



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Beaverhead-Deerlodge
National Forest

May 2005

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Revised Land and Resource Management Plan



Draft Forest Plan

Changes within the following pages in this appendix illustrate the partnership strategy implementation in the forest plan. All insertions are marked by red text. Deletions are in page margins. The Partnership has modified and agreed on these changes to the May 2005 DEIS.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

FORESTWIDE DESIRED CONDITION (VISION)

- Ecological processes, which affect the chemical, physical, and biological components of the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and fully support designated beneficial uses, are present and functioning to provide the diversity of forest, shrub land, grassland, riparian, and aquatic communities.
- Within the natural capability of the ecosystem conditions for self-sustaining or viable populations of native and desired non-native plant and animal species are supported. **Management actions assure vegetative diversity is accomplished at the watershed scale while restoring habitat and reducing road density.**
- Natural disturbance processes are recognized and accepted as essential to the health of ecological communities at various spatial scales across the Forest. Fire is allowed to play its natural role where appropriate and desired. Life, investments, and valuable resources are protected using the full range of appropriate management responses to fire. **Vegetative communities most at-risk from foreseeable epidemic insect infestations and stand replacement wildfire are aggressively managed to reduce the risk of wildfire to homes, communities, and valuable forest resources.**
- The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, in conjunction with other federal agencies, state, county, Tribal, and city governments, are working together to identify and resolve issues involving species with needs that go beyond Forest boundaries and authority.
- **Local communities benefit economically from active forest management, and a variety of uses. Stewardship contracting is routinely used as an implementation tool of landscape vegetative projects to assure adequate forest restoration funding and to provide maximum economic benefits to local communities.**
- People use the Forest and benefit from a variety of recreation settings and opportunities. The settings range from primitive to develop. The majority of the Forest continues to offer uncrowded backcountry opportunities (motorized and non-motorized uses). **Eighteen areas having high wilderness attributes are recommended for Wilderness designation.**

- Watersheds and wildlife habitats, impacted by past management practices are aggressively restored via a combination of stewardship projects and direct investments.
- Mineral and energy resources are explored, developed, and produced according to national direction.
- Resources adversely affected by past management activities have been restored or the related public health and safety issues corrected.
- National Forest land ownership patterns contribute to the open rural landscape and scenery of southwestern Montana. The Forest acts as a partner with adjacent landowners to capitalize on the contribution all lands make to this unique quality.
- National Forest lands have been consolidated through land adjustments. Right-of-ways and conservation easements have been acquired to maintain the integrity of resources and provide public access.
- Heritage resources are preserved and managed for the benefit of the American public.
- Conservation populations of cutthroat trout are maintained or expanded without net loss of any identified population

ANALYSIS OF THE MANAGEMENT SITUATION

Given the inevitability of severe fires, there isn't sufficient time to substantially reduce the risk on a forest wide basis. Carefully designed timber harvest, however, can reduce the severity of fires in key areas. For instance, Douglas fir stands that contain large, older trees can be logged to remove the understory so that those older trees are more likely to survive severe fires. Landscapes with good potential for lynx habitat can be managed to recruit foraging habitat in a more predictable and sustainable manner than merely waiting for the next fire. Municipal watersheds with a high level of bark beetle outbreak can be logged to reduce the severity of subsequent wildfires on water quality. Mapping of recent insect infestations of unprecedented scale on the B-D are evidence that landscape vegetative treatments are appropriate to restore age class diversity of forested lands.

Restoring watershed health using appropriated investment dollars will take a very long time or may not occur due to budget appropriations. Before federal appropriations are available to restore watersheds, some of these drainages could experience large and intense burns due to aging of forests and accumulation of fuels from fire exclusion.

Populations of native fluvial arctic grayling in the main stem of the Big Hole River and its tributaries have been limited by available water and high stream temperatures. Dependable cold flows from the B-D will continue to be key to the recovery of Big Hole grayling as well as for the blue ribbon trout fisheries in other rivers such as the Madison and Beaverhead Rivers, as well as Rock Creek.

Comment [ERG1]: These will be additive to any AMS content

Chapter 3 - Forestwide Objectives and Standards

The objectives and standards apply Forestwide, including management areas, unless specifically stated otherwise. The time frame for achieving objectives is 10 to 15 years unless stated otherwise. These objectives and standards are not intended to alter any legal or statutory rights such as mineral development or private lands access or alter the need to provide public or employee safety.

VEGETATION

OBJECTIVES AND STANDARDS

All Vegetation: Restore or retain a mosaic of species and age classes of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and forbs that provide cover and forage for animals and perpetuate the diversity of plants and the microbial and insect communities upon which they are dependent. Vegetation treatments will generally attempt to mimic the patterns and processes or move toward those estimated to have occurred historically within stands and landscapes.

