIN-08. Within the NCDE PCA and Zone 1(including the Salish and Ninemile DCAs), new oil and gas leases shall include a no surface occupancy stipulation.</p>
<p>Seismic Exploration</p>	<p>Helena Forest Plan (p. II-28)</p> <p>An environmental analysis will be completed for each application. A prospecting permit will be issued on a case by case basis and will contain stipulations designed to coordinate surface resource values. The following apply where appropriate:</p> <p>a. Water quality and quantity: Stipulations may be issued to limit activities within 100 feet of all streams, lakes, springs, and ponds.</p> <p>b. Threatened and endangered species habitat: Stipulations will be issued to protect threatened and endangered species by limiting activities during critical periods, and protecting important habitat elements.</p> <p>c. Nongame habitat: Stipulations may be used to limit surface use as a coordination and/or mitigation measure for species listed in State of Montana,</p>	<p><i>Retain existing Seismic Exploration standards.</i></p> <p>[See NCDE-STD-MIN-05 & 06, and NCDE-GDL-MIN-01 & 03.]</p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>

HNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (Current Forest Plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
	<p>Species of Special Interest and Concern. (The State species list is part of the Wildlife Planning Records.)</p> <p>d. Big game habitat: To protect key areas for big game (i.e., winter range, summer concentration habitats, calving areas, lambing areas, big game travel routes, etc.), stipulations may be used during critical periods.</p>		
Monitoring	Wildlife C6. Grizzly bear habitat effectiveness/population (habitat diversity, open road density). (p. IV-8)	<i>Replace with</i> NCDE-MON-05.	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Monitoring	Recreation A1. Actual use and condition of developed recreation facilities. (p. IV-6)	<i>Retain and add</i> NCDE-MON-02.	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Monitoring	Range D2. Allotment management planning and update. (p. IV-10)	<i>Retain and add</i> NCDE-MON-03.	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Monitoring	Minerals G1. Forest Service land uses that may have an effect on minerals activities; minerals activities that have an effect on surface resources. (p. IV-16)	<i>Retain and add</i> NCDE-MON-04.	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Monitoring	Facilities L2. Road management. Ensure that assumptions are valid concerning yearlong closures and seasonal closures on collector roads and local roads. (p. IV-17).	<i>Retain and add</i> NCDE-MON-01 and NCDE-MON-06.	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Additional Requirements, Helena NF	<p>In 2006, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administratively amended the previous (1985) Biological Opinion and considered potential impacts of continued implementation of the Helena National Forest Plan on bears that occur both inside and outside the NCDE. The Incidental Take Statement includes the following terms and conditions, which are required in order to be exempt from the taking prohibition of the Endangered Species Act:</p> <p>Within the recovery zone, allow no net increase in open and total motorized access route densities and no net decrease in security core in all three of the grizzly bear subunits.</p> <p>Through the travel management planning process, within five years bring the Red Mountain subunit to the</p>	<p><i>The 2006 Biological Opinion would be superseded by the consultation on this forest plan amendment.</i></p> <p>[See NCDE-STD-AR-02.]</p>	<p><i>Wording change makes NCDE-STD-GRZ-03 and 04 applicable in zone 1, including the Salish and Ninemile DCAs.</i></p> <p><i>Also add this standard: NCDE-STD-GRZ-07. Within the NCDE PCA, sheep grazing allotments shall be closed if the opportunity arises with a willing permittee, to reduce the potential risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.</i></p>

HNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (Current Forest Plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
	<p>following access conditions: open motorized access route density less than or equal to 22 percent and security core greater than or equal to 68 percent.</p> <p>Outside of the recovery zone, the Forest will consult the Service if a net increase in permanent system roads exceeds 4 linear miles during the 5-year period succeeding this incidental take statement. Decommissioning of permanent system roads contributes to decreasing the net increase.</p> <p>Allow no new sheep allotments on the Forest within the NCDE recovery zone.</p> <p>Include a clause in all grazing permits that occur within the action area requiring the permittee to notify the Forest of any grizzly bear depredation on livestock or conflicts between grizzly bears and livestock, even if the conflict did not result in the loss of livestock within 24 hours of discovery. The Forest shall work with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Wildlife Control personnel to determine the appropriate action.</p> <p>Include a clause in all grazing permits that occur within the action area requiring the permittee to notify the Forest of any livestock losses, regardless of the cause, within 24 hours of discovery. Agency personnel and the permittee would then jointly determine how to properly treat or dispose of livestock carcasses so as to eliminate any potential attractant for bears</p>	<p>(See NCDE-STD-GRZ-04 and NCDE-STD-GRZ-03.)</p>	

Kootenai National Forest

Current Forest Plan Direction and Changes under the Action Alternatives

This table presents the forest plan components relevant to grizzly bear habitat management that would be included in the Kootenai National Forest Plan under each alternative. The Kootenai National Forest contains land in the primary conservation area (PCA) and in zone 1, which includes the Salish demographic connectivity area (DCA).

Note that the amendment would apply only to portions of the Kootenai National Forest that are within the NCDE, and not to those portions that are within the Cabinet-Yaak grizzly bear recovery area.

Table 7-2. Kootenai National Forest (KNF) comparison of the no action to alternatives 2 and 3

KNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
Wildlife	Desired Conditions (pp. 28-29) FW-DC-WL-01. Nests and den sites and other birthing and rearing areas for terrestrial threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species are relatively free of human disturbance during the period they are active at these sites. Individual animals that establish nests and den sites near areas of pre-existing human use are assumed to be accepting of that existing level of human use at the time the animals establish occupancy.	<i>No change.</i>	<i>No change.</i>
Wildlife	FW-DC-WL-02. A forestwide system of large remote areas is available to accommodate species requiring large home ranges and low disturbances, such as some wide-ranging carnivores (e.g., grizzly bear).	<i>No change.</i>	<i>No change.</i>
Wildlife	FW-DC-WL-03. Recovery of the terrestrial threatened and endangered species is the long-term desired condition. Foraging, denning, rearing, and security habitat is available for occupation. Populations trend toward recovery through cooperation and coordination with USFWS, state agencies, other federal agencies, tribes, and interested groups.	<i>No change.</i>	<i>No change.</i>

KNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
Wildlife	FW-DC-WL-04. All grizzly bear management units have low levels of disturbance to facilitate denning activities, spring use, limit displacement, and reduce human/bear conflicts and potential bear mortality. Spring, summer, and fall forage is available for the grizzly bear.	<i>No change.</i>	<i>No change.</i>
Wildlife	FW-DC-WL-05. Recovery of the grizzly bear is promoted by motorized access management within the KNF portion of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem and Cabinet-Yaak recovery zones.	<i>No change.</i>	<i>No change.</i>
Wildlife	FW-DC-WL-17. Forest management contributes to wildlife movement within and between national forest parcels. Movement between those parcels separated by other ownerships is facilitated by management of the National Forest Service portions of linkage areas identified through interagency coordination. Federal ownership is consolidated at these approach areas to highway and road crossings to facilitate wildlife movement.	<i>No change.</i>	<i>No change.</i>
Wildlife	--	<i>Add NCDE-DC-WL-01 and NCDE-DC-WL-02.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>

KNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)												
Wildlife	<p>Wildlife Standards (p. 30) FW-STD-WL-03. Within the Kootenai portion of the NCDE recovery zone, BMU subunits shall maintain or improve the access and habitat parameters as shown in table 6. Site-specific motorized access densities and security core habitat are developed at the project level in consultation with the USFWS and through appropriate public involvement and National Environmental Policy Act procedures.</p> <p>Table 6. NCDE Recovery Zone Bear Management Units (BMUs).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Bear Mgt Unit Subunit</th> <th>Open Motorized Route Density ¹</th> <th>Total Motorized Route Density ²</th> <th>Security Core Area</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Krinklehorn</td> <td>≤18%</td> <td>≤11%</td> <td>≥75%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Therriault</td> <td>≤23%</td> <td>≤10%</td> <td>≥71%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>¹ The standard for OMRD and TMRD is to be ≤ the percentage listed in the table above. This is calculated based on the percentage of the BMU with an OMRD ≥1 mi/mi² and TMRD ≥2 mi/mi². OMRD and TMRD are defined in the glossary.</p> <p>² The standard for Core is to be ≥ the percentage listed in the table. This is calculated based on the definition of “grizzly bear core habitat” in the glossary.</p>	Bear Mgt Unit Subunit	Open Motorized Route Density ¹	Total Motorized Route Density ²	Security Core Area	Krinklehorn	≤18%	≤11%	≥75%	Therriault	≤23%	≤10%	≥71%	<p><i>Retain this standard.</i></p> <p>[Note: This is the baseline (adjusted through Section 7 consultation) in relation to NCDE-STD-AR-02]</p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>
Bear Mgt Unit Subunit	Open Motorized Route Density ¹	Total Motorized Route Density ²	Security Core Area												
Krinklehorn	≤18%	≤11%	≥75%												
Therriault	≤23%	≤10%	≥71%												
Wildlife	<p>FW-STD-WL-04. Permits and operating plans (e.g., special use, grazing, and mining) shall specify sanitation measures and adhere to the forestwide food/attractant storage order in order to reduce human/wildlife conflicts and mortality by making wildlife attractants (e.g., garbage, food, livestock carcasses) inaccessible through proper storage or disposal.</p>	<p><i>Retain this standard and add NCDE-STD-WL-02.</i></p> <p>[Note: FW-STD-WL-04 is broader than NCDE-STD-WL-02 which applies to the NCDE PCA and zone 1.]</p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>												
Wildlife	<p>FW-STD-WL-05. No grooming of snowmobile routes in grizzly bear core habitat in the spring after April 1 of each year.</p>	<p><i>Retain this standard.</i></p>	<p><i>Retain this standard and add:</i></p> <p>NCDE-STD-AR-08. Within modeled grizzly bear denning habitat in the NCDE PCA, there shall be no increase above the baseline acreage of areas and miles of routes that are open to over-snow vehicle</p>												

KNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
			use on National Forest System lands in the den emergence time period (see glossary).
Wildlife	--	<i>Add NCDE-STD-WL-01.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Wildlife	Wildlife, Guidelines (pp. 31-32) FW-GDL-WL-01. Grizzly Bear. Management activities should avoid or minimize disturbance in areas of predicted denning habitat during spring emergence (April 1 through May 1).	<i>Retain this guideline.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Wildlife	FW-GDL-WL-15. Grizzly bear. Elements contained in the most recent "Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines," or a conservation strategy once a grizzly bear population is delisted, would be applied to management activities.	<i>Revise as shown in bold: Elements contained in the most recent "Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines," or a conservation strategy incorporated into the Forest Plan, would be applied to management activities.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Wildlife	--	<i>Add NCDE-GDL-WL-01 through 03.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Access and Recreation	Access and Recreation (pp. 33-35) FW-DC-AR-01. Quality, well-maintained recreation facilities exist at key locations to accommodate concentrations of use, enhance the visitor's experience, and protect the natural resources of the area. Day use access is available for relaxation, viewing scenery and wildlife, and for water and snow-based play. Recreation rental cabins and lookouts provide safe, comfortable, overnight facilities that allow visitors to experience and learn about the rich history of the area. Dispersed camping resource concerns, activity conflicts, or over-use. Food and garbage storage do not contribute to conflicts between recreation users and wildlife.	<i>Retain this desired condition and add NCDE-DC-AR-02 which applies to the PCA.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Access and Recreation	FW-DC-AR-07. A transportation system is in place that provides safe and efficient public and administrative access to the Forest for recreation, special uses, forest resource management, and fire management activities. It is efficiently maintained, environmentally compatible, and	<i>Retain this desired condition and add NCDE-DC-AR-01 (which applies to the PCA).</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>

KNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
	<p>responsive to public needs and desires. The transportation system and its use have minimal impacts on resources including threatened and endangered species, sensitive species, heritage and cultural sites, watersheds, and aquatic species. Newly constructed or reconstructed roads do not encroach into streams and riparian areas in ways that impact channel function, geometry or sediment delivery. Roads in intermittent stored service pose minimal risks to water quality and aquatic ecosystems. Drainage structures have a minimal risk of failure, and provide adequate drainage that prevents accelerated runoff, erosion, and sediment delivery to streams. In addition, stream crossings provide for passage of aquatic organisms. Unauthorized roads and trails are no longer created.</p>		
Access and Recreation	--	<p>Add NCDE-STD-AR-01 through 04 and add NCDE-GDL-AR-01 through 04 (all apply to the PCA).</p>	<p>Modify NCDE-STD-AR-04 by adding this sentence: Roads within secure core shall not be opened for temporary motorized use by the public.</p>
Access and Recreation	--	--	<p>Add two standards:</p> <p>NCDE-STD-AR-07. Within the NCDE PCA, new or re-authorized permits for ski areas on National Forest System lands that operate during the non-denning season shall include mitigation measures to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.</p> <p>NCDE-STD-AR-08. Within modeled grizzly bear denning habitat in the NCDE PCA, there shall be no increase above the baseline acreage of areas and miles of routes that are open to over-snow vehicle use on National Forest System lands in the den emergence time period (see glossary).</p>
--	--	<p>Add NCDE-KNF Zone1-DC-01 and add NCDE-KNF Zone1-STD-01 & 02 (apply to zone 1 and the Salish DCA).</p>	<p>Add:</p> <p>NCDE-KNF Zone 1-DC-02. In areas between the PCA and the Salish DCA, National Forest System lands are consolidated and conservation easements</p>

KNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
			<p>with willing landowners are supported in a manner that provides habitat connectivity and facilitates movement of wildlife. See also FW-DC-WL-17, FW-GDL-WL-14 and GA-DC-WL-TOB-02.</p> <p>NCDE-KNF Zone 1-STD-01. Within the Kootenai National Forest portion of NCDE Zone 1 including the Salish DCA, there shall be no increases in permanent linear miles of open roads, total roads or motorized trails on National Forest System lands in the bears outside recovery zone (BORZ) polygons, with listed exceptions. A temporary increase in open and total miles of road is allowed under specified conditions (see page 150 of appendix B of the forest plan).</p> <p>NCDE-KNF Zone 1-STD-02. Within the Kootenai National Forest portion of NCDE Zone 1 outside of the area covered by the Tobacco BORZ (page 150-151 of 2015 Kootenai forest plan appendix B), there shall be no net increase above the baseline in miles of roads open to public motorized use during the non-denning season on National Forest System lands. This standard does not apply to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ motorized use by agency personnel or others authorized by the appropriate agency personnel; ▪ temporarily opening a road for a short periods of time to allow for public firewood gathering and other authorized use; ▪ updated/improved road data without an actual change on the ground; ▪ changes in technology or projections result in changed calculations without actual change on the ground (e.g., a

KNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
			<p>switch from NAD27 to NAD83 projection);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a road closure location is moved a short distance (e.g. to the nearest intersection or turnout) to a better location to allow turn-arounds providing for public safety, to reduce vandalism, or to improve enforcement of the road closure; ▪ the agency exchanges, acquires, buys or sells lands; ▪ a change in an open road is necessary to comply with Federal laws (e.g., Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended); ▪ motorized use for mining activities (as authorized under the Mining Law of 1872) and oil and gas activities (as authorized under the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987) because these types of permitted resource development are subject to valid existing rights and have a separate set of standards and guidelines; ▪ a change in an open road is necessary to address grizzly bear-human conflicts, human safety concerns or resource damage/concerns (e.g. a road paralleling a stream may be decommissioned and replaced by a new upslope road to reduce water quality impacts); ▪ motorized use for emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21; ▪ temporary roads (see glossary).

KNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
Grazing	<p>Grazing (p. 38)</p> <p>FW-DC-GRZ-01. Grazing occurs at sustainable levels in suitable locations while protecting resources.</p> <p>FW-DC-GRZ-03. Vacant allotments are evaluated and may be closed when there is either a lack of use, a shortage of forage for a viable allotment, or the likelihood of a significant resource conflict.</p>	<p><i>Retain existing Grazing Desired Condition statements, and add NCDE-DC-GRZ-01 (which applies in the PCA).</i></p>	<p><i>Wording change in NCDE-DC-GRZ-01 also makes it applicable to zone 1, including the Salish and Ninemile DCAs.</i></p>
Grazing	<p>--</p>	<p><i>Add NCDE-STD-GRZ-01 through 06 and add NCDE-GDL-GRZ-01 & 02 (all apply to the PCA).</i></p>	<p><i>Wording change in standards NCDE-STD-GRZ-01 through 06 also makes them applicable to zone 1, including the Salish and Ninemile DCAs.</i></p> <p><i>Add NCDE-STD-GRZ-07. Within the NCDE PCA, sheep grazing allotments shall be closed if the opportunity arises with a willing permittee, to reduce the potential risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.</i></p>
Timber	<p>Timber (pp. 38-39)</p> <p>FW-DC-TBR-01. Production of timber contributes to ecological, social, and/or economic sustainability, and associated desired conditions. A sustainable mix of timber products (including both sawtimber and non-sawtimber) is offered under a variety of harvest and contract methods in response to market demand. Salvage of dead and dying trees captures as much of the economic value of the wood as possible while retaining the amount needed for wildlife habitat, soil productivity, and ecosystem functions.</p>	<p><i>Retain existing Timber Desired Condition statement and add NCDE-DC-VEG-01 & 02 (which apply to the PCA).</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>
Vegetation	<p>--</p>	<p><i>Add NCDE-STD-VEG-01 and add NCDE-GDL-VEG-01 through 05 (all apply to the PCA).</i></p>	<p><i>Wording change in NCDE-STD-VEG-01 and NCDE-GDL-VEG-01 through 05 also makes them applicable to Salish and Ninemile DCAs.</i></p>
Special Forest Products	<p>--</p>	<p><i>Add NCDE-DC-SFP-01 and add NCDE-STD-SFP-01 (which apply to the PCA).</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>
Minerals	<p>Minerals (p. 39)</p>	<p><i>Add NCDE-DC-MIN-01.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>

KNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
	FW-STD-MIN-01. Locatable mineral development is not allowed in areas withdrawn from mineral entry. (Refer to appendix D for areas withdrawn from mineral entry.)		
Minerals	--	<i>Add NCDE-STD-MIN-01 through 07 (all apply to the PCA and zone 1).</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2. and add this standard:</i> NCDE-STD-MIN-08. Within the NCDE PCA and Zone 1 (including the Salish and Ninemile DCAs), new oil and gas leases shall include a no surface occupancy stipulation.
Minerals	--	<i>Add NCDE-GDL-MIN-01 through 06 (all apply to the PCA and zone 1).</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Monitoring	Monitoring (p. 100) MON-FLS-01-01: Grizzly Bear: Progress towards achieving and maintaining standards for percent core area, OMRD, and TMRD within the Recovery Zones (see monitoring requirements for the Grizzly Bear Access Amendment in appendix B).	<i>Add NCDE-MON-01.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Monitoring	Monitoring – Access and Recreation (p. 102) MON-AR-01-01: Number and type of recreation sites. MON-AR-01-02: Number of Persons at One Time	<i>Add NCDE-MON-02 and NCDE-MON-06.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Monitoring	Monitoring – Grazing	<i>Add NCDE-MON-03.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Monitoring	Monitoring – Minerals and Energy Development	<i>Add NCDE-MON-04.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Monitoring	--	<i>Add NCDE-MON-05.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Additional Requirements	Additional Requirements, Kootenai NF In 2013, USFWS issued a Biological Opinion on the effects of the revised forest plan on grizzly bears in the CYE and the NCDE. The Incidental Take Statement includes the following terms and conditions, which are required in order to be exempt from the taking prohibition of the Endangered Species Act.	<i>The 2013 BO will be amended by the consultation on the NCDE grizzly bear amendment</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>

KNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
Additional Requirements	<p>The Forest shall conduct monitoring and reporting of incidental take as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) By April 15 each year, the KNF shall submit an annual report to the Service that details the progress made toward achieving and maintaining the standards for percent Core Area, OMRD, and TMRD within the Recovery Zones. 2) The annual report shall provide an ongoing list detailing the locations, dates, duration, and circumstances for invoking the Access Amendment allowance for entering core area for the purposes of road decommissioning or stabilizations. 3) The KNFs shall coordinate with State and Federal agency biologists to collect credible grizzly bear observations that occur outside of the Recovery Zone boundaries and add this information to the 6th-order HUC database for inclusion into the annual report. 4) During the first year of implementation of the Revised Forest Plan, the Forest and the Service shall cooperatively develop a plan to monitor the scope and magnitude of late-season snowmobiling (post April 15) as it relates to effects on post-den emergent grizzly bears (see Incidental Take Statement). Within five years of implementation of the Revised Forest Plan, the Forests shall complete a winter travel plan, which will include considerations for grizzly bear and other federally listed species. 5) The Forest shall notify the Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator or Service’s Montana Field Office within 24 hours of any bear-human conflicts that occur on the Forest, regardless of cause or season. 		

Lewis and Clark National Forest

Current Forest Plan Direction and Changes under the Action Alternatives

This table presents the forest plan components that are relevant to grizzly bear habitat management that would be included in the Lewis and Clark Forest Plan under each alternative. The Lewis and Clark National Forest contains land within the primary conservation area (PCA) and zone 3, with negligible amounts in zone 1 (6 acres) and zone 2 (2 acres).

