

File Code: 1920-2

Date: August 25, 2009

Hello:

The Gallatin National Forest is seeking public comment on a proposal to amend the Forest's 1987 Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) to remove or modify 58 goals and standards. The direction proposed for amendment is identified on the attachment to this letter along with the specific reasons for the change. In general, the primary reason for this proposed amendment is to remove or correct outdated, ineffective or unnecessary direction from the Gallatin Forest Plan, given that full revision of the Plan is unlikely until the year 2014 or later.

This proposed amendment is being prepared in accordance with the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (RPA) as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA) and the implementing regulations at 36 CFR 219 (2000/1982). This direction is the basis for National Forest land and resource management planning and is what guided the preparation of the Gallatin Forest Plan in 1987. It also contains provisions for amending and revising Forest Plans. The Gallatin National Forest does not expect to revise the Forest Plan for the next several years and because the Plan is now 22 years old, some of the provisions are outdated or are otherwise in need of correction. The proposed amendment is only designed to make the needed corrections and is not an attempt to change the underlying substance of the 1987 Forest Plan. The amendment will not eliminate the need to revisit various resource planning issues during the revision process.

The Responsible Official for this decision will be the Gallatin Forest Supervisor.

Providing Comments

Comments will be accepted until October 9, 2009. To be most helpful, comments should be substantive and specific to the individual proposals being considered for amendment. They should include: (1) name, address, telephone number, and organization represented, if any; (2) title of the action (i.e. "Gallatin Clean-up Amendment"); (3) specific facts and supporting reasons for me to consider; and (4) signatures.

Written comments should be sent to:

Gallatin National Forest
Attn: Steve Christiansen
P.O. Box 130
Bozeman, MT 59771

Electronic comments can be e-mailed to: r1_gallatin_comments@fs.fed.us. Enter the phrase "Clean-up Amendment" in the subject line. Comments may also be faxed to (406) 587-6758. If you have questions please contact Steve Christiansen at (406) 587-6750.



Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary C. Erickson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "M" and "E".

MARY C. ERICKSON
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

Proposed Gallatin Forest Plan Clean-up Amendment

Item #	Forest Plan Page #	Existing Forest Plan Direction	Proposed Amendment	Rationale
1	II-1	<p>6. Maintain and enhance fish habitat to provide for an increased fish population.</p> <p>7. Provide habitat for viable populations of all indigenous wildlife species and for increasing populations of big game animals.</p>	<p>Replace goal 6 with the following: "Manage and restore aquatic habitats to sustain aquatic fully functioning ecological systems and native species diversity, as determined by the suitability and capability of those ecosystems, and to meet aquatic management goals of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, other agencies and partners where applicable, and State water quality standards."</p> <p>Replace goal 7 with the following: "Habitat for big game will be managed to help meet management goals of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP)."</p>	<p>In reference to changing goal 6 even pristine habitats have a limit to the number of organisms they can support, and circumstances also exist under which habitat conditions may be excellent but yet organism populations are limited by other factors such as disease or genetic conditions. However, populations and other desirable aquatic values can reach their highest level if ecosystems are fully functioning.</p> <p>In reference to changing goal 7, when the Forest Plan was written and signed, many big game herds had not reached full capacity for their hunting districts. At this time, many big game populations are abundant, and the State has set population goals for these areas, so it is more appropriate to refer to MFWP goals.</p>

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2	II-16	2. Environmental analysis and project designs will detail how the range of visual quality objectives (VQO) identified for each Management Area in Chapter III will be utilized. If the VQO cannot be met the Forest Supervisor must approve the exemption in the decision notice.	This standard would be modified to show that it applies to projects and not the landscape. Rewrite the standard to say: "Environmental analysis and project designs for landscape altering activities will be evaluated to determine if it is compatible with the assigned VQO. Landscape altering projects shall meet the assigned VQO, or in situations where the existing situation does not meet the VQO, shall not further degrade the visual condition."	The current standard has been interpreted to apply to the landscape and not the proposed project. Therefore, in areas where past actions have created conditions not consistent with the assigned VQO, a site-specific amendment has been necessary for proposed projects that have no effect or even a beneficial effect on visual quality. The proposed amendment would make the standard applicable only to the effects of a proposed project.
3	II-18	3. Big game winter range will be managed to meet the forage and cover needs of deer, elk, moose, and other big game species in coordination with other uses. Habitat for deer and elk will be managed to provide for slight increases in populations.	Reword this standard to say "Big game winter range will be managed to meet habitat needs of big game species in coordination with other uses."	We are not really trying to provide slight increases in populations because many MFWP herd goals are no longer for herd increases, and there are numerous big game species on the Forest.

