

CHAPTER 3 - FORESTWIDE DIRECTION

This section presents desired conditions, goals, objectives and standards that apply forestwide. If there are additional objectives and standards for specific areas it will be listed in the appropriate management area in Chapter 4. For example, the Elkhorn Mountains Landscape, managed by the Helena National Forest will retain management direction as described in the 1987 Deerlodge Forest Plan. It will apply until revision of the Helena Forest Plan.

FORESTWIDE DESIRED CONDITION

- Ecological processes, which affect the chemical, physical, and biological components of the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and fully support designated beneficial uses, are present and functioning to provide the diversity of forest, shrub land, grassland, riparian, and aquatic communities.
- Conditions for self-sustaining or viable populations of native and desired non-native plant and animal species are supported within the natural capability of the ecosystem.
- Natural disturbance processes are recognized and accepted as essential to the health of ecological communities at various spatial scales. Fire is allowed to play its natural role where appropriate and desired. Life, investments, and valuable resources are protected using the full range of responses to wildland fire.
- Issues involving species with needs that go beyond Forest boundaries and authority are identified and resolved in conjunction with other federal agencies, state, county, tribal, and city governments.
- People and communities benefit from programs and infrastructure that support livestock grazing and an array of forest products and services. Methods for using resources to benefit people while maintaining functioning ecosystems are employed.
- Visitors benefit from a range of primitive to developed recreation settings and opportunities. Most of the BDNF continues to offer uncrowded motorized and non-motorized backcountry opportunities.
- Mineral and energy resources are explored, developed, and produced according to national direction.
- Resources adversely affected by past management activities have been rehabilitated or the related public health and safety issues corrected.
- National Forest land ownership patterns contribute to the open rural landscape and scenery of southwestern Montana. Forest managers act in partnership with adjacent landowners to capitalize on the contribution all lands make to this unique quality.
- National Forest System lands have been consolidated through land adjustments. Right-of-ways and conservation easements have been acquired to maintain the integrity of resources and provide public access.
- Heritage resources are preserved and managed for the benefit of the American public.

FORESTWIDE GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STANDARDS

These goals, objectives and standards apply only to National Forest System lands and are measured at the forestwide scale unless specifically stated otherwise. The time frame to achieve objectives is 10 to 15 years unless stated otherwise. These goals, objectives and standards do not alter any legal or statutory rights such as mineral development or private lands access or reduce the need to provide public or employee safety. These goals, objectives and standards do not supercede law, or regulation in the event of conflict between them. Standards apply only to management actions. Standards are applied to management actions as mitigation; they do not initiate management actions.

AIR QUALITY

Goals

Air Quality: Air quality is maintained within the standards set by federal and state agencies and by the Montana Airshed Group's Memorandum of Agreement and State Implementation Plan.

Smoke Management: A variety of management tools, (including prescribed fire and appropriate management response) are used to help manage vegetation to reduce potential smoke.

Objectives

Emissions and Trends: Emissions data and trend information are developed for fires to be stored in a centralized database within five years or within the timeframe required by Montana's State Implementation Plan. The data will be used to document compliance with Regional Haze requirements established by the State.

Standards

Standard 1: Meet smoke management requirements according to the Idaho/Montana Airshed Group Operating Guide.

AMERICAN INDIAN RIGHTS AND INTERESTS

Goals

Tribal Governments: Forest officials respect that tribal governments are sovereign nations with a strong interest in National Forest System land management.

Objectives

Traditional Cultural Properties: Identify and protect traditional cultural properties (TCPs).

Treaty Rights: Recognize and support treaty rights and tribal values when planning and implementing forest management activities.

Standards

Standard 1: No impact to identified TCPs shall occur until Forest officials consult with the tribe or other cultural group who identified the property and their concerns have been considered. TCPs shall be identified through proactive consultation with affected tribes.

AQUATIC RESOURCES

This section contains abbreviations in parenthesis to indicate the Inland Native Fish Strategy goals, objectives, and standards carried forward as part of this plan.

Goals

Watersheds: Watersheds are maintained to ensure water quality, timing of runoff, and water yields necessary for functioning riparian, aquatic ecosystems, wetlands, and to support native aquatic species reproduction and survival. Watershed restoration projects promote long-term ecological integrity of ecosystems, conserve genetic integrity of native species, and contribute to attainment of desired stream function and support beneficial uses (IN 1).

Fish Key Watershed: Populations of bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout exhibit numbers, life histories, age classes, recruitment levels, and reproductive characteristics representative of historic conditions.

Restoration Key Watershed: Fish habitat, riparian habitat, and water quality are recovered to desired conditions developed through watershed assessments.

Watershed Restoration Projects: Projects are designed and implemented to promote long-term ecological integrity of ecosystems, conserve the genetic integrity of native species, and contribute to attainment of desired stream function (WR-1).

Municipal Watersheds: Site-specific criteria for managing municipal watersheds are developed, and degraded waters are restored to meet goals of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs): Management actions are consistent with TMDLs. Where waters are listed as impaired and TMDLs and Water Quality Restoration Plans are *not* yet established, management actions do not further degrade waters. Water quality restoration supports beneficial uses.

Stream Channels: Stream channel attributes and processes are maintained and restored to sustain natural desired riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitats and keep sediment regimes as close as possible to those with which riparian and aquatic ecosystems developed (IN 2).

Instream Flows: Instream flows are secured to support functioning riparian and aquatic habitats, stable and effective stream function, and ability to route flood discharges (IN 3).

Floodplains: The condition of floodplains, channels and water tables are maintained and restored to dissipate floods and sustain the natural timing and variability of water levels in riparian, wetland, meadow and aquatic habitats (IN 4).

Riparian Areas: Riparian habitat, species composition, and structural diversity of native and desired non-native riparian plant communities are maintained or restored to (IN 5-6):

- Provide an amount and distribution of woody debris characteristic of functioning aquatic and riparian ecosystems;
- Provide adequate summer and winter thermal regulation for streams to support beneficial uses;
- Provide bank stability to maintain rates of surface erosion, bank erosion, and channel migration which are characteristic of functioning aquatic and riparian ecosystems;
- Effectively trap and store sediment, build stream banks and floodplains, and promote recovery after watershed disturbance.

Riparian Habitat: Habitat to support viable, well distributed populations of native and desired non-native plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate aquatic- and riparian-dependent species are maintained or restored. Movement corridors within and between watersheds, where desired, are maintained or restored to provide aquatic-dependent species' habitat needs and maintenance of metapopulations (IN 8).

Riparian and aquatic habitats necessary to foster the unique genetic fish stocks that evolved within the specific geo-climatic region are maintained or restored (IN 7).

Channel Integrity: Stream channel function and water quality are maintained or restored to support designated beneficial uses on all reaches through management decisions, restoration projects or Best Management Practices as outlined in the Soil & Water Conservation Practices Handbook.

Aquatic Nuisance Species: Introductions of aquatic nuisance species in riparian and aquatic habitats are prevented. Forest biologists work cooperatively with appropriate state and federal agencies, or other stakeholders to reduce or eliminate impacts, where aquatic nuisance species are adversely affecting the viability of desired aquatic species.

Snow Courses, Telemetry Sites: Established snow courses, snow pack telemetry sites, and precipitation gauges are protected.

Sensitive Aquatic Species: Viable populations of sensitive aquatic species are maintained (R1 Sensitive Species list) by managing habitat.

Ungulate Impacts: Wild ungulate impacts that prevent attainment of the desired stream function or adversely affect native fish and sensitive aquatic species are identified and addressed through cooperation with federal, tribal, and state wildlife management agencies (FW 3).

Agency Cooperation: Adverse effects on native fish or sensitive aquatic species associated with habitat manipulation, fish stocking, fish harvest, and poaching are identified and addressed through cooperation with federal, tribal, and state fish management agencies (FW 4).

Leases, Rights-of-way, Easements: Leases, permits, rights-of-way, and easements are issued to avoid effects that would prevent attainment of the desired stream function and avoid adverse effects on threatened and endangered aquatic species and adverse impacts to sensitive aquatic species.

Where the authority to do so was retained, existing leases, permits, rights-of –ways, and easements are adjusted to eliminate effects that would retard or prevent attainment of the desired stream function or adversely effect on threatened and endangered aquatic species and adverse impacts to sensitive aquatic species. Where adjustments are not effective, the activity is eliminated.

Where the authority to adjust was not retained, existing leases, permits, right-of-way, and easements are negotiated with the lead agency to make changes to eliminate effects that would prevent attainment of the desired stream function, adversely affect threatened and endangered aquatic species, or adversely impact sensitive aquatic species.

Priority for modifying existing leases, permits, right-of-way and easements would be based on the current and potential adverse effects on native fish and sensitive aquatic species, and the ecological value of the riparian resources affected (LH 3).

Acquisitions and Exchanges: Land acquisition, exchange, and conservation easements are used to meet desired stream function and facilitate restoration of fish stocks and other species at risk of extinction (LH 4).

Livestock Grazing: Grazing practices are designed to attain, or maintain, desired stream function (GM 1).

Mineral Operations: Mineral operations minimize adverse effects to threatened and endangered fish species or adverse impacts to sensitive aquatic species (MM 1).

Mining Facilities: Structures, support facilities, and roads are located outside RCAs (MM 2).

Roads: Roads are designed, constructed, and maintained to meet desired stream function and avoid adverse effects to native fish and sensitive aquatic species (RF 2).

Transportation Atlas: The Transportation Atlas addresses the following items (RF 2c):

1. Road design criteria, elements, and standards that govern construction and reconstruction.
2. Road management objectives for each road which include criteria for operation, maintenance, and management.
3. Season of use and type of vehicle.
4. Road condition surveys to identify annual and deferred maintenance needs

Stream Crossings: Culverts, bridges, and other stream crossings can accommodate a 100-year flood, including associated bedload and debris (RF 4).