Forested Vegetation: Maintain a mosaic of stand structure by species type using wildlife population structure stages (0 to 5 inch diameter breast height (DBH), 5.1 to 9 inch DBH, and greater than 9 inch DBH) by:

Douglas-fir Type: Increase the number of acres in the 0 to 5 inch DBH class by approximately 20,000 acres well distributed across the Forest. The increase would largely come from reducing the greater than 9 inch DBH class, however some may come from the 5 to 9 inch DBH class. Douglas-fir, which has established itself in former grasslands / shrublands (colonization), is not considered part of the Douglas-fir base described above.

Lodgepole Pine Type: Reduce the number of acres in the 5 to 9 inch DBH class and greater than 9 inch DBH class by approximately 74,000 acres well distributed across the forest. Increase the lodgepole pine 0 to 5 inch DBH class by approximately 8,000 acres and increase the aspen component within regenerated lodgepole pine stands where potential aspen regeneration is identified on approximately 66,000 acres in the 0 to 5 inch DBH acres well distributed across the forest.

Comment [va2]: Lodgepole pine type will generally remain lodgepole pine. It is recognized that where aspen potential exists it would be regenerated as a seral component of the resulting lodgepole stand. Aspen type would be restored to that type.

Aspen Type: Restore 13,000 to 66,000 acres of aspen, increasing the number of acres in the 0 to 5 inch DBH, well distributed across the forest. Restoration treatments include providing for aspen regeneration through felling and/or burning of mature aspen and conifers within and adjacent to exiting aspen and aspen clones, and provide for ungulate protection through patterned felling trees, and/or fencing potential clone regeneration areas.

Whitebark Pine/Sub-Alpine Fire Type: Increase the number of acres in the 0 to 5 inch diameter class for this vegetation type with emphasis on whitebark pine by approximately 45,000 acres, largely through the use of fire.

All Other Vegetation Types: Manage within the historic range of variability.

Standard 1: (based on the NGO collaborative effort, add) Vegetative treatments will generally be prioritized within landscapes that have the following resource problems: 1) road densities are excessive and compromise watershed integrity; 2) habitat connectivity is compromised due to past timber harvest patterns; and 3) stands are at high risk from insect epidemics or high severity wildfires. Vegetative treatments will generally be very large (1000-10,000 acres), and will be designed to replicate the pattern of tree mortality that typically occurs after a mixed-severity to stand replacing wildfire. Approximately 1% of suitable timber acres will be treated annually. Merchantable timber stand management will favor the use of mechanical harvest as a prior to the use of prescribed fire. Fuels treatment and prescribed burning will be done to further replicate the pattern of a moderate severity wildfire. Human-ignited fuels treatments will be large, and will be allowed to creep into RHCA's, old harvest units, and will include a range of fire severities from stand-replacing fires to fires of a lower intensity that allow some stands to be totally missed by fire. Design and intensity of landscape treatments will eliminate the need to reenter the same areas for harvest treatments for at least 80 years.

Standard 2: (based on the NGO collaborative effort, add) Commercial timber removed during large vegetative treatments will be sold under the *stewardship contract*, as long as its use is authorized by Congress, so that: 1) all restoration needs at the project scale can be funded directly from timber sale receipts to the extent that such funds are available; 2) timber preparation costs can be reduced using such tools as "marking by prescription"; and 3) dollars generated from the sale of timber can be kept local and re-invested into forest and road restoration, fisheries enhancement, noxious weed control, trail maintenance and will also result in multiple benefits to the local economy. If Congress fails to reauthorize stewardship contracts, the Forest Service will endeavor to meet the goals of this plan through other contracting mechanisms.

Standard 3: Prior to manipulating forested vegetation a prescription will be approved by a certified silviculturalist.

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Grassland/Shrubland Restoration: Reduce 30,000 to 74,000 acres of Douglas-fir or other conifer encroachment on shrublands or grasslands.

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Noxious Weeds: Prevent new and reduce or eliminate existing infestations of non-native or noxious weed species with emphasis on areas where those species have a high likelihood of establishment and spread. Manage noxious weeds and other pests by the Integrated Pest Management approach. The 2002 Beaverhead-Deerlodge Noxious Weed Control Record of Decision outlines such an approach. (See Glossary for definition of Integrated Pest Management).

Unique Habitats: Develop stable or upward trends for unique or declining habitats, including, but not limited to, ponderosa pine, aspen clones, willows, mountain mahogany, bitter brush, and sensitive plants.

Reference populations of sensitive plants: Monitor G1 thru G3 ranked sensitive plants, and perform a conservation assessments and develop a conservation strategies for species showing downward trends. (Scale: Populations)

Sensitive Plant Species: Maintain and/or restore sensitive plant populations and their habitat. Conserve large core populations or fringe-of-range populations of sensitive plants in Research Natural Areas, Botanical Special Interest Areas, or as protected populations in conservation strategies or project design specifications. (Scale: Populations)

Standard 1: Perform a pre-field review and if necessary, survey for sensitive plant species for all projects and complete a Biological Evaluation (BE).

