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Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service

Rocky  
Mountain  
Region

Black Hills  
National  
Forest

Custer,  
South Dakota



# Black Hills National Forest

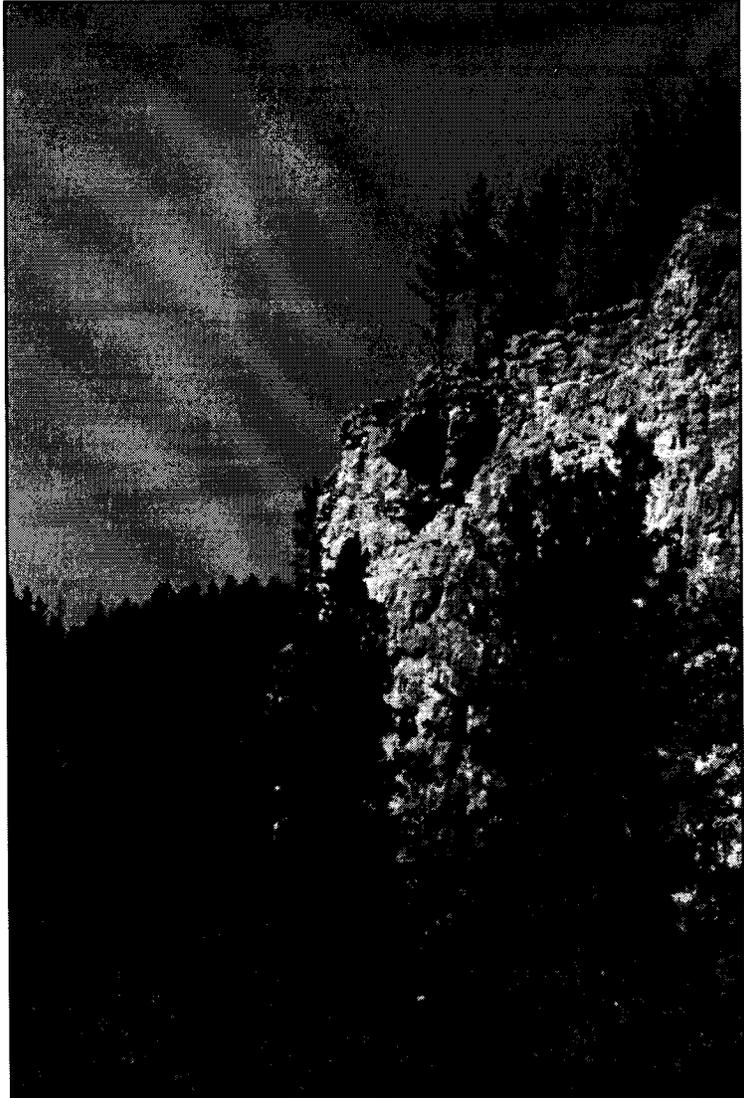
## *Phase I Amendment* **2001**

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1997 Land and Resource Management Plan

# Amendment 1 Decision Notice

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DECISION NOTICE  
and  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
for  
AMENDMENT #1  
to the  
BLACK HILLS LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
  
PHASE I (Short-Term) AMENDMENT 2001

USDA Forest Service  
Black Hills National Forest

## INTRODUCTION

The Phase I Amendment Environmental Assessment (Phase I EA) discloses the environmental effects of proposed changes to the Black Hills National Forest 1997 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (1997 Revised Forest Plan). I have reviewed the EA, 1997 Revised Forest Plan Standards, Guidelines and related material, including the project file, and I base my decision upon that review.

Using Forest Service scientists and resource specialists, management direction has been developed to apply during the reevaluation period (estimated at 2 to 5 years). In accordance with the requirements of the National Forest Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental analysis was conducted which led to the preparation of an Environmental Assessment to examine and disclose the likely effects of proposed management direction, and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was concluded.

The planning area is the Black Hills National Forest (Forest), which contains approximately 1.2 million acres in western South Dakota and eastern Wyoming (EA, Map 1-1). The bulk of the Black Hills National Forest is located in a contiguous block in western South Dakota, with parcels in eastern Wyoming, including the Bearlodge Mountains.

## DECISION

After careful consideration of applicable laws, regulations and policies, 1997 Revised Forest Plan direction, public comment analysis, environmental effects and other information contained in the EA and associated project file, I have selected Alternative 2, as modified from initial scoping. This alternative best addresses the purpose and need and issues raised for the Phase I Amendment.

Alternative 2, as described during project scoping, includes the interim direction identified in the October 12, 1999 Appeal Decision. (See Decision Notice Appendix for

a full listing of the changes to the 1997 Revised Forest Plan). These revised and new standards and guidelines are based on the best available science pertinent to a number of plant and wildlife species and their conditions of existence on the Black Hills and were developed from interviews with experts in biological science fields and review of scientific literature. The following list outlines the majority of the changes to the direction in the 1997 Revised Forest Plan as noted in the Phase I EA:

- Certain guidelines would be treated as standards. See Decision Notice Appendix for a complete listing and new measures by alternative.
- Revised Standard 3109 to include 180 acres of the best available nesting habitat for northern goshawk to be located within a half-mile of existing nests.
- Revised Guideline 3114 to provide a balance of forest structural stages within ponderosa pine forested areas in 420-acre post-fledging family areas.
- Revised Guideline 3111 to identify a quarter-mile “no new disturbance” zone around active goshawk nests.
- Add new Standard 3215 for American marten habitat. No decrease in patch size of late succession habitats currently occupied or with high potential for American marten occupancy would be allowed
- Revised Standard 2308 to provide adequate down woody material in high potential American marten habitat.
- Revised Standards 2301 and 2302. These measures relate to snag habitat requirements. Standard 2301 would be revised to provide two to four snags per acre, based on aspect, averaged across the watershed, for ponderosa pine types. Twenty-five percent of the snags must be at least 20 inches in diameter or largest diameter available. In forest types other than ponderosa pine, provide six snags per acre at least 10 inches in diameter or the largest diameter available. Standard 2302 includes direction to move toward the snag objective.
- Add new Standard 3.1-2503 to clarify protection of sensitive plant populations in Botanical Areas.

The modifications made to Alternative 2 since scoping are to add additional protection measures for wildlife and plant species and their associated habitats. The intent of the modifications is to reduce the risk of adverse effects to a wider range of Management Indicator Species and Sensitive species. The modifications to Alternative 2, as discussed in the Phase I EA, include the following measures:

- Revised Standard 3103 to clarify snail species habitat protection.
- Revised Guidelines 1401, 3207, and 3208 to increase protection for bats.
- Revised Guideline 2304 would continue the prohibition of cutting of standing dead trees for fuelwood, except in designated areas.
- Revised Guidelines 2303 and 2306 pertain to the distribution of snags and live tree replacements to meet the minimum snag objective.
- Add new Standard 3116 for red-bellied snake protection.
- Add new Standard 3117 to provide for woody material piles for American marten prey species habitat.

- Add new Standard 3118 to maintain existing black-tailed prairie dog populations.
- Add new Standard 8.2-9106 to provide additional protection of sensitive plants in the Cascade Creek/Cascade Spring area.

In addition to the standards and guidelines, direction found in the Forest Service Manuals (FSM) will continue to be followed, including direction for Region 2 Sensitive species located at FSM 2670 and Management Indicator Species direction located at FSM 2621.

Monitoring requirements are discussed in Section 2-7 at the end of Chapter 2 of the Phase I EA. The Forest's Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Guide has been updated to incorporate additional monitoring requirements to increase the precision of monitoring for Management Indicator Species and Sensitive Species (see Phase I EA Appendix F).

This direction provides for mitigation of environmental effects of future decisions. No additional measures to mitigate the environmental impact of this decision have been identified in the Phase I EA or this decision.

### **Changes between initial scoping and the final analysis and decision**

The effects of the modifications made to Alternative 2 have been reviewed, and are within the range of effects disclosed in summary information distributed in newsletters during the analysis period. The effects of the modifications are also within the range of effects described in the Phase I EA. Changes in effects are discussed for affected areas. Timber outputs for Alternative 2, as modified, would be close to those displayed for Alternative 2. A slight reduction in outputs from those displayed under Alternative 2 may occur due to increased protective measures for sensitive species (e.g. from the change of 100 foot protection area around cave entrances to 500 foot protection area). Potential effects to income and employment would not change under the modification and would be similar to those identified for Alternative 2.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Record of Decision for the Black Hills National Forest 1997 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (1997 Revised Forest Plan) and accompanying Final Environmental Impact Assessment (1996 FEIS) was signed on June 24, 1997 by then-Regional Forester Elizabeth Estill. The 1997 Revised Forest Plan and 1996 FEIS provide a programmatic framework for decision-making on the Forest for the next 10 to 15 years. A number of groups and individuals appealed the Record of Decision for the 1997 Revised Forest Plan.

On October 12, 1999 the Reviewing Officer for the Chief of the Forest Service, James R. Furnish, issued his decision (1999 Appeal Decision) on three of the appeals, affirming the Regional Forester's June 24, 1997 decision in part, with instruction for further actions concerning the issues of species viability and diversity, and mining (see Phase I EA

Appendix C for the October 12, 1999 Decision Summary). There was no discretionary review of the Reviewing Officer's decision by the Secretary of Agriculture.

In October 1999, a lawsuit was filed against the Forest Service on the implementation of the Veteran Salvage Timber Sale in the Forbes Gulch area of the Beaver Park Roadless Area, within the Black Hills National Forest, challenging certain deficiencies identified in the 1999 Appeal Decision. Settlement negotiations began in November 1999 and were finalized in September 2000. Several forest timber sale analyses completed prior to October 1999 were included in the scope of the Settlement Agreement for Civil Action 99-N-2173. The timber sale activities included in the settlement agreement will abide by the agreement.

The Settlement Agreement for Civil Action 99-N-2173 states at page 19:  
... "The Regional Forester shall be the deciding officer for the Phase I Forest Plan amendment. Pursuant to 36 CFR 217.7(b)(2), the Chief will be the reviewing officer. The Chief shall issue a decision on any administrative appeal of the Phase I Forest Plan amendment within 160 days."...

... "Phase II shall address all the issues identified in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4, of this settlement agreement, including northern goshawk, Management Indicator Species, and Research Natural Areas."...

The Forest proposes to make the required adjustments to the 1997 Revised Forest Plan to comply with instructions in the appeal decision and terms of the settlement in two phases.

The **Phase I** effort includes an amendment to the 1997 Revised Forest Plan for the short term, expected to be two to five years. This amendment addresses the 1997 Revised Forest Plan's deficiencies as identified in the 1999 Appeal Decision. The intent of the Phase I amendment is to: 1) provide assurance that the Forest's actions during the interim period will not foreclose management options over the period needed to re-evaluate the sufficiency of the 1997 Revised Forest Plan in maintaining species viability and diversity, and 2) ensure that adequate habitat for species for which there may be a viability concern is maintained on the Forest until additional analysis of species viability and diversity is completed. This approach will provide the opportunity for the Forest to go forward with management actions until Phase II of the amendment process is complete while reducing the level of risk for these species.

Phase I includes incorporation of new and updated monitoring protocols in the Monitoring Implementation Guide associated with the 1997 Revised Forest Plan for 1) sensitive species survey and monitoring, 2) streambank monitoring and 3) evaluation of the effectiveness of Best Management Practices for the Prevention of Non-Point Source Pollution. The Forest Service Manual provides direction for Management Indicator Species at FSM 2620 and sensitive species at FSM 2670 that will continue to be followed.

The Phase I EA considered and disclosed the following items: affected environment, alternatives formulated, and estimated environmental consequences based on 1997 Revised Forest Plan goals, objectives, standards and guidelines, and subsequent analysis, together with issues raised during scoping.

The Phase I EA is tiered to the 1997 Record of Decision for the Revised Forest Plan, the 1997 Revised Forest Plan and the 1996 FEIS. The Phase I Amendment EA, appendices, and planning record; the 1997 Revised Forest Plan; and the 1996 FEIS are available for review at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Custer, South Dakota.

The Phase I Amendment has been completed under the 1982 planning regulations. This decision will be subject to appeal under 36 CFR 217.

In March 2001, three decisions were issued from the Secretary of Agriculture's Office providing general guidance to the Forest Service regarding the basic principles on species viability. The decisions and the guidance may be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/forum/nepa/lrmpdecisions.html>. Refer to the March 29, 2001 discretionary review decisions for the Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest/Pawnee National Grassland (#98-13-00-0020) and the Rio Grande (#97-13-00-0057) and Routt (#98-13-00-0032 and #98-13-00-0037) National Forests.

I believe Phase I is in compliance with both the decisions by the Chief's Reviewing Officer, and by the Secretary's office. It is also in compliance with the previously discussed settlement agreement.

The **Phase II** analysis will re-evaluate the sufficiency of the 1997 Revised Forest Plan in relation to species viability and diversity. The Forest expects Phase II to take two to five years to complete. The Forest plans to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement further examining longer-term management strategies regarding species viability and diversity. The Phase II analysis will build on the information developed by the Forest's technical teams and policy group. The Phase II analysis will determine the type of amendment to the 1997 Revised Forest Plan or Forest policy needed. Additional information on species viability is currently being collected for use in the Phase II amendment process.