Recreation Sites: Developed sites, dispersed sites, and trails are designed, constructed, and maintained in a manner which achieves desired stream function (RM 1).

Water Drafting Sites: Water drafting sites are located in a manner that does not retard or prevent the attainment of desired minimum stream flows and stream function or have adverse effects, on threatened and endangered aquatic species or adverse impacts to sensitive aquatic species (RA 5).

Objectives

Vegetation Management: Manage vegetation to reduce the risk of adverse wildfire impacts to isolated native fish populations and water resources at the sub-watershed scale (6th Code HUC).

TMDLs: Cooperate with the state, tribal, and other agencies and organizations to develop and implement Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and their implementation plans for 303(d) impaired water bodies influenced by National Forest System lands.

Watershed Analysis: Prepare and maintain a schedule for completing watershed analysis, with emphasis on key watersheds shown on page 58, or listed in Appendix H (IN).

Management Indicator Species: Maintain habitat conditions for native species as reflected by changes in abundance of *Drunella doddsi* (Mayfly) as a Management Indicator Species (MIS).

Restoration Key Watersheds: Complete watershed assessments for restoration key watersheds and associated restoration activities.

Spawning Areas: Reduce impacts from grazing practices in known or suspected threatened, endangered or sensitive fish spawning areas to avoid or reduce trampling of redds that may result in adverse impacts to threatened or endangered species, loss of viability, or a trend toward federal listing of sensitive species (GM 4).

Riparian Management Objectives: Establish stream specific Riparian Management Objectives (RMOs) using watershed or other analyses incorporating data from streams at or near desired function. RMOs are a means to define properly functioning streams and measure habitat attributes against desired condition. The following RMOs apply by stream reach until new RMOs are developed through watershed or other site specific analysis,

(West of the Continental Divide)

Pool Frequency (all systems) width/number of pools: 10/96, 20/56, 25/47, 50/26, 75/23, 100/18, 125/14, 150/12, 200/9

Large woody debris (forested systems) >20 pieces per mile, > 12 inch diameter, >35 foot length.

Bank stability (nonforested systems) >80% stable.

Lower bank angle (nonforested systems) >75% of banks with <90 degree angle (i.e., undercut).

Width/ Depth ratio (all systems) <10, mean wetted width divided by mean depth.

Water Temperature: Water temperatures meet life history requirements for native fish species.

(East of the Continental Divide)

Entrenchment Ratio (all systems) Rosgen Channel: A - <1.4, B - 1.6 – 1.8, C - >10.3, E - >7.5.

Width/Depth Ratio (all systems) Rosgen Channel: A - <11.3, B - <15.8, C - <28.7, E - <6.9.

Sediment Particle size, % < 6.25mm (all systems) Stream Type: B3 - <12, B4 - <28, C3 - <14, C4 - <22, E3 - <26, E4 - <28.

Large Woody Debris: (forested systems) >20 pieces per mile, > 6 inch diameter, >12 foot length.

Bank Stability: (nonforested systems) >80% stable.

Wildland Fire Management: Suppression activities are designed and implemented so as not to prevent attainment of desired stream function, and to minimize disturbance of riparian ground cover and vegetation. Strategies recognize the role of fire in ecosystem function and identify those instances where fire suppression actions could perpetuate or damage long-term ecosystem function or native fish and sensitive aquatic species (FM 1).

Temporary Fire Facilities: Incident bases, camps, helibases, staging areas, helispots and other centers for incident activities are located outside of RCAs. An interdisciplinary team, including a fishery biologist, is used to predetermine incident base and helibase locations during pre-suppression planning (FM 2).

Fire Suppression: Chemical retardant, foam, or additives are not delivered to surface waters. Guidelines (fire management plan) are developed to identify exceptions in situations where overriding safety or social imperatives exist (FM 3).

Mineral Inspection: Mineral activities are inspected and monitored. The results of inspections and monitoring are evaluated and applied to modify mineral plans, leases, or permits as needed to eliminate impacts that prevent attainment of desired stream function and avoid adverse affects on threatened and endangered aquatic species and adverse impacts to sensitive aquatic species (MM 6).

Road Drainage: Reconstruct road and drainage features that do not meet design criteria or operation and maintenance standards, or are proven less effective than designed for controlling sediment delivery, or retard attainment of desired stream function, or increase sedimentation in Fish or Restoration Key Watersheds (RF 3a).

Roads: Close and stabilize or obliterate and stabilize roads not needed for future management activities (RF 3c).

Recreation Sites: Existing, new, dispersed, or developed recreation sites and trails in RCAs are adjusted if they retard or prevent attainment of desired stream function, or adversely affect threatened or endangered species or adversely impact sensitive species. Adjustments may include education, use limitations, traffic control devices, increased maintenance, and relocation of facilities (RM 1).

Bull Trout Restoration: Prioritize bull trout restoration activities with consideration given to bull trout core areas population status and health. Coordination will occur with USFWS, other federal, state, and local agencies.

Standards

Standard 1: Riparian Conservation Area (RCA) -1 Any activity in RCAs shall be designed to enhance, restore, or maintain the physical and biological characteristics of the RCA by implementing the following requirements.

- a. Activities in RCAs, that meet or exceed RMOs, must be designed to maintain existing stream function.
- b. Activities in RCAs that are not meeting RMOs shall include a restoration component, commensurate with the scope of the activity affecting the fishery, which trends towards accomplishing desired stream function, as part of the project.
- c. Activities in RCAs shall not result in long-term degradation to aquatic conditions. Limited short-term effects from activities in the RCA may be acceptable when outweighed by the long-term benefits to the RCA and aquatic resources.

Standard 2: Evaluate the risks of aquatic nuisance /exotic species introduction as part of project analysis (Scale – Project area).

Standard 3: Snow courses, snow pack telemetry sites, and precipitation gauges will be protected from project activity including maintenance of an adequate buffer to maintain reliability (Scale – Project Area).

Standard 4: Watersheds that provide water for public water supplies (i.e. where waters are classified by the State of Montana as A-Closed or A-1) shall be managed to meet State water quality standards established for protection of drinking water quality and be consistent with applicable source water protection plans.

Standard 5: New activities within known sensitive amphibian breeding sites and natal areas during breeding and juvenile rearing periods will not cause a threat to population viability or a trend toward federal listing (Scale - Breeding sites and natal areas identified at the project level).

Standard 6: New management activities in Restoration Key Watersheds will be consistent with recovery of desired aquatic systems.

Standard 7: Guidance defined in 16.2 – Section 1 (Permit Administration) of Beaverhead-Deerlodge Supplement No. 2209.13-98-1 to the Grazing Permit Administration Handbook Title 2209.13 will become mandatory rather than discretionary in Fish Key Watersheds when

grazing contributes to degraded westslope cutthroat or bull trout stream conditions, and there is non-compliance with livestock grazing standards; or other aspects of livestock grazing permits terms and conditions.

Standard 8: New projects will have a beneficial effect or no measurable negative effect on westslope cutthroat or bull trout in Fish Key Watersheds. Short term negative effects are acceptable if outweighed by long term benefits.

Standard 9: Restoration projects should correct existing problems, not mitigate effects created by proposed activities (WR 3).

Standard 10: If the only suitable location for incident bases, camps, helibases, staging areas, helispots and other centers for incident activities are within the RCA, an exemption may be granted following a review and recommendation by a resource advisor. The line officer will prescribe the location, use conditions, and rehabilitation requirements with avoidance of adverse effects to native fish and sensitive aquatic species as a primary goal.

Standard 11: Monitor water quality and aquatic resources in fish key watersheds where chemical retardant, foam, or additives are delivered to surface waters. Monitoring should take place as soon as conditions allow for safe access.

Standard 12: Require instream flows and habitat conditions for hydroelectric and other surface water development proposals to maintain or restore riparian resources, favorable channel conditions, fish passage, reproduction, and growth. Coordination will occur with the USFWS, other federal, state, and local agencies. (LH 1).

During re-licensing of hydroelectric projects, provide written and timely license conditions to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) , that require fish passage and flows and habitat conditions that maintain/restore riparian resources and channel integrity. Coordinate re-licensing projects with the appropriate state agencies.

Standard 13: Locate new hydroelectric ancillary facilities for existing permits, outside RCAs. For existing ancillary facilities inside the RCA essential to proper management, provide recommendations to FERC to assure the facilities would not prevent attainment of the desired stream function and adverse effects on native fish and sensitive aquatic species are avoided. Where these objectives cannot be met, provide recommendations to FERC that such ancillary facilities should be relocated. Locate, operate, and maintain hydroelectric facilities that must be located in RCAs to avoid effects that would retard or prevent attainment of the desired stream function and avoid adverse effects on native fish and sensitive aquatic species (LH 2).

Standard 14: Grazing practices that prevent attainment of desired stream function, or are likely to adversely affect threatened or endangered species, or adversely impact sensitive species, are modified to attain desired stream function or population objectives (GM 1).

Standard 15: Locate new livestock handling and/or management facilities outside of Riparian Conservation Areas. For existing livestock handling facilities inside Riparian Conservation Areas, assure facilities do not prevent attainment of desired stream function. Relocate or close facilities where these objectives cannot be met (GM 2).

Standard 16: Limit livestock trailing, bedding, watering, salting, loading, and other handling efforts to those areas and times that would not retard or prevent attainment of desired stream function or adversely affect native fish and sensitive aquatic species (GM 3).