Standard 2: Collection of sensitive plants is prohibited except as authorized by Regional policy, or by the Forest Botanist/ecologist for the purpose of taxonomic determination or research on the conservation of the species.

Native Plant Restoration: Minimize the influx of persistent non-native species by using native plants, seed, and vegetative propagules for restoration work.

Old-Growth: Maintain 10% old-growth, **measured at the 5th HUC scale. Actual percentages at the landscape or project scale will vary depending upon the predominate cover type. Management decisions affecting old growth distribution will consider the disturbance regimes and historic patterns resulting from those disturbances.**

Standard 1: Management actions will not remove old growth stands, **if the level of old growth falls below 10%, measured at the HUC5 (landscape) scale,** except for hazard trees and other public safety hazards.

Insect and Disease: Diagnosed pest problems are addressed with an integrated management approach, which allows monitoring, prevention, cultural, mechanical, biological, genetic and chemical techniques. Early detection, diagnosis, and treatment by cost effective methods will minimize adverse effects to non-target species.

WILDLIFE

OBJECTIVES

Wildlife Habitat: Manage vegetation for a diversity of vegetation and habitat types to meet wildlife needs. (See Vegetation Section)

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Grizzly Bear Conflicts: Minimize conflicts between grizzly bears and humans or human activities in occupied grizzly bears habitat. (Scale: Occupied Grizzly Bear Habitat)

Standard 1: Implement food storage and sanitation orders when areas are classified as “occupied” by grizzly bears. (Scale: Occupied Grizzly Bear Habitat)

Standard 2: If a sheep allotment in the Gravelly Landscape becomes vacant it will be closed to sheep grazing or the vacant allotment may be used by an existing Gravelly

Landscape sheep permittee, with no increase in number of sheep for that permittee. The allotment may be stocked with cattle after appropriate analysis. (Scale: Gravelly Landscape)

Grizzly Bear Security: Manage for 60% or greater secure areas in the Gravelly Landscape. (Scale: Gravelly Landscape)

Linkages: Maintain options for Forest Service's contributions to linkages between landscapes, unless such landscape isolation is determined to be beneficial. Linkage areas are those areas that have been identified for a federally listed species through a conservation strategy. Options may include, but are not limited to:

- Maintaining Forest Service ownership at highway and road crossings,
- Acquiring lands to consolidate ownership at highway and road crossings,
- Providing adequate cover within linkage areas,
- Minimizing open motorized roads and trails within linkage areas.

Sensitive Species: Manage sensitive wildlife species (R1 Sensitive Species list) and their habitat to maintain viability. The following list includes, but is not limited to, plans which provide additional information for the management of wildlife species including sensitive species.

- Management Plan and Conservation Strategies for Sage Grouse in Montana
- Northern Region Conservation Strategies
- Montana Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
- [State of Montana Cutthroat Conservation Strategy and MOU](#)
- [Federal/State Arctic Grayling Conservation and Recovery Strategy and MOU](#)

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Federally Listed Species: Manage federally Threatened and Endangered listed species and their habitat to promote recovery. Utilize current listed species direction found in federal and state conservation strategies or recovery plans. The following list includes, but is not limited to, those strategies/plans currently developed or that are being developed.

- Final Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly Bear in the Yellowstone Ecosystem.
- Grizzly Bear Conservation for the Greater Yellowstone Area National Forests (GYA). The Forest Service is currently developing a multi-Region management plan for grizzly bears. This management plan will be incorporated into this Forest Plan.
- Grizzly Bear Management Plan for Southwestern Montana.
- Northern Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf Recovery Plan.
- Montana Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

- Montana Bald Eagle Management Plan. If the bald eagle is de-listed, then implement the State conservation plan or other appropriate plan.
- Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy.
- Northern Rockies Lynx Amendment (NRLA). The Forest Service is currently developing a multi-Region management plan for lynx. This management plan will be incorporated into this Forest Plan.

Elk Security: Provide elk security during the general rifle season, provide a variety of recreational opportunities, including traditional backcountry hunting and provide support for Montana’s fair chase emphasis. Manage open motorized roads and trails density by hunting district (page 65) during the fall rifle big game season, to achieve levels at or below the following: (Scale: Hunting Unit District)

Table 1. Hunting District Open Motorized Road/Trail Density Objectives

Measure	Road Density Categories				
Miles of motorized open road/trails per square mile	0	0.5	1	1.5	1.5
Hunting units	311, 360, 362	300, 323, 324	341, 211, 216, 319, 330, 210, 320, 332, 370, 327, 328, 329, 302, 333	331, 321, 350, 212, 215, 340	213, 214, 318

Standard 1: Units that exceed the open motorized road/trail objective will have no net increase in open motorized roads and trails. (Scale: Hunting Unit District). For at least 80% of those units that exceed the motorized road/trail objective, travel plan actions will be initiated within three years and meet the objective within 5 years. Units requiring additional road/trail restrictions will be prioritized based on which units have most to gain from a security standpoint and in which additional restriction would have the least impact on public users.