Table 7-3. Lewis and Clark (L&C) National Forest comparison of the no action alternative to alternatives 2 and 3

L&C Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
Wildlife and Fish	<p>Forest-wide Objectives, Wildlife and Fish (page 2-5 and 2-6)</p> <p>Management will emphasize the recovery of the endangered gray wolf and threatened grizzly bear on the Rocky Mountain Division and the maintenance of current populations of elk and coldwater fish throughout the Forest. Programs will also be conducted to provide for huntable and trappable populations of small game and furbearers and viable populations of other existing wildlife and fish species. (See Appendices D, E, F, H, I and K.)</p>	<i>Retain the first paragraph.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Wildlife and Fish	<p>To achieve grizzly bear objectives the emphasis in the Regional action plan calls for coordination with range management, outfitters and guides, public information programs with hunters, and law enforcement to curtail illegal killing of bears (see Appendix J). To improve analytical capabilities on the effect of activities of grizzly bears and their habitat, a computerized cumulative effects model will be developed from this effort and area coordination plans will be prepared to regulate activities in time and space (see Appendix L).</p>	<i>Remove this paragraph.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Desired Future Condition of the Forest	<p>Desired Future Conditions (pp. 2-18 to 22)</p> <p>--</p>	<p><i>Add NCDE-DC-WL-01 & 02.</i></p> <p><i>Add NCDE-DC-AR-01, 02 & 03.</i></p>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>

L&C Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
	-- -- -- --	Add NCDE-DC-VEG-01 & 02. Add NCDE-DC-GRZ-01. Add NCDE-DC-SFP-01. Add NCDE-DC-MIN-01.	Wording change in NCDE-DC-GRZ-01 makes it applicable to zone 1 as well.
Wildlife and Fish	Wildlife and Fish Forest-wide Management Standards C-2 (p. 2-23) (5) Participate in the Interagency Wildlife Monitoring/Evaluation Program for the Rocky Mountain Front. The members chartered the program in 1980 to promote better coordination of wildlife studies along the Front. The interagency Program is reviewed in Appendix H. Data gathered through this program is the basis of the grizzly bear management guidelines (Appendix I). The Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines will be used to coordinate multiple-use activities with the biological requirements of endangered and threatened species (Appendix V).	Remove this standard.	Same as alt. 2.
Wildlife and Fish	(7) The occupied grizzly bear habitat (all of the Rocky Mountain Division) has been stratified according to “The Guidelines for Management Involving Grizzly Bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem” (USFS 1979). Appendix K describes this stratification and the management direction based on this stratification. Forest management on occupied grizzly bear habitat will comply with this management direction.	Replace with NCDE-STD-WL-01.	Same as alt. 2.
Wildlife and Fish	(8) Manage problem grizzly bears in accordance with the “Guidelines for Determining Grizzly Bear Nuisance Status and for Controlling Nuisance Grizzly Bears in the Northern Continental Divide and Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Ecosystems.” This guideline was developed by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Forest Service; National Park Service; Bureau of Indian Affairs; and Border Grizzly Bear Project. It is revised as needed. The document specifies	Remove this standard. [Note: the referenced document will be revised by the NCDE Conservation Strategy]	Same as alt. 2.

L&C Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
	the criteria for accepting nuisance grizzlies and identifies suitable relocation sites.		
Wildlife	--	Add NCDE-STD-WL-02 (applies to the PCA, zone 1 and zone 2).	Same as alt. 2.
Wildlife	--	Add NCDE-GDL-WL-01 through 03.	Same as alt. 2.
Access and Recreation	Developed Recreation Forest-wide Management Standards A-2 (p. 2-25) (5) Administer provisions of the Endangered Species Act in occupied T&E species habitat (Appendix I). Use the Management Guidelines developed under the Interagency Rocky Mountain Front Wildlife Monitoring/Evaluation Program to avoid or mitigate conflicts between developed recreation and T&E species (Appendix I)	Retain this standard.	Retain this standard.
Access and Recreation	--	Add NCDE-STD-AR-05 & 06 and add NCDE-GDL-AR-03 (all apply to the PCA).	Same as alt. 2 plus these two standards: NCDE-STD-AR-07. Within the NCDE PCA, new or re-authorized permits for ski areas on National Forest System lands that operate during the non-denning season shall include mitigation measures to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts. NCDE-STD-AR-08. Within modeled grizzly bear denning habitat in the NCDE PCA, there shall be no increase above the baseline of areas and routes that are open to over-snow vehicle use in the den emergence time period (see glossary).
Livestock Grazing	Livestock Grazing Forest-wide Management Standards D-4 (p. 2-41) 6) Grazing which affects grizzly bears and/or their habitat will be made compatible with grizzly needs or such uses will be disallowed or eliminated.	Retain this standard.	Retain this standard.

L&C Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
Livestock Grazing	--	Add NCDE-STD-GRZ-01 through 06 and add NCDE-GDL-GRZ-01 & 02 (all apply to the PCA).	<p><i>Wording change in grazing standards NCDE-STD-GRZ-01 through 06 makes them applicable to zone 1.</i></p> <p><i>Add NCDE-STD-GRZ-07. Within the NCDE PCA, sheep grazing allotments shall be closed if the opportunity arises with a willing permittee, to reduce the potential risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.</i></p>
Vegetation	<p>Timber Forest-wide Management Standards, Firewood Administration E-2 (p. 2.42)</p> <p>(4) When roads approach diverse complexes of T&E habitat components such as those in the upper end of drainages, they should not be opened to firewood cutting during any season. For roads which enter areas of low vertical relief and limited component diversity, access for firewood cutting is compatible with grizzly bear use as long as the access is prohibited during important use seasons. Firewood cutting should be limited to 2 to 3 years after timber harvest. Then the road should be permanently closed to the public.</p>	<p><i>Retain this standard.</i></p> <p><i>[Note: in the NCDE PCA, this is modified by NCDE-STD-VEG-01, NCDE-GDL-VEG-01 through 05, as well as by NCDE-STD-AR-02 and 04.]</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2, except NCDE-STD-AR-04 is modified by adding this sentence: Roads within secure core shall not be opened for temporary motorized use by the public.</i></p>
Timber Harvest	<p>Timber Harvest E-4 (p. 2 46-)</p> <p>The following standards apply to occupied grizzly bear habitat on the Rocky Mountain Division.</p> <p>(14) Coordinate timber harvest activities with seasonal grizzly habitat use patterns to minimize the disturbance to grizzly bears. This can most easily be accomplished with seasonal restrictions on logging and road building activities.</p> <p>(15) Maintain or improve the production of grizzly food species on harvesting sites. To accomplish this, soil scarification during logging and post-logging treatments will be done to the minimum level necessary to insure timber regeneration.</p> <p>(16) Broadcast burning will be favored over dozer piling in areas where broadcast burning will not adversely affect timber regeneration.</p>	<p><i>Remove standards 14 through 19 and replace with standard NCDE-STD-VEG-01 and guidelines NCDE-GDL-VEG-01 through 05 which apply in the PCA.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2, except that wording change in NCDE-GDL-VEG-01 through 05 makes them applicable to the Salish and Ninemile DCAs [neither of which occur on the Lewis and Clark NF].</i></p>