Standard 17: If a notice of intent indicates a mineral operation would be located in an RCA, the effects of the activity on native fish and sensitive aquatic species is considered in the determination of significant surface disturbance pursuant to 36 CFR 228.4. For operations in an RCA, operators take all practicable measures to maintain, protect, and rehabilitate fish and wildlife habitat, which may be affected by the operations. Bonding requires the cost of stabilizing, rehabilitating, and reclaiming the area of operation will be covered (MM 1).

Standard 18: Where no alternative to placing facilities in RCAs exists, facilities are located and constructed in ways that avoid impacts to RCAs and streams and adverse effects on native fish and sensitive aquatic species. Where no alternative to road construction exists, roads are kept to the minimum necessary for the approved mineral activity. Roads no longer required for mineral or land management activities are closed, revegetated, or obliterated (MM 2).

Standard 19: Solid and sanitary waste facilities in RCAs are prohibited. If no alternative to locating mine waste (waste rock, spent ore, tailings) facilities in RCAs exists, releases can be prevented, and stability can be ensured, then (MM 3):

- a. Analyze the waste material using the best conventional sampling methods and analytic techniques to determine its chemical and physical stability characteristics.
- b. Locate and design the waste facilities using the best conventional techniques to ensure mass stability and prevent the release of acid or toxic materials. If the best conventional technology is not sufficient to prevent such releases and ensure stability over the long term, prohibit such facilities in Riparian Conservation Areas.
- c. Monitor waste and waste facilities to confirm predictions of chemical and physical stability, and make adjustments to operations as needed to avoid adverse effects to native fish and sensitive aquatic species and to attain desired stream function.
- d. Reclaim and monitor waste facilities to assure chemical and physical stability and re-vegetation to avoid adverse effects to native fish and sensitive aquatic species, and to attain the desired stream function.

Reclamation bonds are adequate to ensure long-term chemical and physical stability and successful re-vegetation of disturbed areas and mine waste facilities.

Standard 20: Sand and gravel mining and extraction within RCAs are prohibited (MM 5).

Standard 21: Provide and maintain fish passage at new, replacement, and reconstructed road crossings of existing and potential fish-bearing streams, unless barriers are determined beneficial for native fish and/or sensitive aquatic species conservation (RF 5).

Standard 22: Complete watershed analysis prior to constructing roads or landings in RCAs within fish or restoration key watersheds (RF 2a).

Standard 23: Where adjustments of recreation use impacts on desired stream function are not successful terminate activity or occupancy (RM 1).

Standard 24: Chemical pesticides and toxicants will be applied in a manner consistent with desired stream function and avoids adverse biological effects (RA 3).

Standard 25: Project related storage of fuels and toxicants within Riparian Conservation Areas is prohibited. Refueling within Riparian Conservation Areas is prohibited except for emergency situations, in which case refueling sites must have an approved spill containment plan (RA 4).

Standard 26: Fuelwood cutting and salvage in RCAs will not prevent or retard attainment of desired stream function (TM 1a).

Standard 27: Vegetation and/or fuel management prescriptions in RCAs will be for the purpose of restoring, enhancing, or protecting the physical and biological characteristics of the RCA including Riparian Management Objectives. Vegetation and/or fuel treatments, for the purpose of protecting urban interface, private property and other investment, and public safety in RCA's shall be designed so as not to prevent the attainment of desired stream function (TM 1).

Standard 28: Complete the evaluation of on-going activities in Fish Key Watersheds. Activities or conditions inconsistent with goals and objectives will be identified within 3 years and timeframes for implementation of mitigation will be identified.

ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL VALUES

Goals

Economy Contribution: Contribute to the social and economic well-being of local communities by promoting sustainable use of renewable natural resources. Provide timber for commercial harvest, forage for livestock grazing, exploration and development opportunities for mineral resources, and recreation settings consistent with other resource goals.

Coordination: Increase coordination with federal, state, county and tribal governments and strive for coordination and dialogue with a broad range of stakeholders.

Economic Efficiency: The best available methods are used to contribute products to local communities while maximizing the ability to achieve Forest targets.

Objective

None

Standards

None

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Goals

Safety: Fire fighter and public safety is always recognized as the first priority for fire suppression.

Wildland Fire Response: The full range of responses to wildland fire is available to meet social needs and to achieve ecosystem sustainability.

Fuels Management: A full range of fuels management activities is available to achieve ecosystem sustainability, including, economic, and social components.

Wildfire Hazard Reduction: Effects of unplanned and unwanted wildfire are reduced by moving areas of condition class 2 and 3 to a condition class 1 for all fire regimes and by maintaining areas in condition class 1.

Objectives

Wildland Urban Interface: Reduce the risk from wildfire to communities and resources in the following order of priority:

1. Areas where a community wildfire protection plan has been developed.
2. High risk areas adjacent to communities, for example: condition classes 2 and 3 in fire regimes 1, 2, & 3.
3. Areas in condition class 2 and 3 in fire regimes 4 & 5.
4. Areas to be maintained in condition class 1.

Standards

Standard 1: Wildland fire use plans shall be developed in coordination with the appropriate county, state, tribal, and other federal agencies.

Standard 2: Wildland fire use is an available tool for all unplanned ignitions.

HERITAGE RESOURCES

Goals

Heritage Resources: There is no loss of significant heritage resources. Significant means listed in the National Register of Historic Places, eligible for listing, or awaiting formal evaluation for National Register eligibility.

Heritage Program: A heritage program is developed and maintained that includes legal compliance, preservation, interpretation, public education, scientific research, partnerships, and tribal consultation.

Objectives

Historic Preservation Plan: Write historic preservation plans for every heritage property listed in the National Register of Historic Places within one year of listing. Other heritage sites, districts and cultural landscapes will be managed through heritage preservation plans as necessary.

Heritage Assessment: Complete an assessment of heritage resources with conclusions and priorities for inventory, protection, stabilization, and enhancement.

Heritage Management Strategy: Develop and update as needed, a forestwide heritage management strategy that includes programs to identify and evaluate sites; prioritized lists of sites needing treatment; treatment plans for those sites; appropriate uses for sites; and implementation strategies. Integrate the strategy into other resource assessments, interpretive plans, and recreation plans. Develop the strategy in partnership with all interested parties including the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), tribes, local history and archaeological societies, universities, rural economic development councils, etc. Develop partnership agreements with interested parties, to assist in implementing the strategy and document the management strategy in prehistoric and historic overviews.

Standards

Standard 1: Heritage resources determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be preserved in place, or a consensus determination of “no adverse effect” will be reached with the Montana SHPO, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and appropriate Indian tribes.

Standard 2: Unplanned discoveries of heritage resources during project implementation shall cause project operations in the area of the discovery to cease until analysis and evaluation of the heritage resources are completed, including consultation with the Montana SHPO and appropriate Indian tribes.

Standard 3: Heritage protection measures will be added to all appropriate contracts, sales documents, and special use permits.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Goals

Transportation System: The minimum transportation system necessary is identified and managed. Roads and trails are identified in the transportation atlas maintained at the Forest Supervisor’s Office. Roads and trails are constructed, managed, and maintained to meet land and resource objectives.

Facilities: Administrative and/or recreation facilities are constructed, managed, and maintained to meet land and resource objectives and address recreation demand.

Objective

Recreation Facilities: Monitor use and reconstruct sites as needed, construct additional recreation facilities to meet demand, and convert existing sites to dispersed use areas if warranted. Reconstruct 30% of existing developed sites.

Standards

Standard 1: Facility Design: Use the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains sections of the Built Environment Image Guide, (USDA FS-710, Dec. 2001), or equivalent for development of recreation sites, administrative sites, and approval of special use structures and facility design.

LANDS

Goals

Conservation Easements: Conservation easements are acquired where appropriate to protect important habitat or viewsheds.

Land Adjustments: Land ownership adjustments are pursued as opportunities arise, to improve national forest management through purchase, exchange, or other authority.

Property Lines: National Forest System property lines adjacent to private lands and boundaries of special areas such as the National Wilderness Preservation System are clearly marked where encroachment is likely.

Right-of-way: Existing public access to National Forest System lands would be maintained and additional access would be provided by acquisition of new road or trail rights-of-ways. Rights-of-ways are acquired to national trails or historic routes, special recreation areas, or other tracts of the National Forest System lands where public access does not exist.

Utility Corridors and Communication Sites – A network of designated utility corridors and communication sites is provided to minimize the proliferation of rights-of-way, facilities, and corridors across the landscape. Designation of a corridor does not constitute approval of any particular project.

Objectives

None

Standards

Standard 1: Energy transmission facilities shall be located only in designated utility corridors shown on the Utility Corridor and Communication Site map at the end of Chapter 3. Energy gathering or distribution facilities may be located outside of designated corridors.

Standard 2: Wireless telecommunication facilities shall be located in designated communication sites and utility corridors shown on the Utility Corridor and Communication Site map. Exceptions may be made for non-ground disturbing temporary facilities that are in place for less than one year.

Standard 3: Comply with direction in USDA Forest Service Designation of Section 368 Energy Corridors on National Forest System Land in 10 Western States Decision by Secretary of Agriculture To Amend Land Management Plans Described as the Environmentally Preferred Alternative January 14, 2009.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Goals

Grazing Opportunities: Sustainable grazing opportunities are provided for domestic livestock from lands suitable for forage production.

Forage Use: Use of forage by domestic livestock will maintain or enhance the desired structure and diversity of plant communities on grasslands, shrub lands, and forests. Use will be managed to maintain or restore riparian function as defined in the allotment management plan.

