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CHAPTER 1 GRASSLAND-WIDE DIRECTION

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains direction that applies grassland-wide. Direction includes Regional goals, Grassland goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines. Additional direction can be found in other chapters and appendices, which reference National goals, policies, statutes, regulations, and agreements.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Land and resource management direction consists of goals, objectives and management requirements (standards and guidelines) for the Dakota Prairie Grasslands (DPG). Goals and objectives provide broad, overall direction regarding the type and amount of goods and services the national grasslands provides and focuses on achieving ecosystem health and ecological integrity. Management requirements set minimum standards that must be met or exceeded while achieving the goals and objectives. Administrative requirements also establish broad multiple-use management direction and generally apply to all areas of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands.

Goals are concise statements that describe desired conditions and are expected to be achieved sometime in the future. They are generally timeless and difficult to measure. Goals describe the ends to be achieved, rather than the means of doing so.

Objectives are concise, time-specific statements of measurable planned steps taken to accomplish a goal. They are generally achieved by implementing a project or activity. However, objectives are not targets. Targets are dependent upon budgets, which shall or shall not reflect management plan emphasis areas.

The reader will note that some resources, management programs or responsibilities are only briefly mentioned or not mentioned at all in this chapter. Chapter 2 contains additional direction for the Dakota Prairie Grasslands. Forest Service personnel will strive to plan and implement projects that contribute to achieving the goals and objectives in a manner consistent with standards and guidelines and applicable legal requirements.

Many variables affect the achievement of goals and objectives. There are numerous legal mandates, congressional intent as directed by annual budgets, and political issues over which the National Grasslands have little or no control. Given this situation, the USDA Forest Service leadership will determine what mix of activities is most appropriate in any given year and use every opportunity to move toward the overall management intent prescribed by the goals and objectives.

The goals and objectives presented here are tiered to the USDA Forest Service Government Performance and Results Act Strategic Plan: 2000 Revision. This strategic plan presents the goals, objectives and activities that reflect the Forest Service's commitment to a sustainable natural resource base for the American people. All goals and objectives fall under the overall mission of the Forest Service, which is to sustain the health, productivity and diversity of the land to meet the needs of present and future generations. "Caring for the Land and Serving People" expresses the spirit of this mission. Implicit in this statement is the agency's collaboration with people as partners in caring for the nation's forests and rangelands.

The Forest Service's mission, and strategic goals and objectives are derived from the laws defining and regulating the agency's activities. Goals and objectives describe tangible progress toward achieving the agency's mission through implementing land and resource management plans. These plans guide on-the-ground natural resource management to ensure sustainable ecosystems and to provide multiple benefits. The Forest Service is committed to achieving the following goals and objectives:

Goal 1: Ensure Sustainable Ecosystems

Promote ecosystem health and conservation using a collaborative approach to sustain the Nation's forests, grasslands, and watersheds.

Goal 1.a: Improve and protect watershed conditions to provide the water quality and quantity and soil productivity necessary to support ecological functions and intended beneficial water uses.

Objectives:

1. Within 10 years, identify watershed conditions to provide baseline data sufficient to meet the following objectives:
 - Improve 20 percent of 6th Hydrologic Unit Code (sub-watershed) level watersheds from Class II to Class I or from Class III to Class II. Maintenance of unimpaired watersheds and restoration of impaired watershed are high priorities.
 - Utilize criteria of geomorphic integrity, water quality integrity, biotic information, watershed vulnerability, and potential partnerships to prioritize watershed improvement projects.
 - Achieve a 20 percent reduction in acres of eroded or disturbed soils caused by Forest Service permitted or management actions.
 - Improve the water quality associated with 20 percent of degraded water bodies.
2. Move at least 80 percent of riparian areas and woody draws toward self-perpetuating plant and water communities that have desired diversity and density of understory and overstory vegetation within site capability.
3. Meet or move toward Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) on at least 80% of perennial streams.
4. Within 15 years, identify, maintain, and/or improve stream flows for at least 10 percent of stream segments having high resource values within watersheds.
5. Prevent contamination of surface water, sub-surface flows, and aquifers.

Goal 1.b: Provide ecological conditions to sustain viable populations of native and desired non-native species and to achieve objectives for Management Indicator Species (MIS).

Objectives:

1. As scientific information becomes available, jointly develop, with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies, conservation and recovery strategies for plant and animal species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, and implement established conservation or recovery strategies.

2. Within 15 years, for threatened, endangered, sensitive, and MIS, demonstrate positive trends in population viability, habitat availability, habitat quality, and population distribution within the planning area.
3. Develop and implement conservation strategies for Forest Service sensitive species, as technical information becomes available.
4. Within 15 years, conserve populations of species at risk and rare communities by demonstrating positive trends in habitat availability and quality or any other applicable factors affecting species at risk.
5. As rare plant and wildlife communities are identified, inventory them and develop associated management strategies to conserve them.
6. Establish scientifically credible monitoring programs, develop survey methods, and initiate baseline and trend surveys for populations, habitats, and/or ecological conditions to contribute to viability of threatened and endangered species, species at risk, and MIS.
7. Within 10 years, provide sufficient habitat for MIS to reduce adverse impacts on populations during droughts.
8. Complete and initiate implementation of conservations strategies for globally rare plant species (G1-3 rankings) and other high priority species in cooperation with other conservation agencies and organizations.
9. Conduct target surveys for globally rare plant species and other rare plant species with viability concerns.
10. Assess the potential impacts of the construction of impoundments in upper watersheds on hydrologic flows and patterns on downstream habitat on the sturgeon chub and other sensitive native fish species.

Goal 1.c: Increase the amount of forests and grasslands restored to or maintained in a healthy condition with reduced risk and damage from disturbance processes, both natural and human-controlled.

Objectives:

1. Within 10 years, implement management practices, including prescribed fire, that will move landscapes toward desired vegetation composition and structure as described in Geographic Area direction.
2. Over the next 15 years, retain those range structures (fences and water developments) that achieve resource management goals and objectives (i.e., wildlife habitat, botanical, range management, visual quality, and recreation).
3. Within 15 years, move forested landscapes toward desired conditions described in Geographic Area direction.
4. Within 5 years, develop and maintain cooperative noxious weeds and invasive species management plans in consultation with appropriate partners and agencies.
5. Within 3 years, develop and implement a certified noxious weed-free forage program in consultation with appropriate state agencies.
6. Within 10 years, limit further expansion of areas affected by noxious weeds.

7. Within 10 years, implement an integrated prevention and pest control management program for noxious weeds and invasive plant species.
8. Reduce impacts to air quality related values for all Class I and Class II areas.

Goal 2: Multiple Benefits to People

Provide a variety of uses, values, products, and services for present and future generations by managing within the capability of sustainable ecosystems.

Goal 2.a: Improve the capability of the Nation's forests and grasslands to provide diverse, high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities.