The analysis and decision will be in compliance with all applicable direction, including the decision by the Chief's Reviewing Officer, the Departmental guidance in the Secretary's decision, and with the settlement agreement.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Forest will implement the Phase I Amendment direction for new decisions with appropriate analysis following the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This includes timber sales that are sold after the Phase I decision, except timber sales included in the Settlement Agreement. The Forest anticipates new project proposals on

approximately three percent of the land base annually. Proposed or new projects and activities must also comply with requirements of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) and other applicable laws. The Phase I Amendment will be in place for the short term, until the reevaluation of species viability and diversity is completed, with direction in the form of management standards, guidelines and monitoring requirements.

The selected alternative will lessen the level of risk for species for which there may be a viability concern by providing greater protection during the interim period while still providing the opportunity to continue management activities to provide goods and services to the surrounding communities.

### **Transition**

The NFMA generally requires that “permits, contracts, and other instruments for use and occupancy of National Forest System lands be “consistent” with the land management plans. (16 U.S.C. 1604(i)) However, this requirement is not absolute. NFMA specifically conditions the requirement in three ways: (1) these documents must be revised only “when necessary”; (2) these documents must be revised only “as soon as practicable”; and (3) any revisions are “subject to valid existing rights”. This language leaves a great deal of discretion to the decisions maker.

In developing this Amendment, the Forest considered the effects of implementing pre-existing decisions (which are implemented under such document), as modified by the Settlement Agreement for Civil Action 99-N-2173 as part of the environmental baseline. Going forward with decisions made under the 1997 Revised Forest Plan would be “consistent” with the Amendment because the Amendment was developed with the assumption that those decisions would be implemented as planned with the modifications made by the Settlement Agreement.

Exercising my discretion under NFMA, I have determined that it is not “necessary” to apply the Amendment’s standards and guidelines retroactively. I find that NFMA does not require revision of these pre-existing occupancy and use authorizations. The law generally disfavors retroactive application of new rules. Nevertheless, I have also determined that the Forest Supervisor and I have the discretion, on a case by case basis, to modify pre-existing authorizations, with the exception of those actions included in the Settlement Agreement, to bring them up to newly established standards. This would include the standards and guidelines of the Amendment. While I take the position that NFMA does not require these modifications, I find that the statutory criteria of “as soon as practicable” and excepting “valid existing rights” are useful in exercising my discretion.

I note that timber sale decisions are generally implemented through contracts with a term of five years. It is the Forest Service’s position that, while a timber sale contract is a “valid existing right”, such contracts are subject to modification by their terms. Therefore, modification of a timber contract under its terms would not violate the “valid existing right” provision. Having clarified this point, I have nevertheless determined not

to modify any existing timber sale contracts, beyond the modifications required with the Settlement Agreement. As stated earlier, the environmental baseline assumed that these contracts would be performed by their terms, modified to meet the Settlement Agreement terms. Having said this, the Forest Supervisor has authorization to determine whether to modify decisions authorizing timber sales that have not yet been put under contract and are not included in the Settlement Agreement.

I note that other “use and occupancy” agreements are for a substantially longer term than timber contracts. For example, grazing permits are generally issued for a ten year term. Thus, my discretionary decision is to require grazing permits to comply with the Amendment’s standards and guidelines. The case law is clear that grazing permits are “privileges” rather than rights and they are subject to modification by their terms and under the grazing regulations. I note that the Forest is presently under a separate statutory mandate to schedule and complete NEPA analyses at the grazing allotment management stage. (Rescission Act – Public Law 104-19, July 27, 1995). Pursuant to section 504 of this Act, the Forest has scheduled allotment level NEPA analysis. I find that imposing the Amendment’s standards and guidelines through this process will be “as soon as practicable.”

Other classes of “use and occupancy” agreements will be reviewed to determine whether and when the Forest Supervisor should exercise his discretion to bring them into compliance with the Amendment.

### **Future Amendment**

An important purpose of a Forest Plan is to communicate the long-term desires of Forest management and thereby provide some sense of stability to local and national interests. At the same time, new information and changing condition will occur through time and require that updates to the Forest Plan be made; these will be accomplished with public involvement through the amendment process.

### **Longer-Term Direction**

The Phase I Amendment has been reviewed to ensure it will provide adequate habitat protection until the re-evaluation is completed. The intent of this amendment is to ensure management options are not foregone and to ensure habitat is maintained in the interim period until the re-evaluation of species viability and diversity is completed in the Phase II analysis. The Phase I Amendment measures are anticipated to be in effect for the next two to five years. This timeframe was estimated due to possible changes in the planning regulations and other regulations that may affect the analysis timeframe. Information gathering efforts for the Phase II process are currently underway. Additional species information is being gathered for consideration for the re-evaluation analysis. The Phase II amendment will be a longer-term amendment incorporating the findings of the re-evaluation upon its completion.

## PURPOSE AND NEED

The Phase I Amendment analysis is a programmatic environmental assessment. The Phase I EA provides the basis for amending management direction found in the 1997 Revised Forest Plan to protect habitat and populations of resident plant and animals.

This focus leads to the following purpose and need (EA, page 1-4):

**The purpose and need for the Phase I amendment are to address 1997 Revised Forest Plan deficiencies as identified in the 1999 Appeal Decision that must be corrected to assure that projects implemented during the re-evaluation of species viability and diversity (the next two to five years) will maintain viable populations of plant and wildlife species.**

### The Viability Requirement in National Forest Planning

The National Forest Management Act requires that National Forest planning regulations “provide for diversity of plant and animal communities based on the suitability and capability of the specific land area in order to meet overall multiple-use objectives...” (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1604 (g)(3)(B)). Forest planning regulations require that diversity of plant and animal communities – the entire biological community – be considered throughout the process for integrated resource planning for Forest Plans (36 CFR 219.13 and 219.26 and 219.27 (g)). These regulations also include provisions that specify how particular resources that are part of the biological community are to be addressed in forest planning.

Among the provisions for fish and wildlife habitat are requirements to manage habitat to maintain viable populations of vertebrate species (36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27 (a)(6)). There are also requirements to select representative species to serve as indicators of the effects of management and to establish management objectives to maintain or improve habitat for these species, consistent with overall multiple-use objectives (36 CFR 219.19(a) and 219.27(a)(6)).

The viability planning requirement in 36 CFR 219.19 is as follows: *“Fish and wildlife habitat shall be managed to maintain viable populations of existing native and desired non-native vertebrate species in the planning area. For planning purposes, a viable population shall be regarded as one which has the estimated numbers and distribution of reproductive individuals to insure its continued existence is well distributed in the planning area. In order to insure that viable populations will be maintained, habitat must be provided to support, at least, a minimum number of reproductive individuals and that habitat must be well distributed so that those individuals can interact with others in the planning area.”* In this case, the “planning area” as defined in 36 CFR 219.3 is the Black Hills National Forest.

Planning and management direction for maintaining viable populations of sensitive species on National Forest System lands is established in Regional Guides and Forest

Plans. Regional Guides provide standards and guidelines for addressing major issues and management concerns that need to be considered at the Regional level to facilitate the development of Forest Plans under the National Forest Management Act (36 CFR 219.8(a)). Forest Plans provide multiple-use prescriptions and associated standards and guidelines for each management area on the Forest, including proposed and probable management practices (36 CFR 219.11 (c)). Management activities, permits, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other instruments for occupancy and use of National Forest System lands must be consistent with the approved Forest Plan (36 CFR 219.10 (e)). The terms within the Settlement Agreement for Civil Action 99-N-2173 will apply for the specific projects listed in that agreement.

Forest Plans define multiple-use goals and objectives for the National Forest and establish a set of rules to be followed in planning and implementing projects to achieve these goals and objectives. A Forest plan provides a framework for determining what types of activities are permitted or not permitted on various areas of a National Forest, but it usually does not make the decision to proceed or not to proceed with a specific project. Hence, Forest Plans generally do not make irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources. Decisions on individual projects require additional analysis. New project-level decisions must be consistent with the Forest Plan unless they include an amendment to the Plan, and they must also comply with National Environmental Policy Act requirements for site-specific environmental analysis and public involvement, as well as the requirements of other laws, such as the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act.

## **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Three alternatives were evaluated in detail in the EA. These included the No Action alternative and two action alternatives. Additional alternatives proposed by members of the public were also considered but dropped from detailed analysis for various reasons, as described in Chapter 2 of the EA. More complete descriptions of the alternatives considered in detail, including management activities, are contained in Chapter 2 of the EA (pages 2-7 through 2-10), with the specific corrections and revised management direction in Appendix E. I believe the range of alternatives adequately addresses the significant issues raised during the analysis process and is responsive to the purpose and need. Following is a brief summary of the non-selected alternatives considered in detail in the EA.

### **Alternative 1**

This is the No Action Alternative required by the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Forest Management Act. The 1997 Revised Forest Plan Goals, Objectives, Standards, Guidelines, MIS list, and monitoring of sensitive species would remain as they are. The Settlement Agreement terms for Civil Action 99-N-2173 would be adhered to for the affected projects.

Under this alternative, project analyses would continue to tier to the 1997 Revised Forest Plan with site-specific Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation analyses. This alternative was used as a baseline for comparing the effect of alternatives (Forest Service Handbook 1909.15 section 14.1).

### **Alternative 3**

This alternative incorporated the interim direction provided in the 1999 Appeal Decision (See Phase I EA, Appendix C) along with additional direction obtained through scientific interviews (2000 Expert Interview Summary) to further reduce adverse risks to the northern goshawk, American marten, land snails, and snag dependent species. In addition, errors previously identified in the 1997 Revised Forest Plan would be corrected. A full listing of the guidelines to be treated as standards under Alternative 3, revisions to standards and guidelines and new measures may be found in the Phase I EA Appendix E.

## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

### **Meeting the Purpose and Need for Action**

The selection of Alternative 2, as modified, puts into effect the revised and new standards and guidelines listed in the Decision Notice Appendix. Adoption of Alternative 2, as modified, meets the purpose of providing additional assurance that management options will not be foreclosed by the effects of projects during the period needed to re-evaluate the sufficiency of the Forest Plan to maintain species viability and diversity. Although the environmental analysis and public involvement required for the Phase I Amendment decision were completed within a tight timeframe, they provided the information needed for an informed decision.

### **General Factors Considered**

I considered the ability of each alternative to meet the stated purpose and need of the action; comply with applicable laws, statutes, regulations, executive orders, and policies; and respond to issues and public comments about the alternatives. A critical factor relevant to this decision was the ability of the alternatives to respond to the significant issues identified in the EA.

Two significant issues for the analysis were identified from the 1999 Appeal Decision, and were refined as a result of comments received. Comments received from scoping identified a third significant issue. The alternatives in the Phase I EA were then reviewed to ensure they addressed the refined list of issues. The significant issues identified include:

1. The Forest should maintain species habitats to ensure viability and diversity requirements will be met for native and desired non-native plant and animal species.

2. The Forest Service should manage the Black Hills National Forest under a multiple use philosophy. Management should consider species viability and diversity, along with local concerns and possible effects on recreation, forest health, timber harvest, water quality and quantity, wilderness, heritage resources, grazing permits, and public access.
3. The Forest should consider the full economic and social effects of the amendment, including effects on economic stability.

The interdisciplinary team that prepared the Phase I EA reviewed the best available scientific information and used this information to formulate alternatives. Effects of the alternatives were evaluated and disclosed in the Phase I EA. The significant issues were addressed through development of alternatives with changes to 1997 Revised Forest Plan standards and guidelines, and the effects are disclosed in the Phase I EA.

### **Rationale**

**Information used:** Although there is not a complete scientific understanding of the relationships between land management activities and species viability in the Black Hills, existing information on these relationships is sufficiently extensive to permit a reasoned choice among the alternatives presented in the Phase I EA. The 1997 Revised Forest Plan provided measures for species protection in the standards, guidelines and Management Area direction. The interim direction from the Deputy Chief's 1999 Appeal Decision identified measures that would provide increased species protection.

**Ecological factors:** One of the key decision elements is conservation of the northern goshawk and this was also a concern raised by scientists interviewed. The northern goshawk is not a federally listed species, however, it has been identified as a sensitive species in the Rocky Mountain Region for the Forest Service, and is a Management Indicator Species for the Black Hills National Forest. Alternative 2, as modified, would provide for known and presumed goshawk nesting habitat and their associated post-fledging family areas throughout the Forest (Phase I EA, pages 19 and 95). A Black Hills Supplement to the Forest Service Manual was approved in April 2001 to address presumed presence of sensitive species where survey information is lacking, as per the 1999 Appeal Decision interim direction (which includes providing for presumed goshawk nesting habitat). This approach addresses the need to provide for nesting habitat across the forest, which was identified during scientific interviews as the most limiting habitat and the most important component of goshawk management.

In considering how to manage for the goshawk, I did weigh the benefits and disadvantages of adopting goshawk guideline 3114b from Alternative 3 to provide a balance of structural stages across the ponderosa pine landscape. Managing vegetation in a manner similar to that suggested in the Southwest Guidelines (Reynolds et. al. 1992) requires active, intensive management. Although the balance of structural stages was adjusted for diameter breaks found on the Black Hills, the balance that is appropriate for

the Black Hills is not known. The strategy for moving toward a balance of structural stages across the ponderosa pine landscape is more appropriate for a long-term strategy. The Phase II analysis will better determine appropriate long-term management for the goshawk, incorporating additional monitoring and assessment information that will be available

I also wanted to include additional beneficial measures for other species. Therefore, Alternative 2 was modified to include several recommendations made by the scientists interviewed to benefit a wider range of sensitive species than the interim direction alone. Species that would benefit from the modifications include: snails, bats, reptiles, amphibians, black-tailed prairie dog, plant species and snag associated species. We will continue to study the needs of the goshawk, and other species and use monitoring information to refine management direction and actions in the Phase II effort.