Objectives

None

Standards

Standards 1: The interim standards in Table 6 apply to livestock grazing operations unless or until specific long-term objectives, prescriptions, or allowable use levels have been designed through individual resource management plans or site-specific NEPA decisions; for example, revised allotment management plans or Wilderness management plans.

These interim standards are designed to prevent reduction of existing water quality or physical or biological functions of riparian-wetland areas from management activities. The standards are a means to assure use remains at levels which maintain existing riparian-wetland function. The maximum utilization, minimum stubble height or minimum streambank standards may be incorporated in livestock annual operating plans. In streams containing 90% or greater, genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout (or other genetic purity requirement as defined by Montana State Westslope Cutthroat Trout Conservation Strategy or Federal Recovery Plan), managers must use the interim standard for WCT in Table 6.

Interim standards apply to the following situations:

- Any allotment management plan lacking riparian management objectives and guides designed specifically for that allotment.
- Any riparian recreation site used primarily by recreation stock.
- Any outfitter operation where stock are grazed in a riparian area that lacks a specific riparian grazing strategy in the annual operating plan.

Table 6. Interim Livestock Grazing Standards

| Category | Season Long or Continuous | Deferred or Rest-Rotation | Area | Key Species (<i>others may be used for specific allotments</i>) |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| Upland range utilization | <p>≤ 40% of forage utilized on suitable range on 85% of the area.</p> <p>≤ 50% utilization on the remaining 15%.</p> | <p>≤ 55% of forage utilized on suitable range on 85% of the area.</p> <p>≤ 65% utilization on remaining 15%.</p> | Suitable range. | Idaho fescue Bluebunch-wheatgrass Rough Fescue |
| Streambank Disturbance | ≤ 25% streambank disturbance measured by reach. | ≤ 30% streambank disturbance measured by reach. | 85% of riparian habitat, by stream reach, within suitable range for each pasture. 5% of riparian habitat could exceed standards on a repeat basis (crossings). | n/a |
| Riparian Stubble Height | Green Line ≥ 6" measured by reach, flood plain ≥ 4" measured by reach. | Green Line ≥ 4" measured by reach, flood plain ≥ 3" measured by reach. | 85% of riparian habitat, by stream reach, within suitable range for each pasture. | Sedges, rushes Bluejoint reedgrass Tufted hairgrass. |
| Winter Range | N/A | ≤ 35% of forage utilized on suitable range on 85% of the area. Allow no more than 55% utilization on remaining 15%. Exceptions can be made if a rest pasture is available to provide winter forage. | Pastures in big game winter range as mapped in July 2006. | Idaho fescue Bluebunch - wheatgrass Rough Fescue |
| Riparian Sites on Streams that Contain West-slope Cutthroat Trout or listed species | ≤ 20% streambank disturbance by reach. | ≤ 45% of forage utilized on suitable range on 85% of the area. Allow no more than 65% utilization on remaining 15%. | 85% of riparian habitat, by stream reach, within suitable range for each pasture. 5% of riparian habitat could exceed standards on a repeat basis (crossings). | Sedges, rushes, Bluejoint reedgrass, Tufted hairgrass. |

Standard 2: Domestic livestock grazing will not be allowed in developed recreation sites unless specifically permitted.

Standard 3: Allotment management plans will identify specific criteria for special areas, such as wet meadows, where limiting grazing at certain times of the years or under certain conditions is necessary to protect resources.

Standard 4: Base Property Requirement - ownership of facilities and land capable of producing feed for livestock 50% of the time permitted livestock are not grazing on National Forest, will be demonstrated before issuing grazing permits.

MINERALS, OIL, AND GAS

Goals

Hardrock and Saleable Minerals: Mineral commodities are explored and developed in accordance with national direction.

Locatable Minerals: Locatable minerals are developed on all parts of the Forest not withdrawn from locatable mineral entry in accordance with the 1972 Mining Law, regulations, and national direction.

Oil and Gas Leasing: Offer oil and gas leasing opportunities under stipulations which protect resource values.

Objectives

None

Standards

Standard 1: Use the following table to describe the lease terms and prescribe stipulations for the Beaverhead Unit. Appendix B contains detailed language.

Table 7. Lease Terms and Prescribed Stipulations for the Beaverhead Unit. Corresponding lease stipulation map layers are available in the Beaverhead Unit GIS database

| Affected Environment | Stipulation |
|---|-------------|
| Special Designations | |
| Wilderness | LU |
| Recommended Wilderness | LU |
| West Pioneer WSA | LU |
| Maverick Ski Area | LU |
| Eligible Wild segments of Eligible Wild & Scenic Rivers – ¼ mile buffer | AU |
| Research Natural Areas | NSO |
| Eligible Scenic & Recreation segments of Wild & Scenic Rivers – ¼ mile buffer | CSU |
| Inventoried Roadless Areas | CSU |
| TES and Wildlife | |
| Big Game Winter Range (12/2 – 5/15) | TL |
| Trumpeter Swan Nesting Areas (4/1 – 9/1) | TL |

| Affected Environment | Stipulation |
|--|-------------|
| Bald Eagle & Peregrine Falcon Nesting Areas (2/1 – 9/1) | NSO/TL |
| Occupied Grizzly Bear Habitat | CSU |
| Westslope Cutthroat Trout Conservation Populations | CSU |
| Westslope Cutthroat Trout in Fish Key Watersheds | NSO |
| Arctic Grayling Recovery Sites | CSU |
| Soil and Water Quality | |
| Slopes over 60% | NSO |
| Areas of Mass Failure | NSO |
| Areas prone to failure, slopes over 35% | NSO |
| Areas sensitive to soil compaction | CSU |
| Recreation and Aesthetics | |
| Heritage Resource Sites and Traditional Cultural Properties | NSO |
| Grasshopper and Rock Creek Recreation Areas | CSU |
| Special Use Recreation Residences – ¼ mi. buffer | CSU |
| Administrative Sites – ½ mi. buffer | NSO |
| Developed Campgrounds – ½ mi. buffer | NSO |
| Continental Divide National Scenic Trail – ¼ mi. buffer | NSO |
| National Historic Trails: Nez Perce and Lewis & Clark - ½ mi. buffer | NSO |
| Specific Semi-Primitive Recreation Areas | CSU |
| Areas of High Scenic Value | NSO |
| Areas of Moderate Scenic Value | CSU |
| Other Resources | |
| All other Available Lands | ST |

Leasing Options

(ST) Standard Terms - provisions issued with all leases. Operations must comply with applicable laws, regulations, and Onshore Orders. Two key features of ST provide the federal surface management agency the ability to delay initial operations up to 60 days and/or to relocate a proposed drill site up to 200 meters at its discretion. The area encompassed within a circle having a radius of 200 meters is approximately 31 acres.

(TL) Timing Limitation – exploration and construction activities would be restricted or prohibited during certain time periods.

(CSU) Controlled Surface Use – use and occupancy is allowed, but restricted to mitigate effects to a particular resource, such as requirements to meet a visual quality objective.

(NSO) No Surface Occupancy – allows lands to be leased, but well sites, tank, batteries, or similar facilities would not be allowed to occupy the surface of specified lands. Roads would not be constructed in large blocks of land specified for No Surface Occupancy to provide access to leases, which allowed surface occupancy. An example would be no roads allowed in a Research Natural Area having a NSO stipulation in order to access an adjacent lease. However, roads may be authorized for construction across a segment of a linear strip of land specified NSO. Or an instance where it is necessary to construct an access road across a stream stipulated for NSO on a long linear strip of High Scenic Value. .

(LU) Legally unavailable

(AU) Administratively unavailable

Standard 2: Any new road constructed for oil and gas activity will be obliterated unless the road is needed as part of the Forest Service permanent transportation system.

Standard 3: All drill pads will be obliterated.

RECREATION AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

Goals

Recreation Settings: Offer a choice of recreation settings ranging from remote backcountry to more developed front country areas. Recreation allocations use Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) concepts and definitions, (Tables 8 and 9). The allocations are mapped beginning on page 54 and are described below.

Designated Wilderness: Provide primitive and semi-primitive non-motorized settings, and offer opportunities for foot, stock, ski, snowshoe travel, dispersed camping, and other activities allowed in Wilderness.

Recommended Wilderness: Provide semi-primitive non-motorized settings and offer opportunities for foot, stock, ski, snowshoe travel, dispersed camping, and other activities.

Recommended Wilderness: Areas allocated as recommended Wilderness are managed to protect or improve their Wilderness character and to protect the area's potential for inclusion in the NWPS as described in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act.

Wilderness Study Areas: Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) are managed to protect Wilderness character according to the Montana Wilderness Study Act of 1977.

WSA Summer: Provide semi-primitive non-motorized and semi-primitive motorized settings, and offer opportunities for wheeled motorized travel on routes as shown on the travel plan.

WSA Winter: Provide semi-primitive motorized settings and offer opportunities for snowmobiling December 2 through May 15.

WSA Winter Non-Motorized: Provide primitive non-motorized settings December 2 through May 15.

Summer Non-Motorized Allocations: Provide semi-primitive non-motorized recreation settings, and offer opportunities for mountain biking, horse and stock travel, hiking, dispersed camping, and other activities.

Summer Motorized Backcountry Allocations: Provide semi-primitive motorized recreation settings, and offer opportunities for varied types of travel and recreational activities.

Summer Roaded Allocation: Provide roaded natural and rural recreation settings, and offer a wide variety of opportunities for dispersed and developed recreational activities.

Winter Non-Motorized Allocations: Provide primitive and semi-primitive non-motorized recreation settings in these areas, and offer opportunities for ski touring, snowshoeing, and hiking, and other non-motorized activities.

Winter Motorized Allocations: Provide roaded and semi-primitive motorized recreation settings in these areas, and offer opportunities for a variety of motorized and non-motorized travel and activities. The majority of these allocations provide opportunities for travel by snowmobile.

