



Endangered, Threatened or Sensitive Species - Protection and Management

Endangered and Threatened Species

3101. To protect endangered and threatened species:

- a. *Organochlorine pesticides will not be used as chemical agents on the Black Hills National Forest.
- b. *Prohibit new disturbances not existing at the time of bald eagle nest initiation, that may detrimentally influence nest success within one mile of bald eagle nests during the nesting season (February 1 through September 1). The distance may be reduced where forest characteristics or topography reduce the line-of-site distance from the nest, based on site-specific analysis.
- c. *Protect traditional communal bald eagle winter roost sites. Restrict activities that may disturb bald eagles within one mile of communal roosting areas from November 1 through April 1.
- d. In stands being used by bald eagles on a transitory basis, avoid timber harvest activities when in use. Harvest may resume when birds have vacated the stands.

STANDARD

Sensitive Species

3102. *Where caves are important nurseries or hibernacula for sensitive and local concern bat species protect the caves and maintain their microclimates when designing management activities (e.g., timber harvest, road construction, recreation facilities). Protect known bat day and night roosts. **STANDARD**



3103. *Manage known sensitive species and species of local concern snail colonies to:

- a. *Retain overstory sufficient to maintain moisture regimes, ground level temperatures and humidity.
- b. *Retain ground litter, especially deciduous litter.
- c. *Avoid burning, heavy grazing, off-highway vehicles (OHVs), heavy equipment and other activities that may compact soils or alter vegetation composition and ground cover.
- d. *If prescribed burning is unavoidable, burn when snails are hibernating, usually below 50 degrees Fahrenheit, and use fast-moving fires to minimize effects to snails.
- e. *Control invasive weeds, but use herbicides when snails are not on the surface, and treat individual plants rather than broadcast application.

STANDARD

3104. *Do not develop springs or seeps as water facilities where sensitive species or species of local concern exist unless development mitigates an existing risk.

STANDARD

3105. *Consider habitat needs (survey as appropriate) of regal fritillary and Atlantis fritillary butterflies prior to prescribed burning on prairies or meadows. This is especially important for prescribed burns scheduled from September through April. Design the project to conserve important habitat components of known sightings. **GUIDELINE**

3106. *Riparian areas or wetlands where populations of sensitive species are located are to be avoided during ground disturbing activities. Use one or more of the following (or other mitigation measures) tied to the site-specific conditions for disturbances adjacent to known occurrences:

- a. *Avoid removing riparian or wetland vegetation; filling or dredging the riparian area or wetland; diverting stream flow from the current channel.
- b. *Prevent storm runoff from washing silt into the stream or wetland.
- c. *Reseed and/or replant cut and fill slopes with native seed and/or native plants promptly to control erosion and for prevention of noxious-weed infestations. Use appropriate measures to control erosion on disturbed areas that are steep, are highly erosive, and/or adjacent to the riparian area.
- d. *Timing, placement, and installation of temporary stream diversions shall allow passage of aquatic life and protect sensitive and species of local concern.

STANDARD

3107. ***DELETED**



Sensitive Species - Goshawks

3108. *The following additional protective measures will apply relative to the northern goshawk for all projects involving the removal of trees in suitable habitat, except those done for the express purpose of enhancing goshawk habitat:

a. *Identify nest areas around historically active nests. Nest areas shall consist of 180 acres best suited for nesting habitat within one-half mile of the nest and greater than 300 feet from buildings. Nest areas need not be contiguous but must occur in 30-acre units or larger. Nest areas shall include alternate nests if known. If these conditions cannot be met, then nest areas will include stands that are not currently suitable but that could be managed to meet nesting conditions over time. Vegetation management activities within nest areas shall be limited to those that maintain or enhance the stand's value for goshawk.

b. *If a nest area described above occurs within one-half mile of the project area and a protected area has not yet been identified for that nest, the project analysis will determine whether some of the protected acreage should occur within the project area.

STANDARD

c. *DELETED

d. *DELETED

3109. *DELETED

3110. *DELETED

3111. *From April 1 through August 15, minimize additional human-caused noise and disruption beyond that occurring at the time of nest initiation (e.g., road traffic, timber harvests, construction activities) within one-half mile of all active goshawk nests up until the nest has failed or fledglings have dispersed. **STANDARD**

3112. *DELETED

3113. *DELETED

3114. *DELETED

Sensitive Species and Contractual Obligations (SSC)

3115. *A R2 sensitive species or species of local concern located after contract or permit issuance will be appropriately managed by active coordination between permittee, contractor or purchaser, Forest Service line officer, project administrator, and biologist and/or botanist. Solutions need to be based on the circumstances of each new discovery and must consider the species need, contractual obligations and costs, and mitigation measures available at the time of discovery. **STANDARD**



3116. Avoid creating barriers (e.g., new open roads) between red-bellied snake hibernacula and wetlands. **STANDARD**

3117. In vegetation treatment units, leave 1 pile of woody material per 2 acres to create near-ground structure for small mammal species, except within 300 feet of buildings. **STANDARD**

3118. ***DELETED.**

3119. ***NEW.** Issue permits to collect sensitive or species of local concern plants or plant parts only for scientific or educational purposes, but not for commercial or personal use except for the provisions of Standard 7103. Such collection must not jeopardize the continued vigor or existence of a plant population. Collecting of plants or plant parts in Management Areas 1.1A Black Elk Wilderness, 2.2 Research Natural Areas, 3.1 Botanical Areas, or at the Cascade Complex in Management Area 8.2 Developed Recreation Complexes shall not be allowed except by permit issued by the Forest Supervisor for scientific or educational purposes. **STANDARD**

3120. ***NEW.** Do not spray grasshoppers within 0.25 mile of known burrowing owl nests. **STANDARD**

3121. ***NEW.** Design new structures and facilities in or near prairie dog towns or occupied mountain plover habitat with low profiles and/or perch inhibitors. This does not apply to structures and facilities less than 4 feet in height or those not expected to be used as hunting perches by raptors. **STANDARD**

3122. ***NEW.** Prohibit development of new facilities within 0.25 miles of known mountain plover nests or nesting areas. This does not apply to pipelines, fences and underground utilities. **STANDARD**

3123. ***NEW.** Prohibit the following activities in mountain plover nesting areas or within 0.25 miles of plover nests from March 15 through July 31: construction (e.g., roads, water impoundments, oil and gas facilities), reclamation, seismic exploration, gravel mining, well drilling, and prescribed burning. **STANDARD**

3124. ***NEW.** During aspen restoration treatments, conserve live aspen with cavities. **STANDARD**

3125. ***NEW.** Prescribe burn no more than 60 percent of any contiguous grassland area at a time and burn in early spring or fall. **STANDARD**