

BIGHORN NATIONAL FOREST

Land and Resource Management Plan - Draft

Forestwide Direction

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Introduction

The goals and objectives presented here are tiered to the USDA Forest Service Government Performance and Results Act Strategic Plan: 2000 Revision. This strategic plan presents the goals, objectives, and strategies that reflect the Forest Service's commitment to a sustainable natural resource base for the American people. All goals and objectives fall under the overall mission of the Forest Service, which is to sustain the health, productivity, and diversity of the land to meet the needs of present and future generations. "Caring for the Land and Serving People" expresses the spirit of this mission.

The Forest Service's mission, and strategic goals and objectives are derived from the laws defining and regulating the agency's activities. Goals, objectives, and strategies describe tangible progress toward achieving the agency's mission through implementing forest plans. These plans guide on-the-ground natural resource management to ensure sustainable ecosystems and to provide multiple benefits.

Goals and Objectives

Goals are broad statements that describe overall condition the Forest will strive to achieve. They are not amendable to direct measurement and there are no time frames for achieving them. In other words, goals describe the ends to be achieved rather than the means to those ends.

Objectives help define the main goal and break it down into more specific actions.

In contrast, **strategies** provide the course of action to be taken to accomplish the goals and objectives. Strategies are generally met by implementing projects or activities.

Many variables affect the achievement of goals and objectives. There are numerous legal mandates, congressional intent as directed by annual budgets, and political issues over which the national forests have little or no control. Given this situation, the USDA Forest Service leadership will determine what mix of activities is most appropriate in any given year and use every opportunity to move toward the overall management intent prescribed by the goals, objectives and strategies.

Forest Goals and Objectives

Goal I – Ensure Sustainable Ecosystems

Manage to assure ecosystem health and conservation, using a collaborative approach to sustain the forests, grasslands, and watersheds of the Bighorn National Forest.

Objective 1.a: Improve and protect watershed conditions to provide the water quality and quantity and soil productivity necessary to support ecological functions and intended beneficial water uses.

Strategies

1. Attain or maintain water quality necessary to comply with State of Wyoming water quality standards in all streams on the forest. Water quality must be of sufficient quality to support healthy riparian, aquatic and wetland ecosystems. [1985 Plan - Modified]
2. Complete watershed wide improvement projects, such as road relocations or improvements, on at least three 5th Level Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) watersheds within 15 years. Annually complete an average of three watershed improvement projects in priority watersheds, such as road/trail stabilizations, culvert replacements and dispersed campsite management. Prioritize watersheds considered in degraded condition by Winters et al. (2003). [New]
3. Within five years, develop and maintain a Forest Revegetation Guidebook to address seeding practices and other methods of restoring disturbed sites. [New]
4. Measure change in the natural range and frequency of aquatic habitat conditions forest-wide to develop baseline habitat objectives that evaluate the relative health or condition of aquatic habitats. [New]
5. Within five years, identify and maintain at the 6th-level watershed scale, at least one representative area for each ecological subsection (i.e. sedimentary and granitic) on the forest as a barometer for baseline aquatic habitat conditions. [New]
6. Manage for the structural and compositional diversity of native plant communities in riparian zones and wetlands. [1985 Plan - Modified]
7. Provide unobstructed routes to areas critical for fulfilling life history requirements of aquatic and riparian dependent species. [New]
8. Maintain and restore riparian and aquatic habitat to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate and vertebrate riparian- and aquatic-dependent species. [1985 Plan - Modified]

9. Maintain, protect, and enhance wetland function and value when analyzing or implementing all projects. [1985 Plan – Modified]

Objective 1.b: Provide ecological conditions and habitat to sustain viable populations of native and desired non-native species, including MIS (rainbow trout, beaver, elk, red-breasted nuthatch, Brewer’s sparrow, red squirrel).

Strategies

1. Implement conservation strategies for species at risk (TES and species of local concern), and use technical information from research cooperators and other entities as it becomes available. [1985 Plan - Modified]
2. Conserve populations of species at risk (TES and species of local concern) by improving habitat availability and quality on 30,000 acres per decade, or any other applicable factors affecting species at risk. [New]
3. Identify rare plants and animals by inventorying 10,000 acres or 10 species per decade and develop associated management strategies to conserve them. Work with conservation partners in the study and management of these species. Reintroduce native rare plant species within their range as appropriate. [1985 Plan - Modified]
4. Establish scientifically credible monitoring programs with conservation partners for at least two species. Develop survey methods and initiate baseline and trend surveys for populations, habitats, and/or ecological conditions to contribute to viability of species at risk, and MIS. [1985 Plan - Modified]
5. Provide adequate habitat to support populations of “demand” species according to population objectives developed in concert with the Wyoming Game and Fish. Treat 3,000 acres of big game winter range every 5 years to improve habitat value. [1985 Plan - Modified]
6. Where suitable habitat exists, cooperate with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to reintroduce beaver (MIS) into three 6th Level HUC watersheds over 10 years to re-establish self-sustaining populations according to historical distribution. Use 6th level HUCs identified in Winters et al (2003) as having high potential habitat. Seek to improve potential habitat where feasible. Coordinate restrictions on trapping or other removal of beaver with Wyoming Game and Fish to provide retention of beaver populations. [New]
7. Maintain or increase the amount of elk (Management Indicator Species) security areas at the forestwide scale. [1985 Plan - Modified]
8. Protect significant cave resources and associated wildlife through designation, development and implementation of three cave management plans within five years or until all significant caves have management plans. [New]
9. Maintain a forestwide system of old-growth habitat to sustain old-growth associated species and resources. Prioritize inventory of geographic areas where

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vegetation management treatments will be considered. Achieve inventory of four geographic areas over 10 years. [1985 Plan - Modified]

Objective 1.c: Increase the amount of forests and rangelands restored to or maintained in a healthy condition with reduced risk and damage from fires, insects and diseases, and invasive species. [1985 Plan & GPRA]

Strategies

1. Within 15 years, implement 81,090 acres of vegetation management practices that will move all affected landscapes toward desired vegetation composition and structure. Vegetation management practices may include the following: prescribed fire, wildland fire use, timber harvest, mechanical, biological, chemical, or cultural (e.g., livestock grazing) treatment, etc. Design management practices that consider natural process in terms of scale and effect. Acres may include or consider those listed in the strategies under Objective 1b above. [1985 Plan - Modified]
2. Limit further expansion or new infestations of invasive species and reduce existing infestations of invasive species. Within 5 years, complete an invasive species management plan. [1985 Plan Modified]
3. Manage to retain or increase aspen stands by treating 200 acres over 10 years. [1985 Plan]
4. Implement suppression strategies as needed to minimize epidemic outbreaks of insect and disease in areas managed for timber production, developed recreation, viewshed (e.g., concern level 1 and 2 roads, cultural sites, and wild and scenic river corridors) and administrative sites as described in management area desired conditions. [1985 Plan - Modified]
5. Continue to strengthen interagency relationships to increase wildland fire protection capabilities to provide for firefighter and public safety. [1985 Plan - Modified]
6. Place high priority on fuel reduction activities in Fire Regimes I and II (ponderosa pine, sagebrush/grass) and other strategic areas where high fire hazards exist, such as communities identified in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (Federal Register, Vol. 166, No. 160, Aug 17, 2001). Treatments should emphasize condition classes with one or more missed fire cycles and urban/wildland interface areas. [New]
7. Within 15 years, complete operational wildland fire use plans (prescriptions), for all areas where wildland fire use is permitted, to allow the natural role of fire to be restored in the ecosystem. [New]
8. Coordinate and cooperate with HFRA community wildland fire plans. [New]

Goal 2 - Multiple Benefits to People

Provide a variety of uses, values, products, and services for present and future generations by managing within the capability of sustainable ecosystems. Recognize the interdependence between the Bighorn National Forest and local communities.

Objective 2.a: Improve the capability of the Nation's forests and rangelands to provide diverse, high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities. [1985 Plan - Modified]

Strategies

1. Provide readily available information concerning recreation activities at offices, visitor centers, and other information sites. Provide up to date visitor information, including Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics for visitors. [1985 Plan - Modified]
2. Develop criteria and priorities for evaluating developed recreation facilities. [New]
3. Prepare 2 vegetation management plans for developed recreation sites within 15 years. [New]
4. Develop opportunities that highlight resource conservation education and promote them through visitor information services. [New]
5. Provide nonmotorized and motorized trails/areas for a wide variety of uses and experiences. Develop travel management plans associated with the conversion of the remaining "C areas" to "A areas" (as shown on the 1998 travel map) within four years of Plan Revision date. [1985 Plan - Modified]
6. Express clear expectations of travel opportunities. Minimize conflicts among users. [1985 Plan - Modified]
7. Continue permitting outfitter/guide services on NFS lands. [New]
8. Through partnerships, encourage, establish, and sustain a diverse range of recreational facilities and services on NFS lands. [1985 Plan - Modified]
9. Maintain opportunities for consumptive and non-consumptive uses of Forest resources. [New]
10. Develop or identify one day-use trail system on a scenic byway within 15 years. [New]
11. Provide for dispersed recreation opportunities.

Objective 2.b: Improve the capability of wilderness and protected areas to sustain a desired range of benefits and values.

Strategies

Wilderness

1. Monitor air and water quality, particularly in alpine lakes in coordination with appropriate state agencies.
2. Provide for human values and benefits while preserving the wilderness character.
3. Control and reduce the adverse physical and social impacts of human use in wilderness through education and regulation as needed.
4. Favor wilderness-dependent activities in wilderness. Discourage activities that are not consistent with wilderness values.
5. Manage special exceptions provided by wilderness legislation with minimum impact on the wilderness resource.

Heritage Sites

1. Negotiate programmatic agreements with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Advisory Council for the timber and fire programs and historic administrative sites to emphasize inventory and management strategies within 15 years.
2. Assess identified sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in conjunction with SHPO and Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) and provide interpretation for NRHP sites where appropriate and consistent with developed preservation plans. Reduce backlog of unevaluated sites by evaluating 50 sites in 15 years.
3. Inventory and evaluate 500 acres per year of the highest probable lands for cultural resources. Identify examples of the most important heritage site types, incorporate into a programmatic agreement, and nominate to NRHP.
4. Establish and maintain effective consultation with federally recognized American Indian tribes on traditional cultural properties as specified in 36 CFR 800.2 and National Register Bulletin 38.
5. In partnership with American Indian tribes and state, county, and local government, increase public awareness, protect heritage resources, and further the goals of research through education and interpretation.

Special Areas

1. Within ten years, develop and implement a management and monitoring plan for one Research Natural Area.
2. Within 15 years, develop and implement a management and monitoring plan for each heritage special interest area.

Objective 2.c: Improve the capability of the Nation’s forests and rangelands to provide a desired sustainable level of uses, values, products, and services.

Strategies

Livestock Grazing

1. Provide up to 118,000 AUMs on suitable rangelands to achieve desired conditions. [Modified from current plan goal with Steering Committee input]
2. Share information and cooperate with livestock permittees, state and private agriculture organizations, universities, and research partners to communicate improved technology and other applications associated with resource uses, utilizing livestock as a management tool.

Geologic and Paleontological Resources

1. Inventory for paleontological resources during cultural or other surveys.

Mineral and Energy Resources

1. Provide for environmentally sound mineral exploration, development, and reclamation in areas open to mineral entry and in areas with valid existing rights.

Special Forest Products

1. Provide appropriate opportunities for special forest products (e.g., posts, poles, seeds, etc.) through, sustainable, environmentally responsible harvest and collection methods on National Forest System lands. [New]

Scenery

1. Maintain, rehabilitate, and enhance viewed landscapes from the designated scenic byways. Actively treat 100 acres of vegetation every 5 years.
2. Maintain high quality scenic landscapes consistent with scenic integrity objectives. Restore 10% of landscapes that do not meet scenic integrity objectives.