Table 8. Activities Available in Summer Management Allocations

| Designated Wilderness | Recommended Wilderness | Summer Non-motorized | Wilderness Study Area | Backcountry | Road Based |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | Motorized watercraft |
| | | | | | Camping in campgrounds |
| | | | | | Scenic driving |
| | | | | | Four-wheeling (full-size) on roads |
| | | | | | ATV & motorcycle riding on trails |
| | | | | | Mountain Biking |
| | | | | | Stock use, hiking |
| | | | | | Mineral Collection |
| | | | | | Dispersed camping |
| | | | | | Hunting and Fishing |
| | | | | | Non-motorized watercraft |

Table 9. Activities Available in Winter Management Allocations

| Designated Wilderness | Recommended Wilderness | Winter Non-motorized | Wilderness Study Areas | Motorized Recreation |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---|
| | | | | Winter sport resorts |
| | | | | scenic driving |
| | | | | Four-wheeling (full-size highway vehicles) on roads |
| | | | | ATVs, motorcycles and other trail vehicles |
| | | | | Snowmobiles, |
| | | | | Cross-country skiing, ski touring skiing, snow-shoeing, winter hiking |
| | | | | Dog sledding |
| | | | | Trapping, hunting, fishing |

Recreation Opportunities: High quality diverse outdoor recreation opportunities are provided, including but not limited to:

- Day use activities within a 30 minute drive of communities for motorized and non-motorized trails, picnicking and interpretive sites,
- Winter use areas near communities for ski touring, snowshoeing and snowmobiling,

- Trails and routes for autos, four-wheel-drive vehicles, ATVs, motorcycles, mountain bikes, horses, and hikers to high mountain lakes and other features, and
- Developed and dispersed camping.

Road and Trail Use: A system of routes and areas designated for non-motorized and motorized use are identified and available for public use. A Roaded or Backcountry recreation allocation does not determine the motorized status of any route, including the CDNST, within those allocations. A non-motorized recreation allocation (Summer Non-Motorized, Recommended Wilderness, or designated Wilderness) does close all routes within the area to motorized use.

Resources are protected and user conflicts are minimized by allowing motorized wheeled travel only on designated routes and areas. Established routes to dispersed campsites are recognized as part of the Forest transportation system. A system of trails designated for non-motorized uses are also identified and available for public use.

Developed Sites: High quality developed recreation facilities are strategically located to concentrate use, provide access to backcountry settings, and protect natural resources. Sites are clean, well maintained, and designed for universal accessibility.

Commercial Recreation: Permitted guiding, outfitting, and resort operations enhance visitor access and enjoyment, help achieve forest management objectives and contribute to regional and local economies.

Objectives

Non-motorized winter activities: Increase opportunities for non-motorized winter activities, such as ski touring and snowshoeing, where highway access points and parking are available.

Dispersed Sites: Identify dispersed campsites causing adverse resource impacts. Develop mitigation or relocate the site to protect the resource. Actions may include but are not limited to installing toilets for public health, bulletin boards, or hardening sites where necessary. Close campsites where unacceptable resource damage cannot be mitigated.

Developed Recreation Sites: Complete mineral withdrawals for all developed recreation sites.

Trails – Maintain motorized and non-motorized trails to standard. Reconstruct trails that do not meet standards based on the following Region One priorities:

- a. Safety hazards to users
- b. Actual or potential resource damage, especially in key watersheds,
- c. Level of use

Standards

Standard 1: Permanent road construction is not allowed in summer non-motorized allocations or in areas evaluated for wilderness potential.

Standard 2: Motorized vehicles are not allowed in summer or winter non-motorized allocations except for permitted or administrative use.

Standard 3: Restrict year-round, wheeled motorized travel to designated routes or areas.

Where routes have not been designated through site specific travel planning, restrict motorized vehicles to open motorized routes identified on the Forest Plan Interim Roads and Trails Inventory GIS Layer displayed on page 53. Motorized wheeled travel on routes leading to identified dispersed campsites is allowed. Exceptions may be authorized for:

Motorized wheeled cross-country travel for any military, fire, search and rescue, or law enforcement vehicle used for emergency purposes.

Authorized motorized wheeled cross-country travel is limited to official administrative duties or emergency services such as, fire suppression, prescribed fire, noxious weed control, vegetation restoration, surveying, and law enforcement.

Motorized wheeled cross-country travel for other government entities on official administrative business as authorized through the normal permit processes or a memorandum of understanding.

Motorized wheeled cross-country travel for lessees and permittees limited to terms described in the federal lease or permit.

Standard 4: Extreme sport courses such as motocross trails, technical mountain bike courses, and motor vehicle challenge routes will not be constructed.

Standard 5: New outfitter and guide permits or increases in existing permits, will be only be made based on need, administrative capability, and a suitable mix of guided and non-guided public capacity determined by a forestwide capacity study. This mix may vary by type of activity and/or season of use. Capacity validation will be made on an area-specific basis when the general forestwide capacity determination does not adequately address the management situation. Heli-skiing operations will not be permitted.

Standard 6: New recreation resorts or residence tracts will not be permitted, nor will permits be issued for unoccupied tracts or lots.

Standard 7: Manage summer non-motorized allocations for either a primitive or semi-primitive non-motorized setting from May 16 thru December 1, (page 54).

Standard 8: Manage winter non-motorized allocations for a primitive or semi-primitive non-motorized setting from December 2 thru May 15, (page 55).

Standard: 9: Manage summer backcountry allocations for a semi-primitive motorized setting from May 16 thru December 1, (page 54).

Standard 10: Manage recommended Wilderness for primitive or semi-primitive non-motorized settings and protect Wilderness character.

Standard 11: Commercial timber harvest is prohibited in recommended Wilderness.

Standard 12: Road construction is not permitted in recommended Wilderness.

Standard 13: Wheeled or motorized vehicles designed for the primary purpose of transporting people, except for wheel chairs, are prohibited in recommended Wilderness except for permitted or administrative uses.

SCENIC RESOURCES

Goals

Scenery Management: Scenic resources reflect ecosystem diversity, enhance the recreation settings, and contribute to the quality of life of local residents and communities.

Objectives

Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIOs): Map forestwide SIOs within one year.

Scenic Integrity: Identify and rehabilitate areas that do not meet the SIOs.

Standards

Standard 1: Where no minimum SIOs are identified by landscape or management area - prior to the completion of a forestwide scenic integrity map – the objectives for scenery shall be determined by procedures outlined in the Landscape Aesthetics Handbook, Agricultural Handbook No. 701. The analysis shall use the Scenic Concern Level List in Appendix A, Scenic Attractiveness GIS layer, and the Scenery Integrity Level Matrix below.

Table 10. Scenery Integrity Level Matrix

| Scenic Attractiveness | Landscape Visibility | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| | Middle or Foreground of Concern Level 1 | Background of Concern Level 1 | Middle or Foreground of Concern Level 2 | Background of Concern Level 2 | All Other Areas |
| A - Distinctive | High | High | Moderate | Moderate | Low SIO, or determine a higher SIO if it supports summer ROS |
| B - Typical | High | Moderate | Moderate | Low | |
| C -Indistinctive | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Low | |

Standard 2: Projects in non-motorized and summer backcountry allocations will be designed to meet a minimum SIO of Moderate. Use the Scenic Concern Level List in Appendix A, Forestwide Scenic Attractiveness GIS layer, and Scenic Integrity Level Matrix above to determine a site specific SIO. Project-level analysis may determine a higher SIO to be appropriate.

Standard 3: Projects in foreground areas of scenic byways, national scenic trails or wild and scenic rivers will be designed to meet the SIO of at least High.

Goals

Soil Productivity: Soil productivity is maintained or restored.

Objectives

Soil Productivity: Protect soil productivity through site-specific prescriptions. The objective would be achieved by applying the most current soil and water conservation practices and other appropriate mitigation measures identified during project analysis and design, in order to meet the most current Region 1 Soil Quality Standards and riparian area standards.

Standards

Standard 1: The most current Region 1 Soil Quality Standards are adopted as forest plan soil standards.

Standard 2: Ground based yarding shall not be allowed on slopes exceeding 35% without site-specific environmental analysis that shows damage is unlikely and soil goals and objectives can be met.

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS ---

In addition to goals, objectives, and standards below, direction for specific special designations reside in the respective management plans for each designation or in Forest Service manuals.

Goals

Special Designations: Recreational opportunities are featured and improved in special designations except research natural areas.

Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness: This area is managed to protect Wilderness character as defined in the Wilderness Act as outlined in the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness Management Plan.

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail: The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail is managed according to the National Trails Act, the CDNST Study Reports and FEIS, and CDNST Comprehensive Plan (as amended) for the purpose of providing:

- “A continuous, appealing trail route, designed for the hiker and horseman, but compatible with other land uses.”
- Access for hikers and stock into the diverse country along the Continental Divide in a manner which will assure a high quality recreation experience while maintaining a constant respect for the natural environment.

- Exception for motorized use is outlined in the National Trails Act.

Lee Metcalf Wilderness: This area is managed to protect Wilderness character as defined in the Wilderness Act as outlined in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Management Plan.

Lemhi Pass National Historic Landmark: The landmark is managed to provide recreation opportunities while protecting historic features and historic landscape character as outlined in the Lemhi Pass National Historic Landmark Management Plan.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail: The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and its related sites are managed according to the LCNHT Comprehensive Management Plan.

National Recreation Trails: National Recreation Trails are managed to protect or enhance the values for which they were established.