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4	II-18	5. Maintain at least two thirds of the hiding cover associated with key habitat components over time. Subsequent timber sale activity will be allowed after regeneration provides hiding cover. Key habitat components are important features for wildlife. They include moist areas (wallows, etc.); foraging areas (meadows and parks); critical hiding cover (see Glossary in Chapter VI for definition); thermal cover; migration routes and staging areas. These areas will be mapped on a site-by-site basis during project area analysis.	Reword this standard as follows: "Vegetation management activities shall be designed to maintain at least two thirds of the existing hiding cover for elk within an appropriate analysis area. In addition, consider key habitat components (e.g. moist areas, thermal cover, foraging areas, migration routes, and staging areas), and protect the integrity of these features through project design and/or mitigation."	Elk is the Forest Plan management indicator species and was the intended focus of this standard. It clarifies confusing language such as maintaining hiding cover around hiding cover. It gets rid of the procedural direction to map which may or may not be necessary. Procedural direction is not considered appropriate in a Forest Plan.
5	II-18	6. Allotment management plans will coordinate livestock grazing use with big game habitat needs.	Reword as "Allotment management plans will coordinate livestock grazing use with fish and wildlife habitat needs."	It is more appropriate for allotment management plans to coordinate grazing use with all fish and wildlife habitat needs rather than only focusing on big game.
6	II-18	7. Standards for snag management and for dead and down woody material will be utilized. These standards are detailed in Appendix A-1.	Rewrite this to refer to Forest Plan Amendment 15. i.e. "Standards for snag management and for dead and down woody material will be utilized. These standards are detailed in Gallatin Forest Plan Amendment 15."	Snag management direction was amended in 1993 and Appendix A within the Plan document is therefore no longer applicable.
7	II-18	9. Habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds will be maintained and improved through coordination of land use activities and direct habitat improvements.	Reword this standard as "Habitat for birds, reptiles and amphibians will be maintained or enhanced through coordination of land use activities."	This standard focuses on riparian habitats therefore it should be broadened to encompass other riparian dependent species.

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8	II-18	10. Habitat component mapping and analysis will be applied to the management of important wildlife concentration areas such as the Bridger deer range, North Yellowstone elk range, Upper Gallatin elk range, Sheep-Mile big game range, and the Porcupine-Buffalo Horn and Cabin Creek areas.	Delete this standard.	Specific procedural direction is proposed to be removed from the Forest Plan because preferred analysis procedures change over time. Also provisions for key habitats are addressed in Standards #5 and #8 (FP, p. II-18). Lastly biological analyses of habitat are not confined to big game range.
9	II-18	12. Habitat that is essential for species identified in the Sensitive Species list developed for the Northern Region will be managed to maintain these species. These species include: Trumpeter Swan, Westslope and Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout, Western Big Eared Bat, Spotted Bat, Ferruginous Hawk, Harlequin Duck, Boreal Owl, and Common Loon.	Reword as "Habitat that is essential for species identified in the sensitive species list developed for the Gallatin National Forest by the Regional Forester will be managed to maintain these species."	Delete listing of individual species because these change periodically, and several of these species are no longer on our sensitive species list while others have been added.

