

# GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST SUMMARY OF FOREST PLAN AMENDMENTS

August 17, 2009

## Introduction

This document summarizes decisions and proposals to amend the Gallatin National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) since it was signed in September of 1987. This includes: (1) Forest Plan amendment decisions that permanently altered management direction contained within the 9/87 Forest Plan. (2) Forest Plan amendment decisions that were one-time exemptions allowing projects to proceed that were inconsistent with a Forest Plan standard. And (3) proposals for Forest Plan amendments that were never completed or that were overturned in court.

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**Table 1. Listing of decisions and proposals to amend the Gallatin Forest Plan.**

<b>Amendment</b>	<b>Decision Date<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1. Access Before Outfitting Amendment	-----	Withdrawn
2. So. Plateau Timber Sale Grizzly Bear/Old Growth Amendment	5/24/89	
3. Hyalite MA Amendment	3/20/90	
4. Mill/Emigrant Timber Sales VQO Amendment	7/90	
5. Mill/Emigrant Timber Sales HEI Amendment	7/90	
6. Hyalite Timber Sale HEI/Road Density Amendment	-----	Overtured in Court
7. Thompson Creek Salvage Timber Sale VQO Amendment	3/11/92	
8. Sensitive Species Amendment	-----	Never Completed
9. Habitat Effectiveness Amendment	-----	Not Completed but see Travel Plan Amendments
10. Old Growth/Veg. Diversity Amendment	-----	Never Completed
11. Trout Unlimited/Riparian Amendment	-----	Never Initiated
12. Wild and Scenic Rivers Amendment	7/2/93	
13. <i>This number not used</i>		
14. Big Game Cover Amendment	2/26/93	
15. Wildlife Snag Amendment	2/26/93	
16. Management Indicator Species Amendment	-----	Never Initiated
17. Water Quality Analysis Procedures Amendment	2/26/93	
18. OTO Ranch Acquisition Amendment	-----	Not completed, but see Amendment #29.
19. Grizzly Bear/Road Density Amendment	2/20/96	
20. Research Natural Area Amendment	7/29/97	
21. Cooke City Mineral Withdrawal Amendment	8/12/97	
22. Hyalite HEI and VQO Amendment	-----	Overtured in Court
23. Bridger Bowl MA Adjustment Amendment	5/18/05	
24. Bridger Bowl VQO Amendment	5/18/05	
25. Bridger Bowl HEI Amendment	5/18/05	

<sup>1</sup> Note that the effective date of amendments are not in sequence chronologically with the assigned amendment number.

<b>Amendment</b>	<b>Decision Date<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Remarks</b>
26. Bridger Bowl Old Growth Amendment	5/18/05	
27. Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy	04/07	
28. Bangtail Special Interest Area Amendment	08/07	
29. OTO Ranch Amendment	1/27/06	
30. Bozeman Creek Visual Rehab (Timber Sale) (VQO) Amendment	6/7/95	
31. Appaloosa Timber Sale HEI Amendment	12/18/98	
32. Appaloosa Timber Sale Veg. Diversity Amendment	12/18/98	
33. Iron Mountain Timber Sale Veg. Diversity Amendment	3/3/99	
34. Moose/Swan/Tamphery Timber Sale HEI Amendment	3/15/99	
35. Moose/Swan/Tamphery Timber Sale Veg. Diversity Amendment	3/15/99	
36. So. Portal Timber Sale VQO Amendment	5/21/99	
37. So. Portal Timber Sale Veg. Diversity Amendment	5/21/99	
38. Taylor Fork Timber Sale HEI Amendment	10/06/00	
39. Taylor Fork Timber Sale Veg. Diversity Amendment	10/06/00	
40. Taylor Fork Timber Sale Motorized Density/Griz Core Amendment	10/06/00	
41. Taylor Fork Timber Sale Griz Thermal Cover Amendment	10/06/00	
42. Montana/Dakota OHV Amendment	01/01	
43. Darroach-Eagle Creek Timber Sale HEI Amendment	4/04	
44. Darroch-Eagle Creek Timber Sale Veg. Diversity Amendment	4/04	
45. Gallatin Forest Travel Plan Amendments	12/06	
46. Northern Rockies Lynx Amendment	3/07	

### **Proposed Amendment #1, Access Before Outfitting – PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN**

This amendment was proposed in the late 1980s to add a forestwide standard to the Forest Plan which would have prohibited the issuance a special use permit for day use outfitting in areas without adequate public access. This proposal was withdrawn after it was discovered that this type of standard was probably illegal.

### **Amendment #2, South Plateau Grizzly Bear/Old Growth Amendment**

**Forest Plan, MA 13, pg. III-41, amended 5/24/89 via Decision Notice for the South Plateau Timber Sales.**

For the South Plateau area of Hebgen Lake Ranger District, the Forest Plan standard for MA 13 which stated "maintain a minimum of 30% of each timber compartment in old growth emphasizing by priority Douglas-fir, whitebark pine and wet subalpine fir community types", was amended as follows:

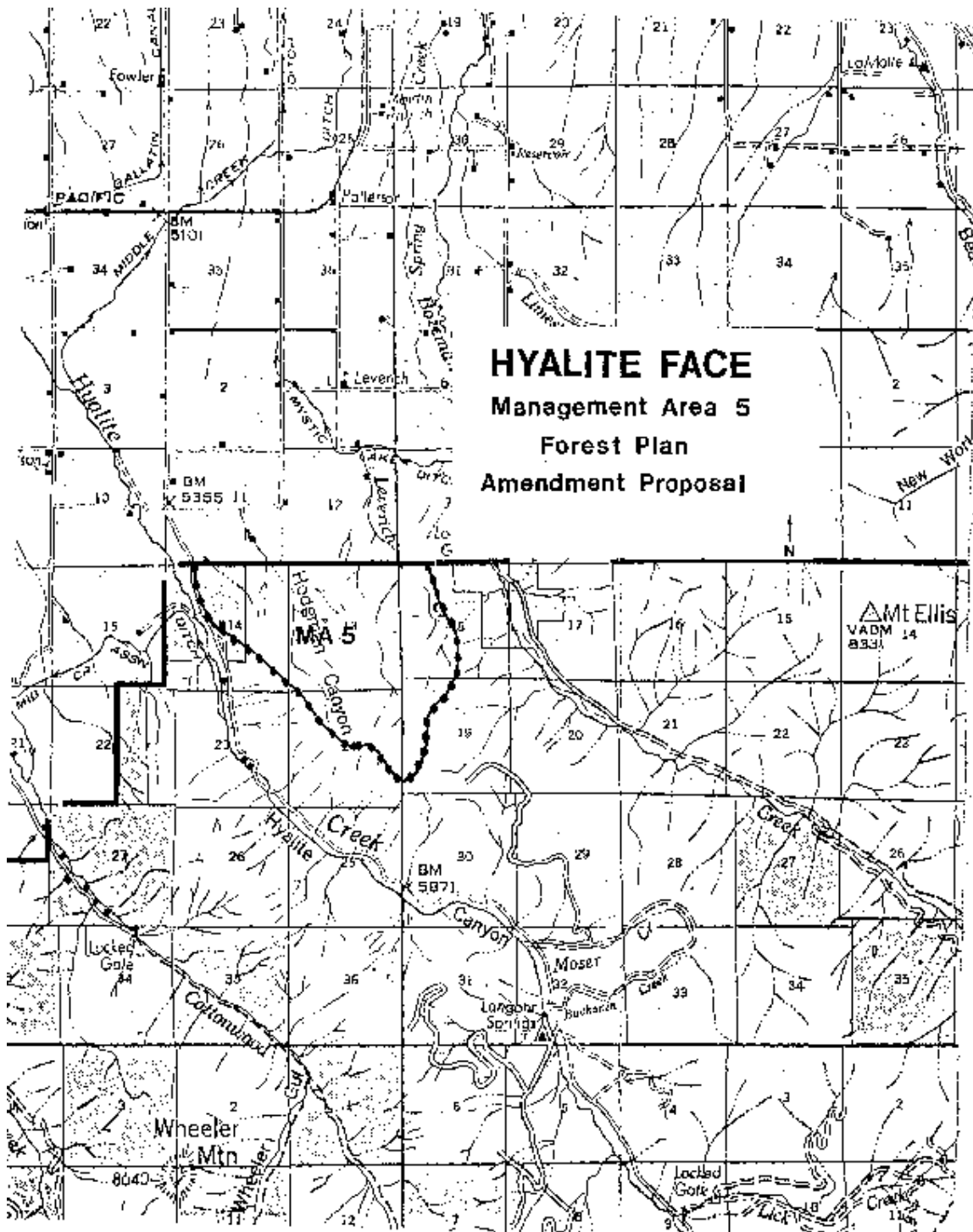
- "1. Maintain 50% or more of the whitebark pine zone (generally found above 8100 feet elevation) in old growth.
2. Maintain 30% or more of mesic sites in bear hiding cover.
3. Maintain 30% or more of mesic sites (especially ABLA/VASC/THOC, ABLA/CARU, ABLA/VAGL, and ABLA/VAGL/VASC) in old growth or old growth like stands having a broken canopy and a productive understory."

