



File Code: 1920

Date: August 22, 2013

Dear Forest Plan Revision Participant:

Please insert the enclosed "Forest Plan Errata" sheet at the beginning of your printed copies of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Plan. Then replace Forest Plan pages 45-48 and 287-288. These corrections are administrative changes to the Forest Plan including correction of clerical errors and changes to other contents in the plan as described in 36CFR 219.13(c) and 219.7(f).

This letter serves as public notice of the administrative changes described in the errata sheet (36 CFR 219.16(c)(6)). The enclosed corrections to the Forest Plan become effective tomorrow.

An electronic copy of the Forest Plan (with corrected pages) is available on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest webpage at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/bdnf/forest-plan>. An electronic copy of this letter and the enclosed corrected pages are available at the same site. Please click "Link to Environmental Impact..." at the bottom of the page.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. If you have any questions about the attached documents or this letter, please call Peri Suenram at 406/683-3900 or Jan Bowey at 406/842-5432.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Timothy Garcia*  
TIMOTHY GARCIA  
Acting Forest Supervisor



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# CORRECTED FOREST PLAN

## REPLACEMENT PAGES

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This package of replacement pages provides administrative changes for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). Please insert the errata pages as the first two pages in printed copies of the Forest Plan and replace Forest Plan pages 45-48 and 287-288.

The Forest Plan has been updated on the web at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/bdnf/forest-plan> and the corrected pages are also posted separately at the bottom of the list of Forest Plan sections.

## ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

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### Page 45

- The titles for Wildlife Habitat Goals addressing “Wildlife Secure Areas and Connectivity” and “Wildlife Security” were switched when the Forest Plan was published in 2009. These titles are now associated with the correct goal.
- The Wildlife Habitat Goal “Wildlife Security” is associated with the density of roads and trails open to motorized use year-round by landscape as displayed in Table 13. When the Forest Plan was published in 2009, the title of Table 13 and column header previously included the word “summer”. Since this goal applies to motorized road and trail use year-round, the word summer has been removed from the title and column header of Table 13.

### Page 46

- The word “summer” has been removed from the column header at the top of Page 46 for the reason previously described for Page 45.
- The footnote on Table 13 previously read “This does not include roads available for permitted or administrative use”. This footnote originated with a table of values in the DEIS analysis displaying a preliminary data run of existing condition and represented only a portion of the interdisciplinary team analysis conducted. The footnote was inappropriately and inadvertently copied to Table 13. Open motorized road and trail density goals displayed in Table 13 were intended to include ALL motorized routes. The footnote words “does not include” have been replaced with the word “includes”.

### Page 47

The footnote on Table 14 previously read as described above for Page 46. The footnote words “does not include” have been replaced with the word “includes” for the same reason.

**Page 48**

- No changes.

**Page 288**

- The term “Elk Security Area” as defined in the glossary was considered in the analysis of the No Action Alternative (Alternative 1) in the Corrected FEIS for the Forest Plan. This concept, however, was not selected as the methodology to be used in the Forest Plan as reflected in the Selected Alternative (Alternative 6 Modified) in the 2009 ROD. Unfortunately, much of the glossary from the FEIS was copied to the Forest Plan and inadvertently included a definition for Elk Security Area; a concept not used in the Forest Plan. Rather, “Wildlife Security” as described on page 45 is the applicable concept as it addresses density of open motorized roads and trails that can affect a number of wildlife species including, but not limited to, elk. The definition for Elk Security Area has been removed from the Forest Plan glossary.

**Page 289**

- The term “Elk Habitat Effectiveness,” as previously defined in the glossary was also considered in the analysis of the No Action Alternative (Alternative 1) in the FEIS for the Forest Plan and inadvertently copied in the same way “Elk Security Area” was. The definition for Elk Habitat Effectiveness has been removed from the Forest Plan glossary for the same reason described above for page 288.

## WILDLIFE HABITAT

### Goals

**Habitat:** Cover and forage for animals is provided by a mosaic of species and age classes of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and forbs. See Vegetation Goals for details.

**Grizzly Bear Conflicts:** Conflicts between grizzly bears and humans or human activities in occupied grizzly bear habitat, are managed such that the removal of a bear is not necessary.

**Connectivity:** Forest management contributes to wildlife linkages between landscapes, unless landscape isolation is determined to be beneficial. Linkage areas are those areas identified for large carnivores and ungulates through multi-agency coordination. Options may include, but are not limited to:

- Maintaining Forest Service ownership at highway and road crossings,
- Consolidating ownership at approach areas to highway and road crossings substantiated by empirical data as necessary to facilitate wildlife movement, and
- Providing secure habitat at the landscape scale to facilitate large animal movement.

