

## MANAGEMENT AREA 9

34,200 Acres

## A. DESCRIPTION

NOTE: The Ten Lakes Recommended Wilderness Area involves 7,000 acres outside of the Montana Wilderness Study Act Area (a portion of MA-8) and 26,000 acres inside the Study Area (a portion of MA-9) for a total of 33,000 acres. The entire area of MA-9 (34,200 acres) must be managed as described below in accordance with provisions of the Montana Wilderness Study Act even though all of the area is not recommended for Wilderness designation.

This entire area lies in Lincoln County. Elevations range from approximately 4000' to nearly 8000'. There are several small lakes in the area, many of which are popular for fishing. The size and configuration of the area is such that many people hike in and out the same day. The vegetation is sub-alpine with a few spruce basins scattered over the area. The west side is pine and fir and is high quality winter range for elk and deer. Recent discovery of caribou sign in the Ten Lakes area indicates a few animals may be present at least intermittently, however, no resident caribou population exists. The species is listed as sensitive on the Kootenai national Forest. The entire area is grizzly situation 1, and is in the Whitefish Range of the Northern Continental Divide Grizzly Bear Ecosystem. There has been some mineral activity in the past and a low level of exploration activity continues. The potential for mineral discoveries is low to moderate over most of the area. There has been interest in the oil and gas potential since the area lies within the Overthrust Belt. There are no active exploratory operations presently occurring.

## B. GOALS

Retain the wilderness characteristics and values, allow natural ecological processes to continue, maintain the opportunity for primitive forms of recreation, and provide habitat which will contribute to the recovery of the grizzly bear.

## C. STANDARDS

The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter II of this plan applies to this MA.

### Recreation

1. The VQO is preservation.
2. The ROS class is predominantly primitive. Some roads adjacent to proposed boundaries create a small amount of semi-primitive non-motorized and semi-primitive motorized recreation opportunities.
3. Roadless non-motorized forms of recreation (horseback riding and hiking) will be accommodated and managed.
4. Snowmobile use is presently permitted in this MA. That use may continue unless it is determined to conflict with grizzly management or other wildlife standards. It is assumed that if any part of this MA becomes Congressionally designated Wilderness, snowmobile use will no longer be allowed.
5. Overused sites will be monitored, and if resource damage occurs the sites will be restricted or closed and rehabilitated.
6. Wilderness rangers will not be provided but signs and brochures will be made available for recreationists instructing them on "no trace" camping techniques, and "pack it in, pack it out" hiking.
7. Signs and informational brochures will also be made available advising users of the presence of grizzlies, and techniques of food storage and disposal to prevent conflict with the bears.

### Wilderness

1. A Final Report and Proposal for the Ten Lakes area is in the process of being submitted to Congress. The separate report is required because Ten Lakes was designated a Montana Wilderness Study Area.
2. Any portion of this MA, or lands not presently in this MA that become Congressionally designated wilderness will be placed in MA-7.
3. A Wilderness management plan will be prepared for any area designated wilderness.
4. Permanent facilities for commercial outfitters and guides will not be permitted.
5. The cabin at Wolverine Lake will be retained. If the area is designated wilderness, the eventual disposition of the cabin will be determined by a site specific wilderness management plan.

Wildlife and Fish

1. Habitat enhancement projects using prescribed fire, both planned and unplanned ignition, may occur, especially on areas of winter range.
2. Areas of mature timber and old growth are considered to be part of the old growth habitat on the Forest. Before using prescribed fire in an old growth area the amount of old growth will be determined for the major drainage affected, and not allowed to fall below the designated minimum (usually 10%).
3. Stocking of lakes with indigenous fish is permitted except the program may be cancelled for selected lakes if sites adjacent to those lakes become overused.
4. Isolated enclaves of pure strain trout species will be identified and preserved.

Range

1. There are no existing allotments for grazing domestic livestock and none are permitted.
2. Recreational pack stock is permitted to graze in this MA. If popular areas are overused or resource damage occurs the grazing of pack stock will be discontinued on those sites.

Timber

1. This MA is not suitable for timber production.
2. Timber harvest will not occur.

Soil, Water, and Air

1. All site rehabilitation projects will be done in a manner that protects wilderness values, using only native species for revegetation.
2. Comply with the Smoke Management Plan published by the Air Quality Bureau of the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and administered by the Montana State Airshed Group.

Riparian (See Riparian Area, Chapter II).

Minerals and Geology

1. Refer to Forest standards for locatable minerals. Seasonal restrictions may occur.
2. No mineral leases will be issued.
3. Extraction of common minerals will not be permitted.

Lands

1. No rights-of-way, easements, or cost-share agreements are permitted.

Facilities

1. No road construction is permitted.
2. New trails may be constructed except when in conflict with grizzly habitat needs.
3. Trails will be maintained at level 1 or 2.
4. This MA is classified as a corridor exclusion area. (See Appendix 15.)

FirePrescribed Fire

## Planned Ignitions:

Acceptable as a means of wildlife habitat enhancement. All prescribed fires must be consistent with cavity habitat management, old growth requirements, and applicable soil, air, VQO and water quality standards.

## Unplanned Ignitions:

1. May be used in this MA to perpetuate the natural ecological process, provide habitat diversity for wildlife and prevent a buildup of fuels which could lead to a catastrophic fire in the future.
2. Fire must involve only this MA and/or adjacent ones for which the use of unplanned ignition for prescribed fire has been approved.
3. The expected life cycle effects of the fire must not adversely affect the goals or standards of this or any other MA.
4. A decision flow-chart will be prepared as part of the Fire Management Action Plan to conform to specific requirements of life and property, air quality, monitoring and managing resources, site, weather, expected fire behavior, and fuel type necessary for declaring an unplanned ignition a prescribed fire.