Social/economic factors: By including Interim Direction in the appeal decision, it was the intent of the Deputy Chief to keep the forest operating and continuing to provide a supply of goods and services to local communities. Since the time the appeal decision was issued, timber prices have fallen substantially, with impacts to the local mills. The economic analysis showed that there are four factors that determine the impact of the Phase I amendment alternatives on mill operations: lumber prices, sawtimber prices, total sawtimber supply, and sawtimber size.

While lumber and timber prices are outside of the control of the Forest, the sawtimber supply and size are factors that may be affected by this decision. Some would argue that the amount of timber currently under contract with the local mills should buffer the impacts. In any event, there is a higher potential for a large lumber mill to be lost if Alternative 3 were implemented and low timber volumes were realized. This would be a major impact to the local communities that is not warranted for the short-term nature of the Phase I Amendment. Alternative 2, as modified, would minimize short-term impacts on timber industry and the local communities while at the same time maintaining management options for the future.

The Phase I Amendment is anticipated to be in place for a short period of time, and projects implemented during the interim period are anticipated to affect less than three percent of the Forest acres annually (Phase I EA pages 2, 3, 6 and Appendix B). Future vegetation management on this forest depends on the continued existence of a viable timber industry. If the timber industry is lost or mill capability is substantially reduced, that will reduce options for managing the Forest. The 1997 Revised Forest Plan and the public do not support wildland fire for resource benefit (previously termed prescribed natural fire). Since wildfire occurrence has been reduced through fire suppression efforts, timber harvest activities play a more important role as a disturbance process in the ecosystem and in maintaining wildlife habitats and reducing fire hazards in the long term. Without a certain level of timber harvest as a tool, the Forest may lose the ability to manage wildlife habitats in the future. Alternative 2, as modified, will reduce the potential of adverse economic effects, while addressing wildlife and plant habitat concerns. I am concerned that the current economic conditions affecting the timber

industry generally, and effects of reduced outputs under the Settlement Agreement (Civil Action 99-N-2173) in particular, may have long-term consequences that will reduce the tools available to the Forest to manage vegetation.

Alternative selection: The primary reason I chose Alternative 2, as modified, over Alternative 3 was my judgment that the incremental benefit to goshawk in the short term was insufficient to justify the increased risk of a large mill closing due to reduced timber outputs. I determined that it would be unreasonable to choose the most restrictive strategy at the plan level because ongoing study of goshawk requirements for the Phase II amendment could disclose greater flexibility.

The Phase I Biological Evaluation found that, in the short interim period, the goshawk would be adequately protected by: 1) protecting the most critical habitat elements: nests and post-fledging family areas, including both known nests and presuming presence where there are not presently located nests (Phase I EA, page 95); 2) surveying project areas before habitat disturbance to see if goshawks use the area or if nests can be located (Phase I EA, page 94); and 3) including mitigation at the project level which is tailored to the actual on-the-ground conditions (Phase I EA, page 95). Moreover, forest-wide monitoring will be done and the goshawk assessment is underway as part of the Phase II analysis effort (Phase I EA, Appendix F).

If new information indicates that the interim strategy is not rigorous enough, additional protection can be provided based on that newly discovered information rather than acting on the current lack of information and assuming a worst-case scenario at the planning stage. The Phase I Biological Evaluation concluded that these measures provide an adequate interim strategy without requiring a balance of structural stages across the ponderosa pine landscape (Phase I EA, Appendix G).

The selected alternative has a scientifically credible management strategy that reduces potential adverse impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant species to maintain viable populations on the Black Hills National Forest. It also minimizes the economic and social impact to the community. The information considered in reaching this decision is contained in the administrative record, including but not limited to the Phase I EA, the 1997 Revised Forest Plan, 1996 FEIS, scientific interviews, public comment, and applicable laws and regulations.

### **Comparison with other Alternatives**

Alternative 1: This alternative does not address the purpose and need for action. The Forest may not meet the regulatory requirements related to species viability and diversity identified in the National Forest Management Act, as noted in the 1999 Appeal Decision. This alternative would not apply interim measures to prospective activities, thus it is more likely that management options for protection of species may be foreclosed while the longer-term strategies are being developed in the Phase II analysis.

Alternatives 2 and 3: These alternatives meet the purpose and need for action. These alternatives respond to the need to assure that management options are not foreclosed while the longer-term strategies are being developed in the Phase II analysis, because they apply interim measures to prospective activities that pose adverse risks to sensitive species. Both Alternatives 2 and 3 would provide adequate protections for plant and wildlife species. Both alternatives would provide for species viability and not foreclose management options pending analysis and adoption of the more comprehensive Phase II amendment. Both would reasonably and adequately meet the Deputy Chief's interim direction and comply with the terms of the settlement agreement.

Alternatives 2 and 3 differ from each other most significantly in the application of a balance of structural stages for northern goshawk, and its prey species, in the ponderosa pine forested areas. Alternative 2 would apply a balance of structural stages within post-fledging family areas (approximately 600 acres including nesting sites). Alternative 3 would apply a balance of structural stages across the landscape. In addition, Alternative 3 and Alternative 2, as modified, incorporate measures to provide additional protection for a wider range of sensitive species than the unmodified Alternative 2. Alternative 2, as modified, would more fully meet the direction in NFMA and regulations to use the best available scientific information while meeting multiple use objectives identified in the 1997 Revised Forest Plan.

Alternative 3 could result in significant economic harm to communities as well as a loss of management flexibility and may restrict the ability of National Forest System lands to provide traditional amounts and kinds of good and services over the short term if timber volumes at the low end of the expected range were realized.

Risks to the northern goshawk under Alternative 2 would be reduced from those discussed for Alternative 1, and may be slightly more than those discussed for Alternative 3. Alternative 3 presents the most conservative approach to managing for goshawks and other species over the interim period; however, this may come at considerable social and economic costs.

### **Relationship to Jasper Fire Area Management**

Numerous comments were received from groups and individuals both on the Phase I EA and the Jasper Value Recovery Draft EIS who felt that Forest Plan direction for the Jasper Fire area must be changed immediately to reflect the changed conditions in the area since the fire occurred in August and September 2000. Some comments received noted that management direction for the area should be changed as part of the larger analysis of species viability and diversity on the Forest and prior to implementing any projects in the area such as salvage of burned timber. The Forest as well as many respondents are concerned with the loss of goshawk habitat from the fire.

I have carefully considered the data available on conditions in the Jasper Fire area. I acknowledge there may be cause to take another look at management direction for that area. The fire changed habitat conditions to a large degree over about 83,000 acres of the roughly 1.2 million acres, or some 7% of the National Forest System lands administered

by the Forest. After reviewing the information and analysis developed for that area during and since the fire, I have concluded there is no need to amend Forest Plan direction for this area immediately. My reasons for this conclusion are as follows:

The Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) team report issued September 8, 2000, found that the Jasper Fire, while burning at high intensity and consuming tree canopy over large areas, did not severely affect soil productivity throughout much of the fire area. The report documented little evidence of significant runoff in the area, and noted that the porous limestone substrate served as a recharge area for the underlying aquifer. The Jasper Rapid Assessment Team (JRAT) Report, issued in September 2000, found that some measures to retain the productivity of some burned sites may be needed prior to ground-disturbing actions, and prescribed specific recommendations (JRAT, Chapter 3, pages 60-62) to address these needs.

Both the BAER team report and the JRAT Report anticipated impacts to the fire area from the invasion of noxious weeds and recommended deferral of grazing activities for at least one year in the area to allow reestablishment of ground cover. Beyond these immediate concerns the JRAT Report described the loss of wildlife habitat for many species associated with live green forests. The report also described the expected use by a number of wildlife species as forage returned this spring and pioneering woodpecker species created primary cavities in the thousands of acres of burned snags.

Alternative 2, as modified, includes assuming presence and providing for presumed as well as known goshawk nesting habitat across the Forest. For the nests lost in the Jasper Fire, assuming presence in other areas of the Forest would benefit goshawks by providing, or maintaining, suitable nesting habitat where it exists (Phase I EA, page 129).

The Jasper Value Recovery Project Final EIS (April 2001) adopted many of the protective recommendations and prescribed others specific to conditions within the project area (FEIS, Chapter 2) for implementation of that proposal. On the basis of the analysis in that document, and that in the BAER and JRAT reports, I believe the current proposals and actions being taken within the fire area are appropriate and will not contribute to further environmental damage in that area. I believe the options available in the short term to restore damaged habitat conditions are limited, and those options will not be foreclosed by the current proposals and actions being taken there.

However, I also believe there may be a range of long-term management options that should be considered for the Jasper Fire area, some of which could change the existing management emphasis under the 1997 Revised Plan as amended by the current decision. Therefore I have concluded that it is appropriate to consider possible management changes in the upcoming Phase II analysis but that there is no compelling need to do so in this document. Nor is there reason to consider changes in management in any interim project document for proposals in that area, although the Forest may wish to do so based on workload and opportunities that present themselves.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Persons interested in the forest planning efforts on the Forest Plan mailing list were sent a newsletter in October 2000, informing them of the planned Phase I Amendment and the science interview process used to obtain additional information. A scoping package was sent to persons interested in forest planning efforts in late October 2000. Three open houses were held to inform and update the public on the Phase I Amendment process. A newsletter update was sent out in December 2000 to clarify and update information that was included in the scoping package and to allow additional time for comments. In total, 477 comment letters were received. The Phase I EA, Appendix D, lists individuals, groups and organizations contacted regarding the Phase I Amendment, a list of those that responded and the full list of comments received and how they were addressed in the Phase I EA.

Native American consultation was conducted for the Phase I Amendment through several meetings with Tribal Council Representatives, as well as through the newsletters and scoping letters.

## **CONFORMANCE WITH LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

This analysis and process conform with the legal requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The action was properly scoped, alternatives properly developed and analyzed, and environmental consequences appropriately described. The environmental effects have been appropriately disclosed in the Phase I EA.

I have determined that this proposed action, as amended by this decision, is consistent with the various requirements of the National Forest Management Act (1982 regulations at 36 CFR 219), including the requirements for species viability and diversity (See Phase I EA and Phase I Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation).

### **Executive Orders 11988 and 11990**

The Phase I Amendment is programmatic; subsequent site-specific analyses will disclose effects on floodplains or wetlands.

### **Endangered Species Act**

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service was consulted for the Phase I Amendment and concurred on April 18, 2001 with the Forest Service's determination in the Biological Assessment that the proposed action may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the American burying beetle or the bald eagle, and that the action as proposed will have no effect on the black-footed ferret (see Phase I EA, Appendix G).

### **National Historic Preservation Act**

The Forest will fulfill its obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for any undertaking implemented as a result of the Phase I Amendment. Heritage resource inventories will be conducted during site-specific project level

analyses. Sites determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places will be addressed with appropriate protection measures identified during project level analyses in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Offices, affected Tribes and any other interested parties.

### **NFMA Finding of Non-Significance for Amendment of Forest Plans**

Under NFMA, Land and Resource Management Plans (also known as Forest Plans) may be amended after final adoption and public notice. The NFMA implementing regulations at 36 CFR 219.10(f) state: "Based on an analysis of the objectives, guidelines, and other contents of the Forest Plan, the Forest Supervisor shall determine whether a proposed amendment would result in a significant change in the plan." Neither NFMA nor its implementing regulations define the term "significant." Instead, the regulations place full discretion to determine whether a proposed amendment will be significant in the hands of the Forest Service.

Under NFMA and its regulations, an amendment that does not result in a significant change in a Forest Plan must be undertaken with public notice and appropriate NEPA compliance. If a change to a Forest Plan is determined to be significant, the Regional Forester must follow the same procedure required for the development of the Forest Plan, including preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

The Land and Resource Management Planning Handbook (Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12) provides more detailed guidance for exercising this discretion. This guidance offers a framework for consideration but does not demand mechanical application. No one factor is determinative, and the guidelines make it clear that other factors may be considered. Section 5.32 of FSH 1909.12 lists four factors to be used when determining whether a proposed change to a Forest Plan is significant or not: 1) timing; 2) location and size; 3) goals, objectives and outputs; and 4) management prescriptions. It also states that "[o]ther factors may also be considered, depending on the circumstances."

The determination of whether a proposed change to a Forest Plan is significant depends on analysis of all of these factors. The decision-maker must consider the extent of the change in the context of the entire Plan affected, and make use of the factors in the exercise of his or her professional judgment. The Forest Service has carefully evaluated the proposed management direction and concluded that it does not constitute a significant amendment of the 1997 Revised Forest Plan. Additional information on significance determination can be found in the Phase I EA, Appendix B.

### **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Based on my review of the information and analysis in the Phase I Environmental Assessment and the project file, I have determined Alternative 2, as modified, identified in this decision notice is not a major federal action that would significantly affect the

quality of the human environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. This finding of no significant impact is based on the following:

**Context:** The significance of effects of implementing Alternative 2, as modified, has been analyzed in several contexts. Alternative 2, as modified, is consistent with the requirements of the 1997 Revised Forest Plan and contributes to meeting or exceeding the goals of the Plan. The effects are disclosed in the Phase I EA. Cumulative effects have been analyzed on the Planning Area (See Phase I EA, Chapter 3). Site-specific effects of proposals within project areas within the Planning Area will be disclosed in future project level analysis.