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10	II-18	<p>13. 'Indicator species,' which have been identified as species groups whose habitat is most likely to be affected by Forest management activities, will be monitored to determine population change.</p> <p><u>SPECIES</u></p> <p>Grizzly Bear Bald Eagle Elk Wild Trout Goshawk</p> <p><u>INDICATIVE OF</u></p> <p>threatened species endangered species Big game species Coldwater fisheries Old growth dependent species, dry Douglas fir sites. Old growth dependent species, moist spruce sites.</p>	<p>13. 'Indicator species,' which have been identified as species groups whose habitat is most likely to be affected by Forest management activities, will be monitored to determine population change.</p> <p><u>SPECIES</u></p> <p>Grizzly Bear Bald Eagle Elk</p> <p><u>INDICATIVE OF</u></p> <p>Sensitive species Sensitive species Big game species Coldwater fisheries Old growth related species, dry Douglas fir sites. Old growth related species, moist spruce sites.</p>	<p>This proposal corrects wording as follows. Due to delistings under ESA, the grizzly bear and bald eagle are now "sensitive" versus "threatened" and "endangered" species. The word "dependent" for goshawk and marten should be replaced with the word "related" as this is more biologically accurate. The word "Pine" should be added in front of "Marten" as the correct name for the species.</p>
11	II-19	<p>1. A biological evaluation will be completed prior to implementation of activities that have potential to threaten and endangered species. Formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be completed if a "may affect is determined.</p>	<p>1. A biological assessment will be completed prior to implementation of activities that have potential to affect threatened and endangered species. Formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be completed if a "may affect, likely to adversely affect" determination is made.</p>	<p>Although this standard is redundant to Endangered Species Act (ESA) requirements, we're simply proposing to correct terminology at this time. A "biological assessment" is the appropriate document to prepare to address the requirements of ESA. A "biological evaluation" is used for Forest Service sensitive species. Also, it clarifies that formal consultation occurs when the determination is "likely to adversely affect."</p>

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12	II-19	2. The grizzly bear standards and guidelines (Appendix G) will be followed in maintaining and improving habitat, minimizing human/grizzly bear conflict potential, and in guiding resource management activities.	Clarify that the standards and guidelines of Appendix G no longer apply.	There was an amendment to the Forest Plan, The Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation in the GYA' (2007), i.e. Amendment 27, which replaced the original grizzly bear direction in the Forest Plan. In other words, the original direction is no longer applicable as per the NEPA analysis and decision that has been completed for Amendment 27.
13	II-19	3. General management direction for bald eagle habitat is provided in "A Bald Eagle Management Plan for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem."	Delete this standard.	This species is no longer listed under the Endangered Species Act and has become a sensitive species on the Forest. As a sensitive species, it will be managed under Wildlife and Fish Standard #12 (see item #9 above). Also, there is additional direction that applies to management of bald eagle such as the National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines (2007) and Montana Bald Eagle Management Plan Update (1994). Since direction changes periodically it is most appropriate that the Forest Plan not include requirements to follow specific plans.
14	II-19	4. Re-establishment programs for threatened and endangered species will be evaluated and coordinated with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and where applicable, Yellowstone National Park.	Reword this standard to say: "Re-establishment programs for threatened and endangered species will be evaluated and coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and where applicable, Yellowstone National Park."	It is more appropriate to list the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service first since they are the agency, through the Secretary of the Interior, responsible for determining endangered and threatened species and implementing and enforcing other provisions of the Endangered Species Act.
15	II-19	5. When the Greater Yellowstone Area Grizzly Bear Cumulative Effects Analysis Process becomes operational, it will be used as one of many tools to quantify habitat effectiveness and mortality risk forecasting for current and future foreseeable land use activities in designated bear management units on the Forest. (See Planning Records).	Clarify that this standard no longer applies.	There was an amendment to the Forest Plan, The Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation in the GYA' (2007), i.e. Amendment 27, which replaced the original grizzly bear direction in the Forest Plan. In other words, the original direction is no longer applicable as per the NEPA analysis and decision that has been completed for Amendment 27.