**Sage Grouse:** Sagebrush habitat supports sage grouse and pygmy rabbit populations by providing suitable sage grouse brood-rearing habitat on at least 40% of the sagebrush habitat within 18 kilometers of documented active or inactive sage grouse leks and the area mapped as potential pygmy rabbit habitat.

**Wildlife Secure Areas and Connectivity:** Secure areas and connectivity for ungulates and large carnivores are provided, while recognizing the variety of recreational opportunities.

**Grizzly Bear Security:** The Gravelly Landscape is maintained to achieve 60% or greater secure areas (Scale - Gravelly Landscape).

**Wildlife Security:** Manage density of open motorized roads and trails by landscape year-round, except fall rifle big game season, to achieve levels at or below the following (Scale - Landscapes):

*Table 13. Density of Roads and Trails Open to Motorized Use by Landscape*

Landscape	Desired Open Motorized Road and Trail Density
	Miles per Sq. Mile*
Big Hole	1.2
Boulder River	1.9
Clark Fork - Flints	1.9
Gravelly	0.7
Jefferson River	1.6
Lima Tendoy	1.0

Landscape	Desired Open Motorized Road and Trail Density
	Miles per Sq. Mile*
Madison	0.0
Pioneer	1.5
Tobacco Roots	1.3
Upper Clark Fork	2.0
Upper Rock Creek	0.9

\*This includes roads available for permitted or administrative use.

**Elk Security:** Elk security is managed to provide quality elk habitat, provide a variety of recreational hunting opportunities, and provide support for Montana’s fair chase emphasis.

Manage open motorized road and trail density by MTFWP hunting units as of 2006 - on National Forest lands during the fall rifle big game season, to achieve levels at or below the following: (Scale - Hunting Unit)

*Table 14. Hunting Season Open Motorized Road/Trail Densities by Hunting Unit*

Hunting Unit	Desired Fall Open Motorized Road and Trail Density
	Miles per Sq. Mile*
210	0.9
211	0.5
212	1.4
213	1.4
214	1.6
215	1.5
216	0.8
300	0.6
302	1.0
311	0.0
318	1.8
319	0.6
320	0.8
321	1.1
323	0.5
324	0.4
327	0.8
328	0.8
329	1.1
330	0.7
331	1.5
332	0.8

Hunting Unit	Desired Fall Open Motorized Road and Trail Density
	Miles per Sq. Mile*
333	0.9
340	1.4
341	0.5
350	1.3
360	0.0
362	0.0
370	1.0

*\*This includes roads available for permitted or administrative use.*

## Objectives

**Grizzly Bear Conflicts:** Implement food storage and sanitation orders in areas classified as occupied grizzly bear habitat.

**Road and Trail Densities by Hunting Unit:** From October 15 to December 1, reduce the open motorized road and trail densities in hunting units 215 to 1.5; 300 to 0.6; 302 to 1.0; 318 to 1.8; 333 to .9; 341 to .5; and 350 to 1.3 miles per square mile or less.

**Road and Trail Densities by Landscape:** Reduce the open motorized road and trail densities from May 16 to December 1 in the Boulder River Landscape to 1.9 and Jefferson River Landscape to 1.6 miles per square miles or less.

**Management Indicator Species:** Maintain habitat conditions for elk security and winter habitat integrity for wolverine and mountain goat as reflected by changes in abundance of these Management Indicator Species (MIS).

**Sage Grouse:** Maintain or improve sagebrush height, and canopy and grass-forb canopy of sagebrush habitat, emphasizing habitat within 18 kilometers of documented active or inactive sage grouse leks and the area mapped as potential pygmy rabbit habitat.

**Snags:** Snags and woody debris are well distributed by vegetation category and size class over time.

**Sensitive and Federally Listed Species:** Information in the following sources should be considered when designing projects that may affect sensitive species or federally listed species.

- Management Plan and Conservation Strategies for Sage Grouse in Montana
- Northern Region Conservation Assessment for Northern Goshawk, Black-backed Woodpecker, Flammulated Owl, and Pileated Woodpecker (March 2006)
- Montana Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
- Grizzly Bear Conservation for the Greater Yellowstone Area National Forests (GYA)
- Northern Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf Recovery Plan

- Montana Bald Eagle Management Plan. (refer to the State conservation plan or other appropriate plan.)

## Standards

**Standard 1:** From October 15 to December 1 Hunting Units that exceed the open motorized road and trail density objective will have no net increase in designated open motorized road and trail mileage (Scale - Hunting Units on National Forest lands).

**Standard 2:** Landscapes that exceed the open motorized road and trail objective will have no net increase in designated open motorized road and trail mileage (Scale – Landscapes on National Forest System Lands).

**Standard 3:** Mechanical vegetation treatments will:

Retain all snags greater than 20” dbh (except for hazard trees).

In addition, do not reduce the number of snags greater than 15.0” dbh per acre in treatment units below the levels shown in the Table 12, calculated as an average for the total treatment unit acreage in a project area. This calculation allows variability among treatment units which produces a more natural clumpy distribution.

