

**Forest Plan Amendment Number 20
Custer National Forest
Billings, Montana**

Custer National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan will be amended as follows. Based on the information disclosed in the Beartooth Mountains Oil and Gas Leasing FEIS and other ongoing analysis, I am updating the Key Species/Critical Timing Periods found on page 19 of the Forest Plan.

The left one-half of page 19 is replaced with the following.

4) Key Species/Critical Timing Periods

Activities may be restricted to meet MA goals by using the following dates as a guide for protecting key wildlife values. These dates may be varied in any one year due to climatic conditions.

Bighorn Sheep	Dates of Listed Activities
North Dakota Breeding Lambing Winter Range	October 15 to December 1 April 1 to June 15 December 1 to April 1
Montana, Stillwater Herd Winter Range Lambing	November 1 to June 1 June 1 to June 15
Montana, Rock Creek Herd Winter Range	November 1 to July 1*
Montana, West Rosebud Herd Winter Range Lambing	November 1 to May 1** May 1 to July 10
Montana, Pryors Winter Range	November 1 to June 15***

* Lambing occurs on the winter range.

** This herd winters within the wilderness boundary, but moves to a lower elevation for spring range, and lambing occurs on this spring range.

*** The Pryor herd appears to lamb on the winter ranges. However, there appears to be little change in habitats used in winter or summer.

Elk	Dates of Listed Activities
Montana Winter Range Calving Areas Summer/Fall Range	November 30 to June 15* June 1 to July 1 June 1 to November 1

* On the winter ranges on the Beartooth Ranger District, especially on the Line Creek Area, the elk move onto the winter range in October. These are areas of high value during this period and harassment places unneeded stress on these animals.

Moose	Dates of Listed Activities
Montana Winter/Spring Range	October 15 to June 15

Species	NSO (year long)	No disturbance radius - breeding season ¹	Period to Avoid Disturbance During Breeding Season ²
Bald Eagle	½ mile	½ mile	February 1 through August 15
Peregrine Falcon	½ mile	½ mile	February 1 through August 15
Ferruginous hawk	½ mile	1.2 miles	March 1 through July 30
Prairie Falcon	½ mile	½ mile	March 1 through July 30
Golden Eagle	½ mile	½ mile	February 1 through July 30
Merlin	¼ mile	¼ mile	March 1 through July 30

Disturbance zones are line of sight distances as specified
An active nest territory is defined as having an adult pair present.

Prairie Grouse

Dancing grounds March 15 to April 15

Disturbance Zones § no ground disturbing activity within ¼ mile of dancing grounds

§ Disturbance zones are line of sight distances.

STEPHEN J. SOLEM
Acting Forest Supervisor

Date

**Forest Plan Amendment Number 20
Custer National Forest
Billings, Montana**

The Custer National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan is amended as follows:

The dates and disturbance zones shown for key species on pages 19 and 172, as amended by Amendments Number 12 and 30, are further amended to include the following, *which are only applicable to oil and gas activities within the project boundary of the Beartooth Mountains Oil and Gas Leasing FEIS (changes shown in italics)*:

Elk

Winter Range: November 30 to June 15*
Calving Areas: June 1 to July 1
Summer/Fall Range: *June 1 to November 1*

* On the winter ranges on the Beartooth Ranger District, especially in the Line Creek area, the elk move onto the winter ranges in late October. These areas are of high value during this period and harassment places unneeded stress on these animals.

Moose

Winter/Spring Range: *October 15 to June 15*

Eagles

Inactive Nests: *February 1 to May 1*
Active Nests: *February 1 to August 15*
Disturbance Zones: no disturbance for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius around the nest (NSO stipulation on oil and gas leases). This distance could be reduced in the presence of a physical barrier between the nest and the proposed activity that would limit visibility from the nest. The actual disturbance zone determination would require an on-the-ground biological review.

Peregrine Falcon

Nesting: *February 1 to August 15*
Disturbance Zones: no disturbance for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius around the nest (NSO stipulation in oil and gas leases). This distance could be reduced in the presence of a physical barrier between the nest and the proposed activity that would limit visibility from the nest. The actual disturbance zone determination would require an on-the-ground biological review.

- End Amendment Number 20 -