L&C Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
	<p>(17) Use equipment no bigger than necessary to complete the job.</p> <p>(18) Encourage horse logging where it is feasible because it is generally 'easy on the land' allowing many bear foods to recover rapidly.</p>		
Timber Harvest	<p>19) Maintain escape cover and a degree of isolation for the grizzly. This standard can be met by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating irregular borders where possible to provide nearby cover for a great proportion of the cutting unit. • screening clearcuts from the road by a strip of trees between the road and the cut. • maintaining visual cover along streams; around wet areas such as seeps, wet meadows and marshes; along ridgetops; and adjacent to open habitat components such as snowchutes, shrubfields, sidehill parks, and slabrock areas. • retaining stringers of timber that serve as travel routes, as well as feeding sites, along riparian zones, snowchutes, and between adjacent cutting units. • limiting timber harvest activities at or near ridgetops, at drainage heads, and along creek bottoms. These sites are important grizzly travel/feeding areas. • protecting travel corridors, denning areas, or feeding sites. • harvesting timber systematically so as to allow cover, food, and trees time to recover adequately before re-entry. 	<p><i>Remove standards 14 through 19 and replace with standard NCDE-STD-VEG-01 and guidelines NCDE-GDL-VEG-01 through 05 which apply in the PCA.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2, with wording change in NCDE-GDL-VEG-01 through 05 that includes the addition of the Salish and Ninemile DCAs [neither of which are on the Lewis and Clark National Forest].</i></p>
Special Forest Products	--	Add NCDE-STD-SFP-01.	Same as alt. 2.
Minerals	<p>Minerals Forest-wide Management Standards, Seismic Exploration G-1 (p. 2- 54)</p> <p>(14) Protect T&E wildlife species through compliance with the Endangered Species Act. Use the Interagency</p>	<p><i>Retain this standard.</i></p> <p><i>[Note: see NCDE-STD-MIN-05 & 06 specific to grizzly bears,</i></p>	Same as alt. 2.

L&C Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
	Guidelines to avoid or mitigate conflicts with seismic exploration and T&E species (Appendix I).	applicable to the PCA and zone 1.]	
Minerals	<p>Minerals Forest-wide Management Standards; Oil and Gas Leasing, Exploration Drilling Field Development, and Production G-2 (p. 2-57)</p> <p>(9) Protect threatened and endangered species through Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (consultation procedures), the standard stipulation, the Controlled Surface Use stipulation, timing limitations, and the use of the Interagency Guidelines. An analysis of proposed actions will identify conditions under which activities must be restricted, delayed, or modified to prevent adverse effects on threatened and endangered species and their habitat.</p>	<i>Retain this standard.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Minerals	<p>Minerals Forest-wide Management Standards, Mineral Withdrawal G-3 (p. 2-59)</p> <p>(2) Use withdrawal only where protection is definitely needed and cannot be achieved through other management options. All National Forest System lands on the Rocky Mountains Division have been withdrawn from entry under the general mining laws. Management area prescriptions for these lands are to be interpreted consistent with this direction.</p>	<i>Retain this standard.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Minerals	<p>Minerals Forest-wide Management Standard, Locatable and Common Variety Minerals G-5 (p. 2-59).</p> <p>(1) Consistent with the Mining and Mineral Policy Act of 1970, continue to encourage the development of mineral resources on National Forest lands by private enterprise. Activities authorized under Notices of Intent, Plans of Operation, and mineral material permits will contain conditions and specifications appropriate to meet the intent of Standards G-1 and G-2; except, conditions may not be imposed on locatable mineral operations that are contrary to the surface use regulations for locatable minerals (36 CFR 228).</p> <p>(2) Access to valid mining claims is guaranteed under the mining laws. However, the claimant/operator must be able</p>	<i>Retain these standards.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>

L&C Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
	to justify the need for a particular type of access. The type of access approved under 36 CFR 228 will be consistent with the next logical step in the development of the property involved. Access roads for mineral needs will be coordinated with the Forest Transportation Plan.		
Minerals	--	<i>Add NCDE-STD-MIN-01 through 07 and add NCDE-GDL-MIN-01 through 06 (all apply to the PCA and zone 1).</i>	<i>Same as alt 2, and add NCDE-STD-MIN-08. Within the NCDE PCA and Zone 1 (including the Salish and Ninemile DCAs), new oil and gas leases shall include a no surface occupancy stipulation.</i>
Roads	<p>Facilities Forest-wide Management Standards, Travel Planning L-2 (p. 2-62)</p> <p>(1) The Lewis and Clark National Forest will generally be open to vehicles except for roads, trails, or areas which may be restricted. (See Forest Visitor Map for specific information.)</p> <p>(2) Manage road and trail use to provide public access, public safety, and resource protection, while minimizing environmental and user conflicts.</p> <p>(3) Manage off-road vehicle use to protect the resources, to promote public safety, and to minimize user conflicts.</p>	<i>Retain the Travel Planning standards.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Roads	<p>Facilities Forest-wide management Standards, Maintenance and Construction of Roads, Trails and Other Facilities L-4 (p. 2-65-71)</p> <p>(1) Road construction will be the minimum density, cost, and standards necessary for the intended need, user safety and resource protection.</p> <p>[The following standards apply to occupied grizzly bear habitat on the Rocky Mountain Division]</p>	<i>Retain this standard.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>

L&C Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
	<p>(33) Administer provisions of the Endangered Species Act in occupied T&E species habitat. Use the Interagency Wildlife Guidelines to avoid or mitigate conflicts between road construction and use and T&E species (Appendix I).</p> <p>(34) Limit new road construction to an absolute minimum to provide isolation and disturbance-free areas for grizzlies. Where new road construction is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Roads will be built to the minimum specifications necessary to complete the project. --Roads will avoid wet areas, including stream bottoms, snowchutes, and wet meadows, which are important grizzly feeding sites and travel corridors. --Roads should not bisect known or suspected grizzly travel corridors. When corridors must be entered, cover should be retained for 120 feet on each side of the road. --Public traffic should be restricted on new Forest roads to minimize the disturbances to bears. --The initial section of permanently closed roads should be destroyed and planted with shrubs or trees that help maintain the closure and provide cover and/or food. --Implement seasonal or year-round closures on existing or proposed roads if the biological evaluation indicates they are necessary to allow grizzly use of important habitat, to reduce human/bear conflicts, and to meet stated habitat effectiveness objectives. 	<p><i>Remove standards 33 and 34 and replace with NCDE-STD-AR-01 through 04 and NCDE-GDL-AR-01 & 02 (all apply to the PCA).</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2, and NCDE-STD-AR-04 is modified by adding the following sentence: Roads within secure core shall not be opened for temporary motorized use by the public.</i></p>
Monitoring	<p>Monitoring</p> <p>Wildlife (p. 5-10) C-1: Maintain occupied grizzly bear habitat capacity. To be measured and reported annually.</p>	<p><i>Replace with NCDE-MON-01.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>
Monitoring	<p>Recreation (p. 5-9 through 10)</p>	<p><i>Add NCDE-MON-02.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>
Monitoring	<p>Grazing (p. 5-12)-</p>	<p><i>Add NCDE-MON-03.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>
Monitoring	<p>Minerals (p. 5-15 & 15)</p>	<p><i>Add NCDE-MON-04.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>