Objectives:

1. Annually, maintain or reconstruct 20% of national grassland trails to regional standards.
2. Over the next 15 years, provide readily available information concerning recreation opportunities for developed, historic, and cultural sites.
3. Within 5 years, provide appropriate directional signing to key recreation sites and public access routes to national grasslands.
4. Within 10 years, complete site and recreation plans, including rehabilitation and re-vegetation strategies. As demand warrants, increase recreational opportunities where compatible with resource objectives. These opportunities may include trails, campgrounds, and interpretation.
5. Within five years, implement a science- and marketing-based interpretive program strategy that uses a variety of communication media.
 - Communicate with target audiences regarding management concerns or issues, changes in management direction, and specific projects.
 - Enhance visitor recreation experiences by identifying and implementing interpretive projects that highlight national grassland resources and management.
6. Provide nonmotorized and motorized trails for a wide variety of uses and experiences.
7. Manage trail systems to minimize conflicts among users.
8. When appropriate, authorize special use permits for outfitter-guide services on NFS lands.
9. Through partnerships and outfitter-guide services, encourage, establish, and sustain a diverse range of recreational facilities and services on NFS lands. Encourage interpretive and educational awareness of grassland ecosystems and provide services to people with disabilities.

Goal 2.b: Improve the capability of wilderness and protected areas to sustain a desired range of benefits and values.

Wilderness

Objective:

1. Within 5 years of Congressional designation, revise or develop wilderness plans to emphasize recreational, aesthetic, and educational experiences consistent with values of those areas.

Heritage Sites

Objectives:

1. Within 5 years, develop and implement a heritage inventory strategy to survey and evaluate sites, in support of management actions and activities as agreed upon with the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) (reference Section 106 and Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act).
2. Within 5 years, assess identified sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in conjunction with SHPO and THPO and provide interpretation for National Register of Historic Places sites where appropriate and consistent with developed preservation plans.
3. Within 3 years, identify and protect traditional cultural properties in consultation with federally recognized American Indian tribes.
4. Within 10 years, update prehistoric, ethnographic, and historic overviews.
5. In partnership with American Indian tribes and/or others, educate and interpret, to increase public awareness, protect heritage resources, and further the goals of research.

Special Areas

Objectives:

1. Within 15 years, protect features and communities of special concern within areas suitable for Wilderness, Research Natural Areas (RNAs), and Special Interest Areas (SIAs).
2. Within 5 years of designation, develop and implement a management and monitoring plan for each Research Natural Area.

2.c: Improve the capability of the Nation's forests and grasslands to provide a desired sustainable level of uses, values, products, and services.

Livestock Grazing

Objectives:

1. Annually, provide forage for livestock on suitable rangelands.
2. As needed, revise allotment management plans (AMPs) to meet desired conditions described in Geographic Area direction.
3. Use a standardized process to determine stocking rates (for example, the Natural Resources Conservation Service system) as modified to fit desired vegetative conditions and protect other resource values.

Geologic and Paleontologic Resources

Objectives:

1. Within 15 years, provide interpretation for at least 20 percent of important geological and paleontological sites, consistent with the conservation plans.
2. Within 15 years, inventory and evaluate 20 percent of high potential paleontological formations.
3. Within 15 years, develop and implement conservation plans for significant geological and paleontological sites as information becomes available.

Mineral and Energy Resources

Objectives:

1. Provide opportunities for oil and gas exploration and development consistent with direction contained within this Plan.
2. Ensure reclamation provisions of operating plans are completed to standard.
3. Honor all valid existing mineral rights.

Miscellaneous Products

Objective:

1. Provide appropriate opportunities to satisfy demand for miscellaneous products (special forest and grassland products, such as mushrooms, floral products and medicinal plants) through environmentally responsible harvest and collection methods on National Forest System lands.

Scenery

Objective:

1. Implement practices that will meet, or move the landscape character toward, scenic integrity objectives consistent with Geographic Area direction.

Special Uses

Objective:

1. Ensure commercial recreation and consumer-oriented operations are meeting requirements for customer service and are in compliance with the terms of their permits or contracts.

Wildlife, Fish, and Plant Use

Objectives:

1. Within 10 years, identify, develop, manage, and interpret important watchable wildlife and plant viewing sites.
2. Within 10 years, support native and desirable non-native plant, fish, and wildlife populations by meeting or making measurable progress towards desired vegetative composition and structure, as described in Geographic Area direction.

Experimental Forests

Objectives

1. Denbigh - Provide a research area for development of genetically improved trees, faster growth, and improved hardiness and to provide conifer seed for the North Dakota Forest Service nursery while allowing other compatible uses.
2. Souris - Provide for the continuation of the established pine and juniper provenance (origin) studies through the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station's Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Lincoln, Nebraska while allowing other compatible uses.

Goal 3: Scientific and Technical Assistance

Develop and use the best scientific information available to deliver technical and community assistance and to support ecological, economic, and social sustainability.

3.a: Improve the knowledge base provided through research, inventory, and monitoring to enhance scientific understanding of ecosystems, including humans, to support decision-making and sustainable management of the Nation's forests and grasslands.

Objectives:

1. Establish and implement credible inventory and monitoring systems, develop survey methods, and initiate baseline and trend surveys to provide scientific information and decision support across all land ownerships.
2. Provide research results and tools through technology transfer to support effective management, protection, and restoration of ecosystems.
3. Assess potential habitat capability at the local level for management indicator species by identifying existing or establishing new reference areas and implementing long-term monitoring. Some reference areas will need to be managed for multiple-year accumulation of vegetation and litter for those management indicator species of high-structure grasslands and sagebrush habitats.

Goal 4: Effective Public Service

Ensure the acquisition and use of an appropriate corporate infrastructure to enable the efficient delivery of a variety of uses.

4.a: Improve the safety and economy of the USDA Forest Service roads, trails, facilities, and operations and provide greater security for the public and employees.

Objectives:

1. Within 5 years, identify travel opportunities and restrictions; including designating motorized travel-ways and areas, to meet land management objectives.
2. Provide reasonable access for use of the national grasslands.
3. Provide site-specific maps and information showing closures, restrictions, and opportunities for motorized and nonmotorized use.

4. Identify the minimum Forest Service road system for administration, utilization, and protection of national grasslands resources using a science-based roads analysis process. Provide safe and efficient travel and minimize adverse environmental effects.
5. Where appropriate, authorize recreation opportunities for people with disabilities.

4.b: Provide appropriate access to NFS lands and USDA Forest Service programs.

Land Ownership and Access

Objectives:

1. Within 3 years, develop and implement an approved land ownership adjustment plan in response to resource management and public needs. The plan shall be coordinated, reviewed, and updated every 3 years.
2. As opportunities are presented, dispose of, purchase, or exchange lands where needed.
3. Within 3 years, develop and implement a 5-year Rights-of-Way Acquisition Program in response to resource management programs and access needs. This 5-year plan will be coordinated, reviewed, and updated annually.