Note: The geographic boundary of this amendment is unspecified however it should be assumed that the amendment applies to compartment 706 or the area located between the northern end of the Madison Plateau, the Montana-Idaho border, Yellowstone National Park and the South Fork of the Madison River. This was the geographic scope of the proposed timber sales which precipitated the need for the amendment.

### **Amendment #3, Hyalite MA Amendment**

**Forest Plan Management Area Map, amended 3/20/90 via Decision Memo.**

This amendment changed 255 acres of Management Area (MA) 8, 644 acres of MA 11, 149 acres of MA 12, and 425 acres of MA 17 around Hodgman Canyon and Leverich Cr. along the east face of Hyalite Canyon, Bozeman Ranger District, to MA 5.



#### **Amendment #4, Mill/Emigrant VQO Amendment**

##### **Forest Plan pg. II-16, #4 and VQO maps, amended 7/90 via the Mill/Emigrant Timber Sales Record of Decision (ROD)**

Within the Mill Creek drainage of the Livingston Ranger District, the Forest Plan standard for visual quality was changed as follows:

- "1. From partial retention to modification in the Upper Mill subdivision as identified in the Mill/Emigrant EIS, when seen from the Sidehill Trail and main Mill Creek Road.
2. From partial retention to modification in the Wicked/Snowbank subdivision of Mill Creek, as identified in the Mill/Emigrant EIS, when viewed from the Sidehill Trail and the main Mill Creek Road.
3. From partial retention to modification for unit #84 in the Davis/Chico subdivision, as identified in the Mill/Emigrant EIS, when viewed from the Mill Creek Road."

The amendment is to apply only to the period of time from commencement of harvest activities until visual recovery has occurred.

#### **Amendment #5, Mill/Emigrant "Elk Effective Cover" (HEI) Amendment**

##### **Forest Plan pg. II-18, #4, amended 7/90 via Mill/Emigrant ROD**

The forestwide standard which requires an "elk effective cover" rating (habitat effectiveness index or HEI) of 70% was changed to 55% within the Wicked/Snowbank subdivision of Mill Creek, as described in the Mill/Emigrant Timber Sales FEIS/ROD.

#### **Amendment #6, Hyalite HEI/Road Density Amendment - OVERTURNED**

##### **Forest Plan pg. II-18, #4**

This amendment was included in conjunction with the Hyalite Timber Sale decision and it would have changed the standard for elk effective cover (HEI) (FP, page II-18, #4) for compartment 509 in the Hyalite drainage from 70% to 60%. The decision was overturned by Judge Hatfield in May of 1995.

#### **Amendment #7, Thompson Creek Visual Quality Objectives (VQO) Amendment**

##### **Forest Plan pg. II-16, #4 and VQO maps, amended 3/11/92 via Thompson Creek Salvage Timber Sale Decision Notice (DN)**

Within the Mill Creek drainage of the Livingston Ranger District, the Forest Plan standard for visual quality was changed for the area impacted by the Thompson Creek Fire from "modification" to "rehabilitation."

### **Proposed Amendment #8, Sensitive Species Amendment – WITHDRAWN**

#### **Forest Plan pg. II-18, #12; pgs. IV-5 and IV-6**

This amendment would have changed the Forest Plan standard requiring that habitat essential to the management of sensitive species be maintained (FP, pg. II-18, #12). This standard was inconsistent with Regional Office direction (FSM 2672.24a) and included an inaccurate list of sensitive species occurring on the Gallatin National Forest. The preferred alternative would have: (1) Added a forestwide objective to complete inventories and management guides for sensitive species. (2) Amended the current standard to simply reference the Region's most current list of sensitive species and clarify what "maintaining habitat" means. (3) Added the monitoring of sensitive species as a minimum monitoring requirement of the Forest Plan (pgs. IV-5 and 6).

Work ceased on this amendment at the end of the scoping period during the spring of 1992 after learning that the Region would likely revise direction for the management of sensitive species in the Fall of that year. Also, there was an unresolved issue with some RO personnel on whether the proposed Forest Plan standard could simply reference the Regional sensitive species list. The RO maintained that the Plan should be amended to name the species to be managed for and then amended again each time the list changed. The Gallatin was unwilling to take this approach because they believed it was inefficient to be going through the amendment process every time the list of sensitive species was updated.

### **Proposed Amendment #9, "Elk Effective Cover" (HEI) Amendment NEVER COMPLETED**

#### **Forest Plan pg. II-18, #4**

This amendment would have changed the Forest Plan standard on page II-18 that required timber sales to maintain an elk effective cover (known as HEI) rating of .70 during the general hunting season. The preferred alternative was to establish an appropriate HEI for each drainage based on featured species, their habitat needs, other management objectives for the area and what would be a realistic HEI value given existing open road and trail density.

Work ceased on this proposed amendment in the Fall of 1992 after a meeting where the Forest Service could not obtain the support of the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. They were adamantly opposed to even the idea of changing this standard. They said that they felt the current standard provided them the only avenue they had to

influence Forest Service decisions. In addition, the information needed to develop this proposed amendment was determined to require 2 full person years. Management chose not to make that investment.

*It should be noted that the Elk Effective Cover Standard (FP, page II-18, #4) has subsequently been removed (amended) through the Record of Decision for the Gallatin National Forest Travel Management Plan (12/06). See Amendment #45*

### **Proposed Amendment #10, Old Growth, Veg. Diversity Amendment** **NEVER COMPLETED**

#### **Forest Plan, page II-2, II-20, IV-6, VI-24 and G-11**

This amendment was proposed in September of 1992 to remove and modify Forest Plan direction which ran contrary to principles of ecosystem management. More specifically, the proposed amendment would:

- (1) Change the current definition of "old growth" on page VI-24 of the Forest Plan from "overmature timber" to one which better describes the true characteristics of old growth including decadence, snags and distinct canopy layers.
- (2) Add a definition of "biodiversity".
- (3) Add a new forestwide goal to page II-2 to "conserve the variety of life and its ecological processes (biodiversity) on the Gallatin National Forest.
- (4) Remove the standards to maintain 10% of timber compartments in each of 6 successional stages (Forest Plan, pg. II-20 and G-11) and replace it with a standard to maintain a minimum of 10% old growth and 10% mature stands of the forested acreage timber compartments.
- (5) Add monitoring requirements to the Forest Plan, page IV-6, for old growth, rare habitat types, other vegetative types and ecological processes.