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Wildlife Secure Areas and Connectivity: Provide secure areas for ungulates, large carnivores, and connectivity, while recognizing the variety of recreational opportunities. Manage open motorized roads/trails density by landscape to achieve levels at or below the following: (Scale: Landscapes, page 59).

Table 2. Open Motorized Road/Trail Density by Landscape

Measure	Road Density Categories				
Miles of motorized open road/trails per square mile	0	0.5	1	1.5	▼1.5
Landscapes	Madison	none	Lima/Tendoy, Gravelly	Big Hole, Upper Rock Creek, Pioneer, Tobacco Roots, Jefferson River	Upper Clark Fork, Clark Fork/Flint, Boulder River

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Standard 1: Landscapes that exceed the open motorized road/trail objective will have no net increase in open motorized roads and trails. (Scale: Hunting Unit District). For at least 80% of those units that exceed the motorized road/trail objective, travel plan actions will be initiated within three years and meet the objective within 5 years.. Units requiring additional road/trail restrictions will be prioritized based on which units have most to gain from a security standpoint and in which additional restriction would have the least impact on public users.

Mountain Goats: Controlling human use in mountain goat habitat is essential to allowing goats to utilize favorable habitats, and to avoid potentially-fatal excessive energy expenditure.

Standard 1: Winter recreation uses, both motorized and non-motorized, are prohibited within ½ mile of known existing or historic mountain goat winter habitat. New summer use facilities or permitted uses, such as trails or outfitter camps, would be located to avoid key summer goat habitats.

Snags: Within lodgepole pine and subalpine fir cover types, provide habitat for snag dependent species by managing for a mix of age classes while retaining some pockets and/or stands of unrecovered mortality following wildfires and insect outbreaks. Within the Douglas-fir cover type, provide for snag habitat by managing stands to maintain or recruit single-storied or two-storied, mature trees.

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Large Woody Debris: Provide habitat for species requiring large woody debris by retaining the following well distributed across the forest:

Deleted: Standard: Retain all snags 20 inches DBH or greater. (Scale: Forestwide)¶

- Lodgepole cover type - 6 pieces/ac with small end diameter ≥ 8” & 10ft long in
- Douglas fir cover type - 6 pieces/ac with small end diameter ≥ 12” & 10ft long in.

Management Indicator Species: Monitor Wolverine, Sage Grouse, and mayflies as Management Indicator Species (MIS).

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Under guidelines developed by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest will monitor sage grouse as an MIS species and maintain and improve sage-grouse habitats:

- Maintain healthy sagebrush communities within site potential on all Sage Grouse habitats. As a general guideline, communities should provide a minimum sagebrush canopy 10-15%, representing 20-30% of the plant composition, with an average sagebrush plant height greater than 12 inches.
- Disturbance should be minimized in an additional one mile secondary buffer to accommodate more dispersed nesting and potential brood-rearing. This buffer may be skewed substantially away from the lek depending on site-specific topography, available habitat, and migration patterns.
- Manage sagebrush communities on crucial winter habitats for maximum sagebrush plant height and density to accommodate Sage Grouse foraging and thermal cover.
- Manage livestock grazing to allow no more than 35% herbaceous utilization (by weight), and defer use, particularly by sheep, until after June 10 to avoid nest trampling.
- Provide an extensive interspersion of sagebrush communities with diverse plant compositions and stand structures in association with wet meadows and riparian areas.
- Over time, maintain at least 50% of existing sagebrush stands 30 years of age or older.
- Provide >300 feet of healthy sagebrush habitat at habitat type edges around meadows and riparian habitat
- Maintain a minimum 15% sagebrush canopy in sagebrush communities in shallow drainages and on productive sites to provide crucial foraging and thermal cover on winter habitat where snow depths exceed twelve inches.
- Suppress wildfires in areas dominated by exotic grasses.

AQUATICS

OBJECTIVES

Watersheds: Maintain and restore watersheds to insure water quality, timing, and yields necessary for healthy riparian, aquatic ecosystems, and wetlands. Provide water chemistry and temperature that support native aquatic species reproduction and survival. Develop site-specific criteria for managing municipal watersheds, and restoring degraded water to meet goals of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. Ensure management actions are consistent with TMDLs. Where waters are listed as impaired and TMDLs and Water Quality Restoration Plans

are not yet established, ensure management actions do not further degrade waters, but promote water quality restoration to support beneficial uses. (In 1)

Standard 1: (based on NGO collaborative effort, add): Permanent roads, defined as roads where the road prism is left permanently in place following construction, will be managed so the density of roads/motorized trails on the landscape does not exceed 1.5 miles per square mile. The standard must be met at completion of individual vegetation management projects and measured at the project scale (miles of permanent roads and motorized travel in the suitable timber portion of the project area, including any nonsuitable/non-IRA inclusions, divided by the number of square miles in that same portion of the project area). Note- permanent roads include all travel plan categories (open yearlong, seasonally closed, closed yearlong) and also include “mothballed” roads that have been re-vegetated but where the prism is left on-site for future use. In contrast to elk security related road densities measured at a large scale, this standard for watershed restoration is measured at the project scale.