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16	II-19	6. The peregrine falcon reintroduction program will be continued with the cooperating agencies and private organizations.	Delete this standard.	Peregrine falcon is now a recovered and delisted species. The population is growing and therefore there is no need for a reintroduction program. It is now a sensitive species and is covered under Wildlife and Fish Standard #12 (see item #9 above).														
17	II-20	2. In order to achieve size and age diversity of vegetation, the Forest will strive to develop the following successional stages in timber compartments containing suitable timber: <table border="1" data-bbox="695 520 984 821"> <thead> <tr> <th>Successional Stage</th> <th>Minimum % of Area</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Grass-forb</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seedlings</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saplings</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pole</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mature</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Old Growth</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Successional Stage	Minimum % of Area	Grass-forb	10	Seedlings	10	Saplings	10	Pole	10	Mature	10	Old Growth	10	Replace this standard as follows: "Use fire and other management tools to help achieve vegetative size and age class diversity. To achieve this vegetative diversity, strive to maintain a minimum 10% old growth forest on lands classified as forested at the appropriate landscape scale. Old Growth Forest: Forested stands that generally originated at least over 120 years ago (depending on the forest type and location). See: Green, P. et al, April, 1992. Old Growth Forest Types of the Northern Region. USDA, Forest Service, Northern Region, Missoula MT."	The original intent of this standard was to provide a diverse landscape. This standard is actually physically impossible to impose on a landscape due to succession occurring quickly in the younger age classes. It would lead to frequent harvest to retain the younger age classes. The vegetation of most concern for adequate representation is old growth. Also, the scale of the timber compartment may not necessarily be a good scale upon which to measure this standard. The scale will be determined and discussed in the environment analyses for vegetation projects
Successional Stage	Minimum % of Area																	
Grass-forb	10																	
Seedlings	10																	
Saplings	10																	
Pole	10																	
Mature	10																	
Old Growth	10																	
18	II-20	4. Domestic sheep will not be reintroduced to vacant allotments in grizzly bear MS-1 areas.	Clarify that this standard no longer applies.	There was an amendment to the Forest Plan, The Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation in the GYA' (2007), i.e. Amendment 27, which replaced the original grizzly bear direction in the Forest Plan. In other words, the original direction is no longer applicable as per the NEPA analysis and decision that has been completed for Amendment 27.														
19	II-21	3. Standing snags will be provided for dependent wildlife species. (See Appendix A-1 for more specific direction.)	Rewrite this standard as follows: "3. Standing snags will be provided for dependent wildlife species. (See Forest Plan Amendment 15 for more specific direction.)"	The Forest Plan was amended in 1993 by Amendment No. 15 on Snag Management Direction. This replaced Appendix A-1 direction for snags and down woody debris.														

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20	II-21	4. Suitable habitat will be provided for wildlife species dependent on dead and down woody debris. (See Appendix A-1 for more specific direction.)	Rewrite this standard as follows: "4. Suitable habitat will be provided for wildlife species dependent on dead and down woody debris. (See Forest Plan Amendment 15 for more specific direction.)"	The Forest Plan was amended in 1993 by Amendment No. 15 on Snag Management Direction. This replaced Appendix A-1 direction for snags and down woody debris.
21	II-23	1. "Existing wild stands may be harvested or thinned for posts, poles, or other unregulated products in all management areas where timber product removal is allowed."	Change this standard to read: "Existing unmanaged stands may be harvested or thinned for ... products <i>only where consistent with Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction (Amendment #46)</i> "	The existing Forest Plan standard is not consistent with direction in the Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction FEIS (aka Lynx Amendment) regarding thinning in snowshoe hare habitat.
22	II-23	The Forest will cooperate with the Montana Air Quality Bureau in the State Implementation Plan (SIP). The requirements of the SIP and Montana Smoke Management Plan will be met.	Change "Air Quality Bureau" to "Montana Department of Environmental Quality."	This corrects the name of the agency responsible for air quality.
23	II-23	2. Best management practices (BMPs) will be used on all Forest watersheds in the planning and implementation of project activities (see Appendix C and Planning Records – "Watershed Management Guidelines for the Gallatin National Forest").	Change this standard as follows: "Current" best management practices (BMPs) will be used on all Forest watersheds in the planning and implementation of project activities.	Applicable BMPs have and do change over time. The current standard locks us into a BMP list that is now 20 years old and out of date. By adding the word "current" BMPs and deleting the reference to App. C, the proposal will only require that current BMPs be used.