Work ceased on this proposed amendment late in 1992 to focus on other priorities and was never resumed.

### **Proposed Amendment #11, Trout Unlimited/Riparian Amendment** **NEVER INITIATED**

This proposed amendment was never developed but was intended to incorporate some of the principles of the Trout Unlimited agreement, which resolved their Forest Plan appeal, and to clarify management area 7 direction regarding the allowance of timber management in riparian areas. There was internal disagreement as to whether timber

harvest was permissible in riparian zones when it would not result in improvement to wildlife and fish habitat.

The amendment process for this proposal was never initiated due to other work priorities.

### **Amendment #12, Wild and Scenic River Amendment**

#### **Forest Plan pgs. II-2, II-29, II-28, and J-1, amended 7/2/93**

This amendment added to and modified Forest Plan direction applicable to eligible Wild & Scenic Rivers. More specifically it:

1. Added a new forestwide goal (FP, pg. II-2) to "manage the eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers to protect their outstandingly remarkable values."
2. Added a new management standard (FP, pg. II-29) stating that "management activities will comply with the standards for Wild and Scenic Rivers from Chapter 8 of Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12."
3. Modified the eligibility classification for the Boulder River (FP, pg. II-28 and J-1) to include the segment from the forest boundary to Blakely Creek, and from Miller Creek to Bramble Creek as a recreational river; and to include the segment from Blakely Creek to Miller Creek, and from Bramble Creek to the Wilderness boundary, as a Scenic River.
4. Added the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River from the bridge crossing at the Clarks Fork trailhead to the National Forest boundary as an eligible Wild River (FP, pg. II-28 and J-1).

The amendment also modified the descriptions of the Boulder and Clarks Fork River segments (pg. J-1) to highlight the river values which support their classification as eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation.

### **Amendment #13**

**This amendment number was skipped (i.e. there is no Amendment #13).**

### **Amendment #14, Big Game Cover Definitions Amendment**

#### **Forest Plan glossary, pgs. VI-8, VI-14, VI-36, and VI-41, amended 2/26/93**

This amendment added to and modified existing Forest Plan definitions of cover and security in the glossary of the Forest Plan. More specifically it:

1. Added a definition: "COVER - Vegetation used by wildlife for protection from predators, disturbance, to ameliorate weather conditions, or in which to reproduce."
2. Modified the existing definition of HIDING COVER to read: "Vegetation capable of concealing 90 percent of a standing adult big game animal from the view of a human at a distance equal to or less than 200 feet; generally, any vegetation used by big game for security or escape from danger. Hiding cover is a site specific component of security."
3. Modified the definition of THERMAL COVER to read: "Cover used by animals to ameliorate chilling effects of weather; for elk and grizzly bear, a stand of coniferous trees 40 feet or taller with an average crown closure of 70 percent or more. For deer, thermal cover may also include saplings, shrubs, or trees at least 5 feet tall with a 75 percent crown closure. (In some cases, topography and vegetation less than specified may meet animal needs for thermal regulation.)"
4. Added a definition: "SECURITY - The protection inherent in any situation that allows big game to remain in a defined area despite an increase in stress or disturbance associated with the hunting season or other human activities. Security components may include vegetation, topography, open road density, distance from roads, hunter density, season timing, etc."

#### **Amendment #15, Wildlife Snag Amendment**

##### **Forest Plan, pgs. VI-39 and A-13, amended 2/26/93**

This amendment changed the existing definition of "snag" on pg. VI-39 and replaced the direction for snag management on page A-13. The definition of "snag" now reads "A standing dead tree greater than 18 feet in height and greater than 10 inches dbh."

The direction on page A-13 of the Forest Plan has been replaced with the following:

## "F. DIRECTION FOR SNAG MANAGEMENT

**GOAL A:** Maintain sufficient habitat components to accommodate the needs of cavity nesting birds and other snag dependent species in conjunction with the timber harvest program.

**Objective A1:** Provide and sustain an average of at least 30 snags per 10 acres in forested areas. Distribution should vary with some located along the edge of openings, some within the interior of harvest units, and some in clumps to meet the needs of a number of bird species. Emphasize snag retention in riparian areas, ridgetops, openings and areas of natural mortality.

Large, broken topped trees with existing cavities are preferred. Otherwise, both hard and soft snags of different species and varying diameters (over 10 inches) should be retained.

Provide live trees to serve as replacement snags for those likely to be lost before second growth timber reaches maturity and begins to suffer mortality. Replacement trees should be located so that they are protected from windthrow.

**Standard A1a:** For harvest units not scheduled for broadcast burning: During timber sale layout, designate for leave an average of 30 snags (greater than 18 ft. in height and greater than 10 inch DBH) per 10 acres within harvest units. If there are not sufficient dead trees meeting this size criteria, the largest available dead trees will be left as snags.

**Standard A1b:** For harvest units not scheduled for broadcast burning: During timber sale layout, designate for leave an average of 30 live snag replacement trees per 10 acres within harvest units. For Douglas fir and subalpine fir on rocky or shallow soils designate 60 trees per 10 acres as replacement trees.

**Guideline A1c:** For harvest units scheduled for broadcast burning: Snags and replacement trees will be retained to the extent feasible.

**Objective A2:** Protect snags, purposefully retained for wildlife use, from loss to firewood cutting. Emphasize snag retention in areas away from easy access for firewood cutting.

**Guideline A2a:** During timber sale layout, mark all designated snags and replacement trees that could be easily accessed by firewood cutters.

## G. DIRECTION FOR DOWN WOODY DEBRIS

GOAL A: Maintain sufficient down woody debris habitat components to accommodate the needs of wildlife species in conjunction with the timber harvest program.

Objective A1: Provide the following levels of three-inch diameter or greater dead and down woody debris for dependent wildlife habitat in harvest units where piling occurs.

Log Class	Amount
1, 2	2 per acre (at least 10-inch diameter x at least 20 feet long)
3,4	All where feasible
5	All

Log class refers to the various stages of log decomposition as shown in the diagram on the following page and on page A-14 of the Forest Plan.

In addition, retain zero to three-inch diameter debris for habitat of dependent species over approximately ten percent of each harvest area.

Standard A1a: In timber sale contracts, require that a minimum of fifteen tons per acre of three-inch diameter or larger debris (if available) be left scattered after machine site preparation and/or hazard reduction within harvest units.

Standard A1b: In timber sale contracts where machine piling is specified, prohibit windrowing of dead and down woody debris."

### **Proposed Amendment #16, Management Indicator Species – NEVER INITIATED**

This amendment would have established minimum habitat requirements for pine marten, hairy woodpecker and goshawk as Forest Plan standards. The amendment process was never initiated due to other work priorities.

### **Amendment #17, Water Quality Analysis Procedures Amendment**

**Forest Plan MA 8 (pg. II-25), MA 10 (pg. III-31), MA11 (pg. III-35), MA13 (pg. III-42) amended 2/26/93.**

This amendment deleted the management area standard which stated "use the Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA) procedures to evaluate hydrologic conditions."

### **Amendment #18, OTO Ranch Acquisition Amendment – NEVER COMPLETED**

This amendment would have established Forest Plan management direction for the newly acquired OTO Ranch lands in and near the Cedar Creek drainage north of Gardiner. The preponderance of ranch lands would have been placed in management area (MA) 14 except that a new MA (27) was developed for management of the historic lodge area. It emphasized the protection and interpretation of this historic site as the primary management goal.

This amendment was initially seen as a priority for accomplishment because it was anticipated that some outside funding may be offered to restore the site and develop interpretive facilities. The offer never occurred and the need to amend became a lower priority. Resurrection of the amendment was again considered in FY 1997, but deferred until scheduled revision because of other work priorities and some new internal debate over how this area should be managed.

