

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

FOREST PLAN

APPENDIX EIGHT

GRIZZLY MANAGEMENT SITUATION

Appendix 8

GRIZZLY MANAGEMENT SITUATION GUIDELINES
AND AUGMENTATION DISCUSSION
Kootenai National Forest

I. Introduction

This policy and guideline statement was developed for three major reasons;

1. to promote the unification of grizzly bear management in the Northern Region through a consistent set of guidelines applied by all Forests, and
2. to clearly establish a policy for the management of grizzly bears and their habitat on the Kootenai National Forest.
3. to pull together, in one document, the numerous guidance and procedural directions that have been in existence on the Kootenai but are located in many different documents. In this context, this set of guidelines contains little new information or direction.

As a federal entity, the Kootenai National Forest is clearly responsible for ensuring that any action funded, authorized or carried out be done in a manner which does not jeopardize the continued existence of grizzly bears or adversely modify their habitat. This responsibility under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is fulfilled through the development of biological evaluations or assessments which examine the proposed actions with respect to their potential for influencing grizzly bears or their habitat. If this objective analysis, conducted by qualified personnel (generally operational wildlife biologists), cannot clearly determine that the action will not affect grizzly bears or their habitat then formal consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service will be initiated. This formal step provides for an interagency exchange of information and ideas and significantly strengthens the application of the Endangered Species Act.

Grizzly bears on the Kootenai occupy portions of two primary ecosystems. In the northeast portion of the Forest grizzly bears occupy about 3 percent of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE), roughly 114,000 acres. In this area, though listed as a threatened species, grizzlies can be legally hunted. An apparent extension of this ecosystem southwest of Highway 93 contains an additional 90,000 acres within which grizzlies may not be hunted.

The other ecosystem on the Kootenai is the Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem (CYE), of which the Kootenai manages about 70 percent or roughly 828,000 acres. Grizzly bears have not been legally hunted in this area since 1974 and only two mortalities of native bears have been known to occur since that date.

Grizzly bears were listed as a threatened species in 1975 and numerous actions have been taken since to stabilize their decline and to assist in recovery. Among these actions on the Kootenai are:

1. The delineation of essential habitat in coordination with other Forests in Region One.
2. The development and publication of guidelines for harvesting timber in grizzly bear habitat.
3. Participation in the development of the recovery plan.
4. The stratification of essential habitat into management situations specific to the Kootenai National Forest.
5. The development and implementation of a relocation plan in conjunction with other responsible agencies.
6. The development and application of habitat component mapping and cumulative effects analysis.
7. The inclusion of grizzly habitat and specific management prescriptions in Forest level planning.

Most of the management emphasis on the Kootenai has focused on habitat. Over most of the Forest an accurate data base has been developed down to the habitat component level. It is agreed by all responsible agencies that suitable habitat exists in the CYE but that a low density, small population of grizzlies is present. On the other hand, that portion of the NCDE that exists on the Kootenai supports a relatively high density of grizzlies and is intrinsically bound to populations of bears in the Flathead drainage, which have been relatively well studied in the past 10 years.

Initiation of a grizzly study in the Cabinets in 1983 was a first step in gaining information on grizzly bears native to the CYE. To date, three native bears have been trapped and radio-collared. Two grizzlies have also been captured and radio-collared in conjunction with a black bear study in the Yaak drainage area. Study of these bears will focus on habitat use, movement patterns, and home range sizes for native grizzly bears.

Data collected in the study will be used to update or modify current management guidance which is predominantly based on data extrapolated from other studies. The management guidance contained in this document is dynamic and will be updated as needed.

The precise population of grizzlies in the CYE will probably never be known. As the extent and accuracy of grizzly data develops, population estimates will be established using criteria identified in the Recovery Plan. Until better population information exists, management emphasis will focus on the maintenance of desirable conditions in occupied grizzly habitat. The target population density for the CYE identified in the Recovery Plan is 1:26 square miles which would result in a grizzly population on the Kootenai of about 45 bears.