Wildfire (Applies only to National Forest lands protected by the Kootenai National Forest. For National Forest lands protected by the State of Montana, see "Standards" Chapter II.)

Suppression Strategy:

**Critical Fire Season:**

All wildfires will normally be controlled, but, an analysis including evaluation of expected fire behavior, time of year, and location with respect to private land and adjacent MA's may lead to a contain or confine strategy.

**Noncritical Fire Season:**

If an analysis of the time of year and expected fire behavior discloses no effect to this or any other MA, and if it is more cost effective to do so, a contain or confine strategy will be used.

Suppression Tactics: (Applies to all National Forest lands whether protected by the National Forest or the State of Montana.)

1. Tactics will emphasize the least possible disturbance or evidence of human presence.
2. Use of any mechanized equipment, including the use of dozers requires Forest Supervisor approval.
3. Suppression tactics will avoid human/grizzly conflicts, and existing policy will be emphasized to leave no trash or other bear attractants of any kind in the area.
4. Rehabilitation (return to a near natural condition) of all campsites, control lines and other evidence of human presence will occur as soon as it is safe to do so, and no longer than one season after the fire occurs.

**D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

Planned - First Decade - Average annual

None Planned.

Projected - Second Decade - Average annual

None Projected.

**E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The monitoring requirements from Chapter IV that are applicable to this MA are:

Recreation	A-1, A-2, A-3, A-5, A-6, A-7
Wildlife and Fish	C-1 through C-10
Range	D-2
Timber	E-4
Minerals	G-1
Human and Comm. Dev.	H-1, H-3, H-4
Facilities	L-1
Protection	P-1

## MANAGEMENT AREA 10

112,010 ACRES

## A. DESCRIPTION

This MA is used by various species of big game for winter habitat (usually between December 1 and April 30). It is characterized by less than average depth and duration of snow than most other MA's, and spring foliage develops quicker. The MA is usually below 4500' and mostly on southeast, south, southwest, and west aspects. Most portions of this MA are steep, and of low timber productivity. The MA is located primarily along the major river valleys of the Kootenai, Clark Fork, and along Lake Koocanusa. There are also areas along side drainages of the Yaak and Tobacco Rivers. Most of the MA is visible from major travel corridors. Almost half of the MA or 52,900 acres are in grizzly situation 1 or 2.

## B. GOALS

Maintain or enhance the habitat effectiveness for winter use by big-game species including elk, moose, sheep, goats, whitetail deer, and mule deer. Maintain or enhance the viewing resource in areas visible from major travel corridors.

## C. STANDARDS

The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter II of this plan applies to this MA.

Recreation

1. Motorized access, including snowmobiles, is generally not permitted during important wintering periods (Usually December 1 through April 30). However, some roads through this MA have been traditionally used as snowmobile routes to higher elevations. These routes may remain open unless it is determined that continued snowmobile activity limits use of the area by big game. If a conflict with big-game winter-use develops, the road will be closed to all motorized use.
2. The ROS class is predominantly roaded-natural and semi-primitive motorized. Some small areas of semi-primitive non-motorized recreation occur.
3. The VQO is maximum modification in areas of low viewing significance, modification in areas of moderate viewing significance, and partial retention in areas of high viewing significance.

Wildlife and Fish

1. The following cover forage ratios are recommended. Modifications based on site-specific attributes may occur:

elk and mule deer	30/70	
whitetail deer	70/30	
moose	50/50	
sheep and goats		maintain thermal cover adjacent to wintering areas.

2. Old growth stands will be perpetuated as part of the cover requirements. Type conversions for forage will avoid converting old growth stands.
3. Existing cavity habitat will be retained.
4. Prescribed fire will normally be used for habitat maintenance or enhancement in this MA.
5. Any activity (salvage harvest, fuel treatment, etc) will be conducted so as not to interfere with wildlife movement patterns.
6. Standards and guidelines as specified in Appendix 8 (Grizzly Management Situation Guidelines) will be applied in all management activities on grizzly habitat.

Range

1. Grazing of domestic livestock is permitted unless there is insufficient forage for wildlife. If it is determined that all available forage is required for wildlife, livestock grazing will not be permitted.
2. Fencing may be constructed to control livestock unless it interferes with the natural movement patterns of wildlife.

Timber

1. This MA is unsuitable for timber production.
2. Salvage harvest may occur to prevent the spread of insects or disease to adjacent MA's.
3. Harvest may occur for wildlife habitat maintenance or enhancement.
4. Harvest will not occur on areas of inventoried old-growth timber or where old-growth retention is needed.

Soil, Water, and Air

1. Soil and Water Conservation Standards will guide implementation of all projects when land disturbing activities occur.
2. Emphasis will be given to establishing vegetation as quickly as possible to protect watershed values and enhance wildlife habitat.
3. Comply with the Smoke Management Plan published by the Air Quality Bureau of the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and administered by the Montana State Airshed Group.

Riparian (See Riparian Area, Chapter II).

### Minerals and Geology

1. Refer to Forest standards for locatable minerals. Seasonal restrictions may occur.
2. Seasonal restrictions will be stipulated for oil and gas leases and geophysical activities.
3. Common materials may be disposed of provided all other resource standards are met.