L&C Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
Monitoring	Facilities (p. 5-16)	<i>Add</i> NCDE-MON-05 and NCDE-MON-06.	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Appendices	<p>Appendix I, Rocky Mountain Front Interagency Wildlife Guidelines. Part B – Species Specific Management Guidelines.</p> <p>Grizzly Bear (p. I-6 to I-8)</p> <p>1. Avoid human activities in identified grizzly bear habitat constituent elements or portions of constituent elements containing specific habitat values during the following seasonal use periods (see data summarization):</p> <p>A. Spring habitat (concentrated use areas): April 1– June 30.</p> <p>B. Breeding areas: May 1–July 15. (Currently identified breeding areas include upper Muddy Creek, the head of Rinkers Creek, the Ear Mountain area, and the head of the North Fork Dupuyer Creek)</p> <p>C. Alpine feeding sites: July 1–September 15.</p> <p>D. Subalpine fir/whitebark pine habitat types: August 1– November 30.</p> <p>E. Denning habitat: October 15–April 15.</p> <p>2. Avoid human activities in Grizzly bear habitat components which provide important food sources during spring and early summer, April 1–July 15.</p> <p>These habitat components include riparian shrub types, <i>Populus</i> stands, wet meadows, sidehill parks, and avalanche chutes. Maintain an undisturbed zone of at least 1/2 mile between activities and the edge of these habitat components where many important bear foods occur.</p>	<i>Retain numbers 1 and 2 only.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Appendices	3 Establish flight patterns in advance when activities require the use of helicopters. Flight patterns should be located to avoid seasonally important grizzly bear habitat constituent elements and habitat components during the designated seasonal use periods.	<i>Remove.</i> (Covered under NCDE-STD-MIN-05 & 06.)	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>

L&C Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
Appendices	<p>4. No seismic or exploratory drilling activities should be conducted within a minimum of one mile of den sites during the October 15 - April 15 period (Reynolds, P. E., et al., 1983).</p> <p>5. Seismic permits should include a clause providing for cancellation or temporary cessation of activities, if necessary, to prevent grizzly/human conflicts.</p>	<p><i>Remove.</i> (See NCDE-STD-MIN-05.)</p> <p><i>Remove.</i> (Covered under NCDE-STD-MIN-02.)</p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>
Appendices	<p>6. Scheduling of well drilling on adjacent sites, within important grizzly bear use areas, should be staggered to provide a disturbance free area for displaced bears.</p> <p>7. Pipeline construction required for the development of a gas or oil field should be condensed into the shortest time frame possible and subject to seasonal restrictions when conducted in important grizzly bear habitat.</p> <p>8. Field operation centers associated with seismic or oil/gas exploration activities should be placed carefully to avoid seasonally important habitat components or constituent elements. Such placement of sites is necessary in order to avoid direct potential conflicts between man and grizzly bear.</p>	<p><i>Remove.</i> (Covered under NCDE-STD-MIN-05.)</p> <p><i>Remove.</i> (Covered under NCDE-STD-MIN-05.)</p> <p><i>Remove.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>
Appendices	<p>9. Retain frequent dense cover areas adjacent to roads for travel corridors and security cover necessary to protect important habitat components. Three sight distances are desirable to provide visual security for grizzlies. A sight distance is the average distance at which a grizzly or other large animal is essentially hidden from the view of an observer by vegetation cover. The same security cover guidelines also applies to timber harvest units.</p> <p>10. No off-duty work camps will be allowed within occupied seasonally important constituent elements.</p>	<p><i>Remove.</i> (Covered by NCDE-GDL-MIN-03.)</p> <p><i>Remove.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>
Appendices	<p>11. Incinerate garbage daily or store in bear proof containers and remove to local landfill dumps daily.</p> <p>12. Commercial activities permitted on public land should be planned and coordinated to avoid conflicts with grizzly bear trapping operations being conducted under the</p>	<p><i>Remove.</i> (Covered by NCDE-STD-MIN-04.)</p> <p><i>Remove.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>

L&C Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
	monitoring program. General public use of areas where trapping operations are active will be controlled through appropriate administrative actions by the agencies involved.		
Appendices	<p>The following are grizzly bear management guidelines specifically oriented toward livestock grazing:</p> <p>1. Livestock grazing on important spring habitat for grizzly bears should be deferred until after July 1.</p> <p>Boneyards and livestock dumps are prevalent along the east front and are frequented by grizzly bears. Ranchers and landowners should be encouraged to place carcasses of dead livestock and garbage on remote areas of their land. Dead cows and calves should be hauled a considerable distance from calving grounds to discourage bears from feeding on carrion and newborn calves.</p> <p>3. Sheep grazing allotments in management situation No. 1, as defined in the Yellowstone Guidelines, on lands administered by government agencies should be eliminated.</p> <p>4. In riparian habits that receive high amounts of bear use, fencing to exclude livestock grazing and trampling may be necessary where livestock turn-out dates-prior to July 1 are allowed.</p>	<p><i>Remove.</i> (Covered under NCDE-STD-GRZ-03, 04, & 05, and NCDE-GDL-GRZ-01 & 02.)</p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2, with wording change in grazing standards NCDE-STD-GRZ-01 through 06 that makes them applicable to zone 1.</i></p> <p><i>Also add this standard: NCDE-STD-GRZ-07. Within the NCDE PCA, sheep grazing allotments shall be closed if the opportunity arises with a willing permittee, to reduce the potential risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.</i></p>
Appendices	Appendix K, Grizzly Bear Stratification	<p><i>Replace content (from 1986 IGBG) with map and description of PCA and Zones 1 and 3.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>
Appendices	Appendix L, Wildlife Habitat Activity Coordination Analysis Process	<p><i>Remove.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>
Appendices	Appendix V, 1986 Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines (Amendment #3 incorporated these into the Plan).	<p><i>Remove.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>

L&C Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 Modified Proposed Action-	Alt. 3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
Additional Requirements	<p>Additional Requirements, Lewis and Clark NF</p> <p>In 2007, the Birch Creek South travel plan decision was issued, which encompasses 8 BMU subunits. Potential impacts to grizzly bears considered route density and core area as outlined in the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) Taskforce Report and the Interim Motorized Access Management Guidelines for the NCDE. Only two of the Subunits in the travel plan area are $\geq 75\%$ federal ownership, to which numeric guidelines apply. The guidelines for the remainder of the Subunits are no net increase in the percent of the Subunit at specified total and open motorized route densities, and no net decrease in the percent of the Subunit in core area. The decision reduced both total and open motorized route densities on National Forest lands in all Subunits. The two Subunits that are $\geq 75\%$ National Forest lands will be brought within the reference guidelines. Core area will be increased for all Subunits, although it will remain slightly below the reference guideline for one Subunit. The USFWS concurred with the determination that the decision may affect but is not likely adversely affect the grizzly bear.</p>	<p><i>Birch Creek South travel plan decision would not be changed by this amendment.</i></p>	<p>Same as alt. 2.</p>
Additional Requirements	<p>In 2008, the Badger-Two Medicine travel plan decision was completed, which encompassed 3 BMU Subunits on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District. All 3 Subunits have $< 75\%$ of their total area on NFS lands. The decision will result in all 3 Subunits meeting the numeric objectives of the Interim Guidelines for the NCDE. USFWS concurred with the determinations in the BA and Supplement that the decision may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the grizzly bear.</p>	<p><i>Badger-Two Medicine travel plan decision would not be changed by this amendment.</i></p>	<p>Same as alt. 2.</p>

Lolo National Forest

Current Forest Plan Direction and Changes under the Action Alternatives

This table presents the forest plan components relevant to grizzly bear habitat management that would be included in the Lolo Forest Plan under each alternative. The Lolo National Forest contains land within the primary conservation area (PCA), zone 1, the Ninemile demographic connectivity area (DCA) and zone 2. The acreage in zone 2 is negligible (38 acres).