*Note that Forest Plan management direction was established for the acquired OTO Ranch through Amendment #29 (ROD dated 1/27/06).*

### **Amendment #19, Grizzly Bear Recovery Amendment**

**Forest Plan, amended 1996 in response to a 1995 amended biological opinion provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for national forests in the Greater Yellowstone Area.**

This amendment modified previous Forest Plan management direction for recovery of the "threatened" grizzly bear, as it relates to open motorized route density, with the following for the grizzly bear recovery zone:

1. Allow no increase open motorized access route density.
2. Allow no increase in total motorized access route density.
3. Allow no decrease in the amount of core area from the current levels.

*Note that this amendment no longer applies due to the delisting of the grizzly bear in April 2007 and the amendment of Forest Plans to adopt the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy. See Amendment #27.*

#### **Amendment #20, Research Natural Areas Amendment**

**Forest Plan, MA 21, pg. III-62 and Management Area Map amended July 29, 1997 through a Regional Forester decision to establish various Research Natural Areas throughout Northern Region Forests.**

This amendment reflects the establishment of seven designated Research Natural Areas (RNAs) and one Special Interest Area (SIA) on the Gallatin National Forest. They include the: East Fork Mill Creek RNA, Passage Creek RNA, and Sliding Mountain RNA on Livingston Ranger District; the Palace Butte and Wheeler Ridge RNA on Bozeman Ranger District; and the Black Butte RNA, Obsidian Sands RNA and Black Sand Springs SIA on Hebgen Lake Ranger District. The amendment changes the description of these in MA 21 from "candidate" RNA's to "designated" RNA's.

The amendment also adjusts acreage figures for each RNA based on the established boundaries and assigns lands included to MA 21 and lands which are now excluded to the appropriate adjacent management area.

Note: Specific direction for management of RNA's can be found in the establishment record for each one.

#### **Amendment #21, Cooke City Mineral Withdrawal**

**Forest Plan, Management Area Map and Appendix D amended August 12, 1997 by the Under Secretary of Agriculture via the ROD for the Cooke City Area Mineral Withdrawal.**

This amendment changed all lands within the Cooke City Mineral Withdrawal area which were allocated to MA 24 (minerals emphasis) to MA 15 (wildlife/recreation emphasis). It also amended Appendix D of the Plan to include this mineral withdrawal.

#### **Amendment #22, Hyalite II HEI and VQO Amendment - ENJOINED 9/4/97**

**Forest Plan pg. II-18 #4, pg. II-16 #4 and VQO maps, amended 3/24/97 via the Hyalite II Salvage Timber Sale DN.**

This amendment changed elk effective cover ratings (HEI) for the Hyalite drainage from 70% to 47%, the actual HEI of the drainage based on the open road and trail network in place as of March of 1997. The amendment also exempted unit 210 of the Hyalite II Salvage Timber Sale from the VQO standard of "retention". This amendment was enjoined along with the timber sale by Judge Molloy, Montana Federal District Court, on September 4, 1997.

### **Amendment #23, Bridger Bowl Ski Area Management Area Amendment**

#### **Forest Plan Management Area Maps, amended 5/18/05 via the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Bridger Bowl Master Development Plan and Special Use Permit Authorization.**

This amendment adjusted the Forest Plan management area boundaries to allow for the expansion of the Bridger Bowl Ski Area. Net changes in acreage are displayed in the following table.

<b>Management Area Changes</b>		
<b>MA 2</b>		
+160 acres	(Section 13 changing from MA 12 to MA 2)	
+ 57.3	(Section 13 currently undesignated)	
+ 83.2	(Section 23 & 14 changing from MA 12 to MA 2)	
+ 4	(Section 30 changing from MA 11 to MA 2)	
- 16.7	(Section 30 changing from MA 2 to MA 11)	
<b>Total adjustment: +287.8 acres</b>		
<b>MA 11</b>		
- 4 acres	(Section 30 changing from MA 11 to MA 2)	
+ 16.7	(Section 30 changing from MA 2 to MA 11)	
<b>Total adjustment: + 12.7 acres</b>		
<b>MA 12</b>		
- 160 acres	(Section 13 changing from MA 12 to MA 2)	
+ 428.1	(Section 13 currently undesignated)	
<b>Total adjustment: + 268.1 acres</b>		

### **Amendment #24, Bridger Bowl Ski Area Visual Quality (VQO) Amendment**

#### **Forest Plan, page II-16, #4 and VQO maps, amended 5/18/05 via the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Bridger Bowl Master Development Plan and Special Use Permit Authorization.**

Within the special use permit area for Bridger Bowl Ski Area, this amendment changed the visual quality objective (VQO) to “Partial Retention”.

#### **Amendment #25, Bridger Bowl Ski Area “Elk Effective Cover” Amendment**

**Forest Plan, page II-18, #4, amended 5/18/05 via the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Bridger Bowl Master Development Plan and Special Use Permit Authorization.**

This amendment exempts development within the Bridger Bowl Special Use Permit boundary from the forest-wide standard (FP, page II-18, #4) which requires maintaining an “elk effective cover” rating (HEI value) of 70% or better.

*It should be noted that the Elk Effective Cover Standard (FP, page II-18, #4) has subsequently been removed (amended) through the Record of Decision for the Gallatin National Forest Travel Management Plan (12/06). See Amendment #45*

#### **Amendment #26, Bridger Bowl Ski Area Old Growth Amendment**

**Forest Plan, page II-20, #6.c.2, amended 5/18/05 via the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Bridger Bowl Master Development Plan and Special Use Permit Authorization.**

This amendment added the following provision to the Forest Plan vegetative diversity standard #6.c.2: “Development within the Bridger Bowl Ski Area Special Use Permit boundary is exempt from the forest-wide 10% old growth successional stage standard.

#### **Amendment #27, Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy Amendment**

**Forest Plan, amended 4/18/06 via the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation.**

This amendment replaced the existing Forest Plan direction (FP, Appendix G and H, and Amendment 19) relative to the grizzly bear with goals, standards, guidelines and monitoring described in Appendix A of the ROD for the Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation (i.e. the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy). A detailed description of this direction is too lengthy to disclose here but the overall goal is to “manage grizzly bear habitat within the Primary Conservation Area to sustain the recovered Yellowstone grizzly bear population.” There are included standards and guidelines that pertain to secure habitat, developed sites, livestock grazing, nuisance bears, food storage, winter motorized access, and food sources. Monitoring items address secure habitat and motorized access, developed sites, livestock grazing, habitat effectiveness and whitebark pine.

**Amendment #28, Bangtail Special Interest Area (SIA) Amendment**

**Forest Plan management area (MA) 21 (pages III-62 through III-63), the management area map and Amendment #20, amended 7/29/07 via the Decision Notice designating the Bangtails Special Interest Area.**

This amendment designated and added to MA 21 direction as modified by Amendment #20, 3,366 acres of national forest land within the Bangtail Mountains as a Special Interest Area (SIA). The SIA is located in portions of Sections 5, 6, 7, and 8, Township 1S, Range 8E; all of Sections 30 and 31, Township 1N, Range 8E; and Section 25 (all) and portions of Section 36, Township 1N, Range 7E, Principal Meridian, Montana (see map on the following page). On the Forest Plan MA map, the designated MA's shown in Table 3 below, were re-allocated to MA 21.