Timber

1. Annually offer a reliable sustainable level of forest products (sawtimber, posts and poles, Christmas trees, and fuelwood) on forestlands. [1985 Plan - Modified]
2. Offer not more than the allowable sale quantity of sawtimber from suitable lands. [2003 Medicine Bow National Forest Revised Plan]
3. Strive to offer to the public sawtimber, products other than logs, and firewood at the average annual Total Program Sale Quantity. [2003 Medicine Bow National Forest Revised Plan]

Tourism and Recreation

1. Coordinate with local government entities on tourism or recreation opportunities. [New]

2. Foster a sense of place unique to the Bighorns by appropriately integrating cultural resources and natural resources into education and recreation opportunities. [New]
3. Provide a variety of hunting and fishing opportunities in coordination with Wyoming Game and Fish. [New]

Goal 3 - Scientific and Technical Assistance

Develop and use the best scientific information available to deliver technical and community assistance and to support ecological, economic, and social sustainability.

Objective 3.a: Provide better assistance in building the capacity of Tribal governments, rural communities, and private landowners to adapt to economic, environmental, and social change related to natural resources.

Strategies

1. Promote state and private forestry economic action program authorities to provide financial and technical assistance to local communities and natural resource based businesses to pursue self-sufficiency and sustainability. [1985 Plan - Modified]
2. Provide support and assistance to communities to reduce wildfire risk, to communicate grant programs, and to enhance efforts to improve/protect watersheds. [New]
3. Expand local economic opportunities on private, state, and tribal lands through federal, non-federal cost shares. [New]

Objective 3.b: Improve the knowledge base provided through research, inventory, and monitoring to enhance scientific understanding of ecosystems, including humans, to support decision-making and sustainable management of the Nation's forests and rangelands.

Strategies

1. Continue and enhance inventory and monitoring systems on the Bighorn National Forest to provide information and decision support. [New]
2. Provide research results and tools through technology transfer to support effective management, and restoration of ecosystems and sustainability of natural resources, for example the Region 2 Aquatic (Winters et al. 2003) and Terrestrial (Regan et al. 2003) assessments. [New]
3. Pursue partnerships with Forest Service and University research, other agencies, cooperators and volunteers to acquire high priority information and pursue monitoring needs. [New]

Goal 4 - Effective Public Service

Improve travel management, provide a wide range of recreation opportunities, and maintain Forest facilities, buildings, roads, and trails in an efficient manner.

Objective 4.a: Improve the safety and economy of Forest Service roads, trails, facilities, and operations, and provide greater security for the public and employees.

Strategies

1. Within 10 years, improve travel management education, enforcement, and signing, including designating motorized travelways and areas, and identify reasons for restrictions.
2. Provide recreation opportunities to accommodate a wide range of abilities and activities and ensure non-discrimination in the delivery of Bighorn National Forest programs.
3. Maintain all objective maintenance Level 3, 4, 5 roads to standard annually.
4. Maintain 20 percent of all objective maintenance Level 2 roads to standard annually.
5. Maintain 25 percent of all objective maintenance Level 1 roads to standard annually.
6. Decommission or incorporate unclassified Forest roads and motorized trails into the travel system through travel management planning.
7. Prioritize capital improvement, maintenance, construction and reconstruction projects to reduce deferred maintenance backlog on all forest infrastructure.
8. Perform all facility and building construction and reconstruction, maintenance, disposal, and capital improvement consist with the Forest Facility Master Plan and the Built Environment Image Guide.
9. Reduce resource use (e.g., energy, fuel, water) in day-to-day Forest operations.

Objective 4.b: Provide appropriate access to the National Forest. Ensure proper verification of Forest boundaries.

Strategies

1. Maintain or increase legal access to the Bighorn National Forest. [1985 Plan - Modified]
2. Develop and implement a Rights-of-Way Acquisition Program in response to resource management programs and access needs. [1985 Plan - Modified]
3. Survey Forest land/line boundary location on a priority basis, as needs arise. [New]

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4. Acquire inholdings within the forest 1) on a priority needs basis, 2) as opportunities arise, and 3) with willing sellers. [New]

Objective 4.c: Enhance the public services provided by the Bighorn National Forest through the pursuit of cooperation and public and private partnerships.

Strategies

1. Coordinate land management decisions and work in cooperation with federal, state, local government, nongovernment organizations, American Indian tribes, and adjacent landowners [1985 Plan]
2. Recognize and coordinate with County Land Use and Conservation District Plans as part of Forest management activities. [1985 Plan, modified]
3. Provide opportunities for federally recognized American Indian tribes to participate in planning and management of the National Forests, especially where tribes have claimed special geographic, historical, or cultural interest. [1985 Plan - Modified]
4. Cooperate with federal, state, and county agencies, individuals, American Indian tribes, and non-government organizations for control of noxious weeds, pathogens and invasive species and animal damage. [1985 Plan - Modified]
5. Create and foster partnerships with other agencies, accredited educational and research institutions, tribal colleges, and other appropriate public and private sector organizations to further research, education, protection, and interpretation. [New]
6. Coordinate with the appropriate state and federal agencies in balancing desired wildlife and fish population objectives with desired habitat conditions. [1985 Plan – Modified]

Desired Condition of the Forest

The condition of the Bighorn National Forest will change as this Forest Plan is implemented. This section summarizes the desired condition of the overall Forest after 10 years and after 50 years of plan implementation. Chapters 2 and 3 of this plan contain more detailed desired condition statements for individual Management Areas and Geographic Areas on the Forest.

The Forest in the Short Term

With the implementation of the forest plan, management actions will have been directed at achieving the forestwide goals and objectives. The annual monitoring and evaluation program will be ongoing and will provide the tools needed to ensure that goals and objectives are being achieved.

At the end of the first decade, changes in the overall character of the landscape may be small. The Forest will appear very much as it does today. Management changes to the

landscape will use various tools including commercial timber harvest, and non-commercial vegetation treatments such as fuels treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use. Additional changes are anticipated from natural events such as insects, diseases, wind, and wildfires. These natural disturbance events can also be evident on the landscape, but the extent was not modeled as they will be largely dependent on climatic conditions.

The distribution of forested structural stages across the forest will be similar to existing conditions. Approximately 68% of the forested vegetation will be in late successional habitats, 30% in intermediate successional habitats, and 2% in early successional stages.

Non-forested areas will meet or be moving toward desired conditions, with structural diversity and native species composition meeting or moving towards desired conditions. Areas outside of HRV with regard to fire condition classes will be improved.

The processes and structures necessary to maintain the biological diversity of the Forest will have been provided for across the landscape as a whole. Riparian and wetland areas will be meeting or moving toward desired conditions. Important habitats identified through project planning, analysis, and implementation are managed to perpetuate habitat conditions needed for TES and non-TES species.

The character and qualities of the Bighorn National Forest, which draw visitors from around the country, will be retained. Recreationists will continue to enjoy the scenery of both mountain forests and non-forested areas. A broad spectrum of recreation opportunities, ranging from primitive to developed, will be available. Both motorized and nonmotorized winter and summer recreation opportunities are present on the Forest. Approximately 40 miles of unneeded roads will be decommissioned at the end of the first decade to reduce resource damage. Some of these unneeded roads will have been converted to managed recreation trails.

Special Interest Areas, Research Natural Areas, and Wild and Scenic Rivers will provide a variety of historical, biological, and scenic values.

The Bighorn National Forest will produce a sustained flow of forest products and other commodity outputs. However, oil and gas leasing is not expected to be a major portion of these outputs. Collaborative planning efforts to develop projects and programs which contribute to economic diversity will be ongoing with local community interests.

Human safety and community and property protection from wildfire will be improved by implementation of community wildfire protection plans. Personnel from all affected agencies, governments, tribal interests, and the public will address community wildfire protection needs.

The Forest in the Long Term

After five decades of plan implementation, several changes will be apparent across the landscape. Growth is still the largest factor in forested land development. Modeling growth and management activities it is estimated that approximately 80% of the forested vegetation will be in late successional habitats, 16% in intermediate successional habitats, and 3% in early successional stages. Additional changes are anticipated from natural events such as insects, diseases, wind, and wildfires. These natural disturbance events can also be evident on the landscape, but the extent was not modeled as they will be largely dependent on climatic conditions. The possibility of large-scale disturbance events, such as wildfire and insect and disease epidemics, will have increased with the passage of time. Due to the increased age of trees, and the increased presence of mountain pine beetle and spruce beetle, large portions of the forest could be impacted, especially if climatic conditions favorable to insects and disease occur.

A well-distributed system of forested stands designated for management as old growth is in place and provides key habitat conditions needed for TES and non-TES species. Biological diversity will continue to be maintained across the Forest for all species.

Areas where timber harvest has occurred may now have a managed appearance. Areas of thinned trees will be visible.

Rangeland vegetation will include a mix of seral stages across the landscape similar to HRV. The majority of riparian areas across the Forest will be meeting desired conditions.

The physical setting and scenic beauty of the Bighorn National Forest will continue to draw visitors. Recreation opportunities ranging from primitive to developed will be available. The Forest will continue to attract visitors for a variety of recreational opportunities. There will be a well developed system of motorized and nonmotorized trails which address recreational demand as well as protection of wildlife habitat. Both motorized and nonmotorized winter and summer recreation opportunities will be present on the Forest.

A system of forest roads will be in place. The road system will meet public and resource management access needs and maintain valuable wildlife security areas. All forest system roads will be maintained to standard.

Wilderness potential will be maintained on 14% of the existing inventoried roadless areas on the Forest.

The Bighorn National Forest will produce a sustained flow of forest products and other commodity outputs. However, oil and gas leasing is not expected to be a major portion of these outputs. Collaborative relationships will be promoted with local communities and will be the cornerstone of the Forest's management.

Forestwide Standards and Guidelines

Introduction

The following forestwide standards and guidelines are for the protection or management of different forest resources and apply to all areas of the forest. They are used with additional standards and guidelines included with each management area prescription (found in Chapter 3).

A **standard** is defined as a course of action that must be followed, or a level of attainment that must be reached, to achieve forest goals. Adherence to standards is mandatory. Standards are used to determine if individual projects are in compliance with the Forest Plan. They should limit actions, not compel or require actions. Deviations from standards must be analyzed and documented in a forest plan amendment.

A **guideline** is a preferred or advisable course of action or level of attainment. Guidelines are designed to achieve desired conditions (goals). Deviation from a guideline and the reasons for doing so are recorded in a project-level NEPA document; a forest plan amendment is not required.

When forestwide standards and guidelines conflict with management area standards and guidelines, those that are more stringent or restrictive are applied.

Conformance with Other Direction

This set of standards and guidelines is designed to be specific to the Bighorn National Forest. Laws, regulations, and Forest Service directives generally are not repeated in this package, although references to particular laws or directives are included to provide needed emphasis for the protection and management of specific resources. Many of the applicable laws, regulations and Forest Service directives are listed in Appendices A and B.

The absence of a particular resource from this chapter does not mean that the resource is not managed. Nor does it indicate that the Forest Service considers a particular resource less important than those listed. The entire forest plan, including the appendices, must be read carefully to understand how all resources will be managed. Refer to the forestwide desired condition and goal statements and forestwide objectives (described previously) and to the appendices for complete information. In particular, Appendices A through F provide references or repeat key direction for resource management found outside the forest plan.