Unauthorized Uses

Objective:

1. Take appropriate law enforcement or administrative actions on all unauthorized uses.

Public and Organizational Relations

Objectives:

1. Provide opportunities for federally recognized American Indian tribes to participate in the planning and management of the national grasslands, especially where tribes have claimed special geographic, historical, or cultural interest.
2. Work in cooperation with federal, state, and county agencies, individuals, and non-government organizations for control of noxious weeds, invasive species, and animal damage.
3. Create and foster partnerships with other agencies, accredited educational and research institutions, and other appropriate public and private sector organizations to further the goals of research, education, protection, and interpretation.
4. Cooperate with the appropriate state and federal agencies in balancing desired wildlife and fish population objectives with desired habitat conditions.
5. Respond in a timely manner to applications for special use permits, mineral leasing exploration, and development.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

This direction applies across the national grasslands. Additional direction is found in other chapters and appendices, which include more detailed information, or national and regional policies.

Standards are actions that must be followed or are required limits to activities in order to achieve Grassland objectives. Site-specific deviations from standards must be analyzed and documented in management plan amendments.

Guidelines are advisable actions that should be followed to achieve grassland goals and objectives. Deviations from guidelines must be analyzed during project-level analysis and documented in a project decision document but do not require management plan amendments.

PHYSICAL RESOURCES

A. Air

1. Conduct all land management activities in such a manner as to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local air-quality standards and regulations including: Federal Clean Air Act, as amended, 1990 (42 USC 7401-7671); North Dakota Air Pollution Control Law, (33-15-02); and South Dakota Air Pollution Control Program (Title 74, #36). **Standard**
2. Meet requirements of the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD), State Implementation Plans (SIP), and applicable Smoke Management plans. **Standard**
3. Ensure emissions from projects on the grassland management activities are within Class I or Class II ranges. (See Appendix A regarding Class I Areas) **Standard**

B. Water

1. Manage land treatments to conserve site moisture and to protect long-term stream, wetland, and riparian area health from damage by increased runoff. **Standard**
2. Allow only those actions next to perennial and intermittent streams, seeps, springs, lakes, and wetlands that maintain or improve long-term proper functioning of riparian ecosystem conditions. **Standard**.
3. Design activities to protect and manage the riparian ecosystem. Maintain the integrity of the ecosystem, including quantity and quality of surface and ground water. **Standard**
4. Maintain and protect the hydrologic regime that supplies ground water to the wetlands so as to support species and habitats dependent on the existing water table and its natural variations. **Standard**
5. To provide protection for riparian areas, locate activities and facilities away from the water's edge or outside the riparian areas, woody draws, wetlands, and floodplains unless alternatives have been assessed and determined to be more environmentally damaging. **Guideline**

6. Do not deposit waste material (silt, sand, gravel, soil, slash, debris, chemicals, or other material) below high water lines, in riparian areas, in areas immediately adjacent to riparian areas, or in natural drainage-ways (draws, land surface depressions, or other areas where overland flow concentrates and flows directly into streams or lakes). In addition:

- Do not deposit foreign material or agricultural waste in natural drainage-ways.
- Locate the lower edge of disturbed or deposited soil banks outside the active floodplain.
- Prohibit stockpiling of topsoil or any other disturbed soil in the active floodplain.
- Locate drilling mud pits outside riparian areas, wetlands, and floodplains. If location is unavoidable in these areas, seal and dike all pits to prevent leakage.
- Rehabilitate gravel pits to simulate a natural riparian/aquatic situation if permitted in riparian zones.
- Do not allow new roads to parallel streams when road location must occur in riparian areas except where absolutely necessary. Locate crossings at points of low bank slope and firm surfaces. **Guideline**

7. Design and construct all stream crossings and other in-stream structures to provide for sufficient passage of flow and sediment, withstand expected flood flows, and allow free movement of aquatic life. **Standard**

8. Maintain long-term ground cover, soil structure, water budgets, and flow patterns of wetlands to sustain their ecological function and meet regulations found in Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. The 404 regulations were established by the Environmental Protection Agency and constitute the substantive environmental criteria used in evaluating activities.

- Maintain enough water in perennial streams and ground water tables to sustain or improve function.
- Manage water-use facilities to prevent gully erosion of slopes, sediment discharge, and bank damage to streams.
- Design projects to minimize sediment discharge into streams, lakes, and wetlands.
- Apply chemicals in a way that minimizes contamination risk to surface and ground water.
- Protect seeps, springs, wetlands, and riparian ecosystems. **Standard**

9. Cross streams at right angles during construction of new roads. **Guideline**

10. When possible, restore intermittent streams to continually flowing perennial streams. **Guideline**

11. Ensure proper plugging of abandoned wells to prevent cross-contamination of aquifers (e.g., seismograph holes, water wells, etc.). **Standard**

12. Immediately initiate hazardous material cleanup on identified sites. **Standard**

13. For streams identified as "non-functioning" or "functioning at risk with a downward trend," begin corrective action within 3 years of stream inventories. **Guideline**

(See the Geology and Minerals APPENDIX F for information on siting oil and gas facilities. Also see Water Conservation Practices Handbook, FSH 2509.25, for further information)

C. Soils

1. Keep ground disturbances to a minimum when constructing roads and other facilities. Insure road length and road width fit the purpose and are compatible with local topography. **Guideline**
2. Stabilize and maintain roads and other facilities sites during and after construction to minimize erosion. **Standard**
3. Reclaim roads and other structures when use ends, to prevent resource damage. **Guideline**
4. Prohibit soil-disturbing activities, (e.g., road construction, well pad construction), on slopes greater than 40% and on soils susceptible to mass failure, unless the alternative causes more environmental damage. **Guideline**

(See the Geology and Minerals APPENDIX F for information on siting oil and gas facilities. Also see Water Conservation Practices Handbook, Forest Service Handbook 2509.25, for further information.)