### Lands

Special-uses, rights-of-way, cost-share agreements and easements may be permitted, but will include provisions for scheduling to prevent conflict during periods of wildlife use.

### Facilities

1. Local roads and collectors will normally be seasonally restricted during periods of winter wildlife use. (December 1 through April 30)
2. When open, roads will be maintained at level 2.
3. This MA is classified as a corridor avoidance area on grizzly situations 1 and 2. Corridors may usually be located on the remainder (See Appendix 15).

### Fire

#### Prescribed Fire

##### Planned Ignitions:

Planned ignitions are acceptable in this MA. Planned ignitions will be used to maintain or enhance wildlife habitat and as the primary tool for fuels management.

##### Unplanned Ignitions:

1. Will not be used in this MA unless: (a) the fire primarily involves an adjacent MA for which unplanned ignitions approved for use as prescribed fire are a general management standard, (b) the expected life cycle effects of the fire must not adversely affect the goals or standards of this, or any other MA and, (c) the fire start occurs during the non-critical fire season, or (d) they occur in an area covered by an approved burn plan for a planned ignition and will meet all provisions of that plan.
2. A decision flow-chart will be prepared as part of the Fire Management Action Plan to conform to specific requirements of life and property, air quality, monitoring and managing resources, site, weather, expected fire behavior, and fuel type necessary for declaring an unplanned ignition a prescribed fire.

Wildfire (Applies only to National Forest lands protected by the Kootenai National Forest. For National Forest lands protected by the State of Montana see "Standards" Chapter II.)

Suppression Strategy:

Critical Fire Season:

All wildfires will be controlled.

Noncritical Fire Season:

If an analysis of the time of year and expected fire behavior discloses no effect to this or any other MA, and if it is more cost effective to do so, a contain strategy will be used.

Suppression Tactics: (Applies to all Kootenai National Forest lands whether protected by the National Forest or the State of Montana.)

Suppression tactics are limited only by the standards for this MA and by the Management Standards for the Forest (such as soil, water, riparian etc). Dozers may be used when necessary.

D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planned - First Decade - Average annual

1. Wildlife habitat enhancement	4,200 acres
2. Fish habitat improvement	2 acres
3. T & E habitat improvement	37 acres
4. Fuel Treatment	450 acres
5. Timber Harvest	6 MMBF

Projected - Second Decade - Average annual

1. Wildlife habitat enhancement	4,200 acres
2. Fish habitat improvement	3 acres
3. T & E habitat improvement	37 acres
4. Fuel Treatment	470 acres

**E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The monitoring requirements from Chapter IV that are applicable to this MA are:

Recreation	A-3, A-5, A-7
Wildlife and Fish	C-1 through C-9
Range	D-1, D-2
Timber	E-1 through E-8
Minerals	G-1
Human & Comm Dev	H-3, H-4
Facilities	L-1
Protection	P-1

The procedures outlined in Chapter IV will be followed to evaluate the data gathered during monitoring.

## MANAGEMENT AREA 11

229,450 ACRES

## A. DESCRIPTION

This MA occurs on lands used by most species of big game for winter range. It is found at lower elevations in most major drainages and the topography ranges from steep to moderate and rolling topography. Some parcels of this MA are visible from major travel corridors, and there are 46,000 acres of grizzly situations 1 and 2. Timber productivity is moderate to high.

## B. GOALS

The goal of this MA is maintaining or enhancing the winter-range habitat effectiveness for big-game species (including elk, moose, sheep, goats, whitetail deer, and mule deer) while also producing a programmed yield of timber, and maintaining the viewing resource in areas of high visual significance.

## C. STANDARDS

The forest-wide management direction included in Chapter II of this plan applies to this MA.

Recreation

1. Motorized access is generally not permitted during important wintering periods (Usually December 1 through April 30). However, some roads through this MA have been traditionally used as snowmobile routes to higher elevations. These routes may remain open unless it is determined that continued snowmobile activity limits use of the area by big game. If a conflict with big game winter use develops, the road will be closed to all motorized use.
2. The ROS class varies throughout the MA from semi-primitive non-motorized to roaded-natural.
3. The VQO is maximum modification in areas of low visual significance, modification in areas of moderate visual significance, and partial retention in areas of high visual significance, unless infeasible when attempting to meet the goals of the Management Area.

Wildlife and Fish

1. The following cover/forage ratios are recommended. Modifications based on site specific attributes may occur:
 

elk and mule deer	30/70	
whitetail deer	70/30	
moose	50/50	
sheep and goats		maintain thermal cover adjacent to wintering areas.
2. Cavity habitat will be managed to at least 40% of maximum levels as described in "Cavity Habitat Management Guidelines" (Appendix 16)
3. Prescribed fire will normally be used for habitat maintenance or enhancement.
4. Any activity (e.g. timber harvest) will be conducted so as not to interfere with animal movement patterns.
5. Standards and guidelines specified in Appendix 8 (Grizzly Management Situation Guidelines) will be applied for all activities in grizzly habitat.
6. Key habitat components (wallows, wet meadows, bogs, etc.) will be avoided when constructing roads. As they are identified those key components will be mapped and managed as riparian areas.

Range

1. Grazing of domestic livestock is permitted unless there is insufficient forage for wildlife. If it is determined that all the available forage is required for wildlife then livestock grazing will not be permitted.
2. Fencing may be constructed to control livestock unless it interferes with the natural movement patterns of wildlife.
3. Grazing may be restricted in areas where concentrated use would affect the timber goals of this MA (e.g. new plantations).