If there are insufficient snags in treatment units, live trees in the same size class must be retained and counted towards the snag requirement. These would be in addition to any requirements of Standard 4.

These per acre requirements do not apply to the treatment units if analysis shows the levels of snags will be met for the project area as a whole.

If, in the project area as a whole, there are insufficient live trees and/or snags greater than 15.0” dbh, the standard is deemed complied with by retention of the existing live trees and/or snags greater than 15.0” dbh in the treatment units.

**Table 12. Minimum average snags per acre to be retained, calculated for the total treatment unit acreage in a project area.**

Vegetation Category	Minimum average snags per acre to retain
	Snags > 15.0” dbh
Warm	3.6
Cool	8
Cold	5
PICO	6.4

**Standard 4:** Do not reduce the number of live trees greater than 10.0” dbh per acre in regeneration harvest treatment units (to provide future snags) below the levels shown in Table 13 on the next page.

**Disturbance:** Any event, such as wildfire or timber harvest that alters the structure, composition, or function of an ecosystem.

**Diversity:** The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within the area covered by a land and resource management plan.

**Dominance Types for the BDNF:**

- If the dominance type is single species, the species comprises greater than or equal to 60%.
- If the dominance type is two species, the 1<sup>st</sup> species comprises roughly 40-80%
- If the dominance type is three species, the 1<sup>st</sup> species comprises roughly 20-60%.
- If no three species can be assigned, the 1<sup>st</sup> species is a MIX, for BDNF this is either tolerant mix (TASH) or intolerant mix (IMIX).

*E*

**Economics:** The study of allocation of limited resources, goods, and services among competing uses.

**Ecosystem:** A naturally occurring, self-maintained system of varied living and non-living interacting parts that are organized into biophysical and human dimension components.

**Ecosystem Integrity:** A condition where the parts and functions of an ecosystem are sustained over time and where the system's capacity for self-repair is maintained, such that goals for uses, values, and services of the ecosystem are met.

**Ecosystem Management:** Scientifically based land and resource management that integrates ecological capabilities with social values and economic relationships, to produce, restore, or sustain ecosystem integrity and desired conditions, uses, products, values, and services over the long term.

**Ecosystem Structure:** The biological and physical attributes that shape ecological systems. Biotic attributes include: population size, structure, and range, foliage density and layering, snags, large woody debris, or the size, shape, and spatial relationships of cover types within a landscape. Physical attributes include: soil and geologic substrate variables, slope and aspect, or stream gradient.

**Encroachment:** Plant succession in the absence of disturbance, in areas the plant type is not desired.

**Eligibility (for Wild and Scenic Rivers):** A river is eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System if it is free flowing and has at least one river-related value that is considered outstandingly remarkable.

**Endangered Species:** Designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and animal or plant that has been given federal protection status because it is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its natural range.

**Energy Transmission Facility:** Pipelines or power lines and associated structures and equipment used to transmit bulk electricity, crude oil, natural gas, refined petroleum products, or hydrogen from generation or collection points to distribution points. Electric transmission lines are generally larger than 66 KV. Transmission facilities do not include smaller distribution lines serving residential or commercial end use. Transmission facilities do not include oil and gas field production, gathering, or collection lines or facilities.

**Entrenchment Ratio:** Entrenchment describes the relationship of the river to its valley and landform features. Entrenchment is qualitatively defined as the vertical containment of a river and the degree to which it is incised in the valley floor (Kellerhals et al. 1972). The term entrenchment ratio, the vertical containment of the river, has been quantitatively defined (Rosgen 1994) to provide a consistent method for field determination. The entrenchment ratio is the ratio of the width of the flood-prone area to the surface width of the bankfull channel. Ratios of 1-1.4 represent entrenched streams; 1.41-2.2 represent moderately entrenched streams; and ratios great than 2.2 indicate rivers only slightly entrenched, (Rosgen, 1996)

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** A detailed statement prepared by the responsible official for a major federal action, which significantly affects the quality of the human environment. Alternatives to the proposed action are provided, and effects analyzed.

**Even-Aged Management:** The application of a combination of actions that results in the creation of stands in which trees of essentially the same age grow together. Clearcut, shelterwood, or seed tree cutting produce even-aged stands of essentially the same age.

**Extent of Concern:** The portion of a travel route for which a Scenic Concern Level has been assigned. The extent of concern for sites is not listed, but can be described as the perimeter of developed or heavily used areas. The extent of concern provides the general location for project analysis viewpoints and visibility mapping.

## *F*

**Facilities:** Picnic tables, toilets, hardened campsites, campground, other buildings or structures.

**Fire-Dependent Ecosystem:** Forests, grasslands, and other ecosystems historically composed of species that evolved with and are maintained by periodic fire.