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Standard 2: (based on NGO collaborative effort, add): All new access will be temporary using minimal footprint to achieve resource objectives. Where temporary roads are employed road prism and landings will be re-contoured and crossing features (culverts, bridges, etc.) removed immediately following vegetation treatment. These roads would have drainage installed commensurate with the expected life of the road. Vegetative treatments will be scheduled so that any temporary roads will be re-contoured immediately following use but not to exceed five years after construction. Relocated permanent roads, designed to resolve existing resource problems, do not constitute new permanent road construction. These new permanent roads would access the same destinations as the old permanent roads which would be re-contoured and abandoned.

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Standard 3. Year-long closed permanent roads will be restored to “zero maintenance required” status meaning vegetated surfaces, installing adequate cross drainage and removing stream crossing structures.

Standard 4. New or replaced crossings will be designed to provide for unimpeded fish passage after fishery genetic considerations have been evaluated. Within suitable beaver habitat they will be “beaver friendly” meaning beaver dams would not pose a threat to the road or crossing structure and hence would require no maintenance. Where impossible to provide for unimpeded fish passage or beaver activity, the drainage structure and approach fills will be removed after harvest entry.

Guideline 1. New road closures will favor entrance re-contouring and stream crossing removal as a preferred alternative over gates.

Wildfire Impacts: Manage fuels to reduce the risk of adverse wildfire impacts to isolated native fish populations and water resources at the watershed scale.(moved from above)

SOILS

OBJECTIVES

Soil Productivity: Restore or maintain soil productivity. Protect soil resources through site-specific prescriptions developed from FSM 2500-99-1 R1 Supplement and FSH 2509-18, R1 Supplement 2509-18-91-1 (or as updated), Best Management Practices described in Soils and Water Conservation Practices Handbook, project design and analysis, riparian area standards, and appropriate mitigation measures. (Scale: Project Units)

Standard 1: Ground based yarding shall not be allowed on slopes exceeding 45 percent or 35 percent on sensitive soils(including granitics) without site-specific environmental analysis that shows damage is unlikely and soil objectives can be met.

RECREATION AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVES

Recreation Opportunities: Provide winter non-motorized opportunities, with a variety of challenge levels.

Recreation Opportunities: Consider new or new to the area recreational activities where they are compatible with Forest Plan direction.

Non-Motorized Allocations: Manage for primitive and semi-primitive non-motorized settings in summer and winter. (Pages 61 and 62).

Standard 1: No new road construction.

Standard 2: No motorized vehicles, including landing of helicopters, except for permitted or administrative uses.

Special Use: Utilize recreation special use permit authority to provide recreation opportunities which help achieve Desired Conditions and Objectives. These include, but are not limited to, ski areas, recreation resorts, recreation cabins and tracts, and outfitter guides.

Off Road Use: Minimize resource damage, user conflicts, and related problems, including prevention of user created roads/trails.

Standard 1: (Based on NGO collaborative effort, substitute): Motorized vehicles will be limited to system roads and trails which are designated open in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest Travel Plan. Temporary exceptions are authorized for any Federal, State, or local officer or member of organized search and rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty, any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the Forest Service under a permit, license or contract; off-road travel by snowmobiles in areas legally designated as open in the forest travel plan, and occasional off-road trips for administrative use. Motorized wheeled cross-country travel for lessees and permittees is

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limited to terms described in the federal lease or permit. Designated routes to off-route campsites will be delineated and marked.

Standard 2: The “Forest Roads and Trails Map” displays the existing Forest roads and trails. Motorized travel off of these roads and trails is prohibited. This map does not supersede road and trail motorized vehicle restrictions already in place as described in the Southwest Montana Interagency Visitor Travel Map and 1998 Deerlodge National Forest Addendum or as amended through site specific travel management decision. Roads and trails may be added to the Forest Roads and Trails Map, by the Forest Supervisor through site-specific travel management planning.

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- Forest will prepare an annual monitoring report for summer and winter ORV management. The report will identify partnerships and cooperative measures taken to educate users and reduce violations and user conflicts.
- Each recreation MOU or special use permit will incorporate relevant education, communication, travel plan cooperation and enforcement measures.

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Existed prior to 2001, and
Are not causing adverse resource impacts, or
Through site-specific travel management or other decision.

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

OBJECTIVES

Special Designations: Feature and improve recreational opportunities in special designation.