In contrast, relatively good data exists for parts of the NCDE relative to the Kootenai's portion. It is felt the area supports a density of about 1:15 square miles or about 13 bears. Sightings and sign substantiate the presence of a good population of bears and the area is open to legal hunting for grizzlies. In general, it is felt the area supports a viable population of grizzlies.

II. Definitions

All Forests in the Northern Region (R-1) have been directed to stratify their grizzly habitat according to definitions in the "Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines" (formerly Yellowstone Guidelines). Through application of a common set of situation descriptions, all Forests will have a common basis from which to operate.

Prior to the use of the Interagency Guidelines, the Kootenai developed a habitat stratification similar in concept and has applied that mapping to management activities for the past six years. The Kootenai stratification emphasized habitat condition, season of use, and history of use. Mapping of the Kootenai situations was done at a much smaller scale than the Interagency Guideline situations and functions essentially as a substratification within those various situations. The Kootenai stratification has served well and will be absorbed into the current guidelines and defined as a "mode," or particular form of habitat within the various situations. Incorporation of the Interagency Guideline situation descriptions by the Kootenai will help achieve uniformity among Forests in R-1 but, recognition of the various "modes" within the situations will allow the Kootenai to retain an effective management tool. In addition, habitat component mapping will serve as another level of refinement as illustrated below:

Occupied Habitat (Recovery Plan)	Interagency Guidelines Situations	Kootenai Management Modes	Habitat Component Mapping
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>-----Increasing Level of Resolution----->

"Interagency Guideline" Descriptions

Management Situation 1

1. Population and Habitat Conditions: The area contains grizzly population centers (areas key to the survival of grizzlies where seasonal or year-long grizzly activity under natural, free-ranging conditions is common) and habitat components needed for the survival and recovery of the species or a segment of its population. The probability is very great that major federal activities or programs may affect (have direct or indirect relationships to the conservation and recovery of) the grizzly.

2. Management Direction: Grizzly habitat maintenance and improvement and grizzly/human conflict minimization will receive the highest management priority (FSM 2603). Management decisions will favor the needs of the grizzly bear when grizzly habitat and other land use values compete. Land uses which can affect grizzlies and/or their habitat will be made compatible with grizzly needs or such uses will be disallowed or eliminated. Grizzly/human conflicts will be resolved in favor of grizzlies unless the bear involved is determined to be a nuisance. Nuisance bears may be controlled through either relocation or removal, but only if such control would result in a more natural, free-ranging grizzly population and all reasonable measures have been taken to protect the bear and/or its habitat (including area closures and/or activity curtailments).

Management Situation 2

1. Population and Habitat Conditions: Current information indicates that the area lacks distinct population centers; highly suitable habitat does not generally occur, although some grizzly habitat components exist and grizzlies may be present occasionally. Habitat resources in Management Situation 2 either are unnecessary for survival and recovery of the species, or the need has not yet been determined but habitat resources may be necessary. Certain management actions are necessary. The status of such areas is subject to review and change according to demonstrated grizzly population and habitat needs. Major Federal activities may affect the conservation of the grizzly bear primarily in that they may contribute toward (a) human-caused bear mortalities or (b) long-term displacement where the zone of influence could affect habitat use in Management Situation 1.
2. Management Direction: The grizzly bear is an important, but not the primary, use on the area. In some cases, habitat maintenance and improvement may be important management considerations. Minimization of grizzly-human conflict potential that could lead to human-caused mortalities is a high management priority. In this management situation, managers would accommodate demonstrated grizzly populations and/or grizzly habitat use in other land use activities if feasible, but not to the extent of exclusion of other uses. A feasible accommodation is one which is compatible with (does not make unobtainable) the major goals and/or objectives of other uses. Management will at least maintain those habitat conditions which resulted in the area being stratified Management Situation 2. When grizzly population and/or grizzly habitat use and other land use needs are mutually exclusive, the other land use needs may prevail in management considerations. In cases where the need of the habitat resources for recovery has not yet been determined, other land uses may prevail to the extent that they do not result in irretrievable/irreversible resource commitments which would preclude the possibility of eventual restratification to Management Situation 1. If grizzly population and/or habitat use represents demonstrated needs that are so great (necessary to the normal needs or survival of the species or a segment of its population) that they should prevail in management considerations, then the area should be reclassified under Management Situation 1. Managers would control nuisance grizzlies.