Physical

Air

- Standard 1. Meet state and federal air quality standards, and comply with Local, state and federal air quality regulations and requirements, either through original project design or through mitigation. [1985 Plan – modified]
- Guideline 1. Minimize the amount and impact of smoke for each fire management activity, identifying smoke sensitive areas (see Glossary), using “best available control measures” (see Glossary), monitoring smoke impacts, and following guidance in state smoke management plans. [Desk Guide]

Geology – Caves

- Standard 1. Design management activities in the vicinity of caves and karst features to protect them or to mitigate effects to them. Enforce the following practices: [New – Cave Management Act, 1988, Townsend’s Big-Eared Bat Conservation Plan]
- a. Avoid ground disturbance within 100 feet, or greater, of an opening of a natural cave, depending on site conditions. Allow public use of known caves unless restrictions are necessary to protect non-renewable features or threatened resources present in significant caves, or to protect public safety. Proactively gate or take other measures to control and manage human access where unacceptable damage to known cave resources is occurring or has the potential to occur. Seasonal restrictions to protect bat roosting should apply from September 15th through May 15th for bats using the cave as a hibernacula roost, and from April 1st to October 1st if bats are using the cave for maternity roosts. Assess potential gating needs during development of a resource management plan for caves, and ensure gates allow free passage of air, water, bats, and other animals.
 - b. Manage surface drainage and vegetation in the vicinity of caves or cave resources to protect the cave's microenvironment.
 - c. Do not sign known cave entrances and/or locations. Don’t include cave entrances and/or locations in information available to the public, except Tongue River Cave, unless otherwise specified in resource management plans for caves.

Mineral and Energy Resources, General

- Standards
1. Review operating plans annually. Review reclamation plans and bonds at least every three years for adequacy and to account for inflation. [Desk Guide]
 2. Provide reasonable access to owners of private mineral estates under federal surface for outstanding or reserved mineral right development, as described in the ownership deed. Reasonable access and the use of the surface are authorized through an approved Plan of Operations. (Reference FSM 2830.5, 2323.75) [Desk Guide]
 3. Provide for reclamation of disturbed lands to achieve the planned uses of the management area, when those lands are no longer needed for mining operations. Plans for reclamation will be submitted by the operator as a part of the operating plan. This plan shall contain proposed reclamation objectives as identified in the NEPA decision documents and practices to maintain water quality and soil stability during mining and exploration activities, including post mining and exploration, and any temporary shutdowns. Interim reclamation will be considered satisfactory when the disturbed area has been reclaimed in accordance with operating plan requirements, and desired vegetative conditions have been achieved as established in the NEPA decision documents. (Reference FSM 2802, 2803, 2840, 2817, 2820, and FSH 2809.13, 2809.11) [Desk Guide]
- Guidelines
1. Restrict capital investments on lands with nonfederal mineral estate ownership in areas of moderate to high mineral development potential if the purpose of capital investment would conflict with mineral development. [Desk Guide]
 2. Perform site-specific mineral evaluations prior to making substantial capital investments, such as recreation developments, on Federal mineral estate in areas of moderate to high potential for valuable mineral deposits. Depending on conclusions from mineral evaluation and potential for mineral development, consider alternate location for capital investment, withdrawal of locatable minerals, restrictions on surface occupancy for leasable minerals, and/or decision not to issue mineral material sales or disposal. [Desk Guide]
 3. Mineral operations should be inspected annually for compliance with terms and conditions of operation as outlined in approved operation plans. [Desk Guide]

4. Minimize disturbance to the riparian area by mineral activities. Utilize existing regulations and policies to minimize effects of mineral extractions in riparian areas. [Desk Guide]

Conduct reclamation to existing landform and vegetative characteristics as much as feasible, unless management objectives require otherwise. Initiate timely and effective rehabilitation of disturbed areas and restore riparian areas to a state of productivity comparable to that before disturbance. [Desk Guide]

Mineral and Energy Resources, Geophysical Operations

- Standard 1. Prohibit geophysical operations that cause surface disturbance in Research Natural Areas and on known National Register eligible heritage resource sites where there are not suitable mitigation measures. [Desk Guide]
- Guidelines 1. Minimize surface disturbance from geophysical operations. New road construction should not be allowed, except under justifiable circumstances. Geophysical operations on key big game winter range should be restricted during critical periods, depending on the type of operation and seasonal conditions. [Desk Guide]
2. Allow geophysical operations within developed recreation sites; however, manage acquisition methods, location, and timing to avoid conflicts with recreationists, and to maintain the recreational setting of the developed site. [Desk Guide]

Mineral and Energy Resources, Leasable Minerals

- Standards 1. For areas that will be recommended to Congress for inclusion in the Wilderness System during this revision of the forest plan, delay leasing of minerals until authorized by Congressional action. [Desk Guide]
2. Restrict the use of production pits. [Desk Guide]
- Guidelines 1. Encourage the use of closed circulation systems. Discourage the use of open reserve pits for oil and gas drilling operations. In cases where the use of pits for drilling operations is justified, analyze and monitor construction and use for minimal potential for leakage and structural failure (including pit solidification). [Desk Guide]
2. Do not charge additional fees or require additional permits for off-lease activities necessary to mitigate Forest Service issues when such activities are directly related to administration of a drilling permit. [Desk Guide]

3. Do not allow field offices unless the operator can show they are essential to production operations. When operator can demonstrate need for such facilities, limit the size and design to serve only those purposes for which they are necessary.
4. Discourage the stacking and storing equipment not being used for 6 months or longer. [Desk Guide]
5. Reduce the impacts to air quality and loss of energy resources by only allowing flaring of oil and gas wells during production testing of wells. Require connection to a pipeline or re-injection well once production is established. Consider exceptions on a case-by-case basis. [Desk Guide]

Mineral and Energy Resources, Locatable Minerals

- Standards
1. Withdraw developed recreation areas and areas where capital investments have been made from locatable mineral entry. [Desk Guide]
 2. For designated wilderness, Congressionally designated Wilderness Study Areas, “wild” segments of designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, and areas recommended for wilderness designation in this revision for which Congress has not yet taken final action authorize through a Plan of Operations: [Desk Guide]
 - a. For private land surface and mineral estate inholdings, provide for reasonable access of the type necessary to the purpose of proposed operations, and for restoration of disturbed federal lands to their natural condition when they are no longer needed for operations.
 - b. For private mineral estates under the federal surface, provide for reasonable surface use as described in the ownership deed.
 3. For other classified lands not withdrawn from operations under the general mining laws (Research Natural Areas, National Recreation Areas, Special Interest Areas such as “scenic” and “geologic,” National Historical Sites, and “scenic” and “recreation” segments of Wild and Scenic Rivers): *Note: Specific examples in the Bighorn National Forest will be listed after all management area categories are completed.* [Desk Guide]
 - a. Check the status of classified lands, with respect to withdrawal, before an operating plan is approved.
 - b. Provide for reasonable protection of the purposes for which the lands were classified.

- c. Reclaim disturbed lands to a condition suitable for the purposes for which the lands were classified in accordance with 30 CFR 228.8 and the NEPA decision document.
- d. Pursue withdrawals where appropriate.

Mineral and Energy Resources, Minerals Materials

- Standard 1. For areas from which mineral materials were obtained, reclaim disturbed lands to a usable condition for other management activities. (FSM 2850) *Note: Lands where mineral material deposits will not be available will be identified after management area allocation.* [Desk Guide]

Mineral and Energy Resources, Paleontological Resources

- Standards 1. Do not disclose sensitive paleontological information under the Freedom of Information Act. [Desk Guide]
2. Allow collection of paleontological vertebrate resources with authorization (permit or area designation) for educational and scientific purposes. Prohibit the commercial collection of fossils. [Desk Guide]
- Guidelines 1. Protect from disturbance or mitigate from disturbances key paleontological resources (Classes 3, 4, and 5 of the Fossil Potential Classification) to conserve scientific, educational, interpretive, and legacy values. [Desk Guide]
2. Allow recreational collection of nonvertebrate fossil materials. [Desk Guide]

Mineral and Energy Resources, Reserved and Outstanding Rights

- Standard 1. Negotiate surface management for private oil and gas minerals with the owner and operator to be as close as possible to the standards used for federal minerals. Prohibiting such development is not an alternative. [1985 Plan - modified]

Soil, Water, Riparian, and Wetland

- Standards 1. Where improvements made on National Forest land include water developments, obtain a water right, in the name of the United States, from the Wyoming State Engineer's Office.
2. Incorporate the following soil and water protection measures as listed in FSH 2509.25-Watershed Conservation Practices Handbook (WCPH) Chapter 10:

- a. Manage land treatments to conserve site moisture and to protect long-term stream health from damage by increased runoff (WCPH 11.1).
- b. Manage land treatments to maintain enough organic ground cover in each activity area to prevent harmful increased runoff (WCPH 11.2).
- c. In the water influence zone (WIZ), allow only those actions that maintain or improve long-term stream health and riparian ecosystem condition. The WIZ is the aquatic ecosystem, the riparian ecosystem, characterized by distinct vegetation and associated valley bottom (Winters et al. 2003), wetlands, and ecosystems that remain within approximately 100 feet horizontally from both edges of all perennial and intermittent streams and from the shores of lakes and other still water bodies. It includes adjacent, unstable and highly erodible soil.
- d. Design and construct all stream crossings and other instream structures to provide for passage of flow and sediment, withstand expected flood flows, and allow free movement of resident aquatic life (WCPH 12.2).
- e. Conduct actions so that stream pattern, geometry, and habitats are maintained or improved toward reference conditions (WCPH 12.3).
- f. Maintain long-term ground cover, soil structure, water budgets, and flow patterns of wetlands to sustain their ecological function, per 404 regulations (WCPH 12.4).
- g. Return and/or maintain sufficient stream flows under appropriate authorities to minimize damage to scenic and aesthetic values, fish and wildlife habitat, and to otherwise protect the environment (WCPH 12.5).
- h. Manage water-use facilities to prevent gully erosion of slopes and to prevent sediment and bank damage to streams (WCPH 12.6).
- i. Limit roads and other disturbed sites to the minimum feasible number, width, and total length consistent with the purpose of specific operations, local topography, and climate (WCPH 13.1).
- j. Construct roads and other disturbed sites to minimize sediment discharge into streams, lakes, and wetlands (WCPH 13.2).

- k. Stabilize and maintain roads and other disturbed sites during and after construction to control erosion (WCPH 13.3).
- l. Reclaim roads and other disturbed sites when use ends, as needed, to prevent resource damage. Restoring stable grades, stable drainage, and ground cover are critical to closing out disturbances and protecting soil productivity and stream health (WCPH 13.4).
- m. Manage land treatments to limit the sum of severely burned or detrimentally compacted, eroded, and displaced land to no more than 15 percent of any activity area. (WCPH 14.1)
- n. Maintain or improve long-term levels of organic matter and nutrients on all lands (WCPH 14.2).
- o. Place new sources of chemical and pathogenic pollutants where such pollutants will not reach surface or groundwater (WCPH 15.1).
- p. Apply runoff controls to disconnect new pollutant sources from surface and groundwater (WCPH 15.2).
- q. Apply chemicals using methods that minimize risk of entry to surface and groundwaters (WCPH 15.3), except where there has been a demonstrated need to apply chemical treatments during the course of fisheries management activities undertaken by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

- Guidelines
- 1. Actively participate in planning by other federal, state and local agencies where these plans could affect the beneficial uses of water on National Forest System lands.
 - 2. For new and existing dams and diversions, obtain bypass flows at the point of diversion or storage that protects water dependent recreational values.¹
 - 3. Leave naturally occurring debris in stream channels unless it is a threat to life, property, important resource values, or otherwise covered by legal agreement.
 - 4. When planning stream channel improvement projects, use methods that emphasize natural channel design.

¹ Bypass flows and instream-flow water rights are distinctly different, but settlement of reserved water rights claims can meet this criterion if the negotiated flows are decreed to the United States by a court of jurisdiction.