D. Minerals and Energy Resources

General

1. Require operators to obtain water for mineral operations from private sources, except in the following instances:

- Private sources are not available.
- Water is available from national grasslands ponds or wells; and such use would not conflict with established uses. **Standard**

2. Prohibit rig stacking and storage of equipment not in use. **Standard**

3. Obliterate and rehabilitate special use and single use roads associated with oil and gas lease development, within one year from the end of their use period, unless a documented decision is made to keep the road for other management needs. **Guideline**

(See the Invasive Species section for direction regarding re-vegetation, and the Infrastructure section for direction on facilities. Also see Geology and Minerals Appendix F for further information)

Geophysical Operations

4. Where no suitable mitigation measures are possible, prohibit geophysical (seismic) operations that cause surface disturbance in Research Natural Areas, Special Interest Areas, American Indian traditional use area, and known National Register eligible sites. **Standard**
5. Minimize surface and other resource disturbance from geophysical operations. **Guideline**
6. Do not allow new road construction for geophysical operations, unless alternatives have been assessed and determined to be more environmentally damaging. **Guideline**

7. Allow geophysical operations within developed recreation sites; however, restrictions (type, timing, seasonal, or location restrictions) will be applied to avoid conflicts with recreationists, and to maintain the recreational setting of the developed site. **Guideline**

Oil and Gas Operations

8. Honor valid existing rights pertaining to the development, production, and transport of mineral resources (see Fish, Wildlife, and Rare Plants; Recreation; and Scenery Management sections for additional direction). **Standard**

9. Promote the use of closed circulation systems. Discourage the use of open reserve pits for oil and gas drilling operations. In cases where the use of pits for drilling operations is justified, analyze and monitor construction and use to minimize potential for leakage and structural failure (including pit solidification). **Guideline**

10. Prohibit the use of production pits. **Standard**

11. Do not allow field offices unless operators demonstrate they are essential to production operations. When need is justified, facilities will be limited in size and designed to serve only those purposes necessary. **Guideline**

12. Provide on- and off-site information warning of the dangers of hydrogen sulfide around developed oil production sites. **Standard**

13. Restrict oil and gas development activities and reclamation activities from May 1 to December 1 within 0.25 mile of developed recreation sites. **Guideline**

(See the Developed Recreation Sites section for other standards and guidelines that apply to mineral operations)

Energy and Mineral-Related Special Uses

14. Minimize disturbance by co-locating roads, pipelines, gathering lines, and power lines for energy resource development. **Guideline**

15. Authorize commercially produced water disposal wells, when appropriate, with a special use permit with appropriate fees for surface use. **Standard**

(See the Special Uses section for other standards and guidelines that may apply to mineral operations)

E. Paleontological Resources

1. Protect from disturbance or mitigate disturbance of key paleontological resources to conserve scientific, interpretive and legacy values (see Paleontological Appendix J for details). **Standard**

2. As funding allows, survey and post federal land boundaries where paleontological sites have Fossil Potential Classification sensitivity rankings of 3, 4, or 5. (See Paleontological Appendix J for details). **Guideline**

3. Prior to ground-disturbing activities, conduct paleontologic surveys in any area where there is a high potential to encounter these resources according to the process outlined in Appendix J. **Standard**

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

F. Fish, Wildlife, and Rare Plants

General

1. Modify livestock grazing practices as needed to reduce adverse impacts of drought to food and cover for prairie grouse and other wildlife. **Standard**
2. When installing new livestock water tanks, install durable and effective escape ramps for birds and small mammals. During maintenance of existing tanks, replace ramps that are ineffective or missing. **Standard**
3. Design and build new structures, including fences, to reduce hazards to big game and to allow big game movement throughout the year (Appendix B). This does not apply to fences designed to specifically exclude wildlife. **Guideline**
4. Delay mowing of grasslands until July 15 or later to protect ground-nesting birds, including their nests and young broods. Project-level analyses will determine the earliest mowing date. **Guideline**
5. Manage for native forb abundance and diversity to provide foraging habitat for big game, grassland birds, and other grassland wildlife. **Guideline**
6. Use the following criteria at the project level to help determine where to manage for high structure habitat in as large of blocks as possible in upland areas for waterfowl, prairie grouse, and other ground-nesting birds:
 - Presence of moderate to highly productive soils.
 - Dominance of mid to tall grass species.
 - Proximity to waterfowl pairing ponds and/or prairie grouse display grounds.
 - Proximity to wetlands with well-developed emergent vegetation.
 - Proximity to cooperative waterfowl/wetland development projects and other major wetland complexes. **Guideline**
7. Design and implement livestock grazing strategies to provide well-developed emergent vegetation through the growing season on 30 to 50% of the wetlands (natural and constructed) distributed across watersheds and landscapes, contingent on local site potential. **Guideline**
8. Design and implement livestock grazing strategies to provide for thick and brushy understories and multi-story and multi-age structure in riparian habitats, wooded draws, and woody thickets, contingent on local site potential. **Guideline**
9. Provide access for bats and other cave-dependent species when closing caves or mine shafts. **Guideline**
10. Protect standing dead trees that are 10" diameter breast height (dbh) or more for cavity-dependent species. This guideline does not apply in areas where tree presence would be detrimental to grassland wildlife or public safety. **Guideline**
11. Protect mapped pronghorn winter habitat from disturbance, January 1 through March 31. **Guideline**

12. Protect bighorn sheep lambing areas from activities and land use disturbances if adverse impacts to the survival or reproductive success of bighorn sheep or abandonment of the lambing area are likely. **Standard**

Greater Prairie Chicken, Sage Grouse, and Sharp-tailed Grouse (Prairie Grouse)

13. Prohibit construction of new oil and gas facilities within ¼-mile of active sage and sharp-tailed grouse display grounds. **Standard**

14. Limit construction or placement of non-oil and gas structures or facilities within ¼-mile of active prairie grouse display ground if structures are likely to adversely affect reproductive success of these species. Project-level analysis should consider the type, source, frequency, and duration of the potential disruption, as well as the affected species and presence of screening vegetation or topography. **Guideline**

15. Limit activities within 1.0 mile of active greater prairie chicken and sharp-tailed grouse display grounds and 2.0 miles from active sage grouse display grounds from March 1 to June 15 if they are likely to adversely affect the reproductive success of these species. Project-level analysis should consider the type, source, frequency, and duration of the potential disruption, as well as the affected species and presence of screening vegetation or topography. **Guideline**

16. Manage prairie grouse display ground viewing activities to reduce disturbances and adverse impacts to the birds on the display grounds. **Guideline**

17. Emphasize quality nesting and brooding habitat, consistent with Geographic Area objectives, within 1.0 mile of active greater prairie chicken and sharp-tailed grouse display grounds and 3.0 miles of active sage grouse display grounds. Consult Appendix H for a description of quality habitat for prairie grouse. **Guideline**

18. Manage for late seral condition sagebrush in selected sagebrush stands to provide quality wintering habitat for sage grouse (see Appendix H). **Standard**

19. Manage wet and sub-irrigated meadows, seeps, riparian habitats, and other wetland areas that occur in or adjacent to sage grouse habitat as key foraging areas during the spring, summer, and fall. **Standard**

20. Avoid prescribed burning in Wyoming big sagebrush habitat and in sage grouse wintering habitat unless it can be demonstrated to be beneficial for local sage grouse populations. Burns should not be conducted where the canopy cover of sagebrush averages less than 15%. Limit prescribed burns to less than 125-acre patches and no more than 20% of the sagebrush stands in the wintering habitat. Sagebrush within 100 yards of meadows, riparian areas, and other foraging habitats should not be burned or sprayed. **Guideline**

21. Maintain small openings within larger sagebrush stands at a ratio of approximately 1 acre of openings to 3 acres of sagebrush in sage grouse habitat. **Guideline**