Management Situation 3

1. Population and Habitat Conditions: Grizzly presence is possible but infrequent. Developments, such as campgrounds, resorts or other high human use associated facilities, and human presence result in conditions which make grizzly presence untenable for humans and/or grizzlies. There is a high probability that major Federal activities or programs may affect the species conservation and recovery.
2. Management Direction: Grizzly habitat maintenance and improvement are not management considerations. Grizzly/human conflict minimization is a high priority management consideration. Grizzly bear presence and factors contributing to their presence will be actively discouraged. Any grizzly involved in a grizzly/human conflict will be controlled. Any grizzly frequenting an area will be controlled.

Kootenai Management Mode Descriptions

Each of the management situations may have substratifications, or modes, which reflect of the former Kootenai management situations. The four modes defined will assist primarily at the project level and be related to habitat conditions, habitat component information, and season of use. Decisions and policy will be influenced by the Yellowstone situation within which the modes fall. The modes are defined as follows:

Mode A - These areas contain population centers and a complexity of grizzly habitat components which provide essentially for yearlong needs, with the possible exception of spring range. Denning habitat is generally found in these areas. Generally, there is a history of bear occupancy and use that is well established through sightings or sign. These areas are often the most rugged, secluded, and remote areas on the Forest with a high component of nonforested or sparsely forested habitat.

Mode B - These areas are often proximate to Mode A areas but may have less complexity of grizzly habitat components, may lack denning habitat, and often have a high component of forested habitat. Habitat and cover types are often those which offer a high potential for enhancing bear foods through vegetative manipulation or which may currently provide grizzly foods. Generally some recognized and historical bear use has been documented.

Mode C - These are high value seasonal ranges upon which grizzly bears may depend for short, yet critical, periods of time. Most frequently these are spring and late fall ranges which meet pre- and post-denning needs. These areas are often at lower elevations and may be disjunct from Mode A or B areas.

Mode D - These areas generally provide little actual or potential for grizzly foods but serve predominantly as movement corridors, buffers, or connectors between areas of higher value and use. Cover needs are predominant and the ability for free movement through the area is a primary management consideration. Often there may be limited documentation of bear use.

III. Policy and Objectives

It is the policy of the Kootenai National Forest to conduct programs and activities in a manner which promotes the conservation of grizzly bears. This includes adherence to responsibilities outlined in Section 7 (ESA), and furtherance of the goals identified in the grizzly bear recovery plan. Inherent in this program will be coordination with all agencies responsible for grizzly management strategies. The following objective statements will assist in achieving this stated goal:

1. In partnership with cooperating agencies, strive to avoid human-induced mortalities on the Kootenai National Forest by;
 - a. increasing public awareness of grizzly bear behavior and habitat needs and by informing and educating the general public in back country behavior in grizzly habitat.
 - b. recognizing potentially hazardous situations and modifying management activities or public use to reduce conflicts.
2. On all Situation 1 acreage on the Kootenai, resolve conflicts in favor of grizzly bears and emphasize their welfare in management activities. Activities will be made compatible or they will be foregone.
3. Management direction for Situation 2 was initially developed in an ecosystem over five times larger than the Cabinet-Yaak and with a population of over 200 grizzly bears (Yellowstone). In view of these differences and with the consultation of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Kootenai has elected to avoid, as much as possible, mutually exclusive resource activities by placing all Situation 2 areas into compatible management emphasis (prescription). Thus, multiple use activities will be designed and coordinated in a manner which is compatible with grizzly bear behavior and habitat needs.
4. In Situation 3 areas manage to avoid attracting grizzly bears or creating situations which bring bears into contact with humans. Actively discourage grizzly presence in these areas.
5. In all situations, strive to develop a grizzly management program which maintains and enhances identified grizzly bear habitat, incorporates relevant research and management information into all applicable activities, and supports the conservation and recovery of the species.