Timber

1. This MA is suitable for timber production but there are minor inclusions of winter range which are unsuitable for timber production. Timber harvest will be used to create and maintain optimum cover/forage ratios by cycling cutting units through seral stages (grass-forbs-saplings-poles-mature trees).
2. The timing (season) of timber operations, including road construction, will be coordinated with big game requirements to minimize conflict.
3. Favor broadcast burning for site preparation.
4. When planting is required, favor Douglas fir and ponderosa pine.
5. Precommercial and commercial thinning may occur to achieve proper stocking for timber production where there is an economic advantage in this level of stocking control.
6. In thinning and harvest areas, movement corridors will be maintained for wildlife.
7. Proper cover/forage ratios will be achieved by adjusting rotation length for timber, if necessary.

8. Maximize edge effect within economical timber harvest constraints, by shaping timber harvest areas. When the edge length is maximized the shape becomes more important than the size of the units, but generally unit sizes should not exceed:
  - mule deer and elk - 40 acres
  - whitetail deer and moose - 20 acres
9. The regeneration period may be lengthened to create or maintain forage areas and proper cover/forage ratios.

#### Soil, Water, and Air

1. Soil and Water Conservation Standards will guide implementation and mitigation of all land disturbing activities.
2. Comply with the Smoke Management Plan published by the Air Quality Bureau of the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and administered by the Montana State Airshed Group.

Riparian (See Riparian Area, Chapter II).

#### Minerals and Geology

1. Refer to Forest standards for locatable minerals. Seasonal restrictions may occur.
2. Seasonal restrictions will be stipulated for oil and gas leases and geophysical activities.
3. Common minerals may be disposed of when the standards for other resources can be met.

#### Lands

1. Special uses, rights-of-way, cost-share agreements and easements may be permitted but will include provisions for scheduling to prevent conflict during periods of wildlife use.

#### Facilities

1. Roads may be constructed for timber harvest.
2. Roads will normally be closed during periods of big game winter use (December 1 through April 30).
3. Roads will be maintained at level 2 or closed (level 1).
4. Temporary roads will be closed, properly drained, and revegetated.
5. This MA is classified as a corridor avoidance area on grizzly situations 1 and 2. (See Appendix 15).

Fire

MA-11

Prescribed Fire

## Planned Ignitions:

Planned ignitions are acceptable in this MA. Planned ignitions will be used to maintain or enhance wildlife habitat and as the primary tool for fuels management.

## Unplanned Ignitions:

1. Will not be used in this MA unless: (a) the fire primarily involves an adjacent MA for which unplanned ignitions approved for use as prescribed fire are a general management standard, (b) the expected life cycle effects of the fire must not adversely affect the goals or standards of this, or any other MA and, (c) the fire start occurs during the non-critical fire season, or (d) they occur in an area covered by an approved burn plan for a planned ignition and will meet all the provisions of that plan.
2. A decision flow-chart will be prepared as part of the Fire Management Action Plan to conform to specific requirements of life and property, air quality, monitoring and managing resources, site, weather, expected fire behavior, and fuel type necessary for declaring an unplanned ignition a prescribed fire.

Wildfire (Applies only to National Forest land protected by the Kootenai National Forest. For National Forest lands protected by the State of Montana see "Standards" Chapter II.)

Suppression Strategy:

## Critical Fire Season:

All wildfires will be controlled.

## Noncritical Fire Season:

1. If an analysis of the time of year and expected fire behavior discloses no effect to this or any other MA, and if it is more cost effective to do so, a contain strategy will be used.
2. Unplanned ignitions in areas covered by an approved burn plan are acceptable provided all provisions of the plan are met.

Suppression Tactics: (Applies to all Kootenai National Forest lands whether protected by the National Forest or the State of Montana.)

1. Suppression tactics are limited only by the standards for this MA and the management standards for the Forest (such as soil, water, riparian, etc.). Dozers may be used when necessary.

## D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

## Planned - First Decade - Average annual

1. Wildlife Habitat Improvement	560 acres
2. Fish Habitat Improvement	16 acres
3. Regeneration harvest	6 MMBF on 690 acres*
4. Planting	185 acres
5. Natural regeneration	430 acres
6. Site preparation	615 acres
7. Precommercial thinning & release	600 acres
8. Soil Inventory	690 acres
9. Fuel Treatment	410 acres
10. Road Construction	43 miles

\* Includes non-interchangeable component.

## Projected - Second Decade - Average annual

1. Wildlife Habitat Improvement	560 acres
2. Fish Habitat Improvement	16 acres
3. Regeneration harvest	6 MMBF on 730 acres
4. Planting	200 acres
5. Natural regeneration	460 acres
6. Site preparation	660 acres
7. Precommercial thinning	612 acres
8. Soil Inventory	730 acres
9. Fuel Treatment	430 acres
10. Road Construction	44 miles

## E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

The specific monitoring requirements from Chapter IV that are applicable to this MA are:

Recreation	A-3, A-5, A-7
Wildlife and fish	C-1 through C-9, F-1 through F-4
Range	D-1, D-2
Timber	E-1 through E-8
Minerals	G-1
Human & Comm Dev.	H-3, H-4
Facilities	L-1, L-2
Protection	P-1

The procedures outlined in Chapter IV will be followed to evaluate the data gathered during monitoring.