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24	II-24	10. In municipal watersheds, such as Bozeman, Hyalite, and Lyman Creek drainages, all project activities will be implemented to ensure State water quality standards are met. Coordination with City of Bozeman officials and the State Water Quality Bureau will be done throughout the project planning process.	Change "Water Quality Bureau" to "Montana Department of Environmental Quality."	This corrects the name of the agency responsible for water quality.
25	II-25	1. Landownership adjustments will be considered only where analysis indicates a change is needed to respond to major public issues, management concerns, or National Forest management objectives.	Rewrite this standard as follows: "Landownership adjustments will be considered to respond to major public issues, management concerns, or National Forest management objectives."	The phrase in the current standard "only where analysis indicates a change is needed" is unnecessary. It implies that some process must be gone through to determine if an adjustment in landownership is "responsive" to major public issues, etc. There is no such specified process.
26	II-25	2. The current pattern of intermingled ownership will generally be continued. An exception to this is the proposed exchange of Gallatin National Forest lands for Burlington Northern Railroad lands located in the Porcupine and South Cottonwood drainages of the Gallatin Range.	Delete this standard.	This statement was made in the Forest Plan as a prediction of what was likely to occur in lands management over the planning period. In reality there have been more opportunities to consolidate land ownership than was anticipated. Therefore the management concept for this standard is outdated. Landownership adjustments are also adequately addressed by the standard identified in Item 25 above.

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27	II-27	<p>Special Use Applications will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The principle criteria used to evaluate special use applications will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applications for uses that conform to the Forest Plan may be granted. 2. Applications for private use of National Forest land will not be granted if location and development of non-National Forest land is reasonably possible. 3. Special-use authorizations that primarily afford the applicant a lower cost or less restrictive location or merely accommodate the applicant's wishes will not be granted. 4. Preference will be given to special-use applications that offer service or benefit to the public over single-purpose or private uses. 5. Applications for utility corridors will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The FEIS, Chapter IV, discusses a process used to evaluate potential corridors. 	<p>Replace this standard with only the following statement:</p> <p>“Special Use proposals will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Preference will be given to special-use proposals that offer service or benefit to the public over single-purpose or private uses.”</p>	<p>Changing the word “applications” in the standard to “proposals”, matches today’s terminology. The remainder of the current direction is already in the Forest Service Manual and Handbook and therefore is not needed in the Forest Plan.</p>

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28	MA1 III-2	"These areas include all developed campgrounds, picnic areas, boat ramps, and visitor information sites plus potential developed sites."	Add "recreation residence tracts" and "rental cabins" to this statement and modify it so as not to exclude any developed sites. Word it as follows: "These areas include all developed recreation sites such as: campgrounds, picnic areas, boat ramps, visitor information sites, recreation residences, recreation rental cabins plus potential developed sites."	This simply corrects what likely was an oversight in the Forest Plan. Recreation residence tracts are appropriate for MA 1 designation.
29	MA1 III-2 MA2 III-4 MA5 III-14	Manage developed sites in occupied grizzly bear habitat to minimize the potential for human/grizzly bear confrontation. Follow the standards set out in the grizzly bear guidelines (Appendix G).	Clarify that this standard no longer applies.	There was an amendment to the Forest Plan, The Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation in the GYA' (2007), i.e. Amendment 27, which replaced the original grizzly bear direction in the Forest Plan. In other words, the original direction is no longer applicable as per the NEPA analysis and decision that has been completed for Amendment 27.
30	III-3 III-16 III-36 III-39 III-46 III-53 III-58 III-61	<p>Schedule of Management Practices WLDLIFE</p> <p>Habitat Improvement</p> <p>1st decade – XX structures or acres</p> <p>2nd decade – XX structures or acres</p>	Delete this section of the schedule of management practices.	Since the Forest Plan is now over 20 years old, management practices for the 1 st and 2 nd decade are no longer relevant.
	III-16 III-43 III-49 III-58 III-61	T&E Habitat Improvement		