	<u>Acreages</u>		
<u>Ecosystem</u>	<u>Sit 1 (M Acres)</u>	<u>Sit 2 (M Acres)</u>	<u>Sit 3 (M Acres)</u>
Cabinet-Yaak	628	200	.8
Northern Cont. Divide	116	90*	.4

*Extension SW of Highway 93

IV. Management Guidelines and Standards

The following guidelines and standards will provide for a more consistent interpretation and implementation of the Interagency Guidelines on the Kootenai:

Guidelines provide broad direction that should be strived for in all management activities but may be altered on the basis of site specific needs as determined in a biological evaluation. Standards provide specific direction in management areas. Forest Supervisor approval is mandatory for deviation from standards.

At least annually the Kootenai will confer with the Fish and Wildlife Service on any changes that are needed in standards and guidelines. Historically, the Kootenai has had frequent informal and formal consultations with the Fish and Wildlife Service. These guidelines may reduce the number of formal consultations needed but continuation of the informal consultations is important. The need for consultation will be determined on the basis of a biological evaluation, the development of which will be consistent with FSM 2670.

The grizzly bear recovery plan will be used as a reference document in identifying activities and steps that can be incorporated into Forest management to promote the recovery of the species.

Wildlife Management

	<u>Std</u>	<u>Guide</u>	<u>S1</u>	<u>S2</u>	<u>S3</u>
1. Keep abreast of current research activities and data relating to grizzly bears and their habitat. Ensure that current, applicable data is incorporated in management activities. Initiate consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service as necessary.	X		X	X	X
2. Utilize biological evaluations to determine project compatibility. On the basis of biological evaluations ensure that only projects which are compatible or which enhance grizzly habitat are initiated in Situation 1. Proposed projects or land uses in Situation 1 areas which are not compatible will be modified or foregone.	X		X		
3. On the basis of biological evaluations projects are made as fully compatible as possible, consistent with the other resource goals of the area. If a proposal causes an unresolvable conflict and the evaluation indicates that the activity will affect species survival and recovery (jeopardy) then the area should be reconsidered for Situation 1 status. If resolution of the conflict and resultant use of the area by grizzly bears does not constitute need for species survival and recovery then the project shall proceed as modified.	X			X	
4. Measures taken to protect, maintain or enhance grizzly bear habitat will be documented in biological evaluations and specified in project design. Project level environmental assessments or decision documents will clearly reflect consideration of grizzly habitat management recommendations.	X		X	X	X
5. Develop a public information and education program with the assistance of other responsible agencies. Emphasize bear habitat needs, bear behavior, minimization of grizzly/human conflicts, and the need for a comprehensive management program which will lead to recovery of the species.	X		X	X	X

	<u>Std</u>	<u>Guide</u>	<u>S1</u>	<u>S2</u>	<u>S3</u>
6. Develop a long range grizzly management program which includes at least the following: (1) identification of management information needs, (2) updating of grizzly habitat maps, (3) maintenance of sighting records and evidence of grizzly use and occupation, (4) refinement of situation mapping on the basis of changes in habitat suitability, population and distribution, (5) modification of standards and guidelines in management prescriptions on the basis of new data, (6) identification of direct habitat management activities which will protect or enhance grizzly habitat, and (7) identification of potential relocation or population augmentation areas.	X		X	X	X
6a.If the inventory in 6(6), above, identifies areas that can be enhanced, funding will be sought.	X		X	X	
7. Identify and strive to make unavailable food sources which may draw grizzly bears into potential conflict with humans. These food sources may include the carcasses of livestock or wildlife, garbage dumps, food caches in backcountry areas, or roadside seeding of succulent grasses and legumes. Cooperate with federal, state, county, and private entities in achieving this guideline.	X		X	X	X
8. Utilize a cumulative effects perspective in developing management guidelines and constraints at the project level.	X		X	X	
9. Monitor the application of these standards and guidelines to assure they are properly and effectively used. Modify standards and guidelines as needed and with the cooperation of the Fish and Wildlife Service.	X		X	X	X