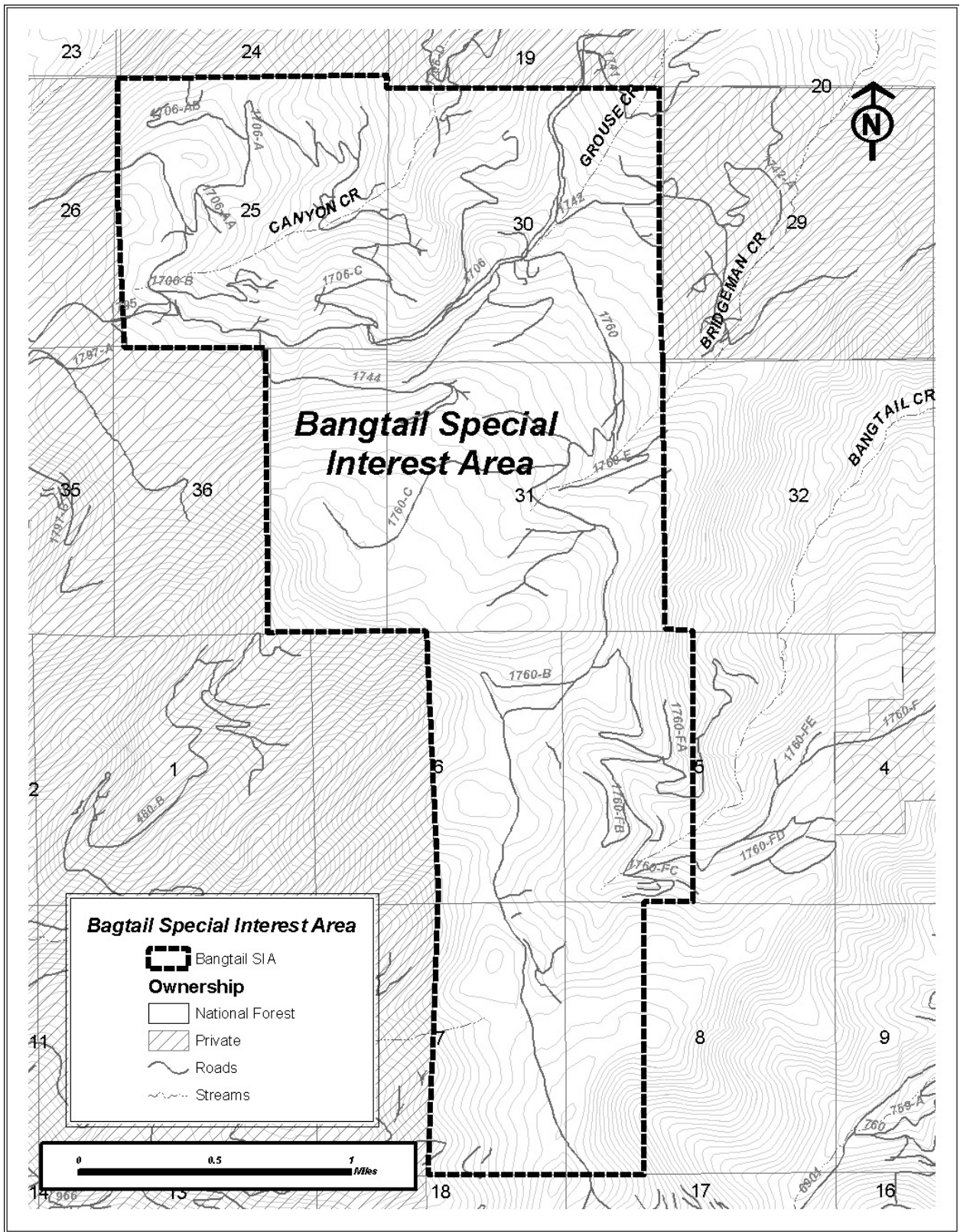


Figure 2. Map of Bangtail Special Interest Area boundary.

Table 3. Management area direction modified in the Bangtail SIA.

Management Areas	Acres	Management Area Emphasis
1	33	Visitor sites and potential developed sites
10	615	Forest management and livestock grazing
11	455	Big game forested habitat
16	245	Livestock grazing
17	62	Livestock and wildlife forage production
99	1956	Unclassified lands recently acquired by the Gallatin

Lastly, Forest Plan Amendment #20 was amended as follows:

The introduction to Amendment #20 was changed to the following:

The Gallatin National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) was approved on September 23, 1987. Changes affecting the Gallatin National Forest since that time have required periodic amendments to the Forest Plan to keep it current. This amendment pertains to the Research Natural Areas and Special Interest Areas within the Forest. On July 29, 1997 the Regional Forester designated seven sites as Research Natural Areas and one site as a Special Interest Area on the Gallatin National Forest. On February 20, 2007 the Forest Regional Forester added one additional Special Interest area to the Gallatin National Forest; the Bangtail Botanical and Paleontological Special Interest Area.

Chapter III, Management Area 21 (page III-62 of the Forest Plan):

Replaced the acreage listed at the top of the page with “10,046” acres.

The last sentence of the introductory paragraph changed in Amendment #20 was changed to read:

SIAs are for the protection of unusual or uncommon botanical and paleontological values for study and public enjoyment.

Amendment #20 added the following paragraph to the end of the table at the bottom of the page:

“An analysis of candidate areas was completed in 1997. This resulted in the description of seven Research natural Areas from the candidates listed in Table 1, plus one botanical Special Interest Area which was a new proposal.”

The following sentence was added to that paragraph:

On February 20, 2007 the Forest Regional Forester added one additional Special Interest area to the Gallatin National Forest; the Bangtail Botanical and Paleontological Special Interest Area.

Amendment #20 added a “Table 2” to the management direction in Management Area 21. The following was added to Table 2:

Area	Characteristic Features	Acres
Bozeman Ranger District: Bangtail Botanical and Paleontological SIA	Subalpine forests and mountain meadows, unique paleontological resources	3366

Chapter III, Management Area 21 section (page III-63 of the Forest Plan):

Amendment #20 added the following sentence to the first paragraph to describe the management area goal for Special Interest Areas:

“Special Interest Areas provide protection for unusual or uncommon features, such as rare plants or plant communities, and are designated for study and enjoyment.”

That sentence was changed to read as follows:

“Special Interest Areas are designated for study, enjoyment and protection for unusual or uncommon botanical and paleontological features.”

### **Forest Plan Amendment #29, OTO Ranch Amendment**

**Forest Plan, management area map, amended 1/27/06 via the Decision Notice for the Gallatin Forest Plan Amendment, Northern Yellowstone Winter Range Acquisition, OTO Tract.**

This amendment applies to 3,265 acres of National Forest System land acquired in 1991 as part of the Northern Yellowstone Winter Range acquisition project. The amendment includes the application of the forest-wide direction from Chapter 2 of the Forest Plan and allocating the lands to appropriate management area (MA) designations (Forest Plan, Chapter 3). The following Forest Plan management area (MA) designations were applied to the OTO acquired lands:

Management Area	Acres Allocated	Percent of Total Acres
MA 1 Developed Recreation Site - Trailhead	2	Trace
MA 14 Grizzly Habitat/Big Game Winter Range	3,232	99
MA 26 Administrative Site - OTO Ranch	28	1
MA 26 Administrative Site – Lower Residence	2	Trace
MA 26 Administrative Site - Caretaker Residence	1	Trace
MA 7 Riparian Areas	Unmapped	-

### **Amendment #30, Bozeman Creek Visual Rehab VQO Amendment**

**Forest Plan pg. II-16, #4 and VQO maps, amended 6/7/95 via the Decision Notice (DN) for the Bozeman Creek Visual Project.**

This amendment changed the visual quality objective (VQO) on the west slope of the Bozeman Creek drainage, from “partial retention” to “rehabilitation”.

### **Amendment #31, Appaloosa Timber Sale “Elk Effective Cover” (HEI) Amendment**

**Forest Plan pg. II-18, # 6.a.4, amended 12/18/98 via the Decision Notice (DN) for the Appaloosa Timber Sale.**

This was a temporary project specific amendment to exempt this timber sale project from having to meet the Forest Plan “elk effective cover” (HEI) standard of 70% (FP, page II-18, #6.a.4).