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31	MA4 III-10	These areas include the Gallatin National Forest portions of the Absaroka-Beartooth and the Lee Metcalf Wildernesses, plus the Lionhead and Republic Mountain recommended Wildernesses. Occupied grizzly bear habitat is present in much of the area.	Replace the last sentence with "Grizzly bears inhabit these areas."	When the Forest Plan was written, "occupied" grizzly bear habitat was synonymous with the Recovery Zone. As the grizzly bear population has expanded well outside of the Recovery Zone (now Primary Conservation Area or PCA), the original meaning of the term "occupied" has become outdated. We now would rather state that grizzly bears inhabit areas of the Forest, and can be found almost anywhere south of I-90 on the Forest.
32	MA4 III-10	MA Goal #3. Manage activities within grizzly bear habitat for the recovery of the grizzly bear.	Rewrite this goal as follows: "Manage activities within grizzly bear habitat for the continued recovery of the grizzly bear."	The grizzly bear in the Greater Yellowstone Area was determined to be recovered and was delisted in 2007.
33	MA4 III-11	Application of management standards in Appendix G within occupied grizzly bear habitat must be consistent with Forest Service Wilderness policy.	Clarify that this standard no longer applies.	There was an amendment to the Forest Plan, The Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation in the GYA' (2007), i.e. Amendment 27, which replaced the original grizzly bear direction in the Forest Plan. In other words, the original direction is no longer applicable as per the NEPA analysis and decision that has been completed for Amendment 27.
34	MA4 III-11 MA5 III-15	Grazing use within occupied grizzly bear habitat will be guided by the directions in the grizzly bear guidelines (Appendix G)	Replace with "Grazing use on the Forest where grizzly bears occur will be guided by Amendment 27."	There was an amendment to the Forest Plan, The Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation in the GYA' (2007), i.e. Amendment 27, which replaced the original grizzly bear direction in the Forest Plan. In other words, the original direction is no longer applicable as per the NEPA analysis and decision that has been completed for Amendment 27.
35	MA7 III-20	In occupied grizzly bear habitat, utilize the guidelines (Appendix G) for maintenance and enhancement of natural food sources and security cover.	Clarify that this standard no longer applies.	There was an amendment to the Forest Plan, The Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation in the GYA' (2007), i.e. Amendment 27, which replaced the original grizzly bear direction in the Forest Plan. In other words, the original direction is no longer applicable as per the NEPA analysis and decision that has been completed for Amendment 27.

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36	MA7 III-20	"Maintain and enhance traditional bald eagle feeding areas."	Change this standard to read: "Maintain and enhance bald eagle foraging areas around known nest sites"	Bald eagles have been de-listed and are now managed as Forest Service sensitive species. The word "traditional" is overbroad; known feeding areas are primarily associated with occupied nest sites. Protective measures around nest locations are compatible with National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines (USFWS, 2007).
37	MA11 III-33	"Management goals for MA 11 are: 1. Maintain elk habitat effectiveness following timber harvest."	Reword as "Maintain elk habitat quality following timber harvest."	The phrase "elk habitat effectiveness" relates back to a Forest Plan standard for elk that specified maintaining an elk effective cover rating of .70 (Forest Plan, page II-18). This standard was amended from the Forest Plan through the Record of Decision for the Forest Travel Plan (12/2006) and is no longer applicable.
38	MA11 III-33	Resource area analysis will identify vegetative characteristics and habitat effectiveness for featured species.	Delete this standard.	Resource area analysis is an outdated practice and the Forest Plan should not include procedural direction. Also, "habitat effectiveness" refers to a standard that has been removed from the Forest Plan (see rationale for item 37 above).
39	MA13 III-40	This management area consists of forested, occupied grizzly bear habitat. The productive Forest lands are available for timber harvest provided grizzly bear habitat objectives are met.	Delete the word "occupied" from the first sentence.	When the Forest Plan was written, "occupied" grizzly bear habitat was synonymous with the Recovery Zone. As the grizzly bear population has expanded well outside of the Recovery Zone (now Primary Conservation Area or PCA), the original meaning of the term "occupied" has become outdated. It is preferable to recognize that grizzly bears inhabit areas of the Forest, and can be found almost anywhere south of I-90.
40	MA13 III-40	1. Manage vegetation to provide habitat necessary to recover the grizzly bear.	Restate as "Manage vegetation to provide habitat necessary for the continued recovery of the grizzly bear."	The grizzly bear has been delisted from the Endangered Species Act and is now recovered.
41	MA13 III-40	2. Meet grizzly bear mortality reduction goals as established by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee.	Clarify that this goal no longer applies.	There was an amendment to the Forest Plan, The Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation in the GYA' (2007), i.e. Amendment 27, which replaced the original grizzly bear direction in the Forest Plan. In other words, the original direction is no longer applicable as per the NEPA analysis and decision that has been completed for Amendment 27.