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail: Manage the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail according to the National Trails Act for the purpose of providing:

- “Hiking and horseback access to those lands where man’s impact on the environment has not been adverse to a substantial degree and where the environment remains relatively unaltered”.
- “A continuous, appealing trail route, designed for the hiker and horseman, but compatible with other land uses.”
- Hikers and riders an entrée to the diverse country along the Continental Divide in a manner which will assure a high quality primitive recreation experience while maintaining a constant respect for the natural environment.

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Motorized vehicles use will be limited to open road segments

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Continental Divide National Scenic Trail: Complete the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail with new segments designated as non-motorized with the eventual goal of relocating the trail off open roads for its entire length.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail: Manage the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and its related sites according to the LCNHT Comprehensive Plan.

Nez Perce National Historic Trail: Manage the Nez Perce National Historic Trail according to the NPNHT Comprehensive Plan.

National Recreation Trails: Manage National Recreation Trails to protect or enhance the values for which they were established.

Recommended Wilderness: Managed areas allocated as recommended wilderness to protect or improve their wilderness character.

Standard 1: No new road construction

Standard 2: No motorized vehicles or mountain bikes, except for administrative or permitted uses.

Standard 3: No commercial timber harvest

Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness: Apply management direction provided in the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness Management Plan.

Lee Metcalf Wilderness: Apply management direction provided in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Management Plan.

Wilderness Study Areas: Manage Wilderness Study Areas to protect historic wilderness character and potential according to the Montana Wilderness Study Act of 1977.

"...the wilderness study areas designated by this Act shall, until Congress determines otherwise, be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture so as to maintain their presently existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System."

Source: Section 3c, "Interim Management," Montana Wilderness Study Act of 1977

Wild & Scenic Rivers: Protect stream segments determined to be eligible for classification under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1986, as amended, until suitability studies are completed.

Standard: Streams determined to be eligible for protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act will be protected to maintain their potential classification pending suitability studies. Standards for protection are provided in Forest Service Manual 1909.12.8.2

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Forage Use: Use of forage by domestic livestock will maintain or enhance the desired structure and diversity of plant communities on grasslands, shrub lands, and forests. Use will be managed to protect or restore riparian function and defined at the allotment level.

Standards 1: The following standards apply to livestock grazing operations unless or until specific long-term objectives, prescriptions, or allowable use levels have been designed through individual resource management plans or site-specific NEPA decisions; For example, revised allotment management plans or wilderness management plans.

TIMBER

OBJECTIVES

Suitable Timber Lands: Manage suitable timber land (See Glossary) to create age class diversity, that is closer to the historic range of variability, to make individual stands more resistant to insect outbreaks, to capture value potentially lost to insect outbreaks or wildfires, to restore more natural stand structure, and to support local communities through timber production, consistent with other resource objectives. A majority of harvest units will be very large at a mix of scales common to natural wildfire events.

Standard 1: Even aged harvest designed to mimic mixed severity and stand replacement fires will be the predominate harvest treatment. In many cases, two-storied stand structures may be perpetuated to further mimic mixed severity events. Harvest blocks shall be blended to the extent practicable with the natural terrain and/or historic landscapes.

Standard 2: On Suitable Timberlands, the creation of openings larger than 40 acres will require 60-day public review and Regional Forester approval, with the following exceptions: See FSM 2471.1 language for exceptions and administrative process. Exceptions can be made where a natural event, such as fire, insect, disease, or windthrow, created an undesirable opening. A regeneration harvest larger than 40 acres may be allowed after public notice and review and approval by the officer one level above the Responsible official. This only applies to harvest on suitable timber lands for timber production activities.

Standard 3: On suitable timberlands, even aged management regeneration harvest shall occur to meet multiple use objectives regardless of whether the stand has generally reached the culmination of mean annual increment of growth. Minimizing number of entries will be better facilitated by treating stands of various ages. Exceptions occur for wildlife enhancement, aspen restoration, visual enhancement, riparian area improvement, minimizing the need for permanent road systems, creating historic patch sizes, or public safety/protection of property. The culmination of mean annual increment of growth requirement does not apply to cutting for experimental or research purposes; to non-regeneration harvests, such as thinning or other stand improvement measure; to management of uneven aged stands or to stands under uneven aged silvicultural system;

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Comment [va3]: Use the Northern Region Standard found within FSM R1 2471.1 effective 02/22/2002.

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Comment [va4]: Use the wording directly from CFR 219-16. The CFR wording is not as absolute.

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and to salvage or sanitation harvesting of timber stands which are substantially damaged by events such as fire, insects, disease or windthrow. This only applies to harvest on suitable timber lands for timber production activities.

Standard 4: Replace natural barriers to livestock movement removed by harvest activities with some other barrier where it is determined that the barrier is necessary to control the undesirable movement of livestock.