**Intensity:**

1) The Phase I Amendment direction would apply to ongoing domestic livestock grazing and new vegetative management projects proposed over the interim period. The forested acres affected by future timber harvest treatments or prescribed fire projects that would use the proposed the Phase I Amendment management direction in design and implementation would be a small subset of the forest total; less than 3% of the acres are treated annually with timber harvest or fuels activities across the national forest, and less than 15% is anticipated for treatment over the next five years. Resource effects would not be significant, given the short duration of the interim period. There are no significant impacts to land, air, or water resources. Any effects to these resources will be effectively mitigated. Environmental effects are presented in the Phase I EA throughout Chapter 3. Changes to direction found in the 1997 Revised Forest Plan are discussed in Chapter 2 and listed in Appendix E.

2) The Phase I Amendment would not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(2)). The Phase I Amendment does not, on its own, authorize any ground-disturbing activities or direct changes to the environmental status quo. Instead, it provides programmatic direction to be applied to site-specific projects and activities. The selected alternative does not have significant effects on human health and safety beyond those already documented in the FEIS for the 1997 Revised Forest Plan (see Chapter 3 of the Phase I EA). New project decisions will be preceded by site-specific NEPA analysis. Environmental effects of project implementation on some resources may be reduced from those discussed in the FEIS for the 1997 Revised Forest Plan due to increased protection measures included in the Phase I Amendment. These beneficial effects will not be significant due to the short time frame involved, the limited area affected, and the limited intensity of the beneficial effects.

3) The Phase I Amendment would not significantly affect any unique characteristics of the geographic area (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)). The Phase I Amendment direction does not affect known unique characteristics of the area. The Phase I Amendment would not affect prime farmlands, park lands, or wild or scenic rivers. Riparian areas would have increased protection to reduce potential adverse effects of project implementation to sensitive species in those areas. No adverse impacts are anticipated within floodplains or wetlands from implementation of this decision.

4) The Phase I Amendment does not involve physical or biological effects that are likely to be highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)). The scientific basis for the Phase I Amendment has been thoroughly evaluated (Phase I EA, Section 2-4 and Chapter 3). The environmental effects of the proposed activities are known and there is little controversy over those effects and the effects are disclosed in Chapter 3 of the Phase I EA. There may be controversy pertaining to the best approach to correct the deficiencies identified in the 1999 Appeal Decision to be addressed in the short-term, while the longer-term environmental analysis is completed. I believe the kinds of effects that are likely to occur are not controversial. (Disagreement over the decision itself does not constitute controversy for the purpose of determining significance under 40 CFR 1508.27.)

The Phase I Amendment does not involve social or economic effects that are likely to be highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)). Controversy in this context refers to cases where there is substantial dispute as to the size, nature, or effect of the Federal action, rather than to opposition to its adoption. Anticipated effects of this proposal have been estimated and are disclosed in the Phase I EA. Employment and Income, and potential Payments to Counties are discussed in Chapter 3 of the Phase I EA.

Some individuals who may be likely to experience adverse economic effects, however, have taken exception to the proposal. Others argued for more restrictive protective measures than the proposed action (Phase I EA, Appendix D, See especially Categories 10100, 10110, 10210). On the acres affected, the short-term nature of the effects is within allowed fluctuations in the ten-year planning period.

5) The Phase I Amendment would not impose any highly uncertain, unique, or unknown environmental risks (40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(5)). The best available scientific information provided the foundation for designing the Phase I Amendment direction (Phase I EA, p. 2-13). Measures similar to the ones described in Guideline 3114 in Appendix E are used for management of Northern goshawk in ponderosa pine forest in the Southwestern United States and in forests in Utah.

6) The Phase I Amendment does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects and does not represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(6)). The Phase I Amendment is a short-term effort to maintain management options while the Forest develops and evaluates longer-term direction under the Phase II effort. The Phase I Amendment will be applied during a limited period from two to five years from the date of the decision. The temporary nature of the Phase I Amendment will limit its effects (Phase I EA, p.1-3). The Phase I EA discloses the cumulative environmental effects in Chapter 3. The Phase II analysis may consider the information supporting the Phase I EA but will not be bound by it.

7) The Phase I Amendment is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(7)). All actions related to this proposal have been included as part of the proposed alternatives and their effects analyzed and disclosed. This includes past and present management actions, the effect of

the Settlement Agreement for Civil Action 99-N-2173, and the proposed value recovery effort for the Jasper fire area. Cumulative effects, including past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future activities, on both private and public lands, have been analyzed and disclosed.

8) The Phase I Amendment does not adversely affect anything listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, nor does it cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources (40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(8)). Heritage sites with archaeological and religious importance would be protected during implementation, after consultation with Tribes and other interested parties (see Phase I EA, Chapter 3).

9) The Phase I Amendment is not likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or habitat (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)). The United States Fish and Wildlife Service was consulted for the Phase I Amendment and concurred on April 18, 2001 with the Forest Service's determination in the Biological Assessment that the proposed action may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the American burying beetle or the bald eagle, and that the action as proposed will have no effect on the black-footed ferret (see Phase I EA, Appendix G).

10) The Phase I Amendment does not threaten a violation of Federal, State or local law or requirements for environmental protection (40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(10)). Management direction is to meet State Best Management Practices (see Phase I EA, Appendix E).

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW**

This decision is subject to appeal under 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 217. Any appeal of this decision must be fully constituent with 36 CFR 217.9, and be filed in duplicate with the: Chief, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, EMC 3 Central, Washington DC 20090-6090, ATTN: Barbara Timberlake.

The appeal must be filed within 45 days from the date this decision is published in the Denver Post (Denver, Colorado) a daily newspaper.

Any notice of appeal must include at a minimum:

1. Statement that the document is a Notice of Appeal filed pursuant to 36 CFR 217;
2. Name, address, and telephone number of the appellant;
3. Identification of the decision about which the requester objects;
4. Identification of the document in which the decision is contained by title and subject, date of the decision, and name and title of the Deciding Officer.
5. Identification of the specific portion of the decision or decision document to which the requester objects;
6. The reasons for objection, including issues of fact, law, regulation, or policy, and, if applicable, specifically how the decision violates law, regulation, or policy; and

7. Identification of the specific changes(s) in the decision that the appellant seeks.

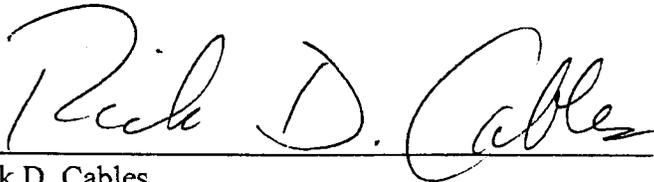
I encourage anyone concerned about the Phase I Amendment to the 1997 Revised Forest Plan to contact the Forest Supervisor at the address below before submitting an appeal. It may be possible to resolve your concern in a less formal way.

For questions concerning the Appeal process, contact: USDA Forest Service, Attn: Ecosystem Management Staff (Steve Segovia) P.O. Box 96090 Washington, DC 20090-6090, (202) 205-1066

For questions concerning the Phase I Amendment to the 1997 Revised Forest Plan, contact: John C. Twiss, Forest Supervisor, Black Hills National Forest, RR 2 Box 200, Custer, SD 57730 (605) 673-9200

A copy of the Phase I Environmental Assessment is available for public review at the Black Hills National Forest Supervisor's Office, RR 2, Box 200, Custer, SD 57730, and on the Black Hills National Forest website at: [www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills) under Forest Plan Amendment.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 217.10 implementation of this decision shall not occur for 7 calendar days following initial publication of the legal notice of decision.



Rick D. Cables  
Rocky Mountain Region  
Regional Forester

May 18, 2001  
Date

# **AMENDMENT ONE DECISION NOTICE APPENDIX**

## **Changes Made in this Decision**

This appendix contains changes to the June 24, 1997 Record of Decision for the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, Black Hills National Forest.

# 1997 REVISED FOREST PLAN:

## Chapter One: Goals and Objectives: CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS

### Original:

211. In conifer forested portions of a planning unit (diversity unit, watershed, or landtype association), maintain an average of 1.08 hard snags per acre, well dispersed across the conifer forested portion of the planning area through the rotation. Calculate as a per acre average for the planning unit; some acres may have no snags while others may exceed the average.

### Corrected:

**211. In Ponderosa pine forested portions of a watershed, maintain an average of 2 hard snags per acre on south facing slopes and 4 hard snags per acre on north facing slopes, well dispersed across the watershed through the rotation. Calculate as a per acre average for the watershed; some acres may have no snags while others may exceed the average. In other forest types maintain an average of 6 hard snags per acre, well dispersed across the watershed.**

### Reason for Change:

To reduce the risk of adverse impacts to snag dependent and associated species.

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### Original:

224. Reduce or otherwise treat fuels commensurate with risks (fire occurrence), hazard (fuel flammability), and land and resource values common to the area, using the criteria in Forestwide Standard 4110.

### Corrected:

**224. Reduce or otherwise treat fuels commensurate with risks (fire occurrence), hazard (fuel flammability), and land and resource values common to the area, using the criteria in Forestwide Guideline 4110.**

### Reason for Change:

See Chapter Two, page II-55 and II-56. 4110 is a guideline and this reference to it as a standard was in error.

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### Original:

309. Provide the following changes to the Forest Development Road system (FDR) in support of long-term sustainable production of commodities.

Road Construction	280 miles/decade
Road Reconstruction	870 miles/decade
Road Obliteration	140 miles/decade
Two-track Obliteration	270 miles/decade

Corrected:

**309. Provide the following changes to the National Forest System roads and two-track roads in support of long-term sustainable production of commodities.**

Road Construction	280 miles/decade
Road Reconstruction	870 miles/decade
Road Obliteration	140 miles/decade
Two-track Obliteration	270 miles/decade

Reason for Change:

Wording refers to Forest Development Road system and two-tracks are not a part of it. Also the Forest Development Transportation System Final Rule issued January 12, 2001 changes the wording Federal Development Road system (FDR) to National Forest System roads.

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Original:

416. Maintain and construct trails as displayed in the following table:

Non-motorized Trails (1996)	293 miles
Motorized Trails (1996)	14 miles
Non-motorized Trail Construction	204 miles
Motorized Trail Construction or Conversion from Road to Motorized Trail	15 miles
Total Forest Trail System	526 miles
Reconstruction	100 miles

Corrected:

**416. Maintain and construct trails as displayed in the following table:**

<b>Non-motorized Trails (1996)</b>	<b>293 miles</b>
<b>Motorized Trails (1996)</b>	<b>14 miles</b>
<b>Non-motorized Trail Construction</b>	<b>204 miles</b>
<b>Motorized Trail Construction or Conversion from Road to Motorized Trail</b>	<b>15 miles<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Total Forest Trail System</b>	<b>526 miles<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Reconstruction</b>	<b>100 miles<sup>1</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup>Per decade

<sup>2</sup>Total miles at end of decade

Reason for Change:

Add footnotes 1 and 2 for clarification.

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Corrected:

Numbering on pages I-29 through I-32.

Reason for Change:

Two pages were each numbered I-29 and I-30; second set should be pages I-31 and I-32.

## Chapter Two: Forestwide Standards and Guidelines:

### Corrections Or Additions

#### Original:

### CONFORMANCE WITH OTHER DIRECTION

Additional direction is contained in the Forest Service Manual and the Forest Service Handbook. A partial listing of some of the direction is contained in Appendix A and Appendix B. Additional direction is also provided in the following documents, which are hereby incorporated by reference into this Forest Plan.

- Best Management Practices for South Dakota (See Appendix D)
- Best Management Practices for Wyoming (See Appendix D)
- Best Minerals Management Practices
- Oil and Gas, Surface Operating Standards for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development (Gold Book)
- Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review 12/18/95
- A Desk Reference for NEPA Air Quality Analyses for USDA Forest Service 1995

#### Revised:

### CONFORMANCE WITH OTHER DIRECTION

Additional direction is contained in the Forest Service Manual and the Forest Service Handbook. A partial listing of some of the direction is contained in Appendix A and Appendix B. Additional direction is also provided in the following documents, which are hereby incorporated by reference into this Forest Plan.

- Best Management Practices for South Dakota (See Appendix D)
- Best Management Practices for Wyoming (See Appendix D)
- Best Minerals Management Practices
- Oil and Gas, Surface Operating Standards for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development (Gold Book)
- Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review 12/18/95
- A Desk Reference for NEPA Air Quality Analyses for USDA Forest Service 1995
- **WO Interim Direction included in the Decision for Appeals of Black Hills National Forest 1997 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, 10/12/99**

#### Reason for Change:

To include additional direction reference.