5. Design facilities, roads, and trails in water influence zones to meet Standard 2. If Standard 2 cannot be met, the project will be redesigned, relocated, or cancelled. [New]
6. In dry draws and swales that do not meet the definition of a stream, protect or mitigate soil stability and downstream water quality. [New – R1/R4 INFISH]
7. When implementing projects, incorporate the soil and water protection measures listed in FSH 2509.25-Watershed Conservation Practices Handbook (WCPH) Chapter 10-Design Criteria, unless the NEPA document describes other methods that will result in the same outcome directed by the standard.

Biological

Biological Diversity

- Standard 1. Introduce exotic plant and invertebrate species only where it can be demonstrated that beneficial effects will result (e.g. soil stabilization or control of noxious weeds), and detrimental impacts are unlikely to accrue to existing native species or the recovery of extirpated species. Coordinate introductions with appropriate state and local agencies or governments. [Desk Guide]
- Guidelines 1. Analyze aspen's spatial and structural occurrence in the landscape during project design. In landscapes with multiple aspen clones, manage aspen for a mix of structural stages. [Desk Guide]
2. Manage aspen stands for retention. [Desk Guide]
3. When aspen regeneration is considered, set priorities for treatment within seral aspen clones using the following criteria: [1985 Plan - Modified]
- a. Stands with large standing and down dead basal area (20 percent dead) that are single storied and showing signs of animal barking or disease.
 - b. Conifer stands that contain a small minority of live aspen basal area.
 - c. Stands in heavy animal use areas, isolated clones, those at low elevations, or in riparian areas.
 - d. Stands which are cost-efficient to treat and benefit aspen's distribution.
4. Maintain a mosaic of vegetative composition and structure emulating natural processes, patterns, scale, and distribution of community types, age, and structure classes. [Desk Guide and 1985 Plan - Modified]
- a. On forested lands (suited and non-suited), refer to DEIS Appendix H for desired structural stages by covertime.
 - b. Manage for late-successional (old growth) forested resources according to the following criteria: [ASQ Amendment]
 - i. Use the Mehl (1992) definitions of old growth to identify and manage potential stands.

- ii. Maintain 10% of existing forest cover types, except for spruce fir, in a geographic area (nine total on forest) in old growth. Maintain 15% of the existing spruce fir cover type in a geographic area in old growth. Meet both the standard and quality (higher value) attributes identified in Mehl (1992) in half the stands.
 - iii. Ensure that major forest cover types occurring naturally in a geographic area are represented by old growth stands.
 - iv. Consider connectivity of mature forest conditions to link old growth stands
 - v. Identify recruitment areas if old growth requirements cannot be met under current conditions. Favor stands without past logging treatments, and un-suited acres. Old growth may rotate on the landscape in response to disturbances and should occur in proportion to the slopes naturally occurring in the area.
 - vi. Emphasize the retention of larger, functional blocks of old growth with minimum stand size of 100 acres. Favor stands that are remote (difficult to access).
 - vii. Emphasize retention of spruce/fir due to higher habitat values (larger snags, more coarse woody debris).
 - viii. Use mechanical or prescribed fire vegetation treatments to foster old growth conditions as appropriate by community type structure and as referenced by Mehl (1992).
5. Implement sagebrush management to increase habitat diversity and forage for wildlife and livestock. Assess needs for big game parturition, sage grouse summer habitat, and other biodiversity needs. Do not use mechanical control on slopes greater than 30%. [1985 Plan - Modified]
6. Maintain native meadow ecosystems by controlling conifer encroachment. [1985 Plan - Modified]
7. Maintain, or mitigate impacts to, important habitat types , including talus slopes, cliffs, rock outcrops, alpine tundra, moss community in Dry Fork, and aquatic and riparian habitats such as bogs, fens, and springs . [Desk Guide]

8. Use genetically local (at the subsection level), native plant seed or material for revegetation efforts where technically and economically feasible. Use weed-free seed and mulch mixtures. While native perennials are becoming established, use non-persistent species such as nonnative annuals or sterile perennial to prevent soil erosion. [Desk Guide]
9. Manage to enhance and sustain riparian, watershed, and associated species habitat values within 300' of perennial streams, wetlands, and lakes (over one acre). Management activities are allowed within this zone, but are designed to enhance these resources. [New – R1/R4 INFISH]
10. Develop prescriptions prior to forested vegetation treatment to identify the amount, size(s), stages, and distribution of down logs and snags to be left on-site, as well as live, green replacement trees for future snags.

On forest sites, retain snags and coarse woody debris (where materials are available) in accordance with the average minimums specified in the following table. Retain the largest diameter snags possible.

During project planning, assess the project area versus treatment area size when designating snag and snag recruitment trees.

Consider leaving islands with snags in all stages of decay and green snag recruitment trees to meet these needs. If no snags meet the minimum diameter and height requirements, use the largest snags available. [1985 Plan – modified with Desk Guide and Graham et al 1994]

Table 1-1. Minimum requirements for snag and woody debris retention on forested sites following timber harvest.

| Cover Type | Snags | | Downed Logs | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| | Minimum Diameter (inches) | Retention Density (number per 100 acres) | Minimum Snag Height (feet) | Minimum Diameter and Length (inches) and (feet) | Minimum # Downed Logs/10 Acres |
| Lodgepole pine | 8" | 400 | 25' | 6", 8' | 50 |
| | | | | to be part of 7-16 tons/acre of coarse woody debris 3" diameter or larger at the large end. | |
| Aspen | 6" | 500 | 15' | 6", 8' | 50 |
| Douglas-fir | 12" | 500 | 30' | 12", 8' | 50 |
| Ponderosa pine | 12" | 200 | 30' | 12", 8' | 30 |
| Spruce-fir | 12" | 600 | 30' | 12", 8' | 50 |
| | | | | to be part of 7-16 tons/acre of coarse woody debris 3" diameter or larger at the large end. | |

Fisheries

- Guidelines
1. Use watershed function and channel geomorphology principles when planning for the protection, restoration, or enhancement of aquatic habitats.
 2. Maintain or restore the natural range and frequency of aquatic habitat conditions to sustain the diversity and production of fish, including sensitive native species, and other freshwater organisms.
 3. Maintain and use baseline fish habitat data as a reference to evaluate the relative health or condition of aquatic habitats. [New]
 4. Maintain or develop passage for critical fish life stages through stream crossing structures within occupied and suitable fish habitats.
 5. In coordination with the Wyoming Game and Fish, assess current stocking plans for, or removal of, non-native species to ensure the protection of Yellowstone Cutthroat trout and other native species.
 6. During project implementation, mitigate or avoid impacts on critical life histories (e.g., spawning, migration, rearing, etc.) for aquatic species.
 7. During project planning and implementation, address conflicts among recreational fishing demands and fisheries habitat needs with other resource activities.

Rangeland Vegetation

- Standards
1. Provide mitigation measures to protect National Forest System resources from animal damage control activities conducted by other governmental entities. Use mitigation measures that emphasize protection of: public safety; threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; water quality; and other resource values. [Desk Guide]
 2. Phase out grazing systems that allow for livestock grazing use in an individual unit during the entire vegetative growth period, except where determined to achieve or maintain the desired plant community. [Desk Guide]
 3. Remove livestock from the grazing unit or allotment for the remainder of the grazing season when further utilization on key areas will exceed allowable use criteria in the Forest Plan, annual operating instructions, or the allotment management plan. [Desk Guide, 1985 Plan modified]

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4. In fire and timber harvest areas, manage livestock grazing to ensure impacts do not prevent successful regeneration of all vegetation. [1985 Plan modified]
5. Rest areas from grazing use where necessary to meet resource objectives.

- Guidelines
1. Identify “desired plant communities” during the site-specific analysis necessary for the preparation of allotment management plans. Manage vegetation to allow for successional progress toward these desired plant communities, vegetative conditions, or seral stages. Where an allotment management plan does not identify a desired condition, manage vegetation to allow for successional progress toward mid to late seral ecological condition. [Desk guide - modified]
 2. Improve degraded rangeland to the desired plant community, or maintain it in the desired plant community. Where livestock is identified as the limiting factor in achieving desired conditions, adjust livestock management practices to result in a trend toward the desired condition. Where this is not successful, consider removal of livestock. [6b in 1985 Forest Plan- modified]
 3. Rotate season of use on all grazing units such that plants are not grazed at the same time of year in successive years. Grazing periods prior to August 1st should not exceed 14 days. [New, range team]
 4. On wildlife winter range, consider design of grazing practices to enhance forage palatability, availability, and nutritional quality for wildlife uses. [New, range team]
 5. During AMP revision or through vacant allotment assessment, evaluate domestic sheep trailing routes, livestock type, grazing rotation, and other considerations to minimize disease interaction with bighorn sheep
 6. Manage and regulate recreation pack and saddle stock to avoid resource damage and to avoid conflicts with permitted livestock regarding forage use levels or management for a desired condition. [New, range team]

7. When supported by research or experience, develop site-specific utilization standards, herbaceous vegetation residue, stream bank disturbance, and woody species utilization guidelines during rangeland project planning. [Desk Guide, modified] Include stricter allowable use standards in allotment management plans where needed to reach the plan objectives, or if monitoring indicates that objectives are not being met by application of current standards and guidelines. [Current Plan] In the absence of updated planning and a project decision document, apply the allowable use and riparian vegetation residue guidelines and mitigation measures listed in the following tables. These guidelines are applicable at the time the livestock leave the unit and include use by both livestock and wildlife. [Desk Guide]

Table 1-2. Maximum allowable use guidelines (percentage utilization by weight).

| Type of Management | Existing Rangeland Condition | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| | Satisfactory* | Unsatisfactory |
| Season-long | 30% | 10% |
| Fall and Winter | 45% | 15% |
| Rotation | 45% | 35% |
| Deferred Rotation | 50% | 40% |
| Rest Rotation | 50% | 40% |

Table 1-3. Riparian vegetation residue guidelines.²

| Season of Use | Existing Rangeland Condition | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory |
| Early Use Pasture | 5 inches | 5 inches |
| Summer & Fall Use Pasture | 5 inches | 7 inches |

*Satisfactory is defined here as meeting or moving toward desired vegetative condition and unsatisfactory is defined as not meeting desired vegetative condition

Note: Where forestwide guidelines have been developed and approved, they may be used in lieu of those described in preceding two tables, until site specific guidelines are developed and adopted. [Modified from 1985 Plan.]

