

## **Wildlife Forest Plan Components**

### **Desired Conditions**

The amount, distribution, composition, and structure as defined in section XXX (Vegetation) and patch size provide the habitat necessary to support native and desired nonnative wildlife species.

Additional desired conditions will be added as connectivity issues for specific species are identified.

At least 30% of 5<sup>th</sup> code watersheds are **secure habitat**.

Rare habitat elements (e.g., **mineral licks, talus slopes, wet fractured bedrock, rocky outcrops, caves, abandoned mines, rare plant communities, waterfalls, and geologic inclusions**) are sustained indefinitely.

**Disturbance** does not occur within XX miles of XX% of **core elk calving, lambing, and fawning areas** from **June 1 to August 1**.

### **Objective**

The Forests meet annually with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to address activities, progress, concerns, and recommendations related to wildlife habitats and population status.

Restore XX acres of fragmented habitat within 10 years of Plan approval.

### **Guidelines**

To protect and preserve bat habitat, install bat-friendly gates when closing mines or caves.

To maintain the habitat used by threatened and endangered species, species of conservation concern, and species of socioeconomic and tribal importance, identify and protect rare habitat elements within a project area.

To promote germination and resprouting of preferred browse species in elk winter range forage projects, prescribed burning should be implemented within the natural fire season. Management practices, such as slashing or timber harvest to prepare fuel beds, should be used to achieve the maximum browse response from prescribed fire.

To reduce tree competition with preferred elk browse species in winter range, natural regeneration of treated areas should be prescribed. Trees may be planted to restore desired tree species composition or to achieve other management objectives.

To recruit additional snags where snag numbers are at or below desired conditions (as described in the Vegetation section), projects should identify large, preferably broken-top trees ( $\geq 6$  inches diameter at break) live trees as replacement snags.

To protect preferred habitats (e.g., calving lambing, fawning, nesting, denning, and wintering habitats) from disturbance, motorized travel should be restricted to xxx miles per square miles for these preferred habitats or within x miles of these preferred habitats.

To ensure that legacy trees are present across the landscape, xx% of the legacy trees within a project area should be retained.

**Suitability**

Bighorn sheep core herd home ranges are not suitable for domestic sheep grazing and trailing.