## MANAGEMENT AREA 12

444,530 ACRES

## A. DESCRIPTION

This MA is the largest of all the MA's on the Forest and constitutes 20% of the Forest and 35% of the suitable timberland. It is located generally at, or above elevations of 4,000', and contains inclusions of moist or wet habitat types. Most species of big game use this MA during the period from late spring through late fall. The MA is characterized by suitable timber producing sites, and moderate to rolling topography. There are few oversteepened slopes. 179,000 acres are in grizzly situations 1 and 2 in the Cabinet Yaak Grizzly Bear Ecosystem, and the Whitefish Range. Portions of this MA are found over most of the Forest.

## B. GOALS

The goal of this MA is to maintain or enhance nonwinter big-game habitat (i.e. summer/fall) and produce a programmed yield of timber. The major species include black bear, grizzly bear, elk, moose, whitetail deer, and mule deer.

## C. STANDARDS

The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter II of this plan applies to this MA.

Recreation

1. ORV use will be regulated, including permanent or seasonal use restrictions where ORV use conflicts with big game.
2. The VQO is maximum modification in areas of low visual significance, modification in areas of moderate visual significance, and partial retention in areas of high visual significance, unless infeasible when attempting to meet the goals of the Management Area.
3. The ROS class is predominantly roaded-natural with some semi-primitive motorized and rural opportunities.

Wildlife and Fish

1. Manage to provide habitat diversity including cover and forage areas in a ratio appropriate for the species being considered (see list of species in MA goals). Results of the Montana Elk Logging Study and related guidelines are incorporated in and are considered as additional direction for this MA.
2. Developments or uses which increase the potential for conflicts with grizzlies on situation 1 or 2 habitat will be compensated for. Standards and guidelines specified in Appendix 8 (Grizzly Management Situation Guidelines) will be applied for all activities on grizzly habitat.

3. Cavity habitat will be managed to at least 40% of maximum levels as described in "Cavity Habitat Management Guidelines" (Appendix 16).
5. Coordinate proposed programs in this MA with the State of Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks on at least an annual basis.
6. Provide direct habitat improvement as needed. Projects include pot-hole construction, prescribed fire, special plantings of hardwood in riparian areas, and seeding of road cuts and fills with grasses and legumes.
7. Maximize edge effect within economical timber harvest constraints, by shaping timber harvest units and maintain movement corridors of at least two sight distances between openings. When the edge is maximized, the shape becomes more important than the size of the units, but generally the unit sizes should not exceed:
  - elk and mule deer - 40 acres or less.
  - moose and whitetail deer - 20 acres.
8. Key habitat components (wallows, wet meadows, bogs, etc.) will be avoided when constructing roads. As they are identified those key components will be mapped and managed as riparian areas.

#### Range

1. Grazing of domestic livestock is permitted unless it is detrimental to the big game or timber goals of this MA.
2. Fencing may be constructed to control livestock provided there is no conflict with the big game goals of this MA.

#### Timber

1. This MA is suitable for timber production.
2. Timber harvest will be coordinated with big-game requirements. Emphasize natural regeneration and activity scheduling which reduces the frequency of entries. New units will not be harvested until adjacent units provide suitable hiding cover
3. Favor even-age harvest systems.
4. Precommercial thinning is expected in this MA outside of Grizzly Situation I and II lands to meet the programmed timber harvest goals. Precommercial thinning may occur within Grizzly Situation I and II lands where it does not conflict with grizzly management goals.
5. Provide for full stocking levels after timber harvest for diversity, big-game cover needs, and timber production.
6. On slopes over 30% favor broadcast burning over the use of mechanical means of site preparation.
7. Catastrophic events such as fire, windstorm, disease, or insects, especially the periodic infestations of the mountain pine beetle in mature lodgepole pine, may create situations where harvest is desirable. In such cases a short-term reduction in the VQO is permitted.

### Soil, Water, and Air

1. Soil and Water Conservation Practices will guide implementation and mitigation of all land-disturbing activities.
2. Comply with the Smoke Management Plan published by the Air Quality Bureau of the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and administered by the Montana State Airshed Group.

Riparian (See Riparian Area, Chapter II).

### Minerals and Geology

1. Refer to Forest standards for locatable minerals. Seasonal restrictions may occur.
2. Seasonal restrictions will be stipulated for oil and gas leases and geophysical activities.
3. Common minerals may be disposed of where compatible with management of other resources.

### Human and Community Development

Activity camps or developments will not be located where they are in conflict with the big-game goals of this MA unless there is no reasonable alternative.

### Lands

1. Seek out conservation easements on adjacent private lands where grizzly habitat components have been identified.
2. Give priority to acquiring grizzly habitat components in the land adjustment program.

Facilities

1. Facilities which require frequent maintenance or occupancy will normally not be allowed. Existing facilities will be evaluated and moved if possible. If existing facilities cannot be moved, a maintenance or occupancy schedule that does not conflict with grizzly seasons of use will be established.
2. Road densities will be the minimum necessary to accomplish the timber harvest goals of this MA, and construction to minimum standards will be emphasized.
3. Roads open to public use will not exceed an average density of 3/4 mile per square mile within the contiguous MA.
4. Local roads will normally be closed (Level I). When local roads are open they will be maintained at Level II.
5. Road locations will avoid key summer range habitat elements (e.g. wallows, wet meadows), unless there is no reasonable alternative. Maintain a buffer of at least one sight-distance around key habitat features.
6. Temporary roads will be closed, drained, and revegetated.
7. This MA is classified as a corridor avoidance area on grizzly situations 1 and 2. (See appendix 15).
8. When seeding areas adjacent to open roads in grizzly situation I and II, do not use any component (such as clover) which may attract grizzly bears.

FirePrescribed Fire

## Planned Ignitions:

Planned ignitions are acceptable in this MA and will be used to maintain or enhance wildlife habitat and as the primary tool for fuels management.