² Vegetation residue guidelines are expressed in terms of the inches of stubble height to be left, measuring longest leaf, after livestock use. [Desk Guide, modified]

8. Allow livestock to remove no more than 35% of terminal leaders on willows in key areas. Where riparian communities are early seral and recovery to later seral communities is identified as an objective, implement stricter standards. The total combined use of livestock and wildlife on willows and other woody riparian species should not exceed 50%. Assess livestock and combined wildlife use at the project level. [New, range team]
9. Utilize transitory forage that is available where demand exists, and where investments in regeneration can be protected. [1985 plan]. Unless otherwise specified in the AMP, maximum grazing use on transitory ranges resulting from clear cuts is:
 - a. Key shrubs – 20% of current growth.
 - b. Grasses – 50 percent of current growth.
 - c. Forbs – 20 percent of total production. [1985 Forest Plan]
10. Coordinate domestic livestock grazing with forested vegetation management to avoid damage (from timber harvest activities) to rangeland improvements or unmitigated removal of natural barriers. [1985 Plan; Range team]
11. In rangeland areas not part of grazing allotments (including special use pastures and areas with recreational livestock use), identify “Desired Plant Communities” in site-specific analysis for the preparation of a management plan for the area or in other project specific analysis. In these areas, manage vegetation to allow for successional progress toward these desired plant communities, vegetative conditions, or seral stages. Where a management plan or other project specific plan does not identify a desired condition, manage vegetation to allow for successional progress toward mid to late seral ecological condition. [Desk guide – modified] Apply guidelines in Tables 1.2 and 1.3 above where appropriate. [New, range team]
12. Manage livestock grazing in riparian and aspen areas using proven management practices. The following practices are interrelated and should be considered and implemented as a complete package where feasible: [Desk Guide, modified]
 - a. Apply short-duration grazing as feasible, generally less than 20 days, to provide greater opportunity for re-growth and to avoid utilization of woody species. [Desk Guide, modified]

- b. Keep stock tanks, salt supplements, livestock handling facilities, and similar features out of the water influence zone and aspen stands. [Water Conservation Practices Handbook, modified]
 - c. Keep stock driveways out of the water influence zone except to cross at designated points. Harden water gaps and designated stock crossings where needed and feasible. [Water Conservation Practices Handbook]
 - d. Adjust management in riparian areas and wetlands to remedy detrimental soil compaction whenever it occurs. [Water Conservation Practices Handbook]
 - e. Design grazing systems to limit utilization of woody species. Move livestock from riparian and aspen areas when livestock begin to have a preference for woody species, especially species in the young maturity classes. [Desk Guide]
13. During AMP revision, evaluate trailing to and from allotments.

Rangeland Improvement and Maintenance

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Standards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow livestock handling facilities such as corrals, loading chutes, counting gates, etc., in areas specified in the AMP or Annual Operating Instructions (AOI). Portable facilities are preferred. [1985 Forest Plan] 2. Do not construct new permanent living quarters associated with cow or sheep camps. Existing camps may be removed or replaced. Temporary camps may be used. [1985 Forest Plan] 3. When constructing or rebuilding fences, design them for passage by wildlife unless the purpose is to exclude wildlife. [Desk Guide, modified] 4. Require a special use permit for facilities, including existing living quarters, not covered by the permit or owned by the United States. [New, range team] |
| Guidelines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design and locate new or reconstructed fences to meet Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIO) for the area. [New] 2. Minimize construction of new fences. [New] 3. Consider pole top, let-down, or other designs which will reduce conflicts with winter recreationists when planning fences for control of livestock. [New – moved from MA standards & guidelines] 4. Install durable and effective escape ramps for birds and small mammals when installing or reconstructing livestock water tanks. [New – WY Bird Conservation Plan] |

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5. Provide gates, cattle guards, or pass-throughs as needed for visitor access.
6. Design and locate new stock pipelines to be outside the ‘seen area’ of open forest system roads and trails. Bury permanent pipelines where feasible. As AMPs are revised, schedule reconstruction of existing stock pipelines not designed to this guideline. [New range team]
7. In water developments constructed in aspen stands and willow communities, pipe the water to a stock-watering site outside the stand to minimize the adverse impacts to the stand. [1985 Forest Plan]
8. Develop or reconstruct spring sites in a manner that will maintain the function of dependent riparian and wetland resources and allow continued wildlife use. [New – Sage Grouse Mgmt Guidelines]

Silviculture

- Standards
1. Use the scientifically defined reproduction methods shown, by Forest covertype (see following table) which meet the management objectives for the landscape or individual stands of trees within a landscape setting. Use and apply both even-aged and uneven-age management systems at scales ranging from a few acres to many hundreds of acres. These reproduction methods are to be applied in a manner that will ensure natural regeneration where artificial regeneration is not necessary for other resource objectives. Tree stand vegetation management treatments are to be approved by certified silviculturists. [Required by Code of Federal Regulations 219; modified 1985 Forest Plan]

Table 1-4. Acceptable Reproduction Method by Forest Cover Type

| Forest Cover Type | Even-aged | Two-aged | Uneven-aged |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| Ponderosa Pine | Shelterwood, Clearcut, and Seed-Tree | Irregular Shelterwood | Group Selection and Single-Tree Selection |
| Douglas Fir | Shelterwood, Clearcut ⁴ , and Seed-Tree | Irregular Shelterwood | Group Selection and Single-Tree Selection |
| Aspen | Coppice ¹ | Coppice with Standards ² | Group Selection ³ |
| Lodgepole Pine | Shelterwood, Clearcut, and Seed-Tree | Irregular Shelterwood | Group Selection |
| Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine-Fir | Shelterwood and Clearcut ⁴ | Irregular Shelterwood | Group Selection and Single-Tree Selection |

¹ Coppice is a vegetation reproduction method with clear felling or clear cutting. Clear felling (clear cutting) stimulates sprouting from the residual roots.

² “Standards” are selected overstory trees reserved for a longer rotation at the time each crop of coppice material is cut.

³ Use of group selection as an acceptable silviculture system in aspen is currently under study to determine regeneration success, but is authorized on a test basis.

⁴ Clear cutting is acceptable but not a standard practice in spruce/fir and Douglas-fir.

2. When trees are harvested to meet timber production objectives, make the cut in such a way that there is assurance that the technology and knowledge exists to adequately restock these areas within five years after final harvest. Minimum restocking levels are defined in following table. [Required by NFMA]

3. No minimum seedling height requirements are specified. Seedlings must have survived a minimum of one year and be expected (on the basis of research and experience) to be able to produce the desired future stand condition specified for this area in the forest plan. The numbers of seedlings in the following table represent the minimum number of seedlings required, considering natural mortality, to produce a merchantable timber stand at rotation age without intermediate treatments. [Required by NFMA]

Table 1-5. Standard for the required minimum numbers of seedlings for adequate restocking of a regeneration site.

| Species | Spruce/fir | Aspen | Lodgepole pine | Ponderosa pine | Other softwood | Other hardwood |
|------------|------------|-------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Trees/acre | 150 | 300 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 300 |

Silviculture, cont.

Standards 4. The maximum size of openings created by even-age management will be 40 acres, regardless of forest type, with the following exceptions: [required by NFMA]

- a. Where the Regional Forester approves proposals for larger openings after a 60-day public review.
- b. Where larger openings are the result of natural catastrophic conditions of fire, insect or disease attack, or windstorm.

Where the area that is cut does not meet the definition of created openings.

5. Limit regulated timber harvest activities to those lands classified as "suitable" and "scheduled" for timber production. (Management Areas 5.11, 5.12, 5.13, 5.4, and 5.5). On unsuitable or suitable but not scheduled lands, allow timber cutting for objectives other than timber production (e.g., salvage, protection or enhancement of biodiversity or wildlife habitat, scenic-resource management, or to perform research or administrative studies consistent with Management Area direction). [1985 Plan - Modified]

Guidelines 1. Avoid altering more than one-third of the edge of a natural opening whenever an artificially created opening lies adjacent to a natural opening. Do not create additional edge until previously treated areas are no longer considered an opening according to Table 1-6. [Desk Guide]

2. In Management Areas 4.2, 5.11, 5.12, 5.13, and 5.5, retain burned, blow-down or insect/diseased areas for wildlife by managing salvage harvest according to the following: [New – WY Bird Conservation Plan]

- a. In areas greater than 100 acres retain 10% of the area in an unsalvaged condition for up to 2% or more of the landscape (6th-level HUC watershed or geographic area).

3. In management areas other than 4.2, 5.11, 5.12, 5.13, and 5.5, retain burned, blow-down or insect/diseased areas for wildlife by managing salvage harvest according to the following: [New – WY Bird Conservation Plan]
 - a. In areas greater than 100 acres retain 50% of the area in an unsalvaged condition for up to 10% or more of the landscape (6th HUC watershed or geographic area).
4. Do not consider artificially created openings as openings when the trees in the openings have reached a height and density that meets the objectives established for the management area (see table below). These objectives and criteria may be validated or modified based upon local conditions encountered during implementation. [Required by NFMA]

Table 1-6. Bighorn National Forest guidelines for when an opening is no longer considered an opening.

| Objective | Trees per Acre | Height of Trees |
|--|----------------|---|
| Ponderosa pine and mixed conifers | | |
| Big Game Cover and Low Scenic Integrity Objective | 300 | 7 feet |
| High Scenic Integrity Objectives | 150 | 50% of the height of the adjacent stand |
| Moderate Scenic Integrity Objectives | 200 | 25% of the height of the adjacent stand |
| Lodgepole pine and spruce/fir | | |
| Big Game Cover and Low Scenic Integrity Objective | 300 | 7 feet |
| High Scenic Integrity Objectives | 150 | 50% of the height of the adjacent stand |
| Moderate Scenic Integrity Objectives | 150 | 25% of the height of the adjacent stand |
| Aspen | | |
| Big game Cover and all Scenic Integrity Objectives | 500 | 7 feet |

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- Guidelines 5. Do not undertake regeneration harvests of even-aged timber stands (sites) until the stands have generally reached or surpassed 95 percent of the culmination of the mean annual increment measured in cubic feet. Exceptions may be made where resource management objectives or special resource considerations require earlier harvest, such as: [Required by NFMA]
- a. Stands that are in imminent danger from insect or disease attack.
 - b. Wildlife habitat improvement.
 - c. Scenery resource enhancement or rehabilitation.
 - d. Ecosystem restoration.
 - e. Areas managed for Christmas tree production.
- Overstocked/stagnant lodgepole stands.
6. For suited lands, consider rotation ages and cutting cycles listed in the table below. [1985 Plan - Modified]

Table 1-7. Rotation ages for suited lands.

| Covertypes | Rotation Age | Uneven-aged Cutting Cycle |
|----------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Lodgepole pine | 90-180 | 20-30 |
| Spruce/fir | 100-240 | 20-30 |
| Aspen | 80-120 | N/A |

Special Forest Products

- Standard 1. Allow plant collecting for the following purposes: This does not apply to the harvest of trees for timber or products other than logs: [Desk Guide]
- a. Scientific or educational - The Forest Supervisor may issue permits to collect sensitive plants or plant parts for scientific or educational purposes, but not for commercial or personal use. Such collection must not jeopardize the continued vigor or existence of a plant population. Collecting of plants or plant parts in Management Areas 1.11 through 2.2 shall not be allowed except by permit issued by the Forest Supervisor for scientific or educational purposes.

- b. Commercial - Collecting of plants or plant parts for any commercial purpose requires a permit (including personal use transplants). When evaluating applications for commercial collecting permits, consideration should be given to the impacts on all resources, including biological diversity.
- c. General botanical collections - Botanical collection permits may be issued by the Forest Supervisor to authorize collection of species other than endangered, threatened, or sensitive.

Timber Utilization

Standard 1. Utilization standards for live and dead trees are shown in the following table. [1985 Plan - Modified].

Table 1-8. An example of timber utilization standards.

| Type of Product | Minimum Diameter at Breast Height (inches) | Top Diameter (inches) | Minimum Length (Feet) | Net Scale in % of Gross Scale |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Live Trees | | | | |
| Coniferous Sawtimber | 7 | 6 | 8 | 33 1/3 |
| Products Other Than Sawtimber | 5 | 4 | 6.5 | Variable |
| Dead Trees | | | | |
| Sawtimber | 8 | 7 | 16 | 33 1/3 |
| Products Other Than Sawtimber | 5 | 4 | 6.5 | Variable |

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive (TES) Species

- Standards 1. Bald Eagle [Desk Guide]
- a. If a winter roost or nest site is discovered, ensure that the necessary habitat components are maintained.
 - b. Prohibit human activities within 1 mile of bald eagle winter roosting areas between November 1 and March 15. Restrict human activities within one mile of an active nest site between February 15 and August 15 unless site-specific data suggests otherwise.