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**GUIDELINES TO BE TREATED AS STANDARDS:**

**Treat all environmentally protective guidelines relative to sensitive wildlife and plant populations and habitats as standards.**

**The following guidelines will be treated as standards:**

**1102 1104 1108 1110 1111 1115 1202 1204 1205 1208 1303  
1401 1506 1507 1508 1516 1518**

**2102 2107 2201 2202 2204 2206 2207 2208 2303 2304 2305  
2306 2307 2411 2501 2502 2504 2505 2506 2507 2508**

**3102 3104 3105 3106 3107 3110 3112 3113 3114 3203 3204  
3205 3208 3210 3211 3212**

**4102 4105 4106 4107 4111 4201 4206 4207 4302 4304 4305**

**5301 5404**

**8202 8303 8305 8308**

**9107 9108 9109 9201 9202 9204**

**1.1A-2102 1.1A-2103 1.1A-2502 1.1A-4103 1.1A-4301  
1.1A-5102 1.1A-5105 1.1A-9103 1.1A-9105**

**3.1-2502 3.1-9101 3.1-9102 3.1-9103**

**3.2A-2502**

**3.31-3202 3.31-5103 3.31-9102**

**3.32-3202 3.32-5102 3.32-9101**

**3.7-8501 3.7-9101 3.7-9102 3.7-9103 3.7-9104**

**4.1-3201 4.1-9102 4.1-9103**

**4.2A-9102**

**4.2B-5102**

**5.1-3201**

**5.1A-3201**

**5.2A-1201 5.2A-2501 5.2A-3201**

**5.4-1501 5.4-2101 5.4-2501 5.4-2502 5.4-3203  
5.4-5101 5.4-9101 5.4-9102 5.4-9103**

<b>5.4A-2503</b>	<b>5.4A-3202</b>	<b>5.4A-3205</b>	<b>5.4A-3206</b>	<b>5.4A-3207</b>
<b>5.4A-3208</b>	<b>5.4A-4201</b>	<b>5.4A-5101</b>	<b>5.4A-5102</b>	<b>5.4A-5104</b>
<b>5.4A-5105</b>	<b>5.4A-9101</b>	<b>5.4A-9104</b>	<b>5.4A-9107</b>	<b>5.4A-9108</b>
<b>5.43-3202</b>	<b>5.43-9101</b>	<b>5.43-9102</b>		
<b>5.6-3202</b>				
<b>8.2-3203</b>	<b>8.2-5103</b>	<b>8.2-9102</b>	<b>8.2-9103</b>	

The following pages include standards and guidelines that have been corrected and/or revised. The revised guidelines have been identified as environmentally protective and are to be treated as standards.

## Corrections or Additions to the Standards and Guidelines:

### Original:

**1203.** Design and construct all stream crossings and other instream structures to pass normal flows, withstand expected flood flows, and allow free movement of resident aquatic life. (Regional WCP Handbook Standard 4)

STANDARD

### Revised:

**1203. Design and construct all stream crossings and other instream structures to provide for passage of flow and sediment, withstand expected flood flows, and allow free movement of resident aquatic life.**

STANDARD

### Reason for Change:

Three of the 17 standards in the Watershed Conservation Practices (WCP) Handbook of USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region were revised in March 1999. These changes to the original wording are not substantive. They merely clarify the original intent of the standards as understood by line officers, staff officers, and resource professionals throughout the Region and as explained in the original design criteria for each standard.

---

### Original:

**1210.** Maintain enough water in perennial streams to sustain existing stream health. Return some water to dewatered perennial streams when needed and feasible. STANDARD (Regional WCP Handbook Standard 7)

STANDARD

### Revised:

**1210. Maintain enough water in perennial streams to sustain existing stream health. Return some water to dewatered perennial streams when needed. Comply with Section 505 of the FLPMA and 36 CFR 251.56 when issuing and re-issuing authorizations for water storage and diversion facilities. (Regional WCP Handbook Standard 7)**

STANDARD

### Reason for Change:

Clarify the legal requirements.

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### Original:

**1301.** In the water influence zone next to perennial and intermittent streams, lakes, and wetlands, allow only those land treatments that maintain or improve long-term stream health. (Regional WCP Handbook Standard 3)

STANDARD

### Revised:

**1301. In the water influence zone next to perennial and intermittent streams, lakes, and wetlands, allow only those actions that maintain or improve long-term stream health and riparian ecosystem condition.**

STANDARD

**Reason for Change:**

Three of the 17 standards in the Watershed Conservation Practices (WCP) Handbook of USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region were revised in March 1999. These changes to the original wording are not substantive. They merely clarify the original intent of the standards as understood by line officers, staff officers, and resource professionals throughout the Region and as explained in the original design criteria for each standard.

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**Original:**

**1302.** Do not degrade ground cover, soil structure, water budgets, or flow patterns in wetlands. (Regional WCP Handbook Standard 6)

STANDARD

**Revised:**

**1302. Maintain long-term ground cover, soil structure, water budgets, and flow patterns in wetlands to sustain their ecological function, per 404 regulations.**

STANDARD

**Reason for Change:**

Three of the 17 standards in the Watershed Conservation Practices (WCP) Handbook of USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region were revised in March 1999. These changes to the original wording are not substantive. They merely clarify the original intent of the standards as understood by line officers, staff officers, and resource professionals throughout the Region and as explained in the original design criteria for each standard.

---

**Original:**

1304. As opportunities arise, and need dictates, relocate or implement mitigation measures for roads, trails, watering tanks and similar facilities currently located within the Water Influence Zone.

STANDARD

**Revised:**

**1304. As opportunities arise, and need dictates, relocate or implement mitigation measures for roads, trails, watering tanks, ponds, water catchments, and similar facilities currently located within the Water Influence Zone.**

STANDARD

**Reason for Change:**

To reduce risk of adverse impacts to species associated with water influence zones, including fisheries resources.

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**Original:**

1401. For caves which have been determined significant, or which have not been evaluated for significance, manage to protect or enhance biological, cultural, ecological, hydrological and physical characteristics with the following actions:

- a. Avoid ground disturbance within 100 feet of an opening of a natural cave;
- b. Take measures to prevent human caused changes in cave ecosystem, water, sediment, nutrient, chemical, airflow, humidity, or temperature regimes;

c. Gating of caves will only be done where it is the only viable option to protect cave resources. If a gate is utilized, it will allow free passage of bats, small animals, air and water.

GUIDELINE

Revised:

**1401. For caves which have been determined significant, or which have not been evaluated for significance [as per 36 CFR 290.3 (c) or (d)], manage to protect or enhance biological, cultural, ecological, hydrological and physical characteristics with the following actions:**

- a. Avoid ground disturbance within 500 feet of an opening of a natural cave;**
- b. Take measures to prevent human caused changes in cave ecosystem, water, sediment, nutrient, chemical, airflow, humidity, or temperature regimes;**
- c. Gating of caves will only be done where it is the only viable option to protect cave resources. If a gate is utilized, it will allow free passage of bats, small animals, air and water.**

GUIDELINE

Reason for Change:

To increase avoidance zone from 100 feet to 500 feet in a. to reduce risks of adverse impacts to bat species using caves.

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Original:

1511. Recreational panning and sluicing shall be allowed outside of Wilderness where such activities do not interfere with the rights of mining claimants protected under the 1872 Mining Law. These activities shall be evaluated by the authorized Forest Service official on a case-by-case basis to determine if an operating plan is needed.

STANDARD

Revised:

**1511. Recreational panning and sluicing shall be allowed outside of Wilderness where such activities do not interfere with the rights of mining claimants protected under the 1872 Mining Law. These activities shall be evaluated by the authorized Forest Service official on a case-by-case basis following direction found at 36 CFR 228, Subpart A.**

STANDARD

Reason for Change:

Clarification referencing the legal authority.

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Original:

2102. The maximum size of openings created by the application of uneven-aged silviculture will be two acres regardless of forest cover type.

GUIDELINE

Revised:

**2102. The maximum width of openings created by the application of uneven-aged silviculture will be no greater than 1-2 tree heights regardless of forest cover type.**

GUIDELINE

**Reason for Change:**

Clarified direction for opening widths as referenced in Principles of Silviculture, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.

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**Original:**

2207. Locate livestock/wildlife water sites (i.e., drinking structures) outside of hardwood communities when feasible.

GUIDELINE

**Revised:**

**2207. Locate new livestock/wildlife water sites (i.e., drinking structures) outside of hardwood communities.**

GUIDELINE

**Reason for Change:**

To reduce the risk of adverse impacts on plant species associated with hardwood communities.

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**Original:**

**SUMMARY TABLE FOR STANDARDS 2301 AND 2308  
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR SNAGS AND WOODY DEBRIS RETENTION**

FOREST TYPE	HARD SNAGS (Standard 2301)			DOWNED LOGS (Standard 2308)	
	Minimum Diameter	Average per Acre <sup>1</sup>	Minimum Height	Minimum Diameter	Linear Feet per Acre <sup>1</sup>
Ponderosa Pine and White Spruce	10 inches	1.08	15 feet	10 inches	50 feet

<sup>1</sup>This does not mean that every acre will have a snag or downed log; these are averages across the planning unit.

2301. Design vegetative treatments to maintain an average of 1.08 hard snags per conifer forested acre in all planning units (diversity unit, watershed and/or land type association). (See Table above.)

STANDARD

Revised:

**2301.**

**SUMMARY TABLE FOR STANDARDS 2301 AND 2308**

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR SNAGS AND WOODY DEBRIS RETENTION**

FOREST TYPE	HARD SNAGS					DOWN WOODY MATERIAL	
	Minimum diameter	Average Per Acre On North And East Slopes <sup>1</sup>	Average Per Acre On South And West Slopes <sup>1</sup>	Average Per Acre <sup>1</sup>	Minimum Height	Minimum Diameter	Linear Feet per Acre <sup>1</sup>
Ponderosa Pine	>10 inch DBH, 25% > 20 inch DBH, or in largest size class available	4	2	~	25 feet, or largest size class available	10 inches	50 linear feet
White Spruce	>10 inch DBH or in largest size class available	~	~	6	15 feet	10 inches	8 logs, 10 feet each
						20 inches	2 logs, 10 feet each
Other Forest Types	>10 inch DBH or in largest size class available	~	~	6	15 feet	~	~

<sup>1</sup>This does not mean that every acre will have a snag or downed log; these are averages across the watershed.

**Reason for Change:**

To reduce the risk of adverse impacts to snag dependent and associated species.

**2301. Within the associated watershed, for each vegetation management project, retain the following minimum densities of hard snags (unless snags are a safety hazard) at least 25 feet in height:**

- a. Ponderosa Pine on north- or east-facing slopes or in protected areas which would have historically supported an infrequent, stand replacing fire regime: Retain an average of 4 snags per acre > 10" DBH (diameter at breast height), collectively 25% of which must be > 20" DBH. If 20" DBH or 25 feet high snags are not available, retain snags in the largest size class available.**
- b. Ponderosa Pine on south- or west-facing slopes or in exposed areas which would have historically supported a more frequent, lower intensity fire regime: Retain an average of 2 snags per acre > 10" DBH, collectively 25% of which must be > 20" DBH. If 20" DBH or 25 feet high snags are not available, retain snags in the largest size class available.**
- c. Retain a minimum average of 6 snags per acre > 10" DBH for forest types other than Ponderosa pine, unless snags are a safety hazard.**
- d. Snags chosen for retention should represent the largest diameter class available.**
- e. Provide large diameter trees and snags along habitat interface zones.**

**STANDARD**

**Reason for Change:**

To reduce the risk of adverse impacts to snag dependent and associated species, while acknowledging safety concerns.

**Original:**

2302. If a planning unit (diversity unit, watershed, and/or land type association) does not meet the minimum hard snag diversity requirement across the conifer forested portion, project implementation within the planning unit (planning unit, watershed, and/or land type association) will move hard snag densities toward this objective.

STANDARD

**Revised:**

**2302. In watersheds not meeting the minimum hard snag direction, all vegetation management projects will be designed to move hard snag densities toward this objective.**

STANDARD

**Reason for Change:**

To clarify direction and to change to a watershed.

---

**Original:**

2303. Snags can be clumped or individual, but should be well distributed throughout the planning unit.

GUIDELINE

**Revised:**

**2303. Snags can be clustered or individual, but must be well distributed within the watershed. Focus on opportunities for leaving snags in clumps rather than individually.**

GUIDELINE

**Reason for Change:**

To change area to a watershed.

---

**Original:**

2304. In planning units not meeting the snag objective, consider snag cutting restrictions and treating live replacement trees to create snags.

GUIDELINE

**Revised:**

**2304.**  
**a. Prohibit cutting of standing dead trees for fuelwood, except in designated areas.**  
**b. In areas where cutting restrictions are not effective, consider identifying roads to be closed or restricted from use to protect snags from removal.**

GUIDELINE

**Reason for Change:**

To reduce the risk of adverse impacts to snag dependent and associated species.

---

**Original:**

2306. When necessary provide live tree replacements to meet the minimum snag objective.

GUIDELINE

**Revised:**

**2306. During vegetation management activities in ponderosa pine, retain a sufficient number of green trees > 20" DBH or from the largest diameter class available, to move towards or maintain an average minimum density of one large green tree per acre within the associated watershed, for the purpose of recruitment of snags and large diameter down woody material.**

GUIDELINE

**Reason for Change:**

To reduce the risk of adverse impacts to snag dependent and associated species.

---

**Original:**

2308. Prescriptions shall be developed prior to timber harvest to identify the amount, size(s), and distribution of down logs to be left on-site. On conifer-forested sites (ponderosa pine and white spruce) retain an average of at least 50 linear feet per acre of coarse woody debris with a minimum diameter of 10 inches (where materials are available). (See Table with 2301.)

STANDARD

**Revised:**

**2308.**

**a. Prescriptions shall be developed prior to timber harvest to identify the amount, size(s), and distribution of down logs to be left on-site. On conifer-forested sites (ponderosa pine and white spruce) retain an average of at least 50 linear feet per acre of coarse woody debris with a minimum diameter of 10 inches (where materials are available). (See Table with 2301.)**

**b. Design vegetation management activities, including prescribed fire, to maintain ten sound logs per acre (eight logs minimum length 10 feet, 10 inches diameter; two logs minimum length 10 feet, 20 inches diameter) to provide future den sites, resting sites, and prey habitat within areas currently occupied by martens or with high potential for occupancy. (See Table with 2301.)**

STANDARD

**Reason for Change:**

To reduce the risk of adverse impacts to marten habitat.