22. Delay livestock grazing until after June 15 in areas being managed to provide upland gamebird nesting cover for the current year. **Guideline**

Threatened, Endangered, and Proposed Species

Black-footed Ferret

23. Prohibit the following activities or land use disturbances within 1/8 mile of all prairie dog colonies occupied or thought to be occupied by black-footed ferrets from March 1 to August 31:

- Construction and reclamation (e.g., roads, trails, pipelines, utilities, water impoundments, oil and gas facilities).
- Mineral material extraction.
- Oil and gas drilling. **Standard**

24. If explosive charges are used for geophysical exploration, maintain a 1/8-mile buffer from prairie dog colonies occupied or thought to be occupied by black-footed ferrets. **Guideline**

25. In prairie dog colonies known or thought to be occupied by ferrets, limit oil and gas development to one location per 160 acres aliquot parts of a section. **Guideline**

26. Where possible, locate all oil and gas facilities outside prairie dog colonies known or thought to be occupied by ferrets. **Guideline**

27. Align new roads to avoid prairie dog colonies. **Guideline**

28. Coordinate with state and federal wildlife agencies regarding black-footed ferret reintroduction as soon as prairie dog complexes reach sufficient size. **Standard**

Sensitive Plant, Animal, and Fish Species

29. Avoid placing new facilities, roads, trails, fences, salting and mineral areas, and other developments such as water tanks and impoundments, in habitat occupied by sensitive plant species. **Guideline**

30. Identify sensitive plant habitats and rare plant communities as priorities for noxious weed and invasive plant monitoring and control. **Guideline**

31. Avoid the use of noxious weed and invasive plant control methods that may negatively impact sensitive plants. **Guideline**

32. Design timing, intensity, and frequency of mowing, burning and livestock grazing to maintain or increase sensitive plant species populations and the health of rare plant communities. **Standard**

33. Do not authorize vegetation management and construction projects that would further isolate or prevent re-colonization of sensitive plant and animal populations from adjacent populations. **Standard**

34. Maintain hydrological regimes and protect and restore developed springs and seeps where habitat for sensitive plant species would be enhanced. **Guideline**

35. Manage for natural disturbance processes when necessary to maintain early seral habitat for species such as smooth goosefoot, sandgrass, and beach heather. Do not initiate stabilization measures for habitats occupied by these species. **Standard**

36. Ensure that management actions do not contribute to loss of population viability for Forest Service sensitive plant species. **Standard**

37. Protect known sensitive plant populations from land use activities that cause increased trampling or soil compaction within key habitats. **Guideline**
38. Conduct target surveys for globally rare (G1, G2, and G3) Forest Service sensitive plant species. **Guideline**
39. Protect globally rare plant communities (G1-G3) through implementation of conservation strategies. **Guideline**
40. Enhance and improve habitat for known sensitive plant populations through restoration programs. **Guideline**
41. Design vegetation management activities (e.g., prescribed burning, mowing, grasshopper spraying, livestock grazing) and pesticide application projects in known habitats of sensitive butterfly and skipper species to reduce mortality and to maintain or enhance nectar and larvae host plant species. **Guideline**
42. Design and construct facilities to minimize the risk of accidental spills and discharge of petroleum and other toxic materials into waters occupied by sensitive fish species, and implement appropriate precautionary measures. **Standard**
43. Do not authorize uses that would deplete instream flows below levels needed to protect the aquatic habitats of sturgeon chub and other sensitive native fish species. **Standard**
44. Access to oil and gas facilities for routine maintenance, in prairie dog colonies occupied or thought to be occupied by black-footed ferrets, shall be limited to daylight hours. This does not apply to emergency repairs. **Guideline**

Burrowing Owls

45. Do not spray grasshoppers within ¼-mile of known burrowing owl nests. **Standard**
46. Manage for active prairie dog colonies that are larger than 80 acres. **Guideline**

Black-tailed Prairie Dog

47. Restrict prairie dog shooting where significant risks have been identified for other wildlife species or where shooting is preventing or slowing a desired prairie dog population expansion. Restrictions shall be year-long or seasonal, and dates of seasonal restrictions shall vary depending on the species at risk. Coordinate and consult with the appropriate wildlife agencies prior to implementation of restrictions. **Guideline**
48. Prohibit changes in existing water flow regimes due to oil and gas activities that would flood prairie dog burrows. **Standard**
49. Use livestock grazing and prescribed fire to enhance habitat suitability for prairie dogs where prairie dog expansion is desired. These areas are identified at the project level. **Standard**
50. Manage for low vegetative structure in areas where prairie dog expansion is desired. Emphasize areas adjacent to existing prairie dog colonies as well as at abandoned colony sites. **Standard**
51. Manage for high vegetative structure around prairie dog towns where prairie dog expansion is not desired. Emphasize maintaining high structure between existing prairie dog colonies and private land. **Standard**

Swift Fox

52. Protect known swift fox dens from activities and land use disturbances from March 1 to August 31 if adverse impacts to the survival and reproductive success of swift fox or abandonment of the natal area are likely. **Guideline**

53. Prohibit the use of M-44s (sodium cyanide) for predator control in occupied swift fox habitat on the national grasslands. **Standard**

54. Design and implement livestock grazing strategies that provide a mosaic of both low and high grassland structure in occupied swift fox habitat. **Guideline**

Raptors

55. Prohibit above-ground oil and gas facilities within the minimum distances of active raptor nests and winter roost sites specified in the following table (Column 2). **Standard**

56. Restrict activities (i.e. seismic, prescribed burning, large recreation events, construction, and reclamation activities) within the minimum distances of active raptor nests and winter roost sites during the periods specified in the following table (Column 3), if such activities are likely to adversely affect raptor reproductive success or degrade winter roost quality. The buffers may be modified or determined unnecessary during project level analysis. Project-level analysis should consider the type, source, frequency, and duration of the potential disruption, as well as the affected species, and presence of screening vegetation or topography when evaluating the disturbance. **Guideline**

Species	Minimum Distance from Oil and Gas Structural Developments (miles) Column 2	Minimum Distance and Timing Limitation for Noise or Activities (miles and dates) Column 3
Raptors		
Bald eagle nest	1.0	1.0 from 2/1 to 7/31
Bald eagle winter roost	1.0	1.0 from 11/15-3/1
Golden eagle nest	0.5	0.5 from 2/1 to 7/31
Peregrine falcon nest	1.0	1.0 from 2/1 to 7/31
Prairie falcon nest	0.25	0.25 from 4/1 to 7/31
Merlin nest	0.5	0.5 from 4/1 to 8/15
Ferruginous hawk nest	0.5	0.5 from 3/1 to 7/31
Burrowing owl nest	0.25	0.25 from 4/15 to 8/31

57. Where nests of raptors are identified, other than those listed in the table above, flexibility offered under standard lease terms is used to minimize impacts to raptors and other resources. **Guideline**

G. Fire Suppression, Fuels Treatments, Prescribed Fire

Fire Suppression

1. Suppress all wildfires, natural- and human-caused, using fire management strategies based on aggressive initial attack. Encourage the use of natural barriers and burning out when appropriate.