2. Restrict activities to avoid disturbing threatened, endangered, and proposed species during courtship, breeding, young rearing, or at other times critical to survival. Exceptions may occur when individuals are adapted to human activity, or the activities are not considered a threat. Document exceptions in coordination with USFWS and WYG&F. [Desk Guide]
3. Avoid actions that would result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of population viability of sensitive species. The protection will vary depending on the species, potential for disturbance, topography, location of important habitat components and other pertinent factors. Give special attention during breeding, young rearing, and other times that are critical to survival of both flora and fauna. [Desk Guide]

The following apply to Canada lynx habitat in the Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs) and linkage areas, subject to valid, existing rights. [Northern Rockies Lynx Amendment Preferred Alternative E from 2004 DEIS]

All activities

- Standards
1. New or expanded permanent developments and vegetation management projects must maintain habitat connectivity.
 2. A project proposal that deviates from one or more lynx standards may proceed without amending the plan, subject to ESA requirements, either:
 - a. If a written determination is made that the project is not likely to adversely affect lynx.
 - b. If it may result in short-term adverse effects on lynx but if long-term benefits to lynx and its habitat would result.
- Guideline
1. Methods to avoid or reduce effects on lynx should be used when constructing or reconstructing highways or forest highways across federal land. Methods could include fencing, underpasses or overpasses.

LAU boundaries

- Standard
1. LAU boundaries will not be adjusted except through agreement with the FWS, based on new information about lynx habitat.

Vegetative management activities and practices

- Objectives
1. Manage vegetation to be more similar to historic succession and disturbance processes while maintaining habitat components necessary for the conservation of lynx.

2. Maintain or improve lynx habitat, emphasizing high-quality winter snowshoe hare habitat near denning habitat.
 3. Conduct fire use activities to restore ecological processes and maintain or improve lynx habitat.
 4. Design regeneration harvest, reforestation and thinning to develop characteristics suitable for winter snowshoe hare habitat.
- Standards
1. Unless a broad scale assessment has been completed that substantiates different historic levels of unsuitable habitat, limit disturbance in each LAU or in a combination of immediately adjacent LAUs as follows:
 - a. If more than 30 percent of the lynx habitat in an LAU or a combination of immediately adjacent LAUs is currently in unsuitable condition, no additional habitat may be made unsuitable by vegetation management projects.
 - b. This standard does not apply to fuel treatment projects identified through processes such as that described in *A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan*.
 - c. Use the same analysis boundaries for all vegetation management projects subject to this standard.
 2. Maintain at least ten percent of the lynx habitat in an LAU as denning habitat in patches generally larger than five acres. Where less than ten percent denning habitat is present in an LAU, either:
 - a. Defer vegetation management projects in stands that have the highest potential to develop denning habitat.
 - b. Move towards ten percent denning habitat by leaving enough standing trees and coarse woody debris to be similar to what would be there naturally.
 - c. This standard does not apply to fuel treatment projects identified through processes such as that described in *A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan*.
 3. Precommercial thinning projects that reduce winter snowshoe hare habitat during the stand initiation structural stage may occur only:
 - a. Within 200 feet of administrative sites, dwellings or outbuildings.

- b. For research studies or genetic tree tests evaluating genetically improved reforestation stock.
- c. For fuel treatment projects identified through processes such as that described in *A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan*.

- Guidelines
1. Vegetation management projects should be planned to recruit a high density of conifers, hardwoods and shrubs where such habitat is scarce or not available. Priority should be given to stem-exclusion, closed-canopy structural stage.
Winter snowshoe hare habitat should be near denning habitat.
Vegetation management projects should be planned to extend the production of winter snowshoe hare habitat when forage quality and quantity is declining.
 2. Vegetation management projects designed to retain or restore denning habitat should be located where there is a low probability of stand-replacing fire.
 3. Fire use activities should not create permanent travel routes that facilitate snow compaction.
Constructing permanent firebreaks on ridges or saddles should be avoided.
 4. Habitat for alternate prey species, primarily red squirrel, should be provided in each LAU.
 5. After a disturbance that kills trees in areas five acres or smaller which could contribute to lynx denning habitat, salvage harvest should not occur unless at least ten percent denning habitat in an LAU is retained and well distributed.
 6. Vegetation management projects should maintain winter snowshoe hare habitat during the understory re-initiation or old-multistory structural stages, and may be used to maintain and improve lynx habitat where dense understories are lacking.

Livestock grazing and practices

- Objective
1. Manage livestock grazing to be compatible with improving or maintaining lynx habitat.
- Guidelines
1. In fire- and harvest-created openings, livestock grazing should be managed so that impacts do not prevent shrubs and trees from regenerating.

2. In aspen stands, livestock grazing should be managed to contribute to their long-term health and sustainability.
3. In riparian areas and willow carrs, livestock grazing should be managed to contribute to maintaining or achieving a preponderance of mid- or late-seral stages, similar to conditions that would have occurred under historic disturbance regimes.
4. In shrub-steppe habitats, livestock grazing should be managed in the elevation ranges of forested lynx habitat in LAUs, to contribute to maintaining or achieving a preponderance of mid- or late-seral stages, similar to conditions that would have occurred under historic disturbance regimes.

Human uses management activities and practices

- Objectives
1. Maintain the lynx's natural competitive advantage over other predators in deep snow, by discouraging the expansion of snow-compacting activities in lynx habitat.
 2. Manage recreational activities to maintain lynx habitat and connectivity.
 3. Concentrate activities in existing developed areas, rather than developing new areas in lynx habitat.
 4. Provide for lynx habitat needs and connectivity when developing new or expanding existing developed recreation sites or ski areas.
 5. Manage human activities – such as exploring and developing minerals and oil and gas, placing utility corridors and permitting special uses – to reduce impacts on lynx and lynx habitat.
 6. Reduce adverse highway effects on lynx by working cooperatively with other agencies to provide for lynx movement and habitat connectivity and to reduce the potential of lynx mortality.
- Guidelines
1. When developing or expanding ski areas, provisions should be made for adequately sized inter-trail islands that include coarse woody debris, so winter snowshoe hare habitat is maintained.
 2. When developing or expanding ski areas, nocturnal foraging should be provided consistent with the ski area's operational needs, especially where lynx habitat occurs as narrow bands of coniferous forest across mountain slopes.
 3. Recreation developments and operations should be planned in ways that both provide for lynx movement and maintain the effectiveness of lynx habitat.

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4. For mineral and energy development sites and facilities, remote monitoring should be encouraged to reduce snow compaction.
5. For mineral and energy development sites and facilities that are closed, a reclamation plan that restores lynx habitat should be developed.
6. Methods to avoid or reduce effects on lynx should be used in lynx habitat when upgrading unpaved roads to maintenance levels 4 or 5, if the result would be increased traffic speeds and volumes, or a foreseeable contribution to increases in human activity or development.
7. New permanent roads should not be built on ridge-tops and saddles, or in areas identified as important for lynx habitat connectivity.
New permanent roads and trails should be situated away from forested stringers.
8. Cutting brush along low-speed, low-traffic-volume roads should be done to the minimum level necessary to provide for public safety.
9. On new roads built for projects, public motorized use should be restricted. Effective closures should be provided in road designs. When the project is over, these roads should be reclaimed or decommissioned, if not needed for other management objectives.
10. When developing or expanding ski areas and trails, access roads and lift termini should be located to maintain and provide lynx diurnal security habitat.
11. Designated over-the-snow routes or play areas should not expand outside baseline areas of consistent snow compaction by LAU or in a combination of immediately adjacent LAUs, unless designation serves to consolidate use and improve lynx habitat.
This does not apply inside permitted ski area boundaries, to winter logging, to rerouting trails for public safety, to accessing private inholdings or to access regulated by Standard #3, above.
Use the same analysis boundaries for all actions subject to this guideline.
12. Winter access for non-recreation special uses and mineral and energy exploration and development, should be limited to designated routes or designated over-the-snow routes.

Linkage areas

- Objective 1. In areas of intermingled land ownership, work with landowners to pursue conservation easements, habitat conservation plans, land exchanges or other solutions to reduce the potential of adverse impacts on lynx and lynx habitat.
- Standards 1. When highway or forest highway construction or reconstruction is proposed in linkage areas, identify potential highway crossings.
2. Manage livestock grazing in shrub- steppe habitats to contribute to maintaining or achieving a preponderance of mid- or late-seral stages, similar to conditions that would have occurred under historic disturbance regimes.
- Guidelines 1. NFS and BLM lands should be retained in public ownership.
2. Livestock grazing in shrub-steppe habitats should be managed to contribute to maintaining or achieving a preponderance of mid- or late-seral stages, similar to conditions that would have occurred under historic disturbance regimes.

Wildlife

- Guidelines 1. Protect known raptor nest sites. Use spatial and temporal restrictions as necessary based on species-specific requirements for timing, intensity, and duration of proposed management activity, activity type, and surrounding vegetative and topographical elements. Use “Guidelines for Raptor Protection”(USFWS 1999) to establish spatial and temporal buffers for active nests. Forest vegetative manipulation within known nesting territories should be designed to maintain or improve desired nesting and foraging habitat. Consult goshawk management recommendations when designing or implementing projects in habitat for northern goshawk.³ [Desk Guide]
2. Apply seasonal restrictions on motorized travel routes to reduce disturbance in key big game areas such as birthing areas and winter ranges.⁴ [Desk Guide]

³ The goshawk management recommendations, (Reynolds, et al. 1992), Wyoming Sage Grouse Conservation Plan, Partners In Flight Bird Conservation Plan are for conservation purposes only, the guidance contained therein are not standards and do not supercede forestwide or management area standards and guidelines.

⁴ These areas will be delineated on the Travel Map, to be developed after the Record of Decision (for this revision effort) is signed.

3. Where known nests of avian Sensitive or Species of Concern occur, avoid nest disturbance from courtship through fledging. [Desk Guide]
4. When evaluating abandoned mines for closure or other management actions, gates shall be used to protect habitat for bats if public safety and other resource needs can be met. [New – Townsend’s Bat Conservation Plan]
5. In primary potential bighorn sheep habitat, utilize vegetation management options to enhance habitat by improving forage quality and reducing potential migration barriers (conifer encroachment). Provide interpretive opportunities in viewing areas if and where appropriate. [New – Sheep Management Solutions]
6. Manage toward providing elk security areas at the geographic area scale. Elk security areas should be designed to retain elk on the Forest through the fall hunting and summer disturbance periods, and provide contiguous blocks of more dense forested cover for other species. Maintain 20-60% of potential security areas in each geographic area, and work cooperatively with Wyoming Game and Fish to improve areas that are below 20% of potential. Maintain at least 40% of potential security areas at the Forest-wide level. Incorporate security area analysis into travel and vegetation project management decisions to increase availability where feasible. Coordinate with Wyoming Game and Fish in project level analysis of effects and interpretation of modeling results. Refer to the glossary for the definition of desirable security areas and implementation considerations. A map of existing and potential security areas is on file in the administrative record. [1985 Plan modified - hiding cover]
7. Design and build structures such as fences, roads, and canals, so they do not create unnecessary or unreasonable barriers, disruptions, or hazards to wildlife, and to minimize habitat fragmentation. [Desk Guide]
8. Protect habitat integrity and minimize effects to wildlife when developing “Watchable Wildlife” opportunities. [Desk Guide]
9. When considering vegetation management activities maintain two to six turkey-roost sites per section in ponderosa pine communities occupied by turkeys. Sites should contain mature trees with an average diameter (dbh) of 10-14 inches, widely spaced horizontal branches, and basal areas at least 90 square feet per acre. Sites should be at least one-quarter acre in size. Provide sites on the upper third of east facing slopes if available. In areas dominated by ponderosa pine that provide habitat for turkeys, consider published management guidelines (e.g. Hoffman 1993) for turkeys when planning vegetation management projects. [Desk Guide]