Timber/Fire Management

1. All proposed timber and fire management activities will be evaluated for their effects on grizzly bears and their habitat. A cumulative effects perspective will be used in the evaluation. Employment of habitat component information and grizzly use data will be part of the evaluation. Proposals will be evaluated with respect to how they affect grizzly bear management objectives on the Kootenai National Forest. Applicable contracts will include specific clauses to achieve management goals and objectives and, in Situation 1, a clause which provides for a suspension or temporary cessation of activities if such is needed to resolve a grizzly/human conflict situation. Both contractual stipulations and administration will be used to ensure that contractors cooperate in meeting grizzly management objectives.	X		X	X	
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	<u>Std</u>	<u>Guide</u>	<u>S1</u>	<u>S2</u>	<u>S3</u>
2. Grizzly habitat may be improved through vegetative manipulation. Techniques which may cause improvement are silvicultural treatments, prescribed burning and sale area improvement activities,					
a. on the basis of a biological evaluation, grizzly habitat components will be identified and included in the consideration of the project. This may include protection or enhancement of a particular component and provision for their use by bears.	X		X	X	
b. Timing constraints, scheduling, maintenance of movement corridors, shortened contract periods, provision of displacement areas, and access management will be considered and implemented as needed in project design.	X		X	X	
c. <u>Silvicultural treatment in some habitat types can significantly improve available bear foods.</u> Identification of these habitat types and provision for the improvement of bear foods will be incorporated in project design consistent with other considerations such as;	X		X	X	
1. design of regeneration units should stress irregular edges where consistent with site preparation capabilities (e.g., prescribed fire).			X	X	X
2. adequate cover, movement corridors, leave islands and spacing between units will be incorporated in project design to facilitate bear movement into and through project areas so that existing components and new food sources can be utilized.			X	X	X
3. favor site preparation techniques which protect or enhance known bear foods. Use prescribed burning where dozer scarification results in the destruction or adverse modification of bear foods such as huckleberries.	X			X	X
4. road locations will be placed to avoid the destruction of known habitat components unless the biological evaluation indicates the component loss is tolerable with respect to other results of the project.	X			X	X
5. small sale activities will be coordinated with large sale activities and will be equally responsive to grizzly management goals and objectives and Kootenai standards and guidelines.	X			X	X

	<u>Std</u>	<u>Guide</u>	<u>S1</u>	<u>S2</u>	<u>S3</u>
6. riparian zone treatments will follow policy established by the Forest Plan.	X		X	X	
d. <u>Sale area improvement</u> projects funded from timber sale receipts collected for post treatment activities (KV funds) should receive high priority where there is potential for improvement of grizzly habitat in sale areas. Such activities may include the following:	X		X	X	
1. revegetation with grasses and legumes in those areas where bears can safely feed and would benefit from increased foods (especially spring ranges)					
2. improvement or reestablishment of cover conditions in important feeding or movement areas					
3. implementation of road management where open road densities are at higher levels than desirable					
4. prescribed burning in those habitat situations where increased succulence or improved fruit production will result or grizzly foods will be improved or made available.					
e. <u>Prescribed burning</u> both as a direct habitat improvement technique and as a site preparation technique will be used to enhance grizzly habitat where vegetative or habitat type conditions indicate. Specific instances where prescribed burning is an important technique include;	X		X	X	
1. burning of identified shrub fields to enhance fruit production					
2. recognition of the value and incorporation of wildfire in wilderness and nonwilderness situations where fire has been an important factor in maintaining grizzly habitat.					
3. Roads associated with project proposals will be an integral part of the analysis conducted in the biological evaluation. This will include existing roads and new road proposals. Grizzly bear management and Kootenai grizzly objectives will be included in the development of area transportation plans or any similar comprehensive access planning document. Specific consideration will be given to the following:	X		X	X	