---

**Original:**

3102. Where caves are important nurseries or hibernacula for sensitive bat species, protect the caves and their microclimates when designing management activities (e.g., timber harvest, road construction, recreation facilities).

GUIDELINE

**Revised:**

**3102. Where caves and mines are nurseries or hibernacula for bats, protect the caves and mines and their microclimates when designing management activities (e.g., timber harvest, road construction, recreation facilities).**

**Protect known bat day and night roosts.**

GUIDELINE

**Reason for Change:**

To reduce the risk of adverse impacts to bat habitat.

---

**Original:**

3103. For the snail "species of special concern," conserve habitat at colonies identified by Frest and Johannes in their 1993 report.

STANDARD

**Revised:**

**3103. Ensure that all identified colonies (as indicated in Frest 1993, and subsequent Frest report [expected in 2001]) of the following two regionally sensitive snail species: *Discus shimeki* (Pilsbry, 1890); *Oreohelix strigosa cooperi* (Binney, 1958); and the following five snail species: *Vertigo arthuri* (von Martens, 1882); *Vertigo paradoxa* (Sterki, 1900); *Catinella gelida* (Baker, 1927); *Oreohelix strigosa* n. subsp.; *Oreohelix strigosa berryi* (Pilsbry, 1915), are protected from adverse effects of livestock use and other management activities.**

STANDARD

**Reason for Change:**

To reduce the risk of adverse impacts to these snail species.

---

**Original:**

3104. Conserve habitat for sensitive plants and animals associated with moist soil conditions during development of springs or seeps as water facilities.

GUIDELINE

**Revised:**

**3104. Protect habitat for sensitive plants and animals associated with moist soil conditions. Do not develop springs or seeps as water facilities where sensitive species exist.**

GUIDELINE

**Reason for Change:**

To reduce the risk of adverse impacts to sensitive plants and animals.

---

**Original:**

3107. Consider the use of one, or a combination of the following protection measures, to protect sensitive plants or their habitat during and after trail, road and highway construction activities:

- a. To the extent possible avoid the following: disturbing locations with known populations of sensitive plant species; removing riparian or wetland vegetation; filling or dredging the riparian area or wetland; diverting stream flow from the current channel.
- b. Install silt fences above wet areas to 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 hydro mulch, jute

mesh, or a type of erosion control blanket on disturbed areas that are steep and/or adjacent to the riparian area.

d. If temporary stream diversions are necessary, determine the seasonal timing such that diversions would have the least potential to adversely affect sensitive plant populations.

GUIDELINE

Revised:

**3107. Consider the use of one, or a combination of the following protection measures, to protect sensitive plants or their habitat during and after trail, road and highway construction activities:**

**a. Avoid the following: disturbing locations with known populations of sensitive plant species; removing riparian or wetland vegetation; filling or dredging the riparian area or wetland; diverting stream flow from the current channel.**

**b. Install silt fences above wet areas to 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 hydro mulch, jute mesh, or a type of erosion control blanket on disturbed areas that are steep and/or adjacent to the riparian area.**

**d. If temporary stream diversions are necessary, determine the seasonal timing such that diversions would have the least potential to adversely affect sensitive plant populations.**

GUIDELINE

Reason for Change:

To clarify item a.

---

Original:

3108. Limit activities in at least three goshawk nest stands (approximately 30 acres each) in each historically active territory. Use historical nest stands as a first priority, and other structurally and compositionally appropriate stands as a second priority.

STANDARD

Revised:

**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. A goshawk nest survey must be conducted prior to any projects in forested areas.**

**b. If the project area includes a historically active nest or a replacement stand associated with a historically active territory, this acreage will be excluded from the project.**

**c. If a historically active territory occurs within one-half mile of the project area and protected acreage has not yet been identified, the project analysis will determine whether some of the protected acreage should occur within the project area.**

**d. If the pre-project survey identifies a previously unknown active nest, the project analysis will determine where protected acreage will be located.**

STANDARD

**Reason for Change:**

To reduce risk of adverse impacts to goshawks by protecting nesting habitat.

---

**Original:**

3109. Limit activities in at least three replacement nest stands in each goshawk territory that will be suitable when existing sites are no longer functional.

STANDARD

**Revised:**

**3109. In all cases, protected acreage will include 180 acres best suited for nesting habitat within one-half mile of the historically active or currently active nest or within the goshawk territory. The acreage need not be contiguous but must occur in 30-acre units or larger. If these conditions cannot be met, then the acreage will include stands that are not currently suitable but that could be managed to meet nesting conditions over time. Activities within these stands should be limited to those that aid in maintaining or enhancing the stand's value for goshawks.**

STANDARD

**Reason for Change:**

To reduce risk of adverse impacts to goshawks by protecting nesting habitat.

---

**Original:**

3111. Minimize human-caused disturbances (e.g., road traffic, construction activities) not present at nest initiation in active goshawk nest areas from March 1 through September 30.

STANDARD

**Revised:**

**3111. From March 1 through August 31, 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-fourth mile of all active goshawk nests.**

STANDARD

**Reason for Change:**

To clarify and adjust timeframe specific to the Black Hills National Forest.

---

**Original:**

3114. Treatments in goshawk fledgling habitat associated with active and alternate nests should be designed to enhance prey species habitat, structural, and compositional diversity.

GUIDELINE

**Revised:**

**3114. Design silvicultural prescriptions and manage activities to enhance prey species habitat by maintaining vegetative diversity and striving for a balance of structural stages, from stand initiation to late successional, within goshawk fledgling habitat (approximately 420 acres around each historically active goshawk nest and alternate nests).**

**Post-Fledging Family Area Balance of Structural Stages:**

Tree Size Class	Diameter range (inches)	Minimum canopy closure %	Percent of balance (range)
1, Grass/forb/shrub	0-1	None	10 (7-13)
2, Seedling/sapling	1-5	None	10 (7-13)
3, Young forest	5-9	None	20 (15-25)
4, Mid-aged forest	9-14	50	13 (8-18)
4, Mid-aged forest	9-14	60	7 (2-12)
5, Mature forest	14-20	50	20 (15-25)
6, Old forest	>= 20	50	20 (15-25)

**GUIDELINE**

**Reason for Change:**

To reduce risks of adverse impacts to goshawks and enhance habitat for goshawk prey species.

**New:**

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

**STANDARD**

**Reason for Addition:**

To reduce the risk of adverse impacts to red-bellied snakes and their habitat.

**New:**

**3117. Where timber harvest activities occur in stands adjacent to potential marten habitat (spruce sites or conifer sites with significant spruce component) maintain approximately 1 pile of woody material per 2 acres to create near-ground structure for marten prey species.**

**STANDARD**

**Reason for Addition:**

To reduce the risk of adverse impact to marten and provide marten prey species.

**New:**

**3118. Maintain existing black-tailed prairie dog populations on the forest.**

**STANDARD**

**Reason for Addition:**

To reduce the risk of adverse impacts to black-tailed prairie dog populations.

**Original:**

3201. Meet the following habitat capability when implementing projects:

- a. Habitat capability for species currently at or below 50 percent in the analysis area should not decrease more than 10 percent due to the project (i.e., a species at 40 percent should not decrease more than 4 percent);
- b. Habitat capability for species above 50 percent in the analysis area should not decrease to below 45 percent in the analysis area due to the project;
- c. Post-project habitat capability should increase for species selected to benefit from implementation;

GUIDELINE

Revised:

**DELETED**

~~**3201. Meet the following habitat capability when implementing projects:**~~

~~**a. Habitat capability for species currently at or below 50 percent in the analysis area should not decrease more than 10 percent due to the project (i.e., a species at 40 percent should not decrease more than 4 percent);**~~

~~**b. Habitat capability for species above 50 percent in the analysis area should not decrease to below 45 percent in the analysis area due to the project;**~~

~~**c. Post-project habitat capability should increase for species selected to benefit from implementation.**~~

GUIDELINE

Reason for Change:

This is replaced by the additional protective measures to reduce the risk of adverse impacts to species habitats. Wildlife biologists will evaluate species habitat needs/conditions.

---

Original:

3204. Protect active raptor nests. Consider potential effects of disturbance, nesting phenology, human activities existing at the onset of nest initiation, species, topography, forest cover, and other appropriate factors when designing protection.

GUIDELINE

Revised:

**3204. Protect known current and historic raptor nests (other than goshawks). Consider potential effects of disturbance, nesting phenology, human activities existing at onset of nest initiation, species, topography, forest cover, nest protection standards and recommendations used by state or federal agencies, and other appropriate factors when designing protection.**

GUIDELINE

Reason for Change:

To reduce the risks of adverse impacts to other raptors.

---

Original:

3207. Protect known bat nursery roosts and hibernacula during those critical periods.

STANDARD

Revised:

**3207. Protect known bat nursery roosts and hibernacula.**  
STANDARD

**Reason for Change:**

Clarify that it's to protect bat nursery roosts and hibernacula at all times.

---

**Original:**

3208. Use seasonal closures for known nursery roosts and hibernacula where there are conflicts with people. Work with interested groups to design closures and recreation opportunities that will not adversely impact bats during critical periods.

GUIDELINE

**Revised:**

**3208. Use seasonal closures for known nursery roosts and hibernacula where there are conflicts with people. Work with interested groups to design closures and recreation opportunities that will not adversely impact bats.**

GUIDELINE

**Reason for Change:**

To reduce the risks of adverse impacts to bats and their habitat.

---

**Original:**

3209. If it is necessary to close mines or caves that function as important bat habitat, closures shall be designed so that bat movement is not impeded.

STANDARD

**Revised:**

**3209. Evaluate abandoned mines for bat habitat potential prior to closure. If it is necessary to close mines or caves that function as bat habitat, closures shall be designed so that bat movement is not impeded.**

GUIDELINE

**Reason for Change:**

To reduce the risks of adverse impacts to bat species using abandoned mines.

---

**New:**

**3215.**

**Marten Habitat:**

Cover Type	Structural Stage	Additional Stand Characteristics
White Spruce	3B, 3C, 4B, 4C, 5	~
Ponderosa Pine	~	Adjacent to white spruce stands listed above. >=30% total basal area in white spruce. >=40% total canopy cover percent.

**Note:** The actual boundary of high potential habitat may not follow existing stand boundaries.

**3215. All vegetation management projects should be designed to prevent further decrease in patch size of late-successional forests within areas currently occupied by martens or with high potential for occupancy. Seek opportunities to increase connectivity of such areas. Maintain microclimate conditions within potential marten habitat (spruce sites or conifer sites with significant spruce component). In areas identified as important connectivity**

**corridors for marten, maintain canopy closure and density (e.g. do not thin).  
Avoid building roads in high potential marten habitat.**

**STANDARD**

**Reason for Addition:**

To reduce the risks of adverse impacts to marten habitat by maintaining patches of late-succession within areas currently occupied by martens or with high potential for occupancy.

---

**New:**

**3.1-2503. Protect sensitive plant populations in designated Botanical Areas from adverse impacts of domestic livestock grazing.**

**STANDARD**

**Reason for Addition:**

To clarify protection of sensitive plant populations within designated Botanical Areas as per the Deputy Chief's direction.

---

**Original:**

3.31-3202. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.

Elk Summer = 50 percent

Elk Winter = 45 percent

Deer Summer = 50 percent

Deer Winter = 45 percent

**GUIDELINE**

**Corrected:**

**3.31-3202. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Vegetative management projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.**

**Elk Summer = 40 percent**

**Elk Winter = 35 percent**

**Deer Summer = 37 percent**

**Deer Winter = 33 percent**

**GUIDELINE**

**Reason for Change:**

Correction to reflect corrected GIS HABCAP model outputs after program errors were discovered and corrected related to deer and elk cover and forage values.

---

**Original:**

3.32-3202. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.

Elk Summer = 50 percent

Elk Winter = 45 percent

Deer Summer = 50 percent

Deer Winter = 45 percent

GUIDELINE

**Corrected:**

**3.32-3202. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Vegetative management projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.**

**Elk Summer = 39 percent**

**Elk Winter = 36 percent**

**Deer Summer = 41 percent**

**Deer Winter = 35 percent**

GUIDELINE

**Reason for Change:**

Correction to reflect corrected GIS HABCAP model outputs after program errors were discovered and corrected related to deer and elk cover and forage values.

---

**Original:**

4.1-3201. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.

Elk Summer = 50 percent

Elk Winter = 45 percent

Deer Summer = 50 percent

Deer Winter = 45 percent

GUIDELINE

**Corrected:**

**4.1-3201. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Vegetative management projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.**

**Elk Summer = 39 percent**

**Elk Winter = 36 percent**

**Deer Summer = 41 percent**

**Deer Winter = 35 percent**

GUIDELINE

**Reason for Change:**

Correction to reflect corrected GIS HABCAP model outputs after program errors were discovered and corrected related to deer and elk cover and forage values.

---

**Original:**

5.1-3201. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.

Elk Summer = 50 percent

Elk Winter = 45 percent

Deer Summer = 50 percent

Deer Winter = 45 percent

GUIDELINE

**Corrected:**

**5.1-3201. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness values in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Vegetative management projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.**

**Elk Summer = 43 percent,**

**Elk Winter = 34 percent,**

**Deer Summer = 40 percent,**

**Deer Winter = 35 percent**

GUIDELINE

**Reason for Change:**

Correction to reflect corrected GIS HABCAP model outputs after program errors were discovered and corrected related to deer and elk cover and forage values.