10. Avoid the use of highly toxic organophosphate and carbamate insecticides in sage grouse summer use habitats. Consult published management guidelines (e.g., Connelly et al. 2001, Wyoming Sage Grouse Conservation Plan) when considering management activities in potential sage grouse summer habitat.⁷ [New – Sage Grouse Mgmt Guidelines]
11. Consult state and regional Partners In Flight (PIF) Bird Conservation Plans for additional guidance on habitat management for land birds that occur on the Forest, and consider PIF guidelines in design of proposed management actions.⁷
12. Conduct habitat monitoring and implement corrective actions in areas where combined livestock and wildlife grazing are exceeding forage utilization standards in conjunction with Wyoming Game and Fish and livestock permittees. [New – Wildlife Task Force]
13. Control *undesirable* non-native wildlife species in conjunction with Wyoming Game and Fish and other public and private cooperators. *Desirable* non-native species include moose, gray partridge, chukar and turkeys. [New – Wildlife Task Force]
14. When designing communication sites, reduce potential for avian mortality by minimizing the need for lighted structures. [New – Tower Kill Guidelines]

Disturbance Processes

Fire

- Guidelines
1. Apply an appropriate management response⁵ (suppression or fire use) to all ignitions, according to the Forest Fire Management Plan and the following table. [Desk Guide]

⁵ Appropriate Management Response – The response to a wildland fire is based on an evaluation of risks to firefighter and public safety, the circumstances under which the fire occurs, including weather and fuel conditions, natural and cultural resource management objectives, protection priorities and the values to be protected. [Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (January 2001)]

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Table 1-9. Fire management direction for the Bighorn National Forest.

| MA | Unplanned Ignitions Wildland Fire | | | | | Planned Ignitions |
|----------------|--|----------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| | Must be managed as unwanted wildland fires if human-caused, if approved fire use plan does not exist, or when fire presents unacceptable threat to human safety or values to be protected. | | | | | May be implemented by mgmt action authorized by approved plans |
| | Appropriate Management Response Strategies | | | Tactical Options | | Prescribed fire |
| | Prescription Control Wildland Fire Use | Direct Control | Perimeter Control | ME ⁶ | AR ⁷ | |
| 1.11, 1.13, | X | X | X | X ⁸ | X | |
| 1.2 | X | X | X | X ¹³ | X | X |
| 1.31 | X | X | X | X ⁹ | X | X |
| 1.32, 1.33 | X | X | X | XL | X | X |
| 1.5 | X | X | X | X ¹⁰ | | X |
| 2.1, 3.1 | X | X | X | X ¹¹ | X | X |
| 2.2 | X | X | X | X ⁹ | X | X |
| 3.24 | X | X | X | XL ¹² | XL ¹² | X |
| 3.31 | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 3.4 | X | X | X | X ¹⁵ | | X |
| 3.5 | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 4.2 | X ¹³ | X | X | X | X | X |

⁶ ME = Mechanized equipment

⁷ AR = Aerial retardant application

⁸ Mechanized equipment prohibits dozers except with Regional Forester approval but allows use of helicopters, motorized equipment, and mechanical transport with Forest Supervisor approval.

⁹ Mechanized equipment prohibits dozer, but allows for chainsaws, engines, ATVs, and pumps.

¹⁰ Mechanized equipment prohibits dozers or other motorized vehicles, but allows for chainsaws and pumps.

¹¹ Subject to consultation with appropriate parties and/or Historic Preservation Plan (HPP).

¹² Aerial retardant and mechanized equipment, except for chainsaws and pumps, excluded from the 200 ft zone riparian zone unless line officer approved.

¹³ Manage in coordination with adjacent units. Give special attention to recreation and scenery values of the corridor.

| MA | Unplanned Ignitions Wildland Fire | | | | Planned Ignitions | |
|--|--|----------------|-------------------|------------------|--|-----------------|
| | Must be managed as unwanted wildland fires if human-caused, if approved fire use plan does not exist, or when fire presents unacceptable threat to human safety or values to be protected. | | | | May be implemented by mgmt action authorized by approved plans | |
| | Appropriate Management Response Strategies | | | Tactical Options | | Prescribed fire |
| | Prescription Control Wildland Fire Use | Direct Control | Perimeter Control | ME ⁶ | AR ⁷ | |
| 4.3 | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 4.4 | X | X | X | X ¹⁴ | | X |
| 5.11, 5.12, 5.13, 5.21, 5.4, 5.41, 5.5 | | X | X | X | X | X |
| 8.1. 8.22 | | X | | X | X | X |

X – allowed
 XL – allowed with line officer approval for specific incident.

2. Where feasible and appropriate, and as shown in the previous table, utilize wildland fire use to accomplish resource management goals and objectives. In areas covered by specific operational wildland fire use plans (prescriptions), use natural ignitions to accomplish resource management objectives. [Desk Guide]
3. Reduce the threat of wildfire to public and private developments by following guidelines in the National Fire Protection Association Publication 1144, *Standards for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire*. [Desk Guide]
4. Reduce activity fuels resulting from all projects/activities to acceptable levels in a cost effective manner. [1985 Plan, modified]

¹⁴ Mechanized equipment prohibits dozers and prohibits motorized vehicles except on existing roads, but allows for chainsaws and pumps.

Insects and Disease

- Guidelines
1. Use integrated pest management techniques, including silviculture treatments, to meet management area objectives. Base treatment activities on values of, and risks to, wildlife and rare plant habitat and adjacent private lands, as well as public land. Give priority to areas in which values to be protected exceed the cost of protection; for example, areas adjacent to subdivisions, metropolitan areas, recreation sites, or areas of concentrated public use. [Desk Guide]
 2. Consider existing and potential infestation sources in the proximity of the area to be protected where insect and disease disturbances are to be restricted. [Desk Guide]
 3. Apply eradication or suppression methods for gypsy moth, when needed, as determined by surveys, and in accordance with the integrated pest management approach (USDA Forest Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service FEIS; Gypsy Moth Management in U.S., 1996). [Desk Guide]

Non-native and Invasive Species

- Standards
1. Determine the risk of noxious weed introduction or spread and implement appropriate mitigation measures for all proposed projects or activities. Use the “USFS Guide to Weed Prevention Practices” (2001). [Desk Guide]
 2. Use only certified "noxious weed free" hay or straw for feed. [Desk Guide]
 3. Use only certified "noxious weed free" seed, mulch, and straw for revegetation and erosion control projects. [Desk Guide]
 4. Manage invasive plant species using integrated management techniques, including mechanical, chemical, prescribed fire, and biological control methods.
 5. Include provisions that are necessary to prevent the spread of noxious weeds in contracts and permits for use of National Forest System lands and resources. [Desk Guide]
- Guidelines
1. Develop an invasive species management program to include noxious weeds and pest management that addresses the following components: awareness, prevention, inventory, planning, treatment, monitoring, reporting, and management objectives. [Desk Guide]

2. Set priorities for managing invasive plants including noxious weeds based on the following:
 - a. Prevent the introduction of new invaders
 - b. Conduct early treatment of new infestations
 - c. Contain and control established infestations. [Modified from 1985 Forest Plan, page III-45, Desk Guide]
3. Give consideration to the following when setting priorities for the treatment of invasive plants including noxious weeds:
 - a. Overall threat of the species including rate of spread and difficulty of treatment
 - b. Invasions found within special management areas, for example Research Natural Areas, Wildernesses, and other areas of concern
 - c. Probability that the treatment strategy will be successful
 - d. Refer to state of Wyoming Best Management Practices. [Modified from 1985 Forest Plan, page III-45, Desk Guide]
4. Except for initial attack, wash all equipment used in ground disturbing or fire suppression operations prior to arrival on the forest to reduce transport or establishment of noxious weed seeds.

Social

Heritage Resources

- Standard 1. Leave human remains undisturbed unless there is an urgent reason for their disinterment. In case of accidental disturbance of historic graves or re-interment, follow appropriate State or tribal policies. [Desk Guide]
- Guidelines 1. Consult with tribal governments during design of projects with potential to affect cultural values and practices to help ensure protection, preservation, and use of areas that are culturally important to them. [Desk Guide]
2. Protect heritage resources from damage or vandalism through project design, specified protection measures, monitoring, and coordination. [Desk Guide]
3. Enhance and interpret significant heritage sites for the education and enjoyment of the public when such development will not degrade the heritage property or conflict with other resource considerations. [Desk Guide]
4. Protect, find an adaptive use for, or interpret cultural resources on National Forest Service (NFS) lands that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the National Register of Historic Landmarks, or have been determined to be eligible for the National Registers. [1985 Plan]
5. To ensure proper resource protection and to ensure that proper procedures are conducted, refer to the map of Historic Districts in Plan Appendix H during site-specific project planning (36 CFR 800). [New]
6. Nominate or recommend cultural resource sites to the National Register of Historic Places in the following priority: [1985 Plan]
- a. Sites representing multiple themes.
 - b. Sites representing themes which are not currently on the National Register within the state.
 - c. Sites representing themes currently represented by single sites.

Recreation – General

- Standards
1. Allow wheelchair use in nonmotorized areas as long as the wheelchair meets the legal definition of wheelchair, “a device designed solely for use by a mobility impaired person for locomotion, that is suitable for use in an indoor pedestrian area.” (Title V Sections 507c(2) of the American with Disabilities Act)
 2. At all new or reconstructed recreation facilities and sites, provide a range of universally accessible opportunities within the limits of the site characteristics and Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classification. [Desk Guide]
- Guidelines
1. Cooperate with state, tribal and local governments, holders of water rights and other interested parties to maintain enough additional water in associated streams to sustain the water-dependant recreational values. (Generally, WCPH 12.5 (standard 2 of soil, water, riparian and wetland, bullet 7) provides for most recreation-related water uses, but additional water may be needed for special recreational features and heavy use recreational areas.) [Language from Chief Appeal Decision on A/R Plan Revision]
 2. Use *Tread Lightly, Leave No Trace*, and other Forest Service approved environmental education techniques in education and interpretation. [Desk Guide]
 3. Manage vegetation in high use recreation areas, including hazard trees, to provide for public safety and to improve forest health, as needed to maintain or improve the desired recreation setting(s). [Desk Guide]
 4. Allow mountain bikes forestwide unless otherwise prohibited, or because of user conflicts or resource damage. [Desk Guide - modified]
 5. Apply forage utilization standards for recreational livestock and special use pastures that are described in the rangeland vegetation guidelines section. [New]
 6. Use bear-resistant garbage containers, and food storage practices in areas where human/bear interaction problems occur. Convert existing trash facilities at lodges, resorts, and campgrounds through replacement. Provide signing or other educational opportunities for the public, outfitters, and guides. [Desk Guide]
 7. Manage recreation use to stay within the capacity allowed for the prescribed Recreation Opportunity Spectrum objective shown in the following table. [Desk Guide]

Table 1-10. Social setting criteria.

| Primitive | Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized | Semi-Primitive Motorized | Roaded Natural | Rural | Urban |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Usually less than 6 parties per day encountered on trails and less than 3 parties visible at campsite | Usually 6-15 parties per day encountered on trails and 6 or less visible at campsites | Usually 10-20 parties per day encountered on trails and 8 or less visible at campsites | Frequency of contact is moderate to high on roads, low to moderate on trails and away from roads | Frequency of contact is moderate to high in developed sites, on roads and trails, and on water surfaces, moderate away from developed sites. | Large numbers of users onsite and in nearby areas. |