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42	MA13 III-40	Resource area analysis will identify vegetative characteristic and habitat effectiveness for the grizzly bear.	Delete this standard.	Resource area analysis is an outdated practice and the Forest Plan should not include procedural direction. Amendment 27 now provides applicable management direction for the grizzly bear.
43	III-41 III-45 III-48 III-57	The cumulative effects analysis process and grizzly bear guidelines (Appendix G) will provide the basis for managing other resource uses.	Clarify that this standard no longer applies.	There was an amendment to the Forest Plan, The Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation in the GYA' (2007), i.e. Amendment 27, which replaced the original grizzly bear direction in the Forest Plan. In other words, the original direction is no longer applicable as per the NEPA analysis and decision that has been completed for Amendment 27.
44	MA13 III-41	As site specific timber sales are scheduled and designed, the criteria developed in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and found in Appendix H: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Biological Opinion, will be used. Informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on these criteria will occur before any site specific project is implemented.	Clarify that this standard no longer applies.	There was an amendment to the Forest Plan, The Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation in the GYA' (2007), i.e. Amendment 27, which replaced the original grizzly bear direction in the Forest Plan. In other words, the original direction is no longer applicable as per the NEPA analysis and decision that has been completed for Amendment 27.
45	MA14 III-44	These areas consist of big game winter ranges located in either open grasslands or a mosaic of grasslands and forested habitats. They are located within occupied grizzly bear habitat.	Delete the word "occupied" from the second sentence.	When the Forest Plan was written, "occupied" grizzly bear habitat was synonymous with the Recovery Zone. As the grizzly bear population has expanded well outside of the Recovery Zone (now Primary Conservation Area or PCA), the original meaning of the term "occupied" has become outdated. It is preferable to recognize that grizzly bears inhabit areas of the Forest, and can be found almost anywhere south of I-90.
46	MA14 III-44	"Management goals for MA 14 are: 2. Meet grizzly bear mortality reduction goals as established by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee."	Clarify that this MA 14 goal no longer applies.	There was an amendment to the Forest Plan, The Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation in the GYA' (2007), i.e. Amendment 27, which replaced the original grizzly bear direction in the Forest Plan. In other words, the original direction is no longer applicable as per the NEPA analysis and decision that has been completed for Amendment 27.

