

CONSULTATION SUMMARY SHEET FOR PROGRAMMATIC ASSESSMENT

Instructions

For all projects and actions reviewed and analyzed using the wildlife screen process, the consultation summary sheets in Appendix E of the biological assessment must be filled out by Project Biologists and submitted to Forest Biologists for review and submission to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service semi-annually for review. Also, the Level 1 team will annually select a number of projects at random and review the use of the screens and documentation.

Administrative Unit: Bitterroot National Forest, West Fork Ranger District – Piquett Creek Project

Contact: Justin Martens, South Zone Wildlife Biologist, Bitterroot National Forest

Date: October 15, 2019

Project Name and Description	Species	Effects of Action	Cumulative Effects (ESA)	How Does the Project Meet Screening Criteria?	Determination of Effects
<p><i>Piquett Creek Project</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>project area is approximately 5,800 acres, located within the Piquett Creek (4,221 acres) and West Fork Bitterroot River-Lloyd Creek (1,567 acres) watersheds</i> • <i>Project activities could include intermediate and regeneration harvests utilizing both ground-based and skyline yarding, landing piling and burning, temporary road construction, understory thinning, hand piling, pile burning, fireline and understory burning (aerial and hand ignition).</i> 		<p><i>Briefly describe the overall effect for the entire project on the species and base it on the screening criteria</i></p>	<p><i>Briefly describe the effects of future, non-federal actions that are reasonably likely to occur in the action area (this is the area where the effects of the project may be felt)</i></p>	<p><i>Specifically identify the screening criteria and describe how the project meets these specific criteria</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No effect</i> • <i>May affect not likely to adversely affect</i>
	<p>Canada Lynx</p>	<p>None. There are no vegetation management treatments (i.e. prescribed fire, timber harvest, thinning, etc.) proposed in delineated, field-verified lynx habitat as part of this project. 15 acres of lynx habitat within the WUI may be treated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential future wildfires may temporarily reduce both ESI and multi-storied habitat in and around the project area that supports snowshoe hare. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project meets all applicable screening criteria (B1-#2, B2-#1, 4) • Project complies with NRLMD 	<p><i>•May affect not likely to adversely affect</i></p>
	<p>Canada Lynx Critical Habitat</p>	<p>There is no designated Canada Lynx Critical Habitat on the Bitterroot National Forest.</p>			

<p align="center">Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction</p>	<p align="center">Is direction applicable to this project and has it been met (Yes or No and Met or Not Met)? Where direction is applicable but has not been met, explain the reason(s).</p>
<p><u>ALL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES (ALL)</u> <i>The following objectives, standards and guidelines apply to management projects in lynx habitat in lynx analysis units (LAU) and in linkage areas, subject to valid existing rights. They do not apply to wildfire suppression, or to wildland fire use</i></p>	
<p><u>Standard⁴³ ALL S1</u></p>	<p><u>This Standard is applicable and is met.</u></p>
<p>New or expanded permanent developments³³ and vegetation management projects⁴⁸ must maintain²⁶ habitat connectivity¹⁶ in an LAU²¹ and/or linkage area²².</p>	<p>There are no permanent developments or vegetation management⁴⁹ treatments (i.e. prescribed fire, timber harvest, thinning, etc.) proposed in delineated, field-verified lynx habitat as part of this project³⁶</p>
<p><u>Guideline¹⁵ ALL G1</u></p>	<p><u>N/A</u></p>
<p><u>Standard LAU S1</u></p>	<p><u>N/A</u></p>
<p><u>VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJETS (VEG)</u> <i>The following objectives, standards and guidelines apply to vegetation management projects in lynx habitat in lynx analysis units (LAU). With the exception of Objective VEG O3 that specifically concerns wildland fire use, the objectives, standards and guidelines do not apply to wildfire suppression, wildland fire use, or removal of vegetation for permanent developments like mineral operations, ski runs, roads and the like. None of the objectives, standards, or guidelines apply to linkage areas.</i></p>	
<p><u>Standard VEG S1 – Stand initiation structural stage limits</u></p>	<p><u>This Standard is applicable. The existing condition meets this standard in both affected LAUs, and the proposed project activities will not regenerate any timber in delineated, field-verified lynx habitat.</u></p>
<p>Standard VEG S1 applies to all vegetation management⁴⁸ projects that regenerate³⁷ timber, except for fuel treatment¹³ projects within the wildland urban interface (WUI)⁴⁹ as defined by HFRA, subject to the following limitation:</p>	<p><u>The ESI structural stage currently comprises 3% of the lynx habitat in the Rock-Ward LAU and 2% of the lynx habitat in the Piquett-Black LAU. There are no proposed regeneration treatments in suitable delineated, field-verified lynx habitat.</u></p>
<p>Fuel treatment projects within the WUI that do not meet Standards VEG S1, VEG S2, VEG S5, and VEG S6 may occur on no more than 6 percent (cumulatively) of lynx habitat on each administrative unit (a unit is a National Forest).</p>	
<p>For fuel treatment projects within the WUI see guideline VEG G10.</p>	
<p>The Standard: Unless a broad scale assessment has been completed that substantiates different historic levels of stand initiation structural stages⁴⁴ limit disturbance in each LAU as follows:</p>	
<p>If more than 30 percent of the lynx habitat in a LAU is currently in a stand initiation structural stage that does not yet provide winter snowshoe hare habitat, no additional habitat may be regenerated by vegetation management projects.</p>	
<p><u>Standard VEG S2 – Limits on regeneration from timber mgmt. projects</u></p>	<p><u>This Standard is applicable and is met.</u></p>