May Creek National Recreation Trail - a non-motorized route from May Creek Campground to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

Pioneer Loop National Recreation Trail - a 32 mile loop trail through the West Pioneers.

Wise River Polaris National Recreation Trail - the Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway as a 30 mile snowmobile route in winter.

Grasshopper Loop National Recreation Trail - a three mile trail in the southern part of the Pioneers, with non-motorized trail opportunities yearlong.

Haystack National Recreation Trail - a three mile hike with a 2000 ft elevation gain to the top of Haystack Mountain for outstanding views of the area.

Lodgepole National Recreation Trail - a three mile loop trail through varied mountain vegetation types north of Georgetown Lake, with summer OHV and winter cross-country ski opportunities.

Louise Lake National Recreation Trail - a one mile trail near the end of the South Boulder Road in the Tobacco Root Range to this lake basin near the top of the range.

Lost Cabin Lake National Recreation Trail - a three mile trail near the end of the South Boulder Road in the Tobacco Root Range to this high mountain lake.

Nez Perce National Historic Trail managed according to the NPNHT Comprehensive Plan.

Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway: The byway is managed to provide scenic driving, camping and day use along its length, and access to backcountry opportunities in the Pioneer: The Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) is Mountains.

Research Natural Areas and Special Interest Areas: Research natural areas (RNAs) and special interest areas (SIAs) are managed to protect the primary features for which they were identified. The Northern Region Status and Needs Assessment for Research Natural Areas of October 1996 has assigned communities and or habitat types to each national forest in Region 1 so the entire range of vegetative types in the Northern region is represented by one or more RNAs. The areas in the following table meet one or more of the assigned

communities, habitat types, or other feature assigned to the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

Table 11. Research Natural and Special Interest Area Descriptions

| Research Natural Area | Acres | District | Designated | Primary Features |
|------------------------------|-------|---------------------|------------|---|
| Skull-Odell | 2543 | Wise River | 1996 | Subalpine forest, lakes, bog meadows and cold springs |
| Horse Prairie | 196 | Dillon | 1996 | Sagebrush, Idaho fescue and willow communities, Type 2 streams |
| Dry Mountain | 507 | Jefferson | 1996 | Douglas-fir, common juniper, sagebrush, bunchgrasses |
| Lost Park | 618 | Jefferson | 1996 | Subalpine forest, willow, herbaceous wetlands and Idaho fescue and bluebunch wheatgrass |
| Bernice Experimental Forest | 451 | Jefferson | 1996 | Douglas-fir / subalpine forest, Douglas-fir, twinflower, and grasslands |
| Thunderbolt Mountain | 792 | Jefferson | 1996 | Subalpine forest, whitebark pine, wetlands |
| Basin Creek | 1014 | Butte | 1996 | Subalpine forest, riparian, and herbaceous type, and spruce. |
| Windy Ridge | 235 | Pintler | 1996 | Rare plants, grasslands |
| Dexter Basin | 1109 | Pintler | 1996 | Whitebark pine, alpine larch, subalpine fir/woodrush, and forested scree. |
| Sapphire Divide | 1399 | Pintler | 1996 | Alpine larch, whitebark pine, pond |
| Goat Flats | 1287 | Pintler, Wise River | 2001 | Rare plants, alpine tundra, subalpine larch, whitebark pine |
| Cave Mountain | 4513 | Madison | 1996 | Idaho fescue grassland, geography, and wildlife |
| Cliff Lake | 2301 | Madison | 1951 | Grassland and shrublands |
| Cottonwood Creek | 128 | Madison | 1972 | Grasslands and shrublands, sagebrush and Idaho fescue |
| Cattle Gulch | 2162 | Wise River | 2009 | Mountain Mahogany, bluebunch wheatgrass, and rare plants |
| Elkhorn Lake | 1765 | Wise River | 2009 | Subalpine forest, whitebark pine/grouse whortleberry, and subalpine lake |
| Special Interest Area | | | | |
| West Fork Butte | 486 | Pintler | 1996 | Rare plants, grasslands |

Thompson Park Municipal Recreation Area: This recreation area is managed in cooperation with the Butte-Silverbow city-county government to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for the Butte municipal area.

Unique Features: Habitats or features such as caves and thermal springs are managed to protect or maintain their natural condition or biological values.

Wild and Scenic Rivers: Stream segments, determined to be eligible for classification under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1986, as amended, are protected until suitability studies are completed.

Table 12. Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Eligible Stream Segments

| Segment | Outstandingly Remarkable Values(s) | Potential Classification | Length in Miles | District |
|---|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Browns Canyon | Genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout | Wild | 4.3 | Dillon |
| Deadman Creek | Recreation and wildlife values, and a National Historic Register Site | Wild | 10.2 | Dillon |
| Canyon Creek | Geologic, recreation and wildlife values, and a stream dependent historic site | Wild Recreational | 4.6 6.4 | Wise River |
| Wise River | Recreational and scenic values | Recreational | 13.6 | Wise River |
| Warm Springs Creek | Geologic Feature | Recreational | 5.2 | Madison |
| Mill Creek | Stream dependent National Historic Register site. | Recreational | 8.0 | Madison |
| West Fork of Madison River | Fish recruitment to Madison River | Wild Scenic Recreational | 8.2 7.4 6.5 | Madison |
| Elk River | Fish recruitment to Madison River | Wild Scenic | 9.2 5.2 | Madison |
| Rock Cr. between Gilles Bridge and Lolo National Forest boundary. | Nationally recognized Class One Trout Stream | Recreational | 7.25 | Pintler |

Wilderness Study Areas: Wilderness Study Areas are managed to protect Wilderness character according to the Montana Wilderness Study Act of 1977.

Objective

Caves: Complete an inventory and determination of significance for the Garrity Cave.

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail: Complete the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail by 2013, with new segments designated as non-motorized. Convert existing motorized segments to non-motorized as opportunities arise to convert, reroute, or replace segments.

Lee Metcalf Wilderness: Revise the Wilderness Plan.

Wild & Scenic Rivers: Complete suitability studies for the nine wild and scenic rivers.

Standards

Standard 1: Research Natural Areas or Special Interest Areas will be managed in accordance with their individual management plans in addition to the regulations (36 CFR 251.23), and the policy (FSM 4063 and 2370) pertaining to these areas.

Standard 2: Streams determined to be Eligible for protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act will be protected to maintain Outstandingly Remarkable Values. Standards for protection are provided in Forest Service Manual 1909.12.8.2.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Goals

Lands Suitable for Timber Production: Manage lands suitable for timber production for the growth and yield of sawtimber, crop trees, pulpwood, and other forest products, including salvage harvest.

Of the remaining lands:

Lands Not Suitable for Timber Production but Timber Harvest is Permitted to Meet Other Resource Objectives: Manage lands where timber harvest is allowed to protect other resource values. Resource objectives may include, but are not limited to, protection of wildland urban interface, protection of improvements, aquatic system restoration, fuel reduction, wildlife habitat enhancement, fisheries habitat enhancement, range improvement, and grass and shrub land maintenance.

Salvage activities are allowed on these lands.

The type, size, and extent of harvest will be determined through site specific analysis.

Multiple products would be provided from these lands, including but not limited to, sawlogs, pulpwood, post, poles, and fuel wood through appropriate silvicultural practices.

The rest are:

Lands Where Timber Harvest is Not Allowed: Manage lands where timber harvest is not allowed, where no exception for timber harvest has been identified to protect resource values.

Product Utilization: Forest products would be used to provide economic benefits where project objectives, forest plan objectives, and forest plan standards can be met.

Objectives

Lands Suitable for Timber Production:

- Bring 10% of lands suitable for timber production into a managed condition.
- Manage those stands already in a managed condition to maintain long term sustained yield.

Standards

Standard 1: On lands suitable for timber production, even aged harvest may occur only upon a finding that it is the appropriate and optimum method for the timber type and will contribute to meeting vegetative objectives for the site. Such harvest must be consistent with the protection of soil, watershed, fish, wildlife, recreation, and aesthetic resources. Harvest areas shall be blended to the extent practicable with the natural terrain.

Standard 2: On lands suitable for timber production, the maximum size of openings created by one regeneration harvest operation shall not exceed 40 acres. Exceptions can be made where a natural event, such as fire, insect, disease, or windthrow created an undesirable opening. A regeneration harvest larger than 40 acres may be allowed after public notice, and review and approval by the officer one level above the responsible official. This only applies to harvest on suitable timber lands for timber production activities.

Standard 3: On lands suitable for timber production, even aged management regeneration harvest shall not occur unless the stand has reached the culmination of mean annual increment. An exception occurs where the primary purpose of treatment is for wildlife enhancement, visual enhancement, riparian area improvement or public safety or protection of property. The culmination of mean annual increment of growth requirement does not apply to cutting for experimental or research purposes; to non-regeneration harvests, such as thinning or other stand improvement measure; to management of uneven aged stands or to stands under uneven aged silvicultural system; and to salvage or sanitation harvesting of timber stands which are substantially damaged by events such as fire, insects, disease or windthrow. This only applies to harvest on suitable timber lands for timber production activities.

Standard 4: Replace natural barriers to livestock movement removed by harvest activities with some other barrier.

Standard 5: When trees are cut to achieve timber production objectives the cuttings shall be made in such a way as to assure that the technology and knowledge exists to adequately restock the lands.

Standard 6: The following Timber Harvest Classification Protocol establishes where timber harvest is not allowed and where timber harvest is permitted to meet other resource objectives.

Timber Harvest Classification Protocol

Lands Where Timber Harvest Is Not Allowed (Step One)

(Not suitable, not harvestable).

