

7. Design and build structures such as fences, roads, and canals, so they do not create unnecessary or unreasonable barriers, disruptions, or hazards to wildlife, and to minimize habitat fragmentation.
8. Protect habitat integrity and minimize effects to wildlife when developing “Watchable Wildlife” opportunities.
9. When considering vegetation management activities, maintain two to six turkey-roost sites per section in ponderosa pine communities occupied by turkeys. Sites should contain mature trees with an average diameter (dbh) of 10-14 inches, widely spaced horizontal branches, and basal areas at least 90 square feet per acre. Sites should be at least one-quarter acre in size. Provide sites on the upper third of east facing slopes if available. In areas dominated by ponderosa pine that provide habitat for turkeys, consider published management guidelines (e.g., Hoffman 1993) for turkeys when planning vegetation management projects.
10. Avoid the use of highly toxic organophosphate and carbamate insecticides in sage grouse summer use habitats. Consult published management guidelines (e.g., Connelly et al. 2001, Wyoming Sage Grouse Conservation Plan) when considering management activities in potential sage grouse summer habitat.
11. Consult state and regional Partners In Flight (PIF) Bird Conservation Plans for additional guidance on habitat management for land birds that occur on the Forest, and consider PIF guidelines in design of proposed management actions.
12. Conduct habitat monitoring and implement corrective actions in areas where combined livestock and wildlife grazing are exceeding forage utilization standards in conjunction with Wyoming Game and Fish and livestock permittees.
13. Control undesirable non-native wildlife species in conjunction with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and other public and private cooperators. Desirable non-native species include moose, gray partridge, chukar, and turkeys.
14. When designing communication sites, reduce potential for avian mortality by minimizing the need for lighted structures.

Disturbance Processes

Fire

- Guidelines 1. Apply an appropriate management response¹² (suppression or fire use) to all ignitions, according to the Forest Fire Management Plan and the Appropriate Management Response (AMR) map in Appendix A of the Revised Plan. Refer to the following table for tactical options and prescribed fire direction.

Table 1-12. Fire management direction for the Bighorn National Forest.

Management Area	Unplanned Ignitions Wildland Fire Must be managed as unwanted wildland fires if human-caused, if approved fire use plan does not exist, or when fire presents unacceptable threat to human safety or values to be protected.		Planned ignitions May be implemented by mgmt action authorized by approved plans
	Tactical Options		Prescribed fire
	Mechanized Equipment	Aerial Retardant Application	
1.11, 1.13	X ^{13 a}	X	
1.2	X ^{13 b}	X	X
1.31	X ¹⁴	X	X
1.32, 1.33	X ¹⁴	X	X
1.5	X ¹⁵	X	X
MW	X ¹⁶	X	X
2.2	X ¹⁴	X	X
3.31	X	X	X

¹² Appropriate Management Response – The response to a wildland fire is based on an evaluation of risks to firefighter and public safety, the circumstances under which the fire occurs, including weather and fuel conditions, natural and cultural resource management objectives, protection priorities and the values to be protected. (Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, January 2001)

^{13 a} Dozers are prohibited except with Regional Forester approval. Use of helicopters, motorized equipment, and mechanical transport is prohibited except with Forest Supervisor approval.

^{13 b} Dozers and engines are prohibited except with Forest Supervisor approval. Chainsaws, ATVs, and pumps are allowed without Forest Supervisor approval.

¹⁴ Dozers are prohibited except with Forest Supervisor approval. Chainsaws, engines, ATVs and pumps are allowed without Forest Supervisor approval.

¹⁵ Dozers and motorized vehicles are prohibited except with Forest Supervisor approval. The prohibition of dozers and motorized vehicles does not apply in T58N, R89W, Sections 19 and 30 in the Little Bighorn River. Chainsaws and pumps are allowed without Forest Supervisor approval.

¹⁶ Subject to consultation with appropriate parties and/or Historic Preservation Plan (HPP).

Management Area	Unplanned Ignitions Wildland Fire Must be managed as unwanted wildland fires if human-caused, if approved fire use plan does not exist, or when fire presents unacceptable threat to human safety or values to be protected.		Planned ignitions May be implemented by mgmt action authorized by approved plans
	Tactical Options		Prescribed fire
	Mechanized Equipment	Aerial Retardant Application	
3.4	X ¹⁴	X	X
3.5	X	X	X
4.2	X	X	X
4.3	X	X	X
4.4	X	X	X
5.11, 5.12, 5.13, 5.4, 5.5	X	X	X
5.41	X	X	X
8.22	X	X	X

X – allowed
 XL – allowed with line officer approval for specific incident.

2. In areas where wildland fire use is the AMR, as designated on the on the AMR map, use natural ignitions to accomplish resource management objectives.
3. Reduce the threat of wildfire to public and private developments by following guidelines in the National Fire Protection Association Publication 1144, *Standards for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire*.
4. Reduce activity fuels resulting from all projects/activities to acceptable levels in a cost effective manner.
5. Avoid aerial application of retardant in wetlands and riparian areas unless necessitated by human safety or property loss considerations.

Insects and Disease

- Guidelines
1. Use integrated pest management techniques, including silviculture treatments, to meet management area objectives. Base treatment activities on values of, and risks to, wildlife and rare plant habitat and adjacent private lands, as well as public land. Give priority to areas in which values to be protected exceed the cost of protection; for example, areas adjacent to subdivisions, metropolitan areas, recreation sites, or areas of concentrated public use.
 2. Consider existing and potential infestation sources in the proximity of the area to be protected where insect and disease disturbances are to be restricted.
 3. Apply eradication or suppression methods for gypsy moth, when needed, as determined by surveys, and in accordance with the integrated pest management approach (USDA Forest Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service FEIS. 1996. *Gypsy Moth Management in the U.S.*).

Non-native and Invasive Species

- Standards
1. Determine the risk of noxious weed introduction or spread and implement appropriate mitigation measures for all proposed projects or activities. Use the *USFS Guide to Weed Prevention Practices* (2001).
 2. Use only certified "noxious weed free" hay or straw for feed.
 3. Use only certified "noxious weed free" seed, mulch, and straw for revegetation and erosion control projects.
 4. Manage invasive plant species using integrated management techniques, including mechanical, chemical, prescribed fire, and biological control methods.
 5. Include provisions that are necessary to prevent the spread of noxious weeds in contracts and permits for use of NFS lands and resources.