### **Amendment #32, Appaloosa Timber Sale Veg. Diversity Amendment**

**Forest Plan pg. II-20 #6.c.2, amended 12/18/98 via the Decision Notice (DN) for the Appaloosa Timber Sale.**

This was a temporary project specific amendment to exempt this timber sale project from having to meet the Forest Plan vegetation diversity standard to strive to develop the following successional stages in timber compartments containing suitable timber: Grass-forb = 10%; Saplings = 10%; Pole = 10%; Mature = 10%; Old growth = 10%. (FP, page II-20, #6.c.2).

### **Amendment #33, Iron Mountain Timber Sale Veg. Diversity Amendment**

**Forest Plan pg. II-20 #6.c.2, amended 3/3/99 via the Decision Notice (DN) for the Iron Mountain Timber Sale.**

This was a temporary project specific amendment to exempt this timber sale project from having to meet the Forest Plan vegetation diversity standard to strive to develop the following successional stages in timber compartments containing suitable timber: Grass-forb = 10%; Saplings = 10%; Pole = 10%; Mature = 10%; Old growth = 10%. (FP, page II-20, #6.c.2).

**Amendment #34, M/S/T Timber Sale “Elk Effective Cover” (HEI) Amendment**

**Forest Plan pg. II-18, # 6.a.4, amended 3/15/99 via the Decision Notice (DN) for the Moose/Swan/Tamphery Timber Sale (M/S/T).**

This was a temporary project specific amendment to exempt this timber sale project from having to meet the Forest Plan “elk effective cover” (HEI) standard of 70% (FP, page II-18, #6.a.4).

**Amendment #35, Moose/Swan/Tamphery Timber Sale Veg. Diversity Amendment**

**Forest Plan pg. II-20 #6.c.2, amended 3/15/99 via the Decision Notice (DN) for the Moose/Swan/Tamphery Timber Sale.**

This was a temporary project specific amendment to exempt this timber sale project from having to meet the Forest Plan vegetation diversity standard to strive to develop the following successional stages in timber compartments containing suitable timber: Grass-forb = 10%; Saplings = 10%; Pole = 10%; Mature = 10%; Old growth = 10%. (FP, page II-20, #6.c.2).

**Amendment #36, S Portal Timber Sale Visual Quality Objective (VQO)Amendment**

**Forest Plan pg. II-16, # 4, amended 5/21/99 via the Decision Notice (DN) for the South Portal Timber Sale.**

This was a temporary project specific amendment to exempt this timber sale project from having to meet the Forest Plan visual quality objectives (VQOs) (FP, page II-16, #4 and VQO Maps).

**Amendment #37, So. Portal Timber Sale Veg. Diversity Amendment**

**Forest Plan pg. II-20 #6.c.2, amended 5/21/99 via the Decision Notice (DN) for the So. Portal Timber Sale.**

This was a temporary project specific amendment to exempt this timber sale project from having to meet the Forest Plan vegetation diversity standard to strive to develop the following successional stages in timber compartments containing suitable timber: Grass-forb = 10%; Saplings = 10%; Pole = 10%; Mature = 10%; Old growth = 10%. (FP, page II-20, #6.c.2).

**Amendment #38, Taylor Fk Timber Sale “Elk Effective Cover” (HEI) Amendment**

**Forest Plan pg. II-18, # 6.a.4, amended 10/06/00 via the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Taylor Fork Timber Sale.**

This was a temporary project specific amendment to exempt the Dead Horse-Albino Lake portion of this timber sale project from having to meet the Forest Plan “elk effective cover” (HEI) standard of 70% (FP, page II-18, #6.a.4).

**Amendment #39, Taylor Fork Timber Sale Veg. Diversity Amendment**

**Forest Plan pg. II-20 #6.c.2, amended 10/06/00 via the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Taylor Fork Timber Sale.**

This was a temporary project specific amendment to exempt this timber sale project from having to meet the Forest Plan vegetation diversity standard to strive to develop the following successional stages in timber compartments containing suitable timber: Grass-forb = 10%; Saplings = 10%; Pole = 10%; Mature = 10%; Old growth = 10%. (FP, page II-20, #6.c.2).

**Amendment #40, Taylor Fork Motorized Route/Griz Core Amendment**

**Forest Plan Amendment 19, amended 10/06/00 via the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Taylor Fork Timber Sale.**

This was a temporary project specific amendment to exempt this timber sale project from the Forest Plan standard that specifies, within bear management subunits, there will be no increase in open or total motorized access route density from the current level, and that there will be no decrease in the amount of grizzly bear core area habitat from the current level (FP Amendment 19).

**Amendment #41, Taylor Fork Griz Thermal Cover Amendment**

**Forest Plan pg. H-8, amended 10/06/00 via the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Taylor Fork Timber Sale.**

This was a temporary project specific amendment to exempt this timber sale project from the Forest Plan standard for grizzly bear thermal cover habitat for the Dead Horse-Albino Lake area (Compartment 721).

#### **Amendment #42, Montana-Dakota OHV Decision**

**Forest Plan amended 01/01 via the Regional Forester's Record of Decision (ROD) on Off-Highway Vehicle Use for Montana, North Dakota and portions of South Dakota.**

This decision amended nine Forest Plans in Region 1 of the Forest Service, including the Gallatin Forest Plan to establish a new standard that restricts yearlong, wheeled motorized cross-country travel, where it is not already restricted, with some exceptions such as for fire, search and rescue, administrative purposes, or up to 300 feet to access a campsite.

*It should be noted that the Gallatin National Forest Travel Management Plan (Amendment #45) is more specific and restrictive than this Amendment and therefore should be used in place of this decision for applicable management direction for Forest Travel. See Amendment #45.*

#### **Amendment #43, Darroch-Eagle Creek Timber Sale "Elk Effective Cover" (HEI) Amendment**

**Forest Plan pg. II-18, # 6.a.4, amended 04/04 via the Decision Notice (DN) for the Darroch-Eagle Creek Timber Sale.**

This was a temporary project specific amendment to exempt the this timber sale project from having to meet the Forest Plan "elk effective cover" (HEI) standard of 70% (FP, page II-18, #6.a.4).

#### **Amendment #44, Darroch-Eagle Creek Timber Sale Veg. Diversity Amendment**

**Forest Plan pg. II-20 #6.c.2, amended 04/04 via the Decision Notice (DN) for the Darroch-Eagle Creek Timber Sale.**

This was a temporary project specific amendment to exempt this timber sale project from having to meet the Forest Plan vegetation diversity standard to strive to develop the following successional stages in timber compartments containing suitable timber: Grass-forb = 10%; Saplings = 10%; Pole = 10%; Mature = 10%; Old growth = 10%. (FP, page II-20, #6.c.2).

#### **Amendment #45, Gallatin National Forest Travel Plan Amendment**

**Forest Plan, amended 10/30/06 (legal notice 12/18/06) via the Record of Decision for the Gallatin National Forest Travel Management Plan.**

This amendment removed all prior Forest Plan direction related to access and travel

management, including Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) standards listed for each management area. The Travel Management Plan also established new goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines for access and travel management but this direction was not amended into the Gallatin Forest Plan as originally proposed. The decision not to incorporate this direction into the Forest Plan was based on a change in agency thinking about Forest Plans that culminated in the revision of the regulations for implementing the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) at 36 CFR 219 (January, 2005). Nevertheless, the following direction of the Gallatin Forest Plan has been removed and the Gallatin Forest Travel Plan contains the applicable direction for access and travel management.