Guideline

2. Develop an Appropriate Management Response (AMR) for each management area outlined in the Fire Management Plan for the National Grasslands. **Guideline**

3. Minimize impacts to paleontological and heritage resources; streams, stream banks, shorelines, lakes, and associated vegetation; and habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, and sensitive species from wildfire suppression efforts in the following ways:

- Prohibit the use of earth-moving equipment on known paleontological or heritage sites.
- Discourage the application of fire-retardant chemicals over riparian areas, wetlands, and open water.
- Prior to using earth-moving equipment, consult appropriate specialists for guidance.
- Notify USFWS when TES habitat is threatened or impacted by fire. **Guideline**

4. Encourage the use of wild-land fire management strategies in wilderness areas, backcountry recreation nonmotorized areas, and research natural areas that minimize land and resource disturbance. **Guideline**

Fuel Treatment

5. Reduce the threat of wildfire to public and private developments by following guidelines in the National Fire Protection Association Publication 299, *Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire*, and reduce the fuel load to acceptable levels. **Guideline**

6. Participate in the "Firewise" community program. **Guideline**

H. Animal Damage Management

1. Require mitigation measures to protect the national grassland resources when animal damage control activities are conducted by other governmental entities. Emphasize public safety; threatened, endangered, and sensitive species conservation; water quality protection, or other resource values. **Standard**

2. Limit the use of rodenticides (grain baits) for reducing prairie dog populations to the following situations:

- Public health and safety risks occur in the immediate area.
- Damage to private and public infrastructure or facilities, such as cemeteries and residences.
- To respond to unwanted prairie dog colonization on land adjoining the national grasslands when consistent with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved, state-wide prairie dog conservation strategies. **Standard**

3. Reduce conflicts with adjacent landowners over prairie dog management through an active landownership adjustment program. **Guideline**

4. Restrict the use of rodenticides (above-ground grain baits) for reducing prairie dog populations outside the period October 1 to December 31 to reduce risks to migratory birds. **Guideline**
5. Do not use burrow fumigants in prairie dog colonies. **Standard**

I. Livestock Grazing

1. Allow bison grazing on the grasslands by permit, and require amendments to grazing agreements and rules of management to allow a change of class of livestock to include bison. Evaluate bison grazing to include the following criteria: associated health issues; fence requirements; wildlife habitat needs; handling facilities; and human safety. **Guideline**
2. Cooperate with states in ensuring healthy livestock (including bison), such as testing for diseases (e.g., Brucellosis) and vaccinating for other diseases prior to placement on public lands. **Standard**
3. Adjust livestock management activities annually, as needed, to take into account the effect of natural processes, such as droughts, fires, floods, and grasshoppers, on forage availability. **Guideline**
4. Manage livestock grazing to maintain or improve riparian/woody draw areas. Implement the following practices:
 - Avoid grazing activities, such as feeding, which concentrate livestock in riparian/woody draw areas.
 - Control the timing, duration, and intensity of grazing in riparian areas to promote establishment and development of riparian species. **Guideline**
5. Meet rest objectives based on, but not limited to, the following desired conditions:
 - Where high structure is required for plant and animal communities and reproductive success for Management Indicator Species (see Geographic Area direction).
 - Where increased fuel loads are desired for prescribed burning.
 - Where ungrazed areas are desired for monitoring vegetation structure or for research needs.
 - Where ungrazed areas are desired for biological diversity. **Guideline**
6. When allotment management plans are revised, adjust stocking levels to account for the variations in liveweight of livestock if needed to meet desired vegetative conditions (see Appendix C). **Guideline**
7. Minimize feed storage and routine feeding of domestic livestock on National Forest System lands. **Guideline**
8. Prohibit livestock grazing in developed recreation sites unless it can be accommodated before or after the recreation-use season, and unless it enhances the management of the site. **Guideline**
9. Prioritize and remove fences or water developments that are not contributing to achievement of desired conditions. **Guideline**
10. Manage grazing units that are composed of at least 70% crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*) as crested wheatgrass units. Manage other pastures not meeting this definition as native grass units. **Guideline**

11. Design and implement range management strategies for meeting desired vegetation objectives using existing monitoring information and stocking rate guidelines for livestock grazing (see Appendix I). **Standard**

(See Infrastructure for standards and guidelines relating to capital investments on lands with moderate to high mineral development potential)

J. Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species

1. Manage invasive plant species using integrated management techniques, including mechanical, chemical, and biological control methods. **Guideline**

2. To prevent the spread of noxious weeds and invasive plant species, include necessary provisions in contracts and permits for use of the National Grasslands and its resources.

Standard

3. Allow haying only where noxious weeds are not present or are pre-treated to prevent seed set unless haying is needed as a method of noxious weed control. If used as such a control, ensure proper disposal of hay. **Guideline**

4. Contain and control infestations based on the following:

- Rate of species spread.
- Invasions within special management areas, such as RNAs and Wildernesses, activity corridors, and high use areas.
- Probability of successful treatment(s) in meeting desired conditions.
- Prevent the introduction of new invasive species.
- Conduct early treatment of new infestations. **Guideline**

5. Once appropriate consultation with state agencies has taken place, allow only certified noxious weed seed-free products for recreational animal feed or re-vegetation projects. This includes use of certified hay or straw, and heat-treated, or other appropriately processed products. **Standard**

6. Where technically and economically feasible, use genetically local (at the ecological sub-section level) native plant species in re-vegetation efforts. To prevent soil erosion, non-native annuals or sterile perennial species may be used while native perennials are becoming established. **Guideline**

7. Control insects and diseases using integrated pest management techniques. Treatment activities will be based on potential risks to human health and the value of and risks to wildlife habitat, adjacent lands, public lands and other resources. Priority should be given to areas where values to be protected exceed the cost of protection. **Guideline**

8. Prohibit control of native insects until an evaluation of impacts to other resources is made. **Guideline.**

9. Where chronic hotspots cannot be corrected through livestock grazing strategies, allow grasshopper control through baiting of chronic hotspots. **Guideline.**