Standard 5: When trees are cut to achieve timber production objectives the cuttings shall be made in such a way as to assure that the lands are adequately restocked within 5 years after final harvest. 3) Before trees are cut to achieve timber production objectives, the silvicultural prescriptions shall be designed in such a way as to assure that the technology and knowledge exists to adequately restock the lands within 5 years after final harvest. Research and experience shall be the basis for determining whether the harvest and regeneration practices planned can be expected to result in adequate restocking. Adequate restocking means that the cut area will contain the minimum number, size, distribution, and species composition of regeneration as specified in regional silvicultural guides for each forest type. Five years after final harvest means 5 years after clearcutting, 5 years after final overstory removal in shelterwood cutting, 5 years after the seed tree removal cut in seed tree cutting, or 5 years after selection cutting.

Standard 6. Projects will incorporated design and legal closures to assure that timber harvest areas or closed skid trails and roads are not used by off-road vehicles.

Forest Products: Provide a flow of forest products, from national forest lands where Forest Plan objectives and standards can be achieved.

Product Utilization: Utilize forest products to provide economic benefits, where project, forest plan objectives, and standards can be met.

Timber Suitability Determination Protocol:

- I. Tentatively Suitable Determination:
 - A. Tentatively Suitable Timber Lands are those acres identified as Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest System lands excluding:
 - 1. Lands that do not currently have and have never had 10% or greater tree cover.
 - 2. Areas withdrawn from timber harvest by Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Chief of the Forest Service
 - a. *Wilderness*
 - b. *Wilderness Study Areas*
 - c. *Research Natural Areas*
 - 3. Lands not capable of producing industrial wood (20 cubic ft/ac/yr used as cut-off)

Comment [ERG5]: The Partnership questions whether Standards 1-3 as proposed are necessary and appropriate because they generally repeat language of NFMA direction, and may conflict with direction not to repeat existing laws and regulations as Forest Plan direction.

Comment [va6]: Without a qualifier, it seems that ever barrier would need to be replaced irregardless if it is necessary and desired.

Comment [va7]: Use the CFR 19.16 language.

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Deleted: cuttings

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4. Lands physically unsuitable
 - a. wetlands
 - b. landslide prone lands, high water table lands
 - c. lands where restocking within 5 years is no assured
5. Lands with inadequate response information
 - a. Whitebark Pine covertype
6. Remaining lands are TENTATIVELY SUITABLE and used as starting point for suitable timber determination.

II. Suitable Timber Determination:

A. Suitable Timber Lands are those acres identified as Tentatively Suitable for timber production excluding:

1. Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas – 300 feet from perennial streams and 150 feet from intermittent streams
2. ~~All or Portions of Inventoried Roadless Areas as displayed on allocation maps~~
3. ~~Recommended Wilderness~~
4. ~~Red Rock Pass Viewshed~~
5. ~~Areas with greater than 45% slope~~
6. ~~Areas greater than 35 percent slope with highly erosive soil and/or a predisposition to mass wasting.~~
7. ~~Portions of the Gravelly Landscape (Occupied Grizzly Bear Habitat)~~

~~The Coalition proposes to delete the exclusion of all of the above criteria (with the exception of original list numbered: 1,10 and portions of 2, 8 and 12 and would modify 11 to 45%) excluding management for timber production, as discussed in further detail in the Comments section. There is no regulation, policy or scientific basis for exclusion of tentatively suited timber based on the criteria discussed above.~~

8. ~~Management areas that do NOT allocate timber production harvest (listed in following table):~~

Management Areas to Exclude from Suitable Timber

Anaconda-Pintler Recommended Wilderness Additions	Medicine Lodge/Tendoy
Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness	Middle Mountain
Anderson Mountain	Quigg Recommended Wilderness
Antelope Basin	Ruby-Centennial Corridor
Basin Creek Municipal Watershed	Sapphires WSA
Centennial Foothills	Snowcrest Recommended Wilderness
Centennial Recommended Wilderness	Timber Creek
Chain of Lakes	Torrey Mountain Recommended Wilderness

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Comment [va8]: What are these and why limit timber suitability? Timber harvest could be designed to provide for non-motorized travel after the timber sale is completed and the roads systems are closed.