***The Gallatin National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), 9/87, is amended to remove the following management direction:***

**1. Forest-wide standard 6.a.2., page II-17 which states:**

“The recommendations and guidelines found in the publication: “Coordinating Elk and Timber Management”, Final Report of the Montana Cooperative Elk-Logging Study, 1970-1985 will be used in evaluating the quality of elk habitat and formulating prescriptions for timber sales and road development projects.”

**2. Forest-wide standard 6.a.4., page II-18 which states:**

“The 1982 Elk Logging Study Annual Report contains procedures for analyzing elk habitat security as it is affected by timber harvest and road construction activities. An “elk effective cover” analysis based on this report will be conducted for timber sales and effective cover ratings of at least 70 percent will be maintained during general hunting season.”

**3. Forest-wide standard 11.a.4., page II-24 which states:**

“Access and transportation systems for minerals development will be coordinated during the preparation of the resource area analysis for that area.”

**4. Forest-wide standard 12.b.1., page II-26 which states:**

“Road and trail rights-of-way will be acquired across non-National Forest lands to assure adequate protection, administration, and utilization of National Forest resources. Areas where access is needed to meet the objectives of the Forest Plan including public access are identified on the Management Area Map.”

**5. Forest-wide standard 12.b.2., page II-26 which states:**

“The Forest will cooperate with other landowners in developing roads or road systems which serve mutual needs.”

**6. Forest-wide standard 12.b.3., page II-26 which states:**

“A satisfactory jurisdictional status for roads on National Forest and other public land will be sought in cooperation with appropriate authorities.”

**7. Forest-wide standard 12.b.4., page II-26 which states:**

“Define National Forest interest on all existing system roads and trails and acquire necessary additional interests, as needed, to meet management objectives.”

**8. Forest-wide standard 12.b.5., page II-27 which states:**

“Rights-of-way across National Forest lands will be granted in situations involving a statutory right of access, subject to compliance with applicable rules and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture.”

**9. Forest-wide standard 13.1., page II-27 which states:**

“Analysis for transportation needs will be integrated into resource area analysis and will be completed prior to transportation project work.”

**10. Forest-wide standard 13.2., page II-27 which states:**

“Road and trail management will be determined as part of area transportation analysis and will be based on management area needs, such as recreation access, wildlife security, soil protection, economics, and protection of the investment. The Forest Travel Map will display road, trail, and area restrictions. See Executive Order 11644.”

**11. Forest-wide standard 13.3., page II-27 which states:**

“Road and trail use may be restricted to meet management needs.”

**12. Forest-wide standard 13.4., page II-27 which states:**

“Roads and trails will be designed to standards that meet resource management objectives.”

**13. Forest-wide standard 13.5., page II-27 which states:**

“The Hyalite road will be reconstructed and maintained to provide for recreation and timber management and public safety.”

**14. Forest-wide standard 13.6., page II-27 which states:**

“Areas now under cost-share agreement may be modified or new agreement areas created if analysis shows the action will be economically advantageous to the

government, consistent with the management area goals, and in the public's interest."

**15. Forest-wide standard 13.7., page II-27 which states:**

"Roads and trails that have been disrupted by management activities and are required for continued use will be restored to serviceable condition prior to completion of the project."

**16. Forest-wide standard 13.8., page II-27 which states:**

"Noxious weeds along roads and trails will be treated."

**17. Forest-wide standard 13.9., page II-28 which states:**

"Existing roads and trails will be maintained consistent with management area goals."

**18. Forest-wide standard 16.e., page II-29, pertaining to eligible Wild and Scenic River segments which states:**

"Paralleling roads or railroads can be constructed and maintained on one or both river banks. Access roads leading to the river and bridges across the river may be constructed."

**19. Forest-wide standard 16.h., page II-28, pertaining to eligible Wild and Scenic River segments which states:**

"Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, prohibited or restricted. Controls will usually be similar to surrounding lands and waters."

**20. Management Area 1 standards on page III-2 and III-3 which state:**

"Maintain existing recreation opportunities consistent with the rural and urban recreation opportunity spectrum classes."

"Design, construct, reconstruct, and maintain trail consistent with management area goals."

**21. Management Area 2 standards on page III-4 and III-5 which state:**

"Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are rural and urban."

"Design, construct, reconstruct, and maintain roads and trails consistent with management area goals."

**22. Management Area 3 standards on page III-6 and III-7 which state:**

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are semi-primitive motorized or semi-primitive non-motorized.”

“Roads will not be constructed for surface management, except to provide public access. Allow roads for private land access, special use mineral activity, or to provide access to other management areas if the soil and water values can be protected.”

“The Forest Service investment in road and trail maintenance will be at a minimal level necessary to protect the investment and provide for soil and water protection and user safety.”

**23. Management Area 3a standards on page III-8 which state:**

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes and semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized.”

“No road or trail construction will occur.”

“Existing trails may be closed and reseeded or relocated.”

**24. Management Area 5 standards on page III-14 and III-16 which state:**

“Manage these areas to provide roaded recreation opportunities in a natural appearing forest setting. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are roaded natural appearing and roaded modified.”

“Design, construct, reconstruct, and maintain roads and trails consistent with management area goals and traffic demands.”

“Coordinate with other agencies to improve roads under their jurisdiction to achieve the goals of this management area.”

**25. Management Area 6 standards on page III-17 and III-18 which state:**

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are semi-primitive motorized or semi-primitive non-motorized.”

“Develop trails and end-of-road facilities to provide access and disperse use throughout the area.”

“Conflicting recreational uses such as hiking, trail biking, horse riding, snowmobiling, and skiing may be separated or restricted in some areas.”

“Identify opportunities and restrictions on the Forest Travel Map.”

“Roads will not be constructed for surface management purposes, except to provide public access. Allow roads for private land access, special use mineral activity, or to provide access to other management areas.”

**26. Management Area 7 standards on page III-19 and III-20 which state:**

“All recreation opportunity spectrum classes are included in this management area.”

“Restrict off-road vehicle use, except snowmobiles, to roads and trails.”

“Locate roads and trails outside of riparian areas where possible. Minimize amount of material from road and trail construction wasted into riparian areas. Follow best management practices that apply to road construction.”

“Design road drainage to minimize the entry of sediment into streams. Road design will also provide for low risk of drainage failure and mass failure.”

“Minimize the number of stream crossings. Locate and design approaches to stream crossings to minimize damage to the riparian area. Design all crossings located in fishery streams to allow for upstream fish passage.”

“Avoid channel realignment where possible.”

“Minimize short-term sedimentation during bridge or culvert installation.”

**27. Management Area 8 standards on page III-24 and III-25 which state:**

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are roaded natural appearing and roaded modified.”

“Local roads and some collector roads will be closed as needed to protect the road surface, reduce maintenance costs, and protect other resources.”

**28. Management Area 9 standards on page III-27 and III-28 which state:**

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum class is roaded natural appearing.”

“Manage roads for dispersed recreation and to protect other resources.”

“Dispersed recreation opportunities will be provided with moderate levels of investment in trail and recreational road maintenance, trailhead facilities, and in the event of disruption from timber harvest activities, trail relocation.”

“Trailhead facilities will be installed as necessary to disperse use throughout the area.”

“Identify opportunities and restrictions on the Forest Travel Map.”

“Design, construct, reconstruct, and maintain roads and trails consistent with management area goals.”

“Maintain the trail system to enhance dispersed recreation.”

“Provide trailhead facilities.”

**29. Management Area 10 standards on page III-30 and III-31 which state:**

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are roaded natural appearing and roaded modified.”

“Dispersed recreation opportunities will be provided with moderate levels of investment in trail and recreational road maintenance, trailhead facilities, and in the event of disruption from timber harvest activities, trail relocation. Management activities will be oriented toward reducing the impacts associated with recreation activities on other resource values, including protection of soil and water quality.”