Standard VEG S2 applies to all vegetation management ⁴⁸ projects that regenerate ³⁷ timber, except for fuel treatment ¹³ projects within the wildland urban interface (WUI) ⁴⁹ as defined by HFRA, subject to the following limitation:	
Fuel treatment projects within the WUI ⁴⁹ that do not meet Standards VEG S1, VEG S2, VEG S5, and VEG S6 may occur on no more than 6 percent (cumulatively) of lynx habitat on each administrative unit (a unit is a National Forest).	<u>Regeneration harvest in the Rock-Ward and Piquett-Black LAUs in the last 10 years totals about 0.0% and 0.001% of lynx habitat, respectively. There are no proposed regeneration treatments in suitable delineated, field-verified lynx habitat.</u>
For fuel treatment projects within the WUI ⁴⁹ see guideline VEG G10.	
The Standard: Timber management projects shall not regenerate ³⁷ more than 15 percent of lynx habitat on NFS lands in a LAU in a ten-year period.	
<u>Standard VEG S5 – Precommercial thinning limits</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Standard VEG S6 – Multi-storied stands & snowshoe hare horizontal cover</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Guideline VEG G1 – Lynx habitat improvement</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Guideline VEG G4 – Prescribed Fire</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Guideline VEG G5 – Habitat for alternate prey species</u>	<u>This Guideline is applicable and is met.</u>
Habitat for alternate prey species, primarily red squirrel ³⁶ , should be provided in each LAU.	<u>The proposed project would retain abundant habitat for red squirrels in both LAUs.</u>
<u>Guideline VEG G10 – Fuel treatments in the WUI</u>	<u>This Guideline is applicable and may apply to 15 acres of the project area depending on potential activities.</u>
<u>Guideline VEG G11 – Denning habitat</u>	<u>This Guideline is applicable and is met.</u>
<i>Denning habitat⁶ should be distributed in each LAU in the form of pockets of large amounts of large woody debris, either down logs or root wads, or large piles of small wind thrown trees (“jack-strawed” piles). If denning habitat appears to be lacking in the LAU, then projects should be designed to retain some coarse woody debris⁴, piles, or residual trees to provide denning habitat⁶ in the future.</i>	<u>The proposed project would retain abundant, well-distributed denning habitat in both LAUs.</u>
<u>LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT (GRAZ)</u>	
<i>The following objectives and guidelines apply to grazing projects in lynx habitat in lynx analysis units (LAU). They do not apply to linkage areas.</i>	
<u>Guideline GRAZ G1 – Livestock grazing and openings</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Guideline GRAZ G2 – Livestock grazing and aspen</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Guideline GRAZ G3 – Livestock grazing and riparian areas & willow carrs</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Guideline GRAZ G4 – Livestock grazing and shrub-steppe habitats</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>HUMAN USE PROJETS (HU)</u>	
<i>The following objectives and guidelines apply to human use projects, such as special uses (other than grazing), recreation management, roads, highways, mineral and energy development, in lynx habitat in lynx analysis units (LAU), subject to valid existing rights. They do not apply to vegetation management projects or grazing projects directly. They do not apply to linkage areas.</i>	
<u>Guideline HU G1 – Ski area expansion & development, inter-trail islands</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Guideline HU G2 – Ski area expansion & development, foraging habitat</u>	<u>N/A</u>

<u>Guideline HU G3 – Recreation developments</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Guideline HU G4 – Mineral & energy development</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Guideline HU G5 – Mineral & energy development, habitat restoration</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Guideline HU G6 – Roads, upgrading</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Guideline HU G7 – Roads, locations</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Guideline HU G8 – Roads, brushing</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Guideline HU G9 – Roads, new</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Guideline HU G10 – Roads, ski area access</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Guideline HU G11 – Snow compaction</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Guideline HU G12 – Winter access for non-recreation SUP & mineral & energy development</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>LINKAGE AREAS (LINK)</u>	
<i>The following objective, standard and guidelines apply to all projects within linkage areas, subject to valid existing rights.</i>	
<u>Standard LINK S1 – Highway or forest highway construction in linkage areas</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Guideline LINK G1 – Land exchanges</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Guideline LINK G2 – Livestock grazing in shrub-steppe habitats</u>	<u>N/A</u>