

Forest Plan Amendments

OBJECTIVE: Track formal changes to the Forest Plan.

DATA SOURCE: Amendments.

FREQUENCY: Annually.

REPORTING PERIOD: 1987 to 2015.

VARIABILITY: Repeated amendments for the same reason may indicate a need to adjust the Plan.

EVALUATION:

Bitterroot National Forest and Northern Region decisions have amended the Forest Plan 34 times between 1987 and 2015. Occasionally, site specific Forest Plan amendments are needed to allow a treatment that would benefit another resource.

Site specific forest plan amendments were made for several projects during the time period 2014-2015. They are listed at the end of Table 1.

MONITORING RESULTS:

Table 1- Site Specific Amendments to the Bitterroot Forest Plan

Year	Amendment Number	Nature of Decision
1989	1	Changed a Management Area boundary.
1990	2	Changed a standard to allow new temporary outfitter camps in MA 11a along the Magruder Road.
1990	3	Allowed a temporary entry into MA 5 to salvage trees killed by Gird Point Fire.
1991	4	Changed a management objective for timber. Dealt with splitting ASQ within and outside inventoried roadless areas.
1991	5	Changed the schedule for reducing obtrusive outfitter caches and removing plumbing fixtures from Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.
1991	6	Identified Running Creek as eligible for the Wild & Scenic River system.
1992	7	Incorporated revised management direction for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.
1992	8	Amended the Forest Plan standard for issuing new outfitter and guide permits.
1992	9	Allowed a boat launch facility to be built in a riparian zone.
1992	10	Allowed a fishing pier and trail to be built in a riparian zone.
1994	11	Allowed timber harvest on unsuitable lands in the Buck-Little Boulder Timber Sale.
1994	12	Refined the vegetation management direction for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.
1995	12.5	Inland Native Fish Strategy (INFISH); provides interim direction to protect habitat and populations of resident native fish.
1995	13	Allowed timber harvest on 174 acres of unsuitable lands in the Beaver Woods Vegetation Management Project area.
1996	14	Allowed timber harvest on unsuitable lands in the Warm Springs Project area.
1997	15	Allowed disposal of winter range via land exchange for specific sites in MA 8a.

Year	Amendment Number	Nature of Decision
1997	16	Allowed two third-order drainages on the Sula District to be managed at Elk Habitat Effectiveness values less than the 50% standard.
1997	17	Changed management area boundaries in MA 3a, 5 and 10 to allow for expansion of Lost Trail Ski Area. Changed the visual quality objective for the ski area from retention to modification.
1998	18	Established the Salmon Mountain Research Natural Area
2000	19	Updated wilderness direction for the Anaconda Pintler Wilderness
2001	20	Restricts, yearlong, wheeled cross-country travel where it was not already restricted (with several exceptions) and directs the Forest to complete site-specific planning on priority areas.
2001	21	Established the East Fork Bitterroot River Research Natural Area
2001	22	Site-specific amendment for the Burned Area Recovery Project. Refined snag, coarse woody debris and elk habitat effectiveness and thermal cover standards.
2002	23	Site-specific amendment for the Slate Hughes Watershed Restoration and Travel Management project. Allowed five third-order drainages on the West Fork District to be managed at Elk Habitat Effectiveness values less than the 50% standard.
2004	24	Replaces the 1985 Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Management Plan with a 2003 version. The 2003 version combines management direction in three different documents into one management plan.
2006	25	Site-specific amendment for the Middle East Fork Hazardous Fuel Reduction project. Refined snag, coarse woody debris, thermal cover and unsuitable land standards.
2007	26	Incorporate management direction in the Land Management Plan that conserves and promotes recovery of Canada lynx.
2008	27	Site-specific amendment for the Trapper Bunkhouse Land Stewardship Project. Refined snag, coarse woody debris, and thermal cover.
2008	28	Site-specific amendment for the Haacke-Claremont Project. Allowed portions of third-order drainages within the project area to be managed at Elk Habitat Effectiveness values less than the 50% standard and refined coarse woody material standard.
2010	29	Site-specific amendment for the Lower West Fork Project. Allowed portions of third-order drainages within the project area to be managed at Elk Habitat Effectiveness values less than the 50% standard. Refined coarse woody debris and thermal cover standards.
2012	30	Site-specific amendment for the Larry Bass Project. Refined thermal cover and coarse woody debris Standards.
2013	31	Site-specific amendment for the Three Saddle Project. Allowed portions of third-order drainages within the project area to be managed at Elk Habitat Effectiveness values less than the 50% standard. Refined coarse woody debris standard.
2015	32	Site-specific amendment for the Darby Lumber Lands Watershed Improvement and Travel Management Project. Allowed portions of third-order drainages within the project area to be managed at Elk Habitat Effectiveness values less than the 50% and 60% standards.
2015	33	Site-specific amendment for the Como Forest Health Project. Refined coarse woody debris and thermal cover standards. Allowed one cutting unit within MA 3c to be managed at modification instead of partial retention VQO.