	<u>Std</u>	<u>Guide</u>	<u>S1</u>	<u>S2</u>	<u>S3</u>
a. Consistent with standards and guidelines in Plan prescriptions, open road densities will be reduced as determined in biological evaluations for project activities. Generally, this includes closure of all local roads and an average open road density not to exceed .75 mile/section.	X		X	X	
b. Road closures may be facilitated by physical barriers, gates, or other means as specified in biological evaluations. Timing and duration of closures will be identified in biological evaluations. Other options include: a dog-leg (sharp turn) in the first 100 yards of side roads, destroy the first 100 yards of closed roads (long-term), avoid loop roads, and use and remove temporary bridges.		X	X	X	X
c. Road design and standards should be those which minimize conflict with wildlife values yet meet safety and environmental considerations. Criteria generally include:		X	X	X	
1. minimum number of miles to achieve project objectives					
2. minimum clearing widths, low cuts and fills, and high diversity in vertical and horizontal alignment					
3. roads which "lay on the land"					
4. maximum use of local roads, minimize arterials and collectors.					
5. use snow roads where appropriate.					
4. Facilities such as camps or equipment storage areas will be located away from known grizzly use areas or identified habitat components. For those camps which are allowed in proximity to grizzly habitat there will be strict regulation of garbage, pets, and human waste to minimize grizzly/human conflict.	X		X	X	X
5. Development of Forest level fire management plans will include information about grizzly habitat and incorporation of prescribed fire where it can benefit grizzly habitat and not conflict with other resource values (e.g., municipal watersheds, old growth, regulated timberlands).	X		X	X	

	<u>Std</u>	<u>Guide</u>	<u>S1</u>	<u>S2</u>	<u>S3</u>
<u>Range Management</u>					
1. All livestock use on allotments will be analyzed in a biological evaluation to determine the effect on grizzly habitat and the potential for conflict with grizzly bears. This evaluation will be accomplished as part of the preparation or revision of allotment management plans unless specific problems dictate immediate action.	X			X	X
2. Grazing activities with the potential for conflict with grizzly management objectives will be modified to be compatible with grizzly habitat needs. Disposal of carcasses will be done in a manner which minimizes the potential for grizzly/human conflicts.	X			X	X
3. Regional grizzly bear protection clauses will be included in annual permittee operating plans.	X			X	X
<u>Recreation Management</u>					
1. The following examples of uses, developments, or activities will be evaluated to determine their compatibility with grizzly bear objectives;	X			X	X
a. proposed roads and trails (foot, trail, vehicle)					
b. proposed campgrounds, designated campsites, picnic areas, trail heads, visitor information facilities, and other structures or facilities for recreation and administrative use					
c. proposed special use resorts, cabins, base camp sites, outfitter stock grazing areas, and areas used for grazing by noncommercial recreation stock					
Any of the above which currently exist and which may be in conflict with grizzly management objectives should be evaluated in a cumulative effects/biological evaluation process.					
2. All recreation oriented environmental analyses will incorporate grizzly management objectives and specify measures or clauses necessary to meet them. All contracts, permits, and operating plans will include provisions specifically addressing Region 1 grizzly bear protection measures (2670 memo of 11/3/83).	X			X	X