Lands where timber harvest is not allowed are those acres identified as Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest System lands that meet the following criteria:

1. Nonforested lands: [36 CFR 219.14(a)(1) and FSH 2409.13, 21.1]

- a. Lands that do not currently have and have never had 10% or greater tree cover
 - b. Roads, railroads (16 foot buffer, 33 foot corridor)
2. Irreversible soil, slope, watershed conditions [36 CFR 219.14(a)(2) and FSH 2409.13, 21.41] (not modeled – site specific)
 - a. Wetlands
 - b. Landslide prone / high water table lands
3. Areas withdrawn from timber harvest by Congress, Secretary of Agriculture, or Chief of the Forest Service [36 CFR 219.14(a)(4) and FSH 2409.13, 21.2]
 - a. Wilderness (Anaconda-Pintler MA, Lee Metcalf MA)
 - b. Wilderness Study Areas (West Pioneer WSA MA, Sapphires WSA MA)
 - c. Research Natural Areas
4. Areas withdrawn from timber harvest by Regional Forester / Forest Plan Decision, by Management Area:

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Anaconda-Pintler Recommended Wilderness Additions | Italian Peak Recommended Wilderness |
| Lee-Metcalf Recommended Wilderness Additions | Quigg Recommended Wilderness |
| Centennial Recommended Wilderness | Snowcrest Recommended Wilderness |
| Torrey Mountain Recommended Wilderness | Stony Mountain Recommended Wilderness |
| West Big Hole Management Area | Table Mountain Recommended Wilderness |
| Garfield Mountain Recommended Wilderness | Electric Peak Recommended Wilderness |
| Mount Jefferson Recommended Wilderness | |
5. ½ mile Eligible Wild River corridors (¼ mile buffer)

The remaining lands are used as a starting point for further classification.

Lands Not Suitable for Timber Production but Timber Harvest is Permitted to Meet other Resource Objectives (Step Two)

Lands where timber harvest is allowed are those acres not identified in the previous category that meet any of the following criteria.

1. Lands not capable of producing industrial wood [FSH 2409.13, 21.2]
20 cubic ft/ac/yr used as cut-off
2. Lands where restocking within 5 years is not assured [36 CFR 219.14(a)(3) and FSH 2409.13, 21.42]
3. Lands with inadequate response information [FSH 2409.13, 21.5]
Whitebark Pine cover type

4. Riparian Conservation Areas – 300 feet from perennial streams and 150 feet from intermittent streams

5. Municipal Watersheds (exception of Big Hole 4th Code and Basin Creek 6th Code HUCs)

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Basin Creek South | South Boulder |
| Fish Creek | South Fork Divide Reservoir |
| Fred Burr Creek | Tin Cup Joe |
| Indian Creek | Yankee Doodle Creek |
| Rattlesnake | |

6. Summer Non-motorized Allocations

7. Key Watersheds

8. Visual Quality / Recreation Areas

- a. By Management Area

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Georgetown Lake | Mill Creek Corridor |
| I-15 Corridor | Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway |

- b. By other Definition

- i. 6th code HUCs (Montana NRIS 2003 Version Watersheds)

- 100200041304 Trapper
- 100200041305 Cherry Pioneers
- 100200041307 Brownes* (sic)
- 100200041308 Rock-Pioneers
- 100200041403 Birch

- ii. ½ Mile Corridors (¼ mile buffer)

- National Trails
- Highways 1, 2, 43, 45, 278, and I-90
- Eligible Scenic & Recreation Rivers

- iii. ½ Mile buffer around Delmoe Lake

- iv. 300 foot buffer around developed recreation sites

- v. Thompson Park (near Butte)

9. Rock Creek Drainage

- c. 5th code HUCs (Montana NRIS 2003 Version Watersheds)

- 1701020207 East Fork Rock Creek
- 1701020208 Middle Fork Rock Creek

- 1701020209 Ross Fork Rock Creek
- 1701020210 West Fork Rock Creek
- 1701020211 Upper Willow Creek
- 1701020212 Upper Rock Creek

10. Areas Evaluated for Potential Wilderness (FEIS, Appendix C)

11. Management areas allocated to resource uses, where timber harvest is permitted, but other resource objectives are primary.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Anderson Mountain | Hells Canyon | Ruby-Horse Creek |
| Antelope Basin | Horse Prairie South | Stony |
| Basin Creek Municipal Watershed | Idaho Creek | Timber Creek |
| Brown Back | John Long | Tobacco Root Peaks |
| Bull Mountains | Johnny Gulch | Upper Ruby |
| Centennial Foothills | Lima Peaks | Upper Willow |
| Chain of Lakes | Lobo Mesa Madison | Wall Creek |
| East Fork | Medicine Lodge / Tendoy | West Fork Madison |
| Electric Peak | Middle Fork | West Fork Rock Creek |
| Flint Uplands | Middle Mountain | Whitetail |
| Greenhorn Mountains | Ross Fork | Wigwam Cherry |
| Hellroaring | Ruby-Centennial Corridor | Wisconsin |

The remaining lands are suitable for timber production

Lands Suitable for Timber Production: (Step Three)

Lands Suitable for Timber Production are those acres not identified as lands where timber harvest is permitted in the two classifications above.

Management Areas that contain lands allocated to Suitable for Timber Production:

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Backyard Butte | Horse Prairie North | Ramshorn |
| Basin-Cataract | Humbug | Ruby |
| Boulder River-Sheepshead | Kit Carson | Selway-Saginaw |
| Bryant Creek | Little Boulder | South Fleecer |
| Burton Park | Little Boulder-Galena Gulch | South Boulder Corridor |
| Butte North | Meadow Creek | South Willow Corridor |
| East Deerlodge | Mormon-Buffalo | Tie-Johnson |
| East face | Northeast Fleecer | Trail Creek |
| Fishtrap-Mount Haggin | Pintler Face | Warm Springs |
| Flint Foothills | Pipestone | West Big Hole Flats |
| Harvey Creek Foothills | Quartz Hill | West Face |

VEGETATION

Goals

Biodiversity: A variety of disturbance processes are managed or allowed to occur that produce resilient vegetation communities able to sustain diversity in the face of uncertain future climate-influenced disturbances. Resilient vegetation communities will have a mosaic of species and age classes of trees, shrubs, grasses, and forbs for animal forage and cover, and perpetuate the diversity of plants and the microbial and insect communities upon which they are dependent. Old growth is managed on a forest wide basis and is well distributed.

Unique Habitats: The trend toward an older forest is altered by increasing the younger age classes providing greater forest diversity in age classes. Stable or upward trends are achieved for declining or unique habitats.

Sensitive Plants: Sensitive plant populations and their habitat are maintained or restored. Large core populations or fringe-of-range populations of sensitive plants are conserved in research natural areas, botanical special interest areas, or protected as populations in conservation strategies, or project design specifications (Scale - Populations).

Non-native Species: The influx of persistent non-native species is minimized by using native plants, seed, and vegetative propagules for restoration work.

Pest Management: Diagnosed pest problems are addressed with an integrated pest management approach, which allows monitoring, prevention, cultural, mechanical, biological, genetic and chemical techniques.

Objectives

Forested Vegetation

Resiliency: (See Glossary) Reduce forest density in the large size classes of dry forest communities and some lodgepole pine communities to maintain or improve resilient forest conditions.

Douglas-fir Type: Increase the number of acres in the 0 to 5 inch DBH class on approximately 20,000 acres, where one or more of the following circumstances occurs:

- Where burned or insect infested stands are dead or dying (see Glossary)
- Where needed to reduce the risk from wildfire for public and firefighter health and safety, or to protect structures, infrastructure, and municipal watersheds.
- Where needed to meet objectives for lands suitable for timber production.
- Douglas-fir which has established itself in former grasslands/shrublands (colonization) is not considered part of the Douglas-fir base described above.

Lodgepole Pine Type: Increase the number of acres in the 0 to 5 inch DBH class by approximately 74,000 acres, where one or more of the following circumstances occurs:

- Where burned or insect infested stands are dead or dying (see Glossary)
- Where needed to reduce the risk from wildfire for public and firefighter health and safety, or to protect structures, infrastructure and municipal watersheds
- Where needed to meet objectives for lands suitable for timber production.

Aspen Component: Increase the aspen component within lodgepole pine and other vegetation types, on 67,000 acres.

Whitebark Pine/Sub-Alpine Fir Type: Promote regeneration of whitebark pine on approximately 45,000 acres, largely through the use of fire.

All Other Forested Vegetation Types: Manage within the historic range of variability.

Grassland/Shrubland/Riparian: Reduce conifer encroachment on 74,000 acres of riparian areas, shrublands, and grasslands.

Noxious Weeds: Prevent, reduce, or eliminate infestations of non-native or noxious weed species with emphasis on areas where there is a high likelihood of establishment and spread. Manage noxious weeds through Integrated Pest Management as described in the most current Beaverhead-Deerlodge Noxious Weed Control Record of Decision.

Reference populations of sensitive plants: Monitor G1 thru G3 ranked sensitive plants, perform conservation assessments, and develop conservation strategies for species showing downward trends (Scale - BNDF populations).

Standards

Standard 1: Mechanical vegetation treatments and prescribed fire in old growth stands (see Glossary) do not reduce the age and number of large trees and basal area below the ‘minimum criteria’ required for Eastern Montana old growth in Green et al, Table 3. Removing hazardous fuels within old growth stands is allowed if conducted in a manner that meets this requirement. This requirement does not apply to hazard tree removal and other public safety needs.

Standard 2: Silvicultural examinations and prescriptions will be required prior to timber manipulation or silvicultural treatment. Exceptions are allowed for removal of trees that block vision along roads, removal of hazard trees, clearing of rights-of-way, clearing for mineral development, Christmas tree sales in encroachment areas, and removal of firewood.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

Goals

Habitat: Cover and forage for animals is provided by a mosaic of species and age classes of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and forbs. See Vegetation Goals for details.