---

**Original:**

5.1A-3201. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.

Elk Summer = 50 percent

Elk Winter = 45 percent

Deer Summer = 50 percent

Deer Winter = 50 percent

GUIDELINE

**Corrected:**

**5.1A-3201. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness values in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Vegetative management projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.**

**Elk Summer = 34 percent,**

**Elk Winter = 33 percent,**

**Deer Summer = 39 percent,**

**Deer Winter = 39 percent**

GUIDELINE

**Reason for Change:**

Correction to reflect corrected GIS HABCAP model outputs after program errors were discovered and corrected related to deer and elk cover and forage values.

---

**Original:**

5.2A-3201. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.

Elk Summer = 50 percent

Elk Winter = 45 percent

Deer Summer = 50 percent

Deer Winter = 45 percent

GUIDELINE

**Corrected:**

**5.2A-3201. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness values in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Vegetative management projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.**

**Elk Summer = 40 percent,**

**Elk Winter = 35 percent,**

**Deer Summer = 37 percent,**

**Deer Winter = 33 percent**

GUIDELINE

**Reason for Change:**

Correction to reflect corrected GIS HABCAP model outputs after program errors were discovered and corrected related to deer and elk cover and forage values.

---

**Original:**

5.4-3203. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.

Elk Summer = 60 percent

Elk Winter = 55 percent

Deer Summer = 55 percent

Deer Winter = 50 percent

GUIDELINE

**Corrected:**

**5.4-3203. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Vegetative management projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.**

**Elk Summer = 54 percent,**

**Elk Winter = 47 percent,**

**Deer Summer = 45 percent,**

**Deer Winter = 46 percent**

GUIDELINE

**Reason for Change:**

Correction to reflect corrected GIS HABCAP model outputs after program errors were discovered and corrected related to deer and elk cover and forage values.

---

**Original:**

5.4A-3201. Meet the following habitat capability when implementing projects:

- a. Maintain or increase habitat capability for species whose habitat capability is at or below 50 percent.
  - b. For species whose habitat capability is greater than 50 percent, do not decrease habitat capability by more than 20 percent as a result of the project.
  - c. Post-project habitat capability should increase for species selected to benefit from project implementation.
  - d. For aquatic habitat, this guideline should be implemented by stream reach.
- In assessing habitat capability, consider bird species listed especially for Norbeck Wildlife Preserve (Appendix L) in addition to other species. **GUIDELINE**

Revised:

**DELETED**

**~~5.4A-3201. Meet the following habitat capability when implementing projects:~~**

- ~~a. Maintain or increase habitat capability for species whose habitat capability is at or below 50 percent.~~**
  - ~~b. For species whose habitat capability is greater than 50 percent, do not decrease habitat capability by more than 20 percent as a result of the project.~~**
  - ~~c. Post-project habitat capability should increase for species selected to benefit from project implementation.~~**
  - ~~d. For aquatic habitat, this guideline should be implemented by stream reach.~~**
- ~~In assessing habitat capability, consider bird species listed especially for Norbeck Wildlife Preserve (Appendix L) in addition to other species.~~**

**GUIDELINE**

Reason for Change:

Replaced with additional habitat protection measures.

---

Original:

5.4A-3202. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.

Elk Summer = 65 percent

Elk Winter = 65 percent

Deer Summer = 60 percent

Deer Winter = 60 percent

**GUIDELINE**

Corrected:

**5.4A-3202. Deer & elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Vegetative management projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.**

**Elk Summer = 46 percent,**

**Elk Winter = 43 percent,**

**Deer Summer = 42 percent,**

**Deer Winter = 38 percent**

**GUIDELINE**

Reason for Change:

Correction to reflect corrected GIS HABCAP model outputs after program errors were discovered and corrected related to deer and elk cover and forage values.

---

**Original:**

5.4A-3203. Protect active goshawk nest sites by prohibiting timber harvest activities which were not occurring at nest initiation and by deferring treatment within the nest stand (approximately 30 acres each). In addition, prohibit road construction, skidding, and other timber harvest activities which were not occurring at nest initiation within one-fourth mile of the active nest site between March 1 and September 30.

STANDARD

**Revised:**

**5.4A-3203. Protect active goshawk nest sites by prohibiting timber harvest activities which were not occurring at nest initiation and by deferring treatment within the nest stand (approximately 30 acres each). In addition, prohibit road construction, skidding, and other timber harvest activities which were not occurring at nest initiation within one-fourth mile of the active nest site between March 1 and August 31.**

STANDARD

**Reason for Change:**

To adjust timeframes specific to the Black Hills National Forest.

---

**Original:**

5.43-3202. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.

Elk Summer = 55 percent

Elk Winter = 50 percent

Deer Summer = 60 percent

Deer Winter = 50 percent

GUIDELINE

**Corrected:**

**5.43-3202. Deer & elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Vegetative management projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.**

**Elk Summer = 46 percent,**

**Elk Winter = 43 percent,**

**Deer Summer = 42 percent,**

**Deer Winter = 38 percent**

GUIDELINE

**Reason for Change:**

Correction to reflect corrected GIS HABCAP model outputs after program errors were discovered and corrected related to deer and elk cover and forage values.

---

**Original:**

5.6-3202. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.

Elk Summer = 65 percent

Elk Winter = 55 percent  
Deer Summer = 60 percent  
Deer Winter = 50 percent

GUIDELINE

**Corrected:**

**5.6-3202. Deer & elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Vegetative management projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.**

**Elk Summer = 46 percent,  
Elk Winter = 43 percent,  
Deer Summer = 42 percent,  
Deer Winter = 38 percent**

GUIDELINE

**Reason for Change:**

Correction to reflect corrected GIS HABCAP model outputs after program errors were discovered and corrected related to deer and elk cover and forage values.

---

**Original:**

8.2-3203. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.

Elk Summer = 50 percent  
Elk Winter = 45 percent  
Deer Summer = 50 percent  
Deer Winter = 45 percent

GUIDELINE

**Corrected:**

**8.2-3203. Deer and elk habitat effectiveness in a planning unit should at least meet the following values. Vegetative management projects in planning units currently below these values should result in increased habitat effectiveness.**

**Elk Summer = 40 percent,  
Elk Winter = 35 percent,  
Deer Summer = 37 percent,  
Deer Winter = 33 percent**

GUIDELINE

**Reason for Change:**

Correction to reflect corrected GIS HABCAP model outputs after program errors were discovered and corrected related to deer and elk cover and forage values.

---

**New:**

**8.2-9106. No new developments, including road and trail construction, in the Cascade Creek/Spring area. See map next page - T. 8 S., R. 5 E., Sec. 20, SE ¼ SW 1/4**

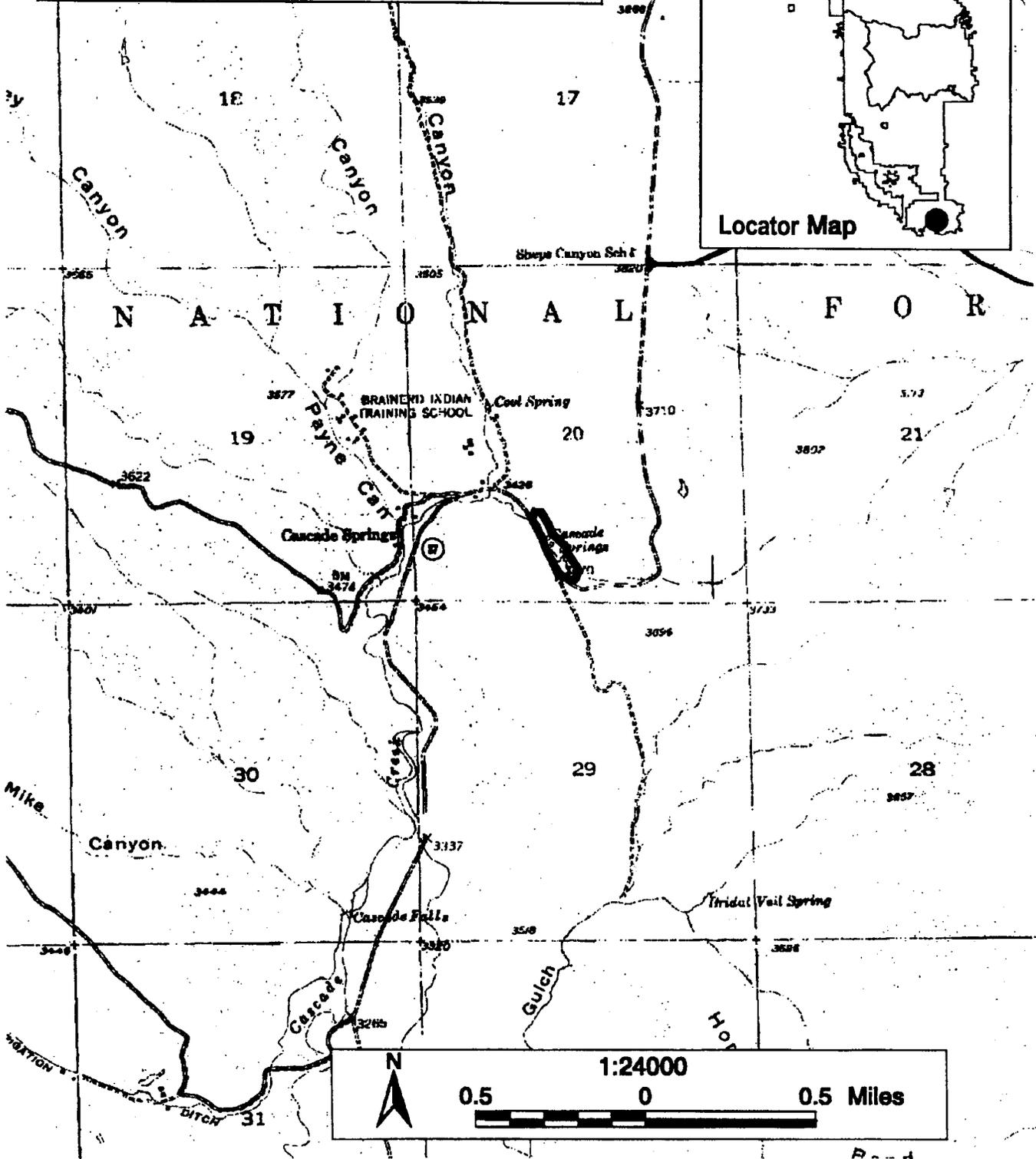
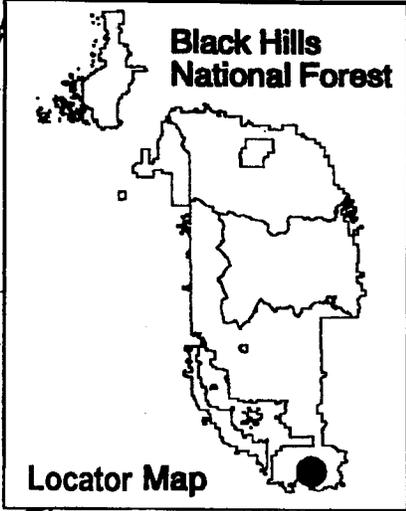
STANDARD

**Reason for Addition:**

To reduce the risk of adverse impacts to sensitive plants.

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Standard 8.2-9106  
**Cascade Springs**  
 T8S R5E S20 SE1/4, SW1/4



**Changes to page II-42 pertaining to Management Indicator Species (MIS):**

**Original:**

**Species of Special Interest**

- White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)
- Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*)
- Elk (*Cervus elaphus*)
- Merriam's Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo merriami*)
- Mountain Goat (*Oreamnos americanus*)
- Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*)
- Mountain Lion (*Felis concolor*)
- Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)

**Revised:**

**Species of Special Interest**

- **White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)**
- **Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*)**
- **Elk (*Cervus elaphus*)**
- **Merriam's Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo merriami*)**
- **Mountain Goat (*Oreamnos americanus*)**
- **Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*)**
- **Mountain Lion (*Felis concolor*)**
- **Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)**
- **Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*)**
- **Finescale dace (*Phoxinus neogaeus*)**
- **Lake chub (*Couesius plumbeus*)**
- **Mountain sucker (*Castostomus platyrhynchus*)**

**Reason for Change:**

Black bear is removed from the list due to lack of confirmed breeding population in the Black Hills, and addition of five aquatic management indicator species.

## **Record Of Decision: Corrections Or Additions**

### **Original:**

Page ROD-52:

#### **Reasons for My Decision**

In accordance with 36 CFR 219.20, I have determined that 1,073,598 acres are suitable for grazing and browsing. I have considered physical, biological, environmental and economic factors, as well as other mutually exclusive uses in this determination, and the FEIS shows that this level of grazing is compatible with other multiple uses.

### **Corrected:**

#### **Reasons for My Decision**

**In accordance with 36 CFR 219.20, I have determined that 1,037,598 acres are suitable for grazing and browsing. I have considered physical, biological, environmental and economic factors, as well as other mutually exclusive uses in this determination, and the FEIS shows that this level of grazing is compatible with other multiple uses.**

### **Reason for Change:**

Typing error - number of acres.

---

### **Original:**

Page ROD-52:

#### **2. Sand Creek**

The Sand Creek Area is approximately 14 miles east of Sundance, Wyoming. It is essentially unroaded and because of topography, the area is considerably isolated from the sights and sounds of humans. It is part of a larger area which was inventoried as roadless and released from Wilderness consideration in the 1984 Wyoming Wilderness Act. Approximately 9,900 of the original 12,400 acres remain undeveloped and essentially unroaded.