## Unplanned Ignition:

1. Will not be used in this MA unless: (a) the fire primarily involves an adjacent MA for which unplanned ignitions approved for use as prescribed fire are a general management standard, (b) the expected life cycle effects of the fire must not adversely affect the goals or standards of this, or any other MA and, (c) the fire start occurs during the non-critical fire season, or (d) they occur in an area covered by an approved burn plan for a planned ignition and will meet all provisions of that plan.
2. A decision flow-chart will be prepared as part of the Fire Management Action plan to conform to specific requirements of life and property, air quality, monitoring and managing resources, site, weather, expected fire behavior, and fuel type necessary for declaring an unplanned ignition a prescribed fire.

Wildfire (Applies only to National Forest lands protected by the Kootenai National Forest. For National Forest lands protected by the State of Montana see "Standards" Chapter II),

Suppression Strategy:

Critical Fire Season:

All wildfires will be controlled.

Noncritical Fire Season:

1. If an analysis of the time of year and expected fire behavior discloses no effect to this or any other MA, and if it is more cost effective to do so, a contain or confine strategy will be used.
2. Unplanned ignitions in areas covered by an approved burn plan are acceptable provided all provisions of the plan are met.

Suppression Tactics: (Applies to all Kootenai National Forest lands whether protected by the National Forest or the State of Montana.)

Suppression tactics are limited only by the standards for this MA and the management standards for the Forest (such as soil, water, riparian etc.). Dozers may be used when necessary.

D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planned - First Decade - Average annual

1. Wildlife Habitat Improvement	280 acres
2. Fish Habitat Improvement	18 acres
3. T & E Habitat Improvement	37 acres
4. Regeneration harvest	141 MMBF on 8,800 acres*
5. Planting	2,400 acres
6. Natural regeneration	5,500 acres
7. Site preparation	7,900 acres
8. Precommercial thinning & release	1,200 acres
9. Soil Inventory	8,800 acres
10. Fuel Treatment	6,800 acres
11. Road Construction	84 miles

\* Includes non-interchangeable component.

## Projected - Second Decade - Average annual

1. Wildlife Habitat Improvement	280 acres
2. Fish Habitat Improvement	18 acres
3. T & E Habitat Improvement	37 acres
4. Regeneration harvest	143 MMBF on 9,200 acres
5. Planting	2,600 acres
6. Natural regeneration	5,900 acres
7. Site preparation	8,500 acres
8. Precommercial thinning	1,200 acres
9. Soil Inventory	9,300 acres
10. Fuel Treatment	7,100 acres
11. Road Construction	86 miles

## E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

The specific monitoring requirements from Chapter IV that are applicable to this MA are:

Recreation	A-2, A-3, A-5, A-7
Wildlife and fish	C-1 through C-10, F-1 through F-4
Range	D-1, D-2
Timber	E-1 through E-8
Minerals	G-1
Human & Comm Dev.	H-3, H-4
Facilities	L-1, L-2
Protection	P-1

The procedures outlined in Chapter IV will be followed to evaluate the data gathered during monitoring.

## MANAGEMENT AREA 13

124,230 ACRES

## A. DESCRIPTION

This MA consists of scattered parcels of existing old growth or mature timber stands which contain components of old growth. Old growth is a distinct successional stage in the development of a timber stand that has special significance for wildlife, generally characterized by: (1) large diameter trees (often exceeding 20" dbh) with a relatively dense, often multilayer canopy, (2) the presence of large, standing dead or dying trees, (3) down, dead trees, (4) stand decadence associated with the presence of various fungi and heartrots, (5) an average age often in excess of 200 years, and (6) a basal area ranging from 150 to 400 square feet per acre. The MA usually occurs below 5,500' in elevation, but there are stands above that level which provide many of the components necessary. The units are located in every major drainage on the Forest and range in size from about 50 acres to over 1,200 acres. 26,800 acres are in grizzly situations 1 and 2. The lodgepole pine timber type is not included.

## B. GOALS

The goal of this MA is to provide the special habitat necessary for old-growth dependent wildlife (usually other than big game) on a minimum of 10% of each major drainage on the Forest, and in units that represent the major habitat types and tree species of each drainage.

## C. STANDARDS

The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter II of this plan applies to this MA.

Recreation

1. ORV use is normally not permitted from May 1, to November 30.
2. When this MA is adjacent to or enclosed by big-game winter range, ORV use will normally not be permitted at any time.
3. The VQO is maximum modification in areas of low visual significance, modification in areas of moderate visual significance, and partial retention in areas of high visual significance.
4. The ROS is distributed in all ROS classes depending on the location with respect to other MA's.
5. Existing trails will be maintained at level 1 or 2.
6. Developed or concentrated recreation sites are not permitted.

Wildlife and Fish

1. Uses which conflict with grizzlies in situations 1 and 2 will be modified or prohibited. Standards and guidelines specified in Appendix 8 (Grizzly Management Situation Guidelines) will be applied for all activities on grizzly habitat.
2. Habitat manipulation for wildlife is not required, or even desirable in this MA. The natural processes which lead to stand aging, decadence, and eventual deterioration are sufficient to maintain the habitat.
3. Some old-growth stands occur within or adjacent to important summer or winter range. Old growth can be an integral part of summer or winter range by providing thermal cover and security areas.

Range

Use of this MA by domestic livestock is not prohibited, but, because little or no forage is available, its use is not anticipated.