Grizzly Bear Conflicts: Conflicts between grizzly bears and humans or human activities in occupied grizzly bear habitat, are managed such that the removal of a bear is not necessary.

Connectivity: Forest management contributes to wildlife linkages between landscapes, unless landscape isolation is determined to be beneficial. Linkage areas are those areas identified for large carnivores and ungulates through multi-agency coordination. Options may include, but are not limited to:

- Maintaining Forest Service ownership at highway and road crossings,
- Consolidating ownership at approach areas to highway and road crossings substantiated by empirical data as necessary to facilitate wildlife movement, and
- Providing secure habitat at the landscape scale to facilitate large animal movement.

Sage Grouse: Sagebrush habitat supports sage grouse and pygmy rabbit populations by providing suitable sage grouse brood-rearing habitat on at least 40% of the sagebrush habitat within 18 kilometers of documented active or inactive sage grouse leks and the area mapped as potential pygmy rabbit habitat.

Wildlife Secure Areas and Connectivity: Secure areas and connectivity for ungulates and large carnivores are provided, while recognizing the variety of recreational opportunities.

Grizzly Bear Security: The Gravelly Landscape is maintained to achieve 60% or greater secure areas (Scale - Gravelly Landscape).

Wildlife Security: Manage density of open motorized roads and trails by landscape year-round, except fall rifle big game season, to achieve levels at or below the following (Scale - Landscapes):

Table 13. Density of Roads and Trails Open to Motorized Use by Landscape

| Landscape | Desired Open Motorized Road and Trail Density |
|---------------------|---|
| | Miles per Sq. Mile* |
| Big Hole | 1.2 |
| Boulder River | 1.9 |
| Clark Fork - Flints | 1.9 |
| Gravelly | 0.7 |
| Jefferson River | 1.6 |
| Lima Tendoy | 1.0 |

| Landscape | Desired Open Motorized Road and Trail Density |
|------------------|---|
| | Miles per Sq. Mile* |
| Madison | 0.0 |
| Pioneer | 1.5 |
| Tobacco Roots | 1.3 |
| Upper Clark Fork | 2.0 |
| Upper Rock Creek | 0.9 |

**This includes roads available for permitted or administrative use.*

Elk Security: Elk security is managed to provide quality elk habitat, provide a variety of recreational hunting opportunities, and provide support for Montana's fair chase emphasis.

Manage open motorized road and trail density by MTFWP hunting units as of 2006 - on National Forest lands during the fall rifle big game season, to achieve levels at or below the following: (Scale - Hunting Unit)

Table 14. Hunting Season Open Motorized Road/Trail Densities by Hunting Unit

| Hunting Unit | Desired Fall Open Motorized Road and Trail Density |
|--------------|--|
| | Miles per Sq. Mile* |
| 210 | 0.9 |
| 211 | 0.5 |
| 212 | 1.4 |
| 213 | 1.4 |
| 214 | 1.6 |
| 215 | 1.5 |
| 216 | 0.8 |
| 300 | 0.6 |
| 302 | 1.0 |
| 311 | 0.0 |
| 318 | 1.8 |
| 319 | 0.6 |
| 320 | 0.8 |
| 321 | 1.1 |
| 323 | 0.5 |
| 324 | 0.4 |
| 327 | 0.8 |
| 328 | 0.8 |
| 329 | 1.1 |
| 330 | 0.7 |
| 331 | 1.5 |
| 332 | 0.8 |

| Hunting Unit | Desired Fall Open Motorized Road and Trail Density |
|--------------|--|
| | Miles per Sq. Mile* |
| 333 | 0.9 |
| 340 | 1.4 |
| 341 | 0.5 |
| 350 | 1.3 |
| 360 | 0.0 |
| 362 | 0.0 |
| 370 | 1.0 |

**This includes roads available for permitted or administrative use.*

Objectives

Grizzly Bear Conflicts: Implement food storage and sanitation orders in areas classified as occupied grizzly bear habitat.

Road and Trail Densities by Hunting Unit: From October 15 to December 1, reduce the open motorized road and trail densities in hunting units 215 to 1.5; 300 to 0.6; 302 to 1.0; 318 to 1.8; 333 to .9; 341 to .5; and 350 to 1.3 miles per square mile or less.

Road and Trail Densities by Landscape: Reduce the open motorized road and trail densities from May 16 to December 1 in the Boulder River Landscape to 1.9 and Jefferson River Landscape to 1.6 miles per square miles or less.

Management Indicator Species: Maintain habitat conditions for elk security and winter habitat integrity for wolverine and mountain goat as reflected by changes in abundance of these Management Indicator Species (MIS).

Sage Grouse: Maintain or improve sagebrush height, and canopy and grass-forb canopy of sagebrush habitat, emphasizing habitat within 18 kilometers of documented active or inactive sage grouse leks and the area mapped as potential pygmy rabbit habitat.

Snags: Snags and woody debris are well distributed by vegetation category and size class over time.

Sensitive and Federally Listed Species: Information in the following sources should be considered when designing projects that may affect sensitive species or federally listed species.

- Management Plan and Conservation Strategies for Sage Grouse in Montana
- Northern Region Conservation Assessment for Northern Goshawk, Black-backed Woodpecker, Flammulated Owl, and Pileated Woodpecker (March 2006)
- Montana Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
- Grizzly Bear Conservation for the Greater Yellowstone Area National Forests (GYA)
- Northern Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf Recovery Plan

- Montana Bald Eagle Management Plan. (refer to the State conservation plan or other appropriate plan.)

Standards

Standard 1: From October 15 to December 1 Hunting Units that exceed the open motorized road and trail density objective will have no net increase in designated open motorized road and trail mileage (Scale - Hunting Units on National Forest lands).

Standard 2: Landscapes that exceed the open motorized road and trail objective will have no net increase in designated open motorized road and trail mileage (Scale – Landscapes on National Forest System Lands).

Standard 3: Mechanical vegetation treatments will:

Retain all snags greater than 20" dbh (except for hazard trees).

In addition, do not reduce the number of snags greater than 15.0" dbh per acre in treatment units below the levels shown in the Table 12, calculated as an average for the total treatment unit acreage in a project area. This calculation allows variability among treatment units which produces a more natural clumpy distribution.

If there are insufficient snags in treatment units, live trees in the same size class must be retained and counted towards the snag requirement. These would be in addition to any requirements of Standard 4.

These per acre requirements do not apply to the treatment units if analysis shows the levels of snags will be met for the project area as a whole.

If, in the project area as a whole, there are insufficient live trees and/or snags greater than 15.0" dbh, the standard is deemed complied with by retention of the existing live trees and/or snags greater than 15.0" dbh in the treatment units.

Table 12. Minimum average snags per acre to be retained, calculated for the total treatment unit acreage in a project area.

| Vegetation Category | Minimum average snags per acre to retain |
|---------------------|--|
| | Snags > 15.0" dbh |
| Warm | 3.6 |
| Cool | 8 |
| Cold | 5 |
| PICO | 6.4 |

Standard 4: Do not reduce the number of live trees greater than 10.0" dbh per acre in regeneration harvest treatment units (to provide future snags) below the levels shown in Table 13 on the next page.

Table 13. Minimum average live trees per acre to be retained after regeneration harvest, to supply future snags (if available), calculated for the total treatment unit acreage in a project area.

| Vegetation Category | Minimum average live trees per acre to retain |
|---------------------|---|
| | Live trees > 10.0" dbh |
| Warm | 1.3 |
| Cool | 0.9 |
| Cold | 1.4 |
| PICO | 0.6 |

Standard 5: Sheep allotments in the Gravelly Landscape which become vacant will be closed to sheep grazing or the vacant allotment may be used by an existing Gravelly Landscape sheep permittee, with no increase in permitted use (Scale - Gravelly Landscape).

Standard 6: The Grizzly Bear Amendment applies to only the Beaverhead-portion of the BDNF and is incorporated as Appendix G (USDA 2006b).

Standard 7: The Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction (2007) is included in Appendix G, and will apply to the BDNF as described in the Northern Rockies Lynx Management Record of Decision.

Standard 8: Within 18 kilometers of documented active or inactive sage grouse leks, do not remove sagebrush within 300 meters of riparian zones, meadows, lakebeds or farmland, unless site specific analysis indicates such removal promotes achievement of the sagebrush habitat goal. Springs developed for livestock water in these areas must be designed to maintain free water and wet meadows

Standard 9: Mitigate, through avoidance or minimization, management actions around known active nest sites of threatened, endangered, proposed candidate, and sensitive bird species, if those actions would disrupt reproductive success during the nesting period. During project planning consider applicable science regarding species needs (such as nesting periods and buffers) and site-specific considerations. This standard also applies to Great Gray Owl and Northern Goshawk.

Standard 10: When closing entrances to abandoned mines, determine whether suitable habitat for bats exists, and where it does, provide access for bats.

Standard 11: Implement the most current National Fish and Wildlife Service Terms and Conditions for wolves in the northwest Montana recovery area (west of I-15 and north of I-90) until such time as the gray wolf is delisted. (See Appendix I)

Standard 12: Provide habitat for species requiring large woody debris in forested habitat types by retaining post project outcomes for regeneration harvest of the following: (Scale-project)

- Lodgepole cover type-6 pieces/ac with small end diameter equal to or greater than 8 inches and 10-ft long.
- Douglas-fir cover type-6 pieces/ac with small end diameter equal to or greater than 12 inches and 10-ft long.

CHAPTER 3 - MAP SECTION

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