In the Revised Plan, a portion of the area is available for scheduled timber harvest. The balance is managed in a largely unroaded condition for late successional forest or botanical conditions. The area is one of the few intact late successional landscapes in the Black Hills. Relatively denser tree canopy conditions in this part of the Forest were documented as early as 1898. In addition, the portion to be managed as a Botanical Area has one of the largest concentrations of rare plants in the northern Black Hills.

Table ROD-6 shows the applicable management areas.

**Table ROD-6. Management areas for Sand Creek.**

<b>Management Area</b>	<b>Acres</b>
3.7 - Late Successional Forest Landscape	4,864
4.1 - Limited Motorized Use and Forest Product Emphasis	3,163
3.1 - Botanical Area	1,043
5.1 - Resource Production Emphasis	878

**Corrected:**

**2. Sand Creek**

**The Sand Creek Area is approximately 14 miles east of Sundance, Wyoming. It is essentially unroaded and because of topography, the area is considerably isolated from the sights and sounds of humans. It is part of a larger area which was inventoried as roadless and released from Wilderness consideration in the 1984 Wyoming Wilderness Act. Approximately 7,700 of the original 12,400 acres remain undeveloped and essentially unroaded.**

**In the Revised Plan, a portion of the area is available for scheduled timber harvest. The balance is managed in a largely unroaded condition for late successional forest or botanical conditions. The area is one of the few intact late successional landscapes in the Black Hills. Relatively denser tree canopy conditions in this part of the Forest were documented as early as 1898. In addition, the portion to be managed as a Botanical Area has one of the largest concentrations of rare plants in the northern Black Hills. Table ROD-6 shows the applicable management areas.**

**Table ROD-6. Management areas for Sand Creek.**

<b>Management Area</b>	<b>Acres</b>
3.7 - Late Successional Forest Landscape	5,154
4.1 - Limited Motorized Use and Forest Product Emphasis	1,315
3.1 - Botanical Area	1,042
5.1 - Resource Production Emphasis	141
5.4 - Big Game Winter Range Emphasis	46
5.6 - Forest Products, Recreation and Big Game Emphasis	1

**Reason for Change:**

Mapping error. Original acreage was calculated in GIS using incorrect coverage. The map in the Final Environmental Impact Statement Appendices on page C-22 depicts the correct area, and the above 'corrected' displays the acreage for this mapped area.

---

## Chapter Four Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy

### Changes to Monitoring Precision:

#### Original:

##### MONITORING ITEMS

The following table illustrates how each program is monitored using different approaches, from reports to data base screening to sampling. Further details about units of measure, indicators, sample designs, precision and reliability are provided in the Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Guide.

ACTIVITY OR RESOURCE	ITEM	REFERENCE	LEVEL <sup>1</sup>	APPROACH <sup>2</sup>	P/R <sup>3</sup>	FREQ <sup>4</sup>
SENSITIVE SPECIES	Sensitive Species (Plant and Animal)	Objective 221	1,2,3	Sample; RIS, GIS, Habitat Capability Models, Research	B	3

<sup>1</sup>Regionwide Level (1); Ecological Province and Section Level (2); Local or Project Level (3)

<sup>2</sup>Techniques used to collect and store monitoring information.

<sup>3</sup>Precision/Reliability

<sup>4</sup>Frequency of Reporting in Years

#### Revised:

##### MONITORING ITEMS

The following table illustrates how each program is monitored using different approaches, from reports to database screening to sampling. Further details about units of measure, indicators, sample designs, precision and reliability are provided in the Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Guide.

ACTIVITY OR RESOURCE	ITEM	REFERENCE	LEVEL <sup>1</sup>	APPROACH <sup>2</sup>	P/R <sup>3</sup>	FREQ <sup>4</sup>
SENSITIVE SPECIES	Sensitive Species (Plant and Animal)	Objective 221	1,2,3	Sample; RIS, GIS, Habitat Capability Models, Research	A	3

<sup>1</sup>Regionwide Level (1); Ecological Province and Section Level (2); Local or Project Level (3)

<sup>2</sup>Techniques used to collect and store monitoring information.

<sup>3</sup>Precision/Reliability

<sup>4</sup>Frequency of Reporting in Years

#### Reason for Change:

Increase precision of monitoring.

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## Glossary:

### Additions:

#### **Proper functioning condition (PFC)**

The minimum standard for assessing the condition of riparian-wetland areas. PFC is a qualitative method based on quantitative science and can be used for determining and prioritizing the type and location of quantitative inventory or monitoring desired to meet specific objectives.

#### **Microclimate**

The climate conditions within a small or local habitat that is well defined. The climate of a small, specific place within an area as contrasted with the climate of the entire area. For example, the microclimate of a riparian area is different from that of the surrounding coniferous forest because of increased humidity, a higher rate of transpiration, more shade, and increased air movement.

#### **Mesic**

Having, characterized by, or adapted to a moderate or a well-balanced supply of moisture; "mesic habitats" are forest that is more moist and cool. Mesic habitats are usually located along drainages, at the base of slopes, or on northerly exposures. [ant: xeric, hydric]

#### **Vegetation Structural Stages**

A generalized description of forest growth and aging stages based on the majority of the trees in the specific diameter distributions of the stand. For the goshawk balance of structural stages for the Phase I Amendment, six growth and aging stages were identified. As an example, if the majority of the stems of a stand (based on basal areas) were in the 9-14 inch diameter class, the stand would be classified as a structural stage 4 (adapted from Reynolds, et.al. 1992, p. 90).

The diameter range and description for the balance of structural stages are:

Stage	DBH range (inches)	Description
1	0-1	Grass/forb/shrub
2	1-5	Seedling/sapling
3	5-9	Young forest
4	9-14	Mid-aged forest
5	14-20	Mature forest
6	20+	Old forest

The following tables show how the vegetation structural stage classes correspond to Region 2's structural stage classes.

**Post-Fledging Family Area Balance of Structural Stages:**

Vegetation Structural Stages Adapted to the Black Hills				
Tree Size Class	Diameter range (inches)	Minimum canopy closure %	Percent of balance (range)	Correlation to Region 2 Structural Stage**
1 grass/forb/shrub	0-1	None	10 (7-13)	1, 2
2 seedling/sapling	1-5	None	10 (7-13)	3A, 3B, 3C (in part)
3 young forest	5-9	None	20 (15-25)	3A, 3B, 3C (in part)
4 mid-aged forest	9-14	50	13 (8-18)	4B (in part) and 4C
4 mid-aged forest	9-14	60	7 (2-12)	4B (in part) and 4C
5 mature forest	14-20	50	20 (15-25)	4B (in part) and 4C
6 old forest	>= 20	50	20 (15-25)	4B (in part) and 4C

\*\* The Region 2 Structural Stages are provided for comparison purposes only. The percent of balance and canopy closure requirements apply to tree size classes only, not to the Region 2 structural stages. Region 2 structural stage 5 is not shown, as it is not a calculated value in Resource Information System (RIS).

**Foraging Area Balance of Structural Stages**

Vegetation Structural Stages Adapted to the Black Hills				
Tree Size Class	Diameter range (inches)	Minimum Canopy Closure %	Percent of balance (range)	Correlation to Region 2 Structural Stage**
1 grass/forb/shrub	0-1	None	10 (7-13)	1,2
2 seedling/sapling	1-5	None	10 (7-13)	3A, 3B, 3C (in part)
3 young forest	5-9	None	20 (15-25)	3A, 3B, 3C (in part)
4 mid-aged forest	9-14	40	20 (15-25)	4B, 4C
5 mature forest	14-20	40	20 (15-25)	4B, 4C
6 old forest	>= 20	40	20 (15-25)	4B, 4C

\*\* The Region 2 Structural Stages are provided for comparison purposes only. The percent of balance and canopy closure requirements apply to tree size classes only, not to the Region 2 structural stages. Region 2 structural stage 5 is not shown, as it is not a calculated value in Resource Information System (RIS).

Original:

## Appendix L: Supplemental Species Information

### BLACK HILLS THREATENED, ENDANGERED OR SENSITIVE SPECIES

Following is a list of federally listed threatened, endangered and proposed species, and sensitive species designated by the regional forester, found currently or historically in the Black Hills.

#### **Sensitive Species - Wildlife**

Marten (*Martes americana*)

Lynx (*Felis lynx*)

Dwarf Shrew (*Sorex nanus*)

Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*)

Northern Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*)

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*)

Cooper's Rocky Mountain Snail (*Oreohelix strigosa cooperi*)

Cockerell's Striate Disc (*Discus shimeki cockerellii*)

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)

Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*)

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*)

Olive-Sided Flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*)

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Lewis' Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*)

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*)

Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*)

Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*)

Tawny Crescent Butterfly (*Phycoides batesii*)

Swift Fox (*Vulpes velox*)

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*)

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

Regal Fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*)

Black Hills Red-bellied Snake (*Storeria occipitomaculata pahasapae*)

Milk Snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*)

Fringed-tailed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes pahasapensis*)

Townsend's Big-eared Bat (*Plecotus townsendii*)

Spotted Bat (*Euderma maculatum*)

Revised:

## Appendix L: Supplemental Species Information

### BLACK HILLS THREATENED, ENDANGERED OR SENSITIVE SPECIES

Following is a list of federally listed threatened, endangered and proposed species, and sensitive species designated by the regional forester, found currently or historically in the Black Hills.

#### **Sensitive Species - Wildlife**

**Marten (*Martes americana*)**  
**Lynx (~~*Felis lynx*~~)**  
**Dwarf Shrew (*Sorex nanus*)**  
**Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*)**  
**Northern Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*)**  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*)**  
**Cooper's Rocky Mountain Snail (*Oreohelix strigosa cooperi*)**  
**Cockerell's Striate Disc (*Discus shimeki cockerellii*)**  
**Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)**  
**Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)**  
**Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*)**  
**Purple Martin (*Progne subis*)**  
**Olive-Sided Flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*)**  
**Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)**  
**Lewis' Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*)**  
**Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*)**  
**Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*)**  
**Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*)**  
**Tawny Crescent Butterfly (*Phycoides batesii*)**  
**Swift Fox (*Vulpes velox*)**  
**Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*)**  
**Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)**  
**Regal Fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*)**  
**Black Hills Red-bellied Snake (*Storeria occipitomaculata pahasapae*)**  
**Milk Snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*)**  
**Fringed-tailed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes pahasapensis*)**  
**Townsend's Big-eared Bat (*Plecotus townsendii*)**  
**Spotted Bat (*Euderma maculatum*)**  
**Black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*)**

#### **Reason for Change:**

The Black Hills is not included in the range of lynx . The black-tailed prairie dog was recently added to the Region 2 list of sensitive species.

# Final Environmental Impact Statement: Appendices:

## Corrections Or Additions:

### Original:

Page C-9, acreage for Sand Creek, Alternative G:

SAND CREEK		
ALTERNATIVE	MANAGEMENT AREA	ACRES
A	5.1 Resource Production Emphasis	9,948
B	5.1 Resource Production Emphasis	9,948
C	1.2 Areas Recommended For Wilderness	9,948
D	3.1 Botanical Areas	1,043
	3.7 Late Successional Forest Landscapes	6,219
	5.1 Resource Production Emphasis	1,418
	5.4 Big Game Winter Range Emphasis	1,268
G	3.1 Botanical Areas	1,043
	3.7 Late Successional Forest Landscapes	4,864
	4.1 Limited Motorized Use & Forest Product Emphasis	3,163
	5.1 Resource Production Emphasis	878
H	3.1 Botanical Areas	1,156
	3.7 Late Successional Forest Landscapes	2,358
	5.1 Resource Production Emphasis	1,800
	5.4 Big Game Winter Range Emphasis	4,634
I	1.2 Areas Recommended For Wilderness	9,938
	1.42 Core Restoration	10
J	5.1 Resource Production Emphasis	3,201
	5.4 Big Game Winter Range Emphasis	6,747
X	5.1 Resource Production Emphasis	9,948

### Revised:

SAND CREEK		
ALTERNATIVE	MANAGEMENT AREA	ACRES
A	5.1 Resource Production Emphasis	9,948
B	5.1 Resource Production Emphasis	9,948
C	1.2 Areas Recommended For Wilderness	9,948
D	3.1 Botanical Areas	1,043
	3.7 Late Successional Forest Landscapes	6,219
	5.1 Resource Production Emphasis	1,418
	5.4 Big Game Winter Range Emphasis	1,268
G	3.1 Botanical Areas	1,042
	3.7 Late Successional Forest Landscapes	5,154
	4.1 Limited Motorized Use & Forest Product Emphasis	1,315
	5.1 Resource Production Emphasis	141
	5.4 Big Game Winter Range	46
5.6 Forest Products, Recreation and Big Game Emphasis		1
H	3.1 Botanical Areas	1,156
	3.7 Late Successional Forest Landscapes	2,358
	5.1 Resource Production Emphasis	1,800
	5.4 Big Game Winter Range Emphasis	4,634
I	1.2 Areas Recommended For Wilderness	9,938
	1.42 Core Restoration	10
J	5.1 Resource Production Emphasis	3,201
	5.4 Big Game Winter Range Emphasis	6,747
X	5.1 Resource Production Emphasis	9,948

**Reason for Change:**

Mapping error. Original acreage was calculated in GIS using incorrect coverage. The map in the Final Environmental Impact Statement Appendices on page C-22 depicts the correct area, and the above 'corrected' displays the acreage for this mapped area.

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