Timber

1. This MA is not suitable for timber production.
2. Firewood cutting and salvage are not permitted in this MA.
3. Timber harvest will not occur.

Soil, Water, and Air

1. If land disturbing activities occur, they will be guided by the Soil and Water Conservation Practices.
2. Comply with the Smoke Management Plan published by the Air Quality Bureau of the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and administered by the Montana State Airshed Group.

Riparian (See Riparian Area, Chapter II).

Minerals and Geology

1. Refer to Forest standards for locatable minerals. Seasonal restrictions may occur.
2. Seasonal restrictions will be stipulated for oil and gas leases and geophysical activities. Allow surface occupancy only where it will not reduce old growth stand size below minimum effective acreage.
3. Common minerals may be disposed of where compatible with management of other resources.

Lands

Special uses, rights-of-way, easements or cost-share agreements may be authorized on a case-by-case basis.

Facilities

1. Local roads will be restricted to prevent premature cutting of the snag component.
2. Temporary roads will be closed, drained, and revegetated.
3. This MA is classified as a corridor avoidance area (See appendix 15).

FirePrescribed Fire

## Planned Ignitions:

Planned ignitions are acceptable to maintain old growth characteristics. i.e. old growth ponderosa pine stands.

## Unplanned Ignitions:

Will not be used in this MA.

Wildfire (Applies only to National Forest lands protected by the Kootenai National Forest. For National Forest lands protected by the State of Montana see "Standards" Chapter 2.)

Suppression Strategy:

## Critical Fire Season:

All wildfires will be controlled.

## Noncritical Fire Season:

Wildfires will normally be controlled, however if an analysis of the time of year and expected fire behavior discloses no effect to this, or any other MA, and if it is more cost effective to do so, a contain or confine strategy will be used.

Suppression Tactics: (Applies to all Kootenai National Forest lands whether protected by the National Forest or the State of Montana.

1. Suppression tactics are limited only by the standards for this MA and by the Management Standards, such as soil and water which are established for the Forest. Dozers may be used when necessary.
2. Avoid cutting snags except to assure the safety of firefighting resources and where the accomplishment of control objectives would be adversely compromised if left standing.

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#### D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planned - First decade - Average annual

1. Fish habitat improvement - 26 acres

Projected - Second decade - Average annual

1. Fish habitat improvement - 26 acres

#### E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

The specific monitoring requirements from Chapter IV that are applicable to this MA are:

Recreation	A-5, A-7
Wildlife and fish	C-3 through C-10
Range	D-2
Timber	E-3, E-4
Minerals	G-1
Human & Comm Dev	H-3, H-4
Facilities	L-1

## MANAGEMENT AREA 14

200,760 ACRES

## A. DESCRIPTION

This MA consists of identified Interagency Grizzly situations 1 and 2 that are in conjunction with suitable timber land. This MA occurs in the Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Ecosystem and in the Whitefish range. The Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem is located on the West half of the Forest from the Canadian border south to the Clark Fork River, including the Yaak River drainage and the Cabinet Mountains. The Whitefish range is part of the larger Northern Continental Divide Grizzly Bear Ecosystem. The portion on the Kootenai National Forest lies in the Northeast corner of the Forest including all of the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area. See the Grizzly Bear Management Guidelines in Appendix 8 for more description of the habitat.

## B. GOALS

The goal of this MA is to maintain or enhance grizzly bear habitat, reduce grizzly/human conflicts, assist in the recovery of the grizzly bear, realize a programmed level of timber production, and provide for the maintenance or enhancement of other wildlife, especially big game. The grizzly bear management guidelines are incorporated as part of the direction for this MA and can be found in Appendix 8.

## C. STANDARDS

The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter II of this plan applies to this MA.

Recreation

1. The VQO is maximum modification in areas of low visual significance, modification in areas of moderate visual significance, and partial retention in areas of high visual significance, unless infeasible when attempting to meet the goals of the Management Area.
2. ORV use will normally be allowed except seasonal restrictions may occur in areas such as spring range, or denning habitat. Some permanent closures may be necessary in areas of concentrated grizzly bear use, as those areas are identified.
3. Discourage concentrated recreation use such as campgrounds, campsites, picnic areas, and concentrated fishing use that could create opportunities for grizzly/human conflicts.
4. Improvements are permitted only if they do not conflict with the MA goal. Improvements that concentrate human use during the same season as grizzly use are not permitted.
5. The predominant ROS classes are semi-primitive motorized and roaded-natural but small areas of other ROS classes occur.

Wildlife and Fish

1. Maintain snags and snag replacement trees for cavity dependent species at a minimum of 40% of maximum levels. See "Cavity Habitat Management Guidelines" (Appendix 16).
2. Grizzly habitat components are presently identified and will be maintained or enhanced. For the components which are riparian related refer to the riparian areas discussion in Chapter II.
3. Additional grizzly bear management standards to be followed on the Kootenai National Forest are found in the Grizzly Bear Management Guidelines in Appendix 8.
4. Key habitat components (wallows, wet meadows, bogs etc.) will be avoided when constructing roads. As they are identified those key components will be mapped and managed as riparian areas.

Range

1. Grazing opportunities for domestic livestock will be available unless there is a site-specific conflict with grizzly bear management or the grazing use conflicts with timber management goals.