	<u>Std</u>	<u>Guide</u>	<u>S1</u>	<u>S2</u>	<u>S3</u>
3. <u>Attractants</u>					
a. Garbage containers will be of a bear-proof design or existing facilities will be modified and made bear proof. Garbage pickup will be scheduled to minimize the potential of developing a bear attractant at container locations	X		X	X	X
b. Existing and proposed garbage dump sites will be evaluated to determine if problems exist. The Forest will coordinate with county officials in the location and management of dump sites and dumpsters.		X	X	X	X
c. Operators with special use permits will be required to make garbage unavailable to bears through the use of bear-proof containers and regular collection and offsite disposal in approved locations. Permit clauses or stipulations will reflect these standards.	X		X	X	X
d. Outfitter/guide permits will specify measures to be taken in terms of food storage, refuse disposal and wild meat storage. Work with Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks on enforcement of the permit regulations.	X		X	X	X
e. Use of established nondeveloped campsites will be adjusted as necessary to prevent a buildup of odors or improperly handled garbage which could attract grizzlies.		X	X	X	X
f. An information brochure summarizing human conduct in grizzly country will be made available to the public. A supply of the brochure will be made available to local offices of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.		X	X	X	X
g. Trails, roads, and areas with histories of grizzly human encounters, or areas where grizzly use increases grizzly encounter potential, may be closed to human use either temporarily in Situation 1 and 2 or permanently in Situation 1 to reduce conflict potential.	X		X	X	
h. If backcountry recreational use is determined to exceed grizzly tolerance levels, some means of restriction or reduction of human use should be implemented (i.e., permit system or reevaluation of commercial use) to avoid displacement of grizzlies from suitable habitat.		X	X	X	

<u>Std</u>	<u>Guide</u>	<u>S1</u>	<u>S2</u>	<u>S3</u>
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|--|---|---|---|--|
| i. Reduce grizzly mortality illegally occurring during big game hunting seasons by: | X | X | X | |
| 1. Assisting Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks in making information available to all hunters to assist them in distinguishing between black and grizzly bear. | | | | |
| 2. Assisting Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks in issuing special warnings to hunters using areas frequented by grizzly bear. | | | | |
| 3. Recommending that black bear hunting regulations be modified as appropriate to reduce or avoid areas or time periods of significant conflicts. | | | | |
| 4. Road closures in key grizzly bear habitat. | | | | |

Land Adjustment

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|---|---|--|---|---|
| 1. All land adjustment proposals will be analyzed in a biological evaluation to determine the effect on grizzly bears and their habitat. On that basis; | X | | X | X |
| a. consummate exchanges which contribute habitat or improve the opportunity to manage grizzly bears toward recovery levels | | | | |
| b. emphasize the acquisition of critical habitat components or important seasonal ranges (especially spring range) | | | | |

Minerals, Special Uses, and Watershed Management

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|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| 1. Proposed activities for a) minerals, oil and gas, microhydro, and geothermal exploration and development; b) special use permits such as powerlines, pipelines, and water developments; c) all uses which require no special use permit (FSM 2708) will be analyzed in a biological evaluation to determine their effect on grizzly bears and their habitat. In Situation 1 these activities will be made compatible with grizzly bear management objectives. In Situation 2 they will be made as compatible as possible consistent with other resource uses and statutory rights and implementation will be monitored if remaining conflicts are judged to be potentially important in a biological evaluation. If significant conflicts develop, further modification of activities or restratification of the habitat may be necessary. | X | | X | X | X |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|

	<u>Std</u>	<u>Guide</u>	<u>S1</u>	<u>S2</u>	<u>S3</u>
2. Oil and gas leasing on the Kootenai will be in accordance with current Kootenai EA's on the subject, Forest grizzly habitat stratification, and Forest management objectives.	X		X	X	
3. All operating plans and special use permits will reflect Forest grizzly bear objectives and contain appropriate clauses or stipulations needed to meet the objectives. Provisions specifically identified in Region 1 grizzly bear protection measures (2670 memo of 11/3/83) will be incorporated in all operating plans and permits. Of specific concern are at least the following:	X		X	X	X
a. Food, garbage and human waste will be handled in a manner which minimizes or eliminates them as bear attractants.	X		X	X	
b. Firearms and pets will not be allowed where the biological evaluation identifies them as problems.	X		X	X	
c. Temporary living facilities will be located away from known bear use areas, away from habitat components or not allowed as determined by a biological evaluation.	X		X	X	
d. Development of new access or access routes that are incompatible with Forest management objectives will be discouraged within legal bounds.	X		X	X	
e. Periods of operation will be modified to eliminate or minimize conflicts with grizzly bears as determined in a biological evaluation.	X		X	X	

V. Augmentation Discussion

Augmentation, basically an effort to increase the numbers of a species when used in a wildlife context, is a well accepted and routine wildlife management practice. Over the past 30 years on the Kootenai National Forest elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, fisher, and grizzly bears have been brought in to increase native populations. The augmentation of elk and bighorn sheep has been very successful while success with the other species has ranged from moderate to poor.