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47	MA14 III-44	Motorized vehicle use will not be permitted during the period December 1 through May 1, except on designated routes.	Delete this standard.	The Gallatin National Forest Travel Management Plan Record of Decision (10/2006) identifies the motorized use restrictions that apply to the road and trail system and therefore this standard is no longer relevant.
48	MA14 (III-45) MA15 (III-48)	Limit mineral activities to specific areas or periods to reduce grizzly bear mortality risk and maintain elk habitat effectiveness.	Reword as follows: "Limit mineral activities to specific areas or periods to reduce grizzly bear mortality risk and maintain elk habitat quality."	The term "elk habitat effectiveness" ties to a road density standard that was removed from the Forest Plan by the Gallatin National Forest Travel Management Plan. See the rationale for item #37.
49	MA15 III-47	These areas consist of open grasslands or a mosaic of grasslands or steep rocky slopes interspersed with timber which are located in occupied grizzly bear habitat (Management Situation 1 and 2) and provide for dispersed recreation and livestock use.	Delete the word "occupied" and "(Management Situation 1 and 2)" from this description.	When the Forest Plan was written, "occupied" grizzly bear habitat was synonymous with the Recovery Zone. As the grizzly bear population has expanded well outside of the Recovery Zone (now Primary Conservation Area or PCA), the original meaning of the term "occupied" has become outdated. It is preferable to recognize that grizzly bears inhabit areas of the Forest, and can be found almost anywhere south of I-90.
50	MA15 III-47	"Management goals for MA at (sic) are: 1. Meet grizzly bear mortality reduction goals as established by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee."	Clarify that this goal no longer applies.	There was an amendment to the Forest Plan, The Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation in the GYA' (2007), i.e. Amendment 27, which replaced the original grizzly bear direction in the Forest Plan. In other words, the original direction is no longer applicable as per the NEPA analysis and decision that has been completed for Amendment 27.
51	MA15 III-47	2. Manage vegetation to provide habitat necessary to recover the grizzly bear."	Modify this goal to read: "2. Manage vegetation to provide habitat necessary for the continued recovery of the grizzly bear."	The grizzly bear has recovered and is no longer listed as a threatened or endangered species.
52	MA19 III-56	"Management goals for MA 19 are: 3. Manage vegetation to provide habitat necessary to recover the grizzly bear."	Restate as "Manage vegetation to provide habitat necessary for the continued recovery of the grizzly bear."	The grizzly bear has recovered and is no longer listed as a threatened or endangered species.

Item #	Forest Plan Page #	Existing Forest Plan Direction	Proposed Amendment	Rationale
53	MA19 III-57	"Conduct habitat component mapping and analysis for featured species."	Delete this standard.	Specific procedural direction is being removed from the Forest Plan because the preferred procedures change over time. Key habitats are accounted for in Standards #5 and #8 (Forest Plan, p. II-18).
54	MA19 III-57	Conduct management activities in accordance with the grizzly bear guidelines (Appendix G).	Clarify that this standard no longer applies.	There was an amendment to the Forest Plan, The Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation in the GYA' (2007), i.e. Amendment 27, which replaced the original grizzly bear direction in the Forest Plan. In other words, the original direction is no longer applicable as per the NEPA analysis and decision that has been completed for Amendment 27.
55	MA-20 III-59	"Management goals for MA 20 are: 1. Meet grizzly bear mortality reduction goals as established by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee."	Clarify that this goal no longer applies.	There was an amendment to the Forest Plan, The Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation in the GYA' (2007), i.e. Amendment 27, which replaced the original grizzly bear direction in the Forest Plan. In other words, the original direction is no longer applicable as per the NEPA analysis and decision that has been completed for Amendment 27.
56	MA20 III-60	Use habitat component mapping analysis to help identify most logical areas for habitat work.	Clarify that this standard no longer applies.	There was an amendment to the Forest Plan, The Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation in the GYA' (2007), i.e. Amendment 27, which replaced the original grizzly bear direction in the Forest Plan. In other words, the original direction is no longer applicable as per the NEPA analysis and decision that has been completed for Amendment 27.
57	MA20 III-60	Livestock grazing will be consistent with big game and grizzly bear management goals.	Clarify that this standard no longer applies.	There was an amendment to the Forest Plan, The Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation in the GYA' (2007), i.e. Amendment 27, which replaced the original grizzly bear direction in the Forest Plan. In other words, the original direction is no longer applicable as per the NEPA analysis and decision that has been completed for Amendment 27.

Item #	Forest Plan Page #	Existing Forest Plan Direction	Proposed Amendment	Rationale
58	C-1	APPENDIX C: WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT	Delete this appendix.	The 1987 "Watershed Management Guidelines for the Gallatin National Forest" are out of date and have been procedurally replaced by the Montana SMZ rules, Montana Forestry BMPs, Travel Plan standards, TMDL requirements, R1R4 BMP handbook (under revision), and other NEPA and Montana DEQ direction. In addition the "Guidelines" use out of date sediment analysis methods, standards (concentration in mg/L), and ECA water yield methodology.