“Design, construct, reconstruct, and maintain roads and trails consistent with management area goals.”

**30. Management Area 11 standards on page III-33 and III-35 which state:**

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are roaded natural appearing and roaded modified.”

“A variety of dispersed recreation activities are compatible with the management area goals. Winter recreation activities will not be allowed on important winter range when they disrupt big game use.”

“Trailhead facilities will be installed as necessary to disperse use throughout the area.”

“Locate roads and trails to avoid important wildlife areas such as wallows, licks, calving, and fawning areas.”

“Implement road use restrictions to achieve an elk habitat effectiveness level of at least 60% or a specified elk hunter opportunity objective.”

**31. Management Area 12 standards on page III-37 and III-38 which state:**

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized.”

“A variety of dispersed recreation activities are compatible with the management area goals.”

“Roads will not be constructed for surface management, except to provide public access. Allow roads for private land access, special use mineral activity, or to provide access to other management areas.”

“Locate roads and trails to avoid important wildlife areas such as wallows, licks, calving, and fawning areas.”

“Manage roads and trails to provide for dispersed recreation activities consistent with wildlife goals.”

“Construct trailhead facilities to enhance recreation opportunities.”

**32. Management Area 13 standards on page III-40 and III-42 which state:**

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are roaded natural appearing or roaded modified.”

“Developed recreational capacity will not be increased above the existing level, except to accommodate increase in winter sports activity.”

“Dispersed recreation opportunities will be provided with moderate levels of investment in trail and recreational road maintenance, trailhead facilities, and, in the event of disruption from timber harvest activities, trail relocation.”

“Trailhead facilities will be installed as necessary to disperse use throughout and beyond the area.”

“Locate roads and trails to avoid important wildlife areas.”

“Strive for habitat effectiveness levels of at least 80% for MS-1 and at least 60% for MS-2.” *Note that this standard was removed via Forest Plan amendment 19.*

“Manage roads and trails to control public use in areas where a high potential for human/grizzly bear conflict is identified.”

**33. Management Area 14 standards on page III-44 through III-46 which state:**

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are semi-primitive motorized, semi-primitive non-motorized, and primitive.”

“Dispersed recreation opportunities will be provided with moderate levels of investment in trail and recreational road maintenance and trailhead facilities.”

“Trailhead facilities will be installed as necessary to disperse use throughout this area.”

“Roads will not be constructed for surface management, except to provide public access. Allow roads for private access, special use mineral activity, and access to other management areas.”

“Manage roads and trails to control public use in areas where a high potential for human/grizzly bear conflict is identified.”

“Strive for elk habitat effectiveness levels of at least 80% during the winter period.”

“Strive for elk habitat effectiveness levels of at least 80% for MS-1 grizzly bear habitat and 60% for MS-2 grizzly bear habitat.”

**34. Management Area 15 standards on page III-47 and III-48 which state:**

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are semi-primitive motorized, semi-primitive non-motorized, and primitive.”

“Provide dispersed recreation opportunities with moderate levels of investment in trail and recreational road maintenance and trailhead facilities.”

“Install trailhead facilities as necessary to disperse use throughout this area.”

“Roads will not be constructed for surface management, except to provide public access. Allow roads for private access, special use mineral activity, and access to other management areas.”

“Manage roads and trails to control public use in areas where a high potential for human/grizzly bear conflict is identified.”

“Strive for elk habitat effectiveness levels of at least 80% for MS-1 grizzly bear habitat and 60% for MS-2 grizzly bear habitat.”

**35. Management Area 16 standards on page III-50 and III-51 which state:**

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are roaded natural appearing, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized.”

“Provide dispersed recreation opportunities at a low level of investment, primarily travel planning and maintenance of recreation travel routes that pass through this area.”

“Roads will not be constructed for surface management, except to provide public access. Allow roads for private land access, special use mineral activity, or to

provide access to other management areas.”

**36. Management Area 17 standards on page III-52 and III-53 which state:**

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes include semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized.”

“Provide dispersed recreation opportunities at a low level of investment, primarily travel planning and maintenance of recreation travel routes. Winter recreation activities may be controlled or restricted when they disrupt big game use.”

“Roads will not be constructed for surface management, except to provide public access. Allow roads for private land access, special use mineral activity, or to provide access to other management areas.”

“Locate roads and trails to avoid important wildlife areas.”

“Road use restrictions may be used to minimize disturbance to big game.”

**37. Management Area 18 standards on page III-54 and III-55 which state:**

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes include semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized. Restrict summer motorized use to trails designated on the Forest Travel Map.”

“Construct, reconstruct, and maintain trails to accommodate recreation needs.”

“Evaluate the need for a trail connecting the East and Main Fork Hyalite Creek trails.”

“Develop a trailhead on Dry Creek.”

**38. Management Area 19 standards on page III-56 and III-57 which state:**

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized.”

“The Porcupine drainage will be closed to motorized off-route travel. Motorized trail vehicles can use designated routes. The Elkhorn trail will be managed for non-motorized use (see Forest Travel Map).”

“In the Buffalo Horn drainage, off-route vehicle travel is open to snowmobile travel only; other vehicles are restricted to designated routes. There will be no snowmobile use before December 1 (see Forest Travel Map).”

“Roads will not be constructed for surface management, except to provide public

access. Allow roads for private land access, special use mineral activity, or to access adjacent management areas.”

**39. Management Area 20 standards on page III-59 and III-60 which state:**

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized.”

“Allow use of motorized vehicles for recreational purposes where such use is compatible with the protection and propagation of wildlife.”

“Allow snowmobile use during periods when there is no conflict with grizzly bear or big game.”

“Allow motorized trail vehicles less than 40 inches wide on designated routes from July 15 through October 30 (see Forest Travel Map).”

“No new road construction will be allowed.”

“Manage the trail system consistent with management area goals.”

“No new trailheads or trails will be constructed until the grizzly bear cumulative effects analysis is complete.”

**40. Management Area 21 standards on page III-63 and III-64 which state:**

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes include primitive, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized.”

“Evaluate road construction necessary to meet RNA objectives on a case-by-case basis.”

**41. Management Area 23 standards on page III-65 and III-66 which state:**

“Inventory and evaluate potential trails for their suitability and management as part of the National Recreation Trail system.”

“Manage trails for either motorized or non-motorized use, depending on the objective of the individual trail.”

“Trail location, construction, and maintenance will meet the management area goal.”

**42. Management Area 24 standards on page III-67 and III-68 which state:**

“Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes include semi-primitive motorized, semi-primitive non-motorized, roaded natural appearing, and roaded modified.”

“Coordinate roads necessary for the development of minerals with goals of adjacent management areas.”

**43. Management Area 25 standard on page III-69 which states:**

“All Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes are included in this management area.”

**Amendment #46, Northern Rockies Lynx Amendment**

**Forest Plan, amended 3/23/2007 via the Record of Decision (signed by R1 Acting Regional Forester, Kathleen McAllister) for Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction.**

This was an amendment to multiple Forest Plans within Idaho, Montana and Wyoming that incorporates a conservation strategy for the Canada Lynx (listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a “threatened” species). The direction applies to mapped lynx habitat on National Forest System land presently occupied by Canada lynx, as defined by the *Amended Lynx Conservation Agreement between the Forest Service and FWS* (USDA FS and USDI FWS 2006). For the Gallatin National Forest, and as of the date of this Forest Plan Amendment Summary, the direction applies to management activity south of Interstate 90 and should be considered for activities north of the Interstate. Management direction established in this amendment applies to vegetation management, grazing, over-the-snow recreation, developed recreation, minerals and energy, and forest roads. The specific goals, objectives, standards and guidelines can be found as Attachment 1 to the Record of Decision (McAllister, 3/23/07).