Table 7-4. Lolo National Forest (LNF) comparison between no action and alternatives 2 and 3

LNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 modified proposed action-	Alt.3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
Wildlife	Forest-wide Objectives, Resource/Activity Summaries (page II-2) The Plan provides for the recovery of threatened species on the Forest. It regulates human access and use in and through occupied grizzly bear habitat. In addition, tools such as prescribed burning, will be used to enhance food-producing areas and improve habitat. The Plan supports expansions in populations of the endangered peregrine falcon, bald eagle, and gray wolf through Forest goals and standards.	<i>No change.</i>	<i>No change.</i>
Wildlife	Desired Future Condition of the Forest p. II-6	Add NCDE-DC-WL-01 & 02. Add NCDE-DC-AR-01, 02 & 03. Add NCDE-DC-VEG-01 & 02. Add NCDE-DC-GRZ-01. Add NCDE-DC-SFP-01. Add NCDE-DC-MIN-01.	Same as alt. 2. Same as alt. 2. Same as alt. 2. Wording change in NCDE-DC-GRZ-01 also makes it applicable to zone 1 (including the Salish and Ninemile DCAs). Same as alt. 2. Same as alt. 2.
Wildlife	--	Add NCDE-LNF Zone1-DC- 01.	Same as alt. 2 plus: NCDE-LNF Zone 1-DC-02 . In areas between the PCA and the Ninemile DCA, National Forest System lands are consolidated and conservation easements with willing landowners are supported in a manner that provides habitat

LNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 modified proposed action-	Alt.3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
			connectivity and facilitates movement of wildlife.
Wildlife	<p>Forest-wide Standards, Wildlife and Fish (p. II-13-14)</p> <p>24. All threatened and endangered species occurring on the Lolo including the grizzly bear, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and gray wolf will be managed for recovery to nonthreatened status. Forest Service designated essential habitat will provide interim management direction for those species until critical habitat is designated by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Within essential grizzly bear habitat (Management Situation I), the Forest wildlife biologist will establish vegetative management objectives for all projects that involve vegetative manipulation. Outside of Management Situation I, where grizzly bear use is suspected or known to occur on an occasional basis (Management Situation 2), schedule activities so as to not conflict with the grizzly bear. If departures from this standard are deemed necessary, the Forest wildlife biologist will assist in developing treatment alternatives. (Management Situations I and 2 are defined by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines.)</p>	<i>Delete the last 3 sentences.</i>	<i>Delete the last 3 sentences.</i>
Wildlife	<p>27. Management practices in essential habitat of threatened and endangered species must be compatible with habitat needs of the species (grizzly bear, gray wolf, bald eagle, and peregrine falcon) consistent with the goal of recovery to nonthreatened status. There are no other known plant or animal species on the Forest that have been identified as threatened or endangered under provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. If and when such habitats are identified, appropriate measures, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, will be taken to protect the species and its habitat consistent with National goals for species recovery to nonthreatened status. Cooperate with future interagency efforts to recover those species for which recovery goals have not yet been defined. For plant and animal species that are not threatened or endangered, but where viability is a concern (i.e., sensitive species), manage to maintain population viability. Habitat for management indicator</p>	<i>Retain this standard.</i>	<i>Retain this standard.</i>

LNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 modified proposed action-	Alt.3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
	<p>species, which include the elk, goshawk, and pileated woodpecker, will be monitored. Elk population data, collected by the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks will be compared against habitat data to test elk/habitat relationships. As monitoring technology becomes available for the goshawk and pileated woodpecker, population trends will be monitored. In the interim, habitat parameters including old-growth acres and condition, and snag densities will be monitored as an indicator of population trend.</p>		
Wildlife	--	<p>Add NCDE-STD-WL-01 & 02 and add NCDE-GDL-WL-01 through 03 (all apply to the PCA).</p>	<p>Same as alt. 2.</p>
Recreation	<p>Recreation (p. II-10)</p> <p>7. The Forest Service will not significantly expand the capacity of developed recreation sites on the Lolo National Forest during the next 10-year period. Emphasis will be placed on increasing the use of existing sites by making them usable by a wide segment of society including the elderly and handicapped. Those existing sites receiving low levels of public use or which are not cost effective to operate will be considered for temporary or permanent closure. The private sector and other agencies will be encouraged to provide for increased public needs on National Forest System land and on lands adjacent to the Forest. If and when development proposals are received for expansion of existing or construction of new ski areas, they will be evaluated according to the normal procedures for determining ski area feasibility. The Forest will use the Analysis Procedure for Prioritizing Recreation Projects on the Lolo National Forest (Appendix K) to determine funding for recommended recreation projects.</p>	<p>Retain this standard.</p>	<p>Retain this standard.</p>
Access and Recreation	--	<p>Add NCDE-STD-AR-05 & 06, and add NCDE-GDL-AR-03 (all apply to the PCA).</p>	<p>Same as alt. 2 plus adds two standards: NCDE-STD-AR-07. Within the NCDE PCA, new or re-authorized permits for ski areas on National Forest System lands that operate during the non-denning season shall</p>

LNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 modified proposed action-	Alt.3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
			<p>include mitigation measures to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.</p> <p>NCDE-STD-AR-08. Within modeled grizzly bear denning habitat in the NCDE PCA, there shall be no increase above the baseline acreage of areas and miles of routes that are open to over-snow vehicle use on National Forest System lands in the den emergence time period (see glossary).</p>
Roads	<p>Forest-wide Standards, Roads (p. II-18)</p> <p>52. Manage Forest roads to provide for resource protection, wildlife needs, commodity removal, and a wide range of recreation opportunities. In most areas on the Forest, this will involve leaving some roads open, closing some roads seasonally, and closing other roads on a permanent basis. Generally, arterial and major collector roads will be left open, whereas local roads will generally be closed. Decisions for road management will be based upon public involvement through the Travel Plan revision process. Primary benefits to be considered are: optimizing big-game production, providing a variety of hunting recreation experiences, protecting critical grizzly bear habitat, reducing sediment in streams, reducing road maintenance costs, and providing for firewood and commodity removal. The criteria to be used to analyze the need for road use restrictions are from the 1984 edition of the Forest Travel Plan and are detailed as follow:</p> <p>e. Roads within grizzly bear habitat may be closed seasonally if it is determined that an open road may be increasing the risk of human-caused bear mortality. Within designated Essential Habitat spring range, all nonarterial systems will be closed April 15 to June 15. On summer range, roads that bisect identified critical habitat components will be closed July 15 thru October 15.</p>	<p><i>Retain existing standard, but remove item e.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>
Access and Recreation	<p>--</p>	<p><i>Add NCDE-STD-AR-01 through 04 and add NCDE-GDL-AR-01 & 02 (all apply to the PCA).</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2 and also modifies NCDE-STD-AR-04 by adding this sentence: Roads</i></p>

LNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 modified proposed action-	Alt.3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
			within secure core shall not be opened for temporary motorized use by the public.
Access and Recreation	--	Add NCDE-LNF Zone1-STD-01 and add NCDE-LNF Zone1-GDL-01 (apply to zone 1 and the Ninemile DCA).	<p>Add these two standards:</p> <p>NCDE-LNF Zone 1-STD-01. Within the Lolo National Forest portion of NCDE Zone 1 outside of the Ninemile DCA (see figure 6-5), there shall be no net increase above the baseline in miles of roads open to public motorized use during the non-denning season on National Forest System lands. This standard does not apply to the following: <i>etc. remainder is same as alt. 2.</i></p> <p>Add NCDE-LNF Zone 1-STD-02. Within the Lolo National Forest portion of the Ninemile DCA (see figure 6-5), there shall be no net increase above the baseline in miles of roads or trails open to public motorized use during the non-denning season on National Forest System lands. This standard does not apply to the following: <i>etc. remainder is same as NCDE-LNF Zone 1-STD-01.</i></p>
Grazing	<p>Forest-wide Standards, Range (p. II-9)</p> <p>4. Conflicts between livestock and big game will be resolved so big game are allocated the forage required to meet their needs. Domestic livestock will be allowed to utilize any forage surplus not conflicting with the planned expansion of big-game populations. Reductions in livestock numbers will be avoided if possible, but will be acceptable to meet management goals.</p> <p>5. Allotments with no AUM's shown for the Proposed Action in Appendix B will be phased out unless the permittee is willing to make necessary investments in livestock management and structural improvement to maintain range conditions at an acceptable level.</p>	Retain these Range standards.	Retain these standards.
Grazing	--	Add NCDE-STD-GRZ-01 through 06 and add NCDE-	Same as alt. 2 with wording change in NCDE-STD-GRZ-01 to 06 that makes them

LNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 modified proposed action-	Alt.3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
		GDL-GRZ-01 & 02 (all apply to the PCA).	<p><i>applicable to zone 1 including the Salish and Ninemile DCAs.</i></p> <p><i>Add this standard: NCDE-STD-GRZ-07. Within the NCDE PCA, sheep grazing allotments shall be closed if the opportunity arises with a willing permittee, to reduce the potential risk of grizzly bear–human conflicts.</i></p>
Timber Harvest	<p>Forest-wide Standards, Timber (p. II-11-12)</p> <p>10. Regional standards will be followed for tree utilization, management intensity, measurement, growth suitability for timber production, tree openings, and silvicultural systems.</p>	<i>Retain this standard.</i>	<i>Retain this standard.</i>
Vegetation	--	<p><i>Add NCDE-STD-VEG-01 and add NCDE-GDL-VEG-01 through 05 (all apply to the PCA).</i></p>	<p><i>Wording change in NCDE-STD-VEG-01 and NCDE-GDL-VEG-01 through 05 makes them applicable to the Salish and Ninemile DCAs.</i></p>
Special Forest Products	Special Forest Products	<p><i>Add NCDE-STD-SFP-01 (applies to the PCA).</i></p>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>
Minerals	<p>Forest-wide Standards, Minerals (p. II-15 to 16)</p> <p>33. Areas currently withdrawn from mineral entry will be evaluated in accordance with the provisions of Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 to determine whether the withdrawal is still necessary.</p>	<i>Retain this standard.</i>	<i>Retain this standard.</i>
Minerals	<p>34. Congressionally designated wilderness areas on the Lolo National Forest are withdrawn from mineral entry and leasing. No new mining claims may be located nor may any mineral leases be issued in these areas. Valid existing rights established prior to the withdrawal date will be recognized, subject to stipulations insuring compliance with the acts creating these administrative areas.</p>	<i>Retain this standard.</i>	<i>Retain this standard.</i>

LNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 modified proposed action-	Alt.3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
Minerals	35. The right to prospect, develop, and mine on National Forest System lands open to entry and location will be recognized.	<i>Retain this standard.</i>	<i>Retain this standard.</i>
Minerals	36. When applicable, claimants/operators must have an approved Notice of Intent (NOI) or Plan of Operation (POO) and bonding in accordance with 36 CFR 228 prior to initiating mining activity.	<i>Retain this standard.</i>	<i>Retain this standard.</i>
Minerals	41. Before oil and gas lease stipulation recommendations are made, site specific analysis of environmental effects will be made. Stipulations which are displayed in Appendix F and based upon the Environmental Analysis for Oil and Gas of Nonwilderness Lands on the Lolo National Forest, 9/20/82, will be recommended in accordance with management area direction in Chapter III. In some instances, the stipulations will include a provision for "no surface occupancy." The lessee or designated operator has the right to explore for and extract oil/gas from his/her lease in accordance with the stipulations attached to the lease. Drilling requests are handled individually and receive an additional site specific environmental analysis. Drilling permits are issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The BLM will consult with the Forest Service in order to obtain site specific concerns and stipulations prior to approving the drilling permit.	<i>Retain this standard.</i>	<i>Retain this standard.</i>
Minerals	--	<i>Add NCDE-STD-MIN-01 through 07 and add NCDE-GDL-MIN-01 through 06 (all apply to the PCA and zone 1).</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2 plus add this standard: NCDE-STD-MIN-08. Within the NCDE PCA and Zone 1(including the Salish and Ninemile DCAs), new oil and gas leases shall include a no surface occupancy stipulation.</i>
Monitoring	Monitoring (p.V-6)	<i>Add: NCDE-MON-01. NCDE-MON-02. NCDE-MON-03. NCDE-MON-04. NCDE-MON-05.</i>	<i>Same as alt. 2.</i>

LNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 modified proposed action-	Alt.3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
		NCDE-MON-06.	
Additional Requirements	<p>Additional Requirements, Lolo National Forest</p> <p>Per the 2006 Biological Opinion and Incidental Take Statement, terms and conditions applicable to the NCDE recovery zone portion of the Forest are:</p> <p>Compliance with the NCDE Access Committee recommendation of no more than 19 percent of a subunit exceeding 1 mile of open motorized access (OMRD) per square mile, shall be achieved within 5 years of the date of this Incidental Take Statement. Within 2 years, the Forest shall be halfway to attaining these levels of open motorized access. Forest actions shall not increase open motorized access in subunits that exceed this standard.</p> <p>Compliance with the NCDE Access Committee recommendation of no more than 19 percent of a subunit exceeding 2 miles of total motorized access (TMRD) per square mile, shall be achieved within 5 years of the date of this Incidental Take Statement.</p> <p>The NCDE Access Committee recommendation for minimum core of 68 percent or greater of a subunit shall be achieved within 5 years of the date of the Incidental Take Statement. Within 2 years, the Forest shall be halfway to attaining these levels of core areas within subunits. Forest actions shall not decrease core habitat in subunits that exceed this standard.</p> <p>For subunits in which more than 25 percent is privately owned, the Forest shall not contribute to increases in open or total motorized access or to decreases in core area.</p> <p>For the Swan subunit, the above requirements were modified to no more than 17 percent TMAD, no more than 31 percent OMAD with 22 percent OMAD during the spring, and at least 55 percent security core.</p>	<p><i>These previous Biological Opinions and Incidental Take Statements would be superseded by the consultation on the forest plan amendment.</i></p> <p><i>(See NCDE-STD-AR-02.)</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>
Additional Requirements	<p>In 2004, FWS issued a biological opinion and incidental take statement on the effects of the Lolo Forest Plan direction related to access management, food and attractant storage, and livestock grazing on grizzly bears</p>	<p><i>These previous Biological Opinions and Incidental Take Statements would be</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alt. 2.</i></p>

LNF Resource	Alt. 1 No Action (current forest plan)	Alt. 2 modified proposed action-	Alt.3 (Identical to Alt. 2 EXCEPT as Indicated)
	occurring on the Forest outside the NCDE recovery zone. This was extended in 2012. The term and condition states: The Forest will contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if more than 2 miles of new permanent road over the 2004 baseline, or 7.14 miles total, will be constructed over the next 10 years in the distribution area outside of the NCDE recovery zone.	<i>superseded by the consultation on the forest plan amendment. (See NCDE-STD-AR-02.)</i>	

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