With specific regard to grizzly bears, seven different bears have been added to the Cabinet-Yaak grizzly population between 1979-1983 (none during the last four years). None of the seven bears are known to currently remain on the Forest. Those bears were moved under a relocation agreement pertaining to bears which were determined to be problems or nuisance bears in other locations. Participants in this effort included the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, the Fish and Wildlife Service, other National Forests, and Glacier National Park. This relocation agreement helped expedite the movement of grizzly bears into areas where conflicts with humans could be reduced or eliminated. Grizzlies moved under this relocation agreement were not selected for either the greatest chance for survival or for their capability to best contribute to the population into which they were relocated. Rather, they got into various circumstances that necessitated their removal and were accepted into new locations on the basis of their potential as risks in further human/bear conflicts. Thus, relocation efforts are significantly different in their intent and in the candidate grizzly bears than what would occur in an augmentation effort.

While the population of grizzly bears in the Cabinet-Yaak ecosystem is unknown, there is solid evidence and agreement among managing agencies that the existing population is very low in number. The habitat for grizzlies in the Cabinet-Yaak ecosystem is capable of supporting additional grizzly bears, as evidenced by the historic population and the abundance and diversity of bear foods identified through component mapping. When sufficient habitat exists and a native population is at low numbers, augmentation becomes an option for increasing a species' numbers through placement of selected individuals of the most desirable sex and age into the best habitat conditions and at the most advantageous time. Because grizzly bears have such a naturally low rate of reproduction and the fact that when populations become very low in number they may not be capable of recovery on their own, augmentation of grizzly bears in the Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem may, in fact, be necessary to ensure the survival of this population in the future. Left to their own, the Cabinet-Yaak grizzly bear population would likely not reach recovery and would remain extremely sensitive to any mortality or major habitat disturbances. Successful augmentation would give the population more resiliency toward mortality or habitat disturbance, as well as ensure their future survival. With or without augmentation the identified grizzly habitat on the Kootenai National Forest will be managed according to the guidance contained in this appendix.

The following are available and will be considered as augmentation alternatives:

1. No Action: Continue to manage the native population within the guidance identified in this plan.
2. Augmentation with grizzly bears acceptable under existing relocation agreements; basically a continuation of past relocation efforts as has occurred since 1977.
3. Augmentation with specific grizzly bears of a predetermined sex and age placed into specific habitat conditions at the most opportune times. Essentially the same type of augmentation practiced with other wildlife species.
4. Augmentation by means of cross fostering grizzly bear cubs with black bear mothers. This procedure has been successful with raptors and cranes and groundwork has been laid working with black bears.
5. A mix of alternatives 2,3, and 4 dictated by grizzly bear availability, knowledge of potential surrogate black bear mothers, and the condition and availability of nuisance bears.

VI. Applicable Documents

In addition to these policy, objective, standard, and guideline statements, there are numerous other documents which clarify and support the items addressed herein. They include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan
2. Habitat Component Mapping/Cumulative Effects Process, Kootenai National Forest
3. Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem Data Sheet
4. Region One Grizzly Action Plan
5. Region One Grizzly Bear Clauses
6. Kootenai National Forest Integrated Plan as revised
7. Prescriptions, standards, and guidelines in Kootenai Integrated Plan
8. Criteria for Nuisance Bears and Relocation of Grizzly Bears in the Cabinet-Yaak and Northern Continental Divide Ecosystems
9. Guidelines for Timber Harvest in Grizzly Bear Habitat
10. Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines
11. Charting the Course - The Forest Service Grizzly Bear Conservation Program