Deleted: <#>Areas "Closed to Motorized Travel"

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Deleted: <#>Visual Quality / Recreation Areas (Delmoe Lake Basin, Georgetown Lake Viewshed, Mill Creek in Tobacco Roots, Pioneers East Face & Birch Creek, and Pioneer West Face south of Steel Creek)

<#>Key Watersheds

<#>Rock Creek Drainage – 5th code HUC's: 1701020207, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12

<#>Half mile corridors on: National Trails; I-90 & I-15; Highways 1, 2, 43, 45, and 278; and Eligible Wild & Scenic Rivers

Deleted: <#>Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway

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Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway

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Deleted: Ruby-Horse Creek

Deleted: Brown Back

Bull Mountains

Butte North

Deleted: South Boulder Corridor

South Willow Corridor

Stony

Table Mountain

Deleted: Tobacco Root Peaks

Italian Peak Recommended Wilderness	Upper Ruby
Lee Metcalf Recommended Wilderness Additions	Wall Creek
Lee Metcalf Wilderness	West Pioneer WSA
Lima Peaks	Wigwam Cherry
Lobo Mesa	
Madison	

Deleted: East Fork
 Electric Peak Recommended Wilderness
 Flint Uplands
 Greenhorn Mountains
 Hellroaring
 Hells Canyon
 I-15 Corridor
 I-90 Corridor
 Idaho Creek

Deleted: John Long
 Johnny Gulch

Deleted: Upper Willow

Deleted: Warm Springs
 West Bighole Special Management Area
 West Fork Madison
 West Fork Rock Creek

Deleted: Whitetail

Deleted: Little Boulder

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FIRE MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVES

Fire Fighter Safety: Provide fire fighter and public safety as the first priority for fire suppression.

Fire Suppression: Provide a risk assessment for fire fighter and public safety that is weighed against the resource values being protected and the cost of suppression, recognizing that fire is a natural process which we are attempting to restore across the landscape.

Protection: Reduce the threat to human life and property caused by stand density, competitive stress, and the risk of high intensity wildfire.

Urban Interface: Reduce risk from unplanned and unwanted wildfire to communities and resources by prioritizing as follows:

- ◆ Treat high risk areas adjacent to communities, (condition classes 2 and 3 in fire regimes 1, 2, & 3).
- ◆ Treat areas in condition class 2 and 3 in fire regimes 4 & 5.
- ◆ Maintain fire regimes that are currently in condition class 1.

Condition Class: Reduce effects of unplanned and unwanted wildfire forestwide by reducing acres of fuels in condition class 2 and 3 for all fire regimes by approximately 70,000 to 105,000 acres across the forest.

Wildland Fire Use: Complete wildland fire use plans within 3 years (which are part of the forestwide fire management plan) to allow wildland fire use for resource benefits, (Page 66).

AIR QUALITY

OBJECTIVES

1. Air quality will be maintained within the standards set by federal and state agencies and by the Montana Airshed Group's Memorandum of Agreement and State Implementation Plan.

Standard: Meet smoke management requirements according to the Idaho/Montana Airshed Group Operating Guide.

2. Within five years or within the timeframe required by Montana’s State Implementation Plan, develop emissions data and trend information for fire use to be stored in a centralized database. Use data to document meeting Regional Haze requirements established the State.
3. Use a variety of management tools, including prescribed fire and Wildland Fire Use (For Resource Benefit), to help manage vegetation to reduce potential smoke impacts from uncharacteristic wildfire.

SCENERY

OBJECTIVES

Scenery Management: Maintain scenic values according to the following Scenic Integrity Objectives: (See Glossary for definitions)

Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIO) Matrix for Project Planning and Design

Scenic Attractiveness	Landscape Visibility				All other areas
	Foreground or middleground of Concern Level 1	Background of Concern Level 1	Foreground or middleground of Concern Level 2	Background of Concern Level 2	
A. Distinctive	<i>High SIO</i>	<i>High SIO</i>	<i>Moderate SIO</i>	<i>Moderate SIO</i>	Low SIO, or determine a higher SIO if it supports summer ROS
B. Typical	<i>Moderate SIO</i>	<i>Moderate SIO</i>	<i>Moderate SIO</i>	<i>Moderate SIO</i>	
C. Indistinctive	<i>Moderate SIO</i>	<i>Moderate SIO</i>	<i>Moderate SIO</i>	<i>Low SIO</i>	

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Standard: Use the Scenery Management System, as described in the Agricultural Handbook Number 701 and Concern Level List in the Appendix, to determine site specific Scenic Integrity Objectives for project analysis and design. Management area standards take precedent where the scenic integrity standard is higher.

The minimum Scenic Integrity Level is moderate for the middleground and background but may be less than moderate in the foreground in the short-term.

Comment [ERG9]: I think moderate in background and middleground is ok as a minimum....however in the foreground short term may be less immediately following harvest.... would be good to have a FS L.A. look at this wording. Also, "suitable for timber production" continues to be the proper term which is not covered in "timber harvest".

HERITAGE

OBJECTIVES

Heritage Resources: There will be no loss of significant heritage resources due to management or recreation activities. Significant means listed in the National Register of Historic Places, eligible for listing, or awaiting formal evaluation for National Register eligibility. Take appropriate preemptive management actions to secure heritage resources from loss resulting from wildfire.

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MINERALS, OIL AND GAS ¶
¶
INFRASTRUCTURE ¶
¶
LANDS ¶
¶
Elkhorn Mountains ¶
SCENIC CONCERN LEVELS¶