Timber

1. This MA is suitable for timber production.
2. Timber harvest will be coordinated with grizzly bear habitat requirements using cumulative effects analysis, scheduling of sales to provide displacement areas, road closures, and restrictions on logging seasons.
3. Broadcast burning will normally be used for site preparation where habitat conditions are favorable for grizzly bear food production.
4. Precommercial thinning for timber production may occur subject to the same scheduling requirements and restrictions as timber harvest.
5. Regeneration harvest:
  - a. Use silvicultural systems and harvest schedules which will maintain cover needs while enhancing food supplies for the grizzly bear.
  - b. Maintain corridors approximately 600' wide between cutting units. The uncut corridors will remain intact until the adjacent cutting units have regenerated sufficiently to provide cover requirements for the grizzly bear.
  - c. Maximize edge effect by shaping cutting units.

Soil, Water, and Air

1. Soil and Water Conservation Practices will guide implementation and mitigation of all land disturbing activities.
2. Comply with the Smoke Management Plan published by the Air Quality Bureau of the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and administered by the Montana State Airshed Group.

Riparian (See Riparian Area, page III-2).

### Minerals and Geology

1. Refer to Forest standards for locatable minerals. Seasonal restrictions may occur.
2. Seasonal restrictions will be stipulated for oil and gas leases and geophysical activities.
3. Common minerals may be disposed of where compatible with management of other resources.

### Human and Community Development

Workcamps, permanent or temporary, will be restricted during seasons of grizzly use.

### Lands

1. Seek out conservation easements on adjacent private lands where grizzly habitat components have been identified.
2. Give priority to acquiring key grizzly habitat components in land adjustment program.
3. Special uses, rights of way, easements, or cost share agreements may be authorized on a case by case basis.

### Facilities

1. Facilities which require frequent maintenance or occupancy will normally not be allowed. Existing facilities will be evaluated and moved if possible. If existing facilities can not be moved, a maintenance or occupancy schedule that does not conflict with grizzly seasons of use will be established.
2. Roads for timber management purposes are acceptable but all roads will be managed to minimize the potential for grizzly/human conflicts.
3. All new local roads will be closed (Level I) to motorized use. Existing local roads will be evaluated, and most will be closed. If an administrative need is demonstrated, roads may be opened temporarily.
4. Existing collector roads will be evaluated for closure on a case-by-case basis, with the intent of minimizing open road densities. The goal is 3/4 mile or less of road open per square mile of area during periods of grizzly bear use.
5. For roadside seeding on open roads, eliminate any component (e.g. clover) which attracts grizzlies.
6. Road construction activities will normally occur outside the season of active grizzly bear use.
7. This MA is classified as a corridor avoidance area (See Appendix 15).

FirePrescribed Fire

## Planned Ignitions:

Planned ignitions are acceptable in this MA and will be used to maintain or enhance grizzly habitat and as the primary tool for fuels management, unless other methods can be proven to better accomplish the MA Goal.

## Unplanned Ignitions:

1. Will not be used in this MA unless: (a) the fire primarily involves an adjacent MA for which unplanned ignitions approved for use as prescribed fire are a general management standard, (b) the expected life cycle effects of the fire must not adversely affect the goals or standards of this, or any other MA and, (c) the fire start occurs during the non-critical fire season, or (d) they occur in an area covered by an approved burn plan for a planned ignition and will meet all provisions of that plan.
2. A decision flow-chart will be prepared as part of the Fire Management Action Plan to conform to specific requirements of life and property, air quality, monitoring and managing resources, site, weather, expected fire behavior, and fuel type necessary for declaring an unplanned ignition a prescribed fire.

Wildfire (Applies only to National Forest lands protected by the Kootenai National Forest. For National Forest lands protected by the State of Montana see "Standards" Chapter II.)

Suppression Strategy:

## Critical Fire Season:

All wildfires will be controlled.

## Noncritical Fire Season:

If an analysis of the time of year and expected fire behavior discloses no effect to this or any other MA, and if it is more cost effective to do so, a contain or confine strategy will be used.

Suppression Tactics: (Applies to all Kootenai National Forest land whether protected by the National Forest or the State of Montana.)

1. Suppression tactics are limited only by the standards for this MA and the management standards for the Forest (such as soil, water, riparian, etc.). Dozers may be used when necessary.

#### D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

##### Planned - First Decade - Average annual

1. Wildlife Habitat Improvement	280 acres
2. Fish Habitat Improvement	17 acres
3. T & E Habitat Improvement	38 acres
4. Regeneration harvest	17 MMBF on 1,220 acres*
5. Planting	330 acres
6. Natural regeneration	770 acres
7. Site preparation	1,100 acres
8. Precommercial thinning	0 acres
9. Soil Inventory	1,220 acres
10. Fuel Treatment	900 acres
11. Road Construction	38 miles

\* Includes non-interchangeable component.

##### Projected - Second Decade - Average annual

1. Wildlife Habitat Improvement	280 acres
2. Fish Habitat Improvement	17 acres
3. T & E Habitat Improvement	38 acres
4. Regeneration harvest	17 MMBF on 1,300 acres
5. Planting	350 acres
6. Natural regeneration	850 acres
7. Site preparation	1,200 acres
8. Precommercial thinning	0 acres
9. Soil Inventory	1,300 acres
10. Fuel Treatment	950 acres
11. Road Construction	39 miles

**E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The specific monitoring requirements from Chapter IV that are applicable to this MA are:

Recreation	A-3, A-5, A-7
Wildlife and fish	C-1 through C-10, F-1 through F-3
Range	D-1, D-2
Timber	E-1 through E-8
Minerals	G-1
Human & Comm Dev.	H-3, H-4
Facilities	L-1, L-2
Protection	P-1

The procedures outlined in Chapter IV will be followed to evaluate the data gathered during monitoring.