10. Prohibit pesticide use where it would have adverse effects on species at risk. **Guideline**

MANAGED RECREATION

K. Recreation

General

1. Protect instream flows at special recreation features. Use the following categories to rank streams and stream reaches based on the recreation features and values described:
 - High priority features: scenic areas and overlooks, visitor centers, canoeing areas, scenic byways, native threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, Wilderness water resources under threat of degradation, and similar features where flowing water is critical to a quality recreational experience.
 - Moderate priority features: recreation areas, including roads, trails, campgrounds and picnic grounds next to streams and reservoirs where flowing water contributes to a quality recreational experience and to aesthetic values. **Standard**
2. Do not build new recreation sites in riparian areas unless a clear public need can be demonstrated, and no other reasonable alternative exists. **Guideline**
3. Implement a "pack-it-in/pack-it-out" solid waste/garbage removal policy where disposal facilities are not available. **Standard**
4. On sites where dispersed recreation activities have contributed to bare mineral soil and accelerated erosion, mitigate the impacts by redirecting the use, rehabilitating or hardening the site to minimize erosion and off-site movement of soil. **Standard**
5. Encourage snowmobile use on groomed trails. **Guideline**
6. Authorize disabled recreation opportunities as determined by project level analysis. **Guideline**

Developed Recreation Sites

7. Where appropriate, surface sites to protect resources or accommodate user needs. **Guideline**
8. Close facilities if public safety or sanitation cannot be provided. **Standard**
9. Design recreational facilities to blend with the elements found in the natural landscape. **Guideline**
10. Make facilities at trailheads or along trails consistent with the Recreation Opportunity Setting Spectrum and provide for parking, trail information and appropriate sanitation facilities, as needed. **Guideline**
11. Allow oil and gas leasing within developed recreation sites, but do not permit ground-disturbing oil and gas activities. **Standard**

Outfitters and Guides

12. Consider the following criteria before making a decision to issue an outfitter and guide service permit:

- An analysis identifies additional public recreational opportunities, if outfitter and guide services become available.
- No significant conflict with other permitted outfitters and guides result from the activities associated with the permit.
- Issuance of the permit will not result in greater restrictions on the non-outfitted public to use and enjoy the National Grasslands.
- Other resource considerations are found compatible with the proposed action.
- Private land is unavailable to accommodate the type of recreational use proposed by the applicant. **Guideline**

13. Permit outfitter and guide facilities, only in less-frequented areas. Allow only temporary commercial outfitter camps in accordance with camp standards if they cannot be placed on private land. **Guideline**

14. Require all outfitter and guide permittees conducting activities with a relatively high risk or frequency of serious injury to have at least one guide on each trip who possesses current advanced first aid certification. Examples of high risk activities include, but are not limited to: horse, mule, or pack animal use, snow machine or all-terrain vehicle use, rock climbing, hang gliding, etc. **Standard**

15. Administer permits and pursue and prosecute illegal outfitters and guides. **Standard**

16. Prohibit permanent outfitter/guide facilities or caches on NFS lands. **Standard**

L. Scenery Management

1. Manage activities to be consistent with the scenic integrity objective(s), as referenced by the Adopted Scenic Integrity Objective map in Chapter 2. **Guideline**

2. Scenic Integrity Objectives for Management Areas apply only to the area within the management area boundary. **Guideline**

3. Rehabilitate areas that do not meet the scenic integrity objectives specified for the management area. Consider the following when setting priorities for rehabilitation:

- Relative importance of the area and the degree of deviation from the scenic integrity objectives.
- Length of time it will take natural processes to reduce the visual impacts so that they meet the scenic integrity objective;
- Length of time it will take rehabilitation measures to meet scenic integrity objectives;
- Benefits to other resource management objectives to accomplish rehabilitation.

Guideline

(Also see the sections on Special Uses and Recreation)

ADMINISTRATION

M. Land Ownership

General

1. Base land acquisitions on the premise of a willing buyer and seller. **Guideline**
2. Honor pre-existing rights, such as treaty rights, mineral rights, water rights, and private property access. **Standard**
3. Consider the following when opportunities to acquire lands occur (Reference 36 CFR 254):
 - Lands with important or unique resources, such as water frontage, wetlands, flood plains and associated riparian ecosystems, cave resources, essential big-game winter range, threatened or endangered species habitat and habitats needed for recovery, Forest Service sensitive species habitat, important paleontological or geologic sites, important historical, heritage resources or traditional cultural properties, outstanding scenic values, or critical ecosystems when these resources are threatened by change of use, or when management may be enhanced by public ownership.
 - Lands that include prairie dog colonies or that present opportunities to allow expansion of colonies that already exist on nearby National Forest System lands are a high priority.
 - Important botanical, wildlife and fishery management areas. This includes lands supporting rare plant communities.
 - Lands with important value for outdoor recreation purposes.
 - Lands needed to protect resource values by eliminating or reducing fire risks or soil erosion.
 - Non-federal lands in mineralized areas that have low potential for future mineralized patents, and where the minerals will be donated to the United States.
 - Lands that reduce Forest Service administrative costs and improvement of management efficiency. This includes: reducing miles of landline boundaries and number of corners, special uses, title claims, rights-of-way grants and easements, numbers of allotments and intermingled ownership livestock pastures, and other factors that decrease administrative costs and improve management efficiency.
 - Lands that would reduce conflicts between Forest Service, tribal lands and private landownership objectives, especially when conflicts are adversely impacting National Forest System management. This includes reducing conflicts involving the management of prairie dog colonies along National Forest System lands.
 - Lands in Congressionally designated Wilderness and other classified areas.
 - Lands within or around existing blocks of public ownership of at least 2,000 acres.
 - Lands that would correct maladjustments of land use as described in the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. **Guideline**

4. Consider the following to identify lands for possible disposal:

- Lands suitable for development by the private sector, if developments, such as residential, agricultural, industrial, or recreational, are in the public interest.
- Isolated parcels of any size, such as parcels having no legal public or administrative access and the effort to acquire such access is not cost-efficient or otherwise reasonable.
- Lands less than 2,000 acres and not contiguous to larger blocks of public lands.
- Reserved or acquired road rights-of-way parcels that are substantially surrounded by lands not owned by the United States, and are no longer needed for rights-of-way purposes.
- Lands encumbered by special-use permits and occupied by substantial structural improvements that no longer serve a greater public need. **Guideline**

5. Consider the following before making land adjustments:

- Mitigation and compensation values gained in acquired lands. Discourage use of reservation or partial interests as mitigation measures.
- Avoid land adjustments that could result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of population viability for species of concern. Sensitive species habitat can be conveyed if conveyance would not result in a trend toward federal listing or adversely impact the population viability of the species, or if mitigation and compensation values gained in acquired lands are to be considered, or if effects could be mitigated. **Guideline**

6. Obtain reasonable public and administrative access to all National Grasslands in the following ways:

- Require reciprocal grants, where needed, when granting rights-of-way easements across the DPG.
- Reserve in land disposal actions, existing and designated inventoried rights-of-way that are needed for implementation of the management plan and to protect them for future construction and occupancy.
- Acquire through purchase or donation rights-of-way to provide public access where needed. **Standard**

7. As part of the land acquisition process, determine management prescription allocation for the acquired parcel. **Guideline**

N. Heritage Resources

1. Consult with designated representatives of federally recognized American Indian tribes during design of projects with potential to affect cultural rights and practices to help ensure protection, preservation, and use of areas that are culturally important to them. **Standard**

2. Consider American Indian traditional cultural plant use, when designing vegetative management activities. **Guideline**

3. Leave human remains undisturbed. In case of accidental disturbance take steps outlined in Appendix M. **Standard**

4. Prohibit disturbance of heritage resources by management activities or vandalism through project design, specified protection measures, monitoring, and coordination. **Standard**

5. Enhance and interpret significant heritage sites for the education and enjoyment of the public, while protecting the integrity of the site. **Guideline**
6. Limit non-research oriented ground-disturbing activities on heritage districts and sites eligible for the National Register Historic Preservation (NRHP) that creates adverse impacts to the district or site. **Guideline**

O. Special Grassland Products

1. Ensure plant collecting does not jeopardize the continued vigor or existence of a plant population or associated plant communities. **Standard**
2. Require permits to collect sensitive plants or parts of sensitive plants. **Standard**
3. Require permits to commercially collect special grassland products. **Standard**
4. Protect the distribution and species viability of plants associated with medicinal and traditional cultural values. **Guideline**
5. Protect American Indian traditional collecting areas for religious purposes. **Guideline.**
6. Allow non-commercial collection of non-vertebrate paleontological resources except from sites that are determined to be significant. The maximum amount of collected petrified wood or other non-vertebrate paleontological resources per person per day is 25 pounds; the total maximum weight in one calendar year per person is 250 pounds. Permits for larger amounts shall be issued to museums, educational institutions and similar groups. **Standard**
7. Authorize collection of vertebrate paleontological resources by special use permit. Permits for vertebrate paleontological resources shall be issued to museums, educational institutions and similar groups only. **Standard**
8. Allow rock hounding (hunting and collecting of non-fossil rocks and minerals) on the National Grasslands without a permit, providing the activity does not damage the resource and specimens are for personal, non-commercial uses (See 36 CFR 228.62[e]). Collected material is limited to 25 pounds per person, per day, and 250 pounds per year. Permits for larger amounts may be issued to museums, educational institutions and similar groups. **Guideline.**
9. Research oriented, noncommercial, and commercial collection of miscellaneous products may be allowed if, information exists to maintain sustainable quantities. **Guideline**
10. Allow non-commercial collections of desired miscellaneous products by federally recognized American Indian tribes, in accordance with treaty rights. **Standard**

P. Special Uses

1. Permit utility companies to construct new utility corridors, unless prohibited by management direction provided in Chapters 1, 2, and 3. **Guideline**
2. Consolidate utility lines within existing corridors or in areas adjacent to roads wherever possible. **Guideline**
3. Bury electrical utility lines of 33 KV or less and telephone lines (Refer to MA direction for more specific corridor direction). **Guideline**

4. Unless information indicates that activities will not degrade the special resources of the area, do not locate new utility corridors in Experimental Forests; developed recreation sites; and areas of significant paleontological, archeological, and/or historical resources **Guideline**

5. Place all new pipelines underground. **Guideline**

6. Route new roads, pipelines, gathering lines, and technically required overhead power lines in a manner as to minimize visual impacts and conform to approved corridors. When these facilities leave corridors, they should be subordinate to the landscape (see Scenic Integrity in Glossary).

Guideline

7. Design and construct power lines to minimize the risk of raptor electrocution. **Standard**

8. Design night lighting to minimize light pollution. Limit continuous or dusk-to-dawn lighting at facilities. Exceptions may be made for the lighting of towers or lines to facilitate flight safety, and staffed, around-the-clock operations. **Guideline.**

9. Approve land-use authorizations on lands identified for disposal only if that occupancy shall not affect disposal action. **Standard**

10. Act on special-use applications according to the following priorities:

- Land and land-use activity requests relating to public safety, health and welfare, e.g., highways, power lines and public service improvements.
- Land and land-use activities contributing to increased economic activity associated with Grassland National Forest System resources, e.g., oil and gas and energy minerals.
- Land and land-use activities that benefit only private users, e.g., road permits, rights-of-way for power lines, telephones, waterlines, etc. **Guideline**

11. Require a special-use road permit for motorized access to private land where access for the general public is not available. **Guideline**

12. Approve only special-use applications that cannot reasonably be met on private lands unless it is clearly in the public interest. **Guideline**

13. Allow haying and mowing only when grazing or prescribed fires are not viable methods to accomplish desired objectives. **Guideline**

(See Geology and Minerals, Energy and Minerals Related to Special Uses for standards and guidelines regarding mineral operations.)

Q. Infrastructure Use and Management

1. Allow wheeled motorized vehicle use on existing roads and trails only (Reference Region One BLM and Forest Service Off-Highway Vehicle EIS), except where motorized use is specifically prohibited by site-specific decisions or in management area direction, or where site specific decisions allow for off-highway use. **Standard**

2. Allow emergency services (i.e., law enforcement, fire, medical, search and rescue) wherever needed. **Guideline**

3. Allow authorized administrative use (i.e. grazing administration, noxious weed control, fire control) as determined in site specific plans such as allotment management plans, annual operating instructions, and interagency agreements. **Guideline**

4. Allow motorized wheelchair use in a non-motorized area so long as that wheelchair meets the legal definition of Title V, Section 507(c) (2) of the Americans with Disabilities Act. **Standard.**
5. Perform site-specific Roads Analysis, including public involvement, prior to making any decisions on road construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and decommissioning. Allow road maintenance without Roads Analysis for up to 5 years after approval of this plan. **Guideline**
6. Do not invest in new facilities on lands meeting the criteria for disposal. **Guideline**
7. Keep drinking water potable at Forest Service facilities or at facilities under special-use permit by the Forest Service. **Standard**
8. Newly acquired facilities will not be retained unless sufficient maintenance funding is available or cooperative maintenance can be secured, and a substantial government benefit can be demonstrated. **Guideline.**
9. Build new and reconstructed fences that provides for access for other uses such as big game movement, recreation, fire protection, and mineral development. **Guideline**
10. As opportunities allow, install gates along all existing fences at intervals to facilitate recreation and other uses to provide reasonable access. **Guideline**
11. Install all gates so they are easily opened and closed by all users. **Guideline**
12. Install cattle guards or hinged metal gates on popular and designated travel routes. **Guideline**
13. Prioritize and reconstruct those fences that do not meet big game specifications. **Guideline**
14. Reference Appendix B for fence construction for livestock, including bison. **Guideline**
15. Restrict capital investments on lands with non-federal mineral estate ownership in areas of moderate to high mineral development potential if purpose of capital investment would conflict with mineral development. **Guideline**
16. Perform site-specific mineral evaluations prior to making substantial capital investments, such as recreation developments, on federal mineral estate in areas of moderate to high potential for valuable mineral deposits. Based on conclusions from mineral evaluation and potential for mineral development, consider alternate location for capital investment, withdrawal of locatable minerals, or restrictions on surface occupancy for leaseable minerals. **Guideline**