Recreation – Special Uses

- Standard 1. Do not authorized additional resorts or lodges on the forest until expansion at existing resorts is complete. [New]
- Guidelines 1. Continue recreation residence use unless environmental analysis shows a higher need for these lands. Work in partnership with permit holders. [New – from handbook]
- 2. For appraisal purposes, combine isolated sites into summer home groups where access and other attributes have similar value characteristics. [New]

Recreation – Developed

- Standard 1. Design, construct, and manage developed recreation sites according to the adopted Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class, the SIO(s), and Recreation Facility Master Plan, and the Built Environment Image Guide (BEIG). [Desk Guide]
- Guidelines 1. Provide parking, trailhead panels for trail information/interpretation, and appropriate sanitation facilities at trailheads as needed. [Desk Guide]
- 2. Design developed sites adjacent to a wilderness to complement wilderness management objectives. [1985 Plan - modified]
- 3. When planning and operating recreation facilities, consider the following: [Desk Guide]
 - a. Use and demand, including hunting and off seasons
 - b. Budget constraints

- c. Consistent dates of operations
 - d. Weather, site, and road conditions
 - e. Popularity
 - f. Impacts to dispersed sites
 - g. Fire danger
 - h. Adjacent available facilities and use areas
 - i. Concessionaire's needs
 - j. The role of volunteers
 - k. Resource impacts
 - l. Access points or areas served
 - m. Deferred maintenance
4. When closing or offering less than full service in recreation facilities, consider the following “Meaningful Measures” standards: [Desk Guide]
- a. Health and cleanliness
 - b. Safety and security
 - c. Condition of facilities and equipment
 - d. Administration needs
 - e. Visitor expectations, needs and preferences
 - f. Recreation setting and consistency with objectives
5. Where conflicts exist, construct fences around recreation facilities to exclude livestock. [New]

Recreation - Dispersed

- Standards
1. Prohibit, or mitigate through other management practices, dispersed camping, within 100 feet (or high water mark) of lakes larger than 1/4 acre, and perennial streams that are: [1985 Plan - modified]
 - a. State-listed water quality impaired streams
 - b. Along the mainstem of the 6th-level municipal watersheds of Clear Creek, Goose Creek, Tensleep Creek, Shell Creek, Tongue River.
 2. Require overnight campers with recreational livestock to carry feed where forage is limited. Feed shall be free of noxious weed seeds. (Reference FSM 2323.38 and FSH 2309.19-33) [Desk Guide]

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- Guidelines
1. Take the following management actions, in order of priority, if use degrades the desired recreation experience as identified in the given Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class or if the impact of use exceed the specified criterion identified in the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC): [1985 Plan - Modified]
 - a. Educate the public on the issue
 - b. Control access through design
 - c. Regulate season of use
 - d. Restrict the number of users
 - e. Restore or rehabilitate the site
 - f. Close the area or site
 2. Do not allow dispersed camping within ¼ mile of developed campground facilities unless otherwise designated. [New]
 3. Concentrate dispersed sites into areas already impacted. Site management should be consistent with the recreation setting and may include hardening, site pads or dispersed camping designation. Rehabilitate or otherwise mitigate when one or more of the following conditions exist:
 - a. Unacceptable damage is occurring
 - b. Effects of site occupancy exceed the adopted scenic integrity objective
 - c. There are social use conflicts
 4. Evaluate existing dispersed sites within 100 feet of streams or lakes for hardening, closure, or other mitigation. New sites should not be established in these areas. [1985 Plan - Modified]

Scenery Management

- Guidelines
1. Integrate the protection of aesthetic values with all resource planning. Management activities will be consistent with the SIOs and landscape character goals unless otherwise documented in a NEPA decision. [Desk Guide]
 2. Mitigate impacts of construction, i.e. disturbed soils and vegetation damage. Design measures in high and moderate SIO areas to achieve objective within one year; design measures in low SIO areas to achieve objective within three years. [Desk guide, modified]

3. For areas that do not currently meet the SIO, use the interim objective of “rehabilitation.” Rehabilitate existing projects and areas that do not meet the SIOs specified for the area. Set priorities for rehabilitation considering the following: [1985 Forest Plan]
 - a. Relative importance of the area and the amount of deviation from the scenic integrity objectives.
 - b. Length of time it will take natural processes to reduce the scenic impacts so they meet the scenic integrity objective.
 - c. Length of time it will take rehabilitation measures to meet the scenic integrity objective.
 - d. Benefits to other resource management objectives to accomplish rehabilitation.
4. Plan, design, and locate vegetative manipulation in a scale that retains the color and texture of the landscape character, borrowing directional emphasis of form and line from natural features. [1985 Forest Plan]
5. Choose facility and structure design, color of materials, location, and orientation to meet the SIO and landscape character goals for the area. Refer to the Built Environment Image Guide. [1985 Forest Plan]
6. If field analysis identifies a need to correct the inventory of scenic integrity levels and scenic classes, record the correction in an environmental analysis document. Conditions that could warrant a change in scenic integrity objectives are: [Desk Guide]
 - a. Discrepancies in landscape scenic attractiveness.
 - b. Changes in viewer location and concern level.
 - c. Discrepancies in seen area mapping.

Wilderness Resources

- Standards
1. Do not provide interpretive facilities at cultural sites, nor restore or enhance cultural resources for recreation purposes. [1998 Wilderness Amendment]
 2. Utilize a permit system to manage use levels (as defined by combination of area-wide or trail capacities, trail encounters and maximum sites occupied at one time) and patterns during the summer use period based upon the following criteria: [1998 Wilderness Amendment]
 - a. When acceptable use levels, as specified in the individual prescriptions, are exceeded during 20% of the summer use season.
 - b. When acceptable capacities, as specified in the individual prescriptions, in primitive or pristine management areas are exceeded on 10% or more of the days during the summer use season.
 - c. Apply a permit system to an entire wilderness, not just impacted portions of a wilderness.
 3. Prohibit competitive contest events, group demonstrations, ceremonies, and other similar events. [1998 Wilderness Amendment]
 4. Prohibit recreational stock along lakeshores and stream banks except for watering and through-travel. [1998 Wilderness Amendment]
 5. Require users camping overnight with recreational stock to carry cubed, pelleted, or rolled feed and/or certified weed-free hay where grazing is prohibited. [1998 Wilderness Amendment]
 6. Control grazing of recreational stock to maintain natural processes wherever recreational stock grazing may occur and where utilization standards and guidelines are exceeded. [1998 Wilderness Amendment, updated]
 7. Prohibit new permanent rangeland improvement structures other than corrals, fences, or water development. Any new structures must help sustain permitted numbers or protect resource values.[1985 Plan modified]
 8. If current permits are relinquished or terminated, evaluate options to minimize impacts (minimum tool evaluation). [New]

9. Implement revegetation for rehabilitation of areas where natural vegetation possibilities are poor, and only where degradation was due to human activities. Use only genetically local (at the subsection level) native or indigenous species for revegetation. [New]
 10. Control natural insect or disease outbreaks in wilderness only when justified by predicted loss of resource values outside of wilderness. [1998 Wilderness Amendment]
 11. Control problem animals on a case-by-case basis in cooperation with other agencies (FSM 2610) using methods directed at the offending animal but which present the least risk to other wildlife, and/or visitors. [1998 Wilderness Amendment]
 12. Do not allow dogs to harass people, livestock, or wildlife. [1998 Wilderness Amendment, updated]
 13. Do not move or encourage use into more pristine areas to resolve impacts in semi-primitive areas. [New]
 14. Use natural appearing construction techniques to protect wetlands if alternate trail locations are unavailable. [Desk Guide]
- Guidelines
1. Where appropriate, provide printed information at trailheads outside the wilderness. [Desk Guide]
 2. Emphasize minimum impact suppression techniques in all wilderness wildland fire responses. [New]
 3. Use “minimum tools” to accomplish project work. [New]
 4. Limit the total party size to 10 people and 15 head of recreational stock, with an allowance of an additional two (2) people if one member of the party is certified in "Leave No Trace" and has a copy of their certificate in possession. In extremely rare instances, allow parties larger than established limits under permit on a case-by-case basis when compatible with other wilderness management objectives. [1998 Wilderness Amendment]

Administrative

Infrastructure – Dams and Diversions

- Standard 1. Ensure that all embankments higher than six feet and impounding more than 15 acre-feet of water meet Forest Service Manual requirements for dam construction, safety, and compliance with state and federal regulations. [Desk Guide]

Infrastructure – Facilities

- Standard 1. Manage all facilities according to the Facilities Master Plan. [Desk Guide]
- Guidelines 1. Do not retain facilities acquired from land donation, exchange, or purchase unless they serve a definite future purpose and funding is available for their maintenance. [Desk Guide]
- Manage facilities according to the Built Environment Image Guide. [New]

Infrastructure – Travelways

- Standards 1. Manage forest system roads to evaluate whether the road will stay open or be closed or decommissioned using the following criteria: [Desk Guide and 1985 Plan, modified]
- a. Motorized use conflicts with forest plan or road management objectives.
 - b. Use is no longer needed for management purposes.
 - c. Motorized use is incompatible with the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum class.
 - d. Travelways are located in areas closed to motorized use and are not “designated routes.”
 - e. Motorized use creates user conflicts that result in unsafe conditions.
 - f. Physical characteristics of travelway(s) preclude any form of motorized use.
 - g. Travelways do not serve an existing or identified future public need.
 - h. Financing is not available for maintenance necessary to protect resources.
 - i. Use causes unacceptable damage to soil and water resources.
 - j. Wildlife habitat considerations for road density.

- k. Historic use and/or existing right-of-way.
 - l. Consider public health and safety.
 - m. In retaining access, consider management objectives, as defined in the management area desired conditions.
 - 2. On all lands outside of designated travelways, prohibit motorized travel unless the Forest Visitor Map or a Forest Order indicates that such use is specifically allowed. Allow over-snow vehicle use on snow unless specifically restricted. [Desk Guide]
 - 3. Prohibit motorized access from private land where access for the general public is not available, except by special authorization. [Desk Guide]
 - 4. Design, construct, reconstruct, and maintain bridges on National Forest System lands to current Forest Service design standards. [New]
- Guidelines
- 1. Work toward integrating trail systems with other government entities, land owners, and partners. [New]
 - 2. Install designed stream crossing structures where system travelways with motorized use cross perennial streams. Prioritize implementation on impaired streams and municipal watersheds. [New]
 - 3. Use restricted roads and trails (those roads or trails with use restricted by method of travel, or season of use, etc.), when necessary, to accomplish administrative purposes in the following circumstances:
 - a. When prescribed in management prescriptions.
 - b. When authorized by the Forest Supervisor/District Ranger.
 - c. In case of emergency. [1985 Forest Plan]
 - 4. Protect or enhance trails to be retained as part of the designated travelway system during other resource projects. To maintain the desired recreation experience, relocate, reconstruct, or otherwise keep functional those trails disrupted by other management activities. [Desk Guide]
 - 5. Manage road or trail use by seasonal closure if: [Desk Guide]
 - a. Use causes unacceptable damage to soil and water resources due to weather or seasonal conditions.
 - b. Use causes unacceptable wildlife conflict or habitat degradation.

- c. Use results in unsafe conditions due to weather conditions.
 - d. The road(s) or trail(s) serve a seasonal public or administration need.
 - e. The area accessed has seasonal need for protection or non-use.
6. Provide a wide range of recreation opportunities on existing and new (non-wilderness) trail systems, including a variety of motorized and nonmotorized accessibility and difficulty levels. [1985 Plan & desk guide]
- a. Dedicate trails to a single use where clearly necessary to resolve conflicts. Where there are conflicts, decide which trails are available for separate uses and which are to be shared.
 - b. Consider a wide range of universally accessible opportunities for all new construction or rehabilitation proposals.
 - c. Clearly communicate appropriate modes of travel at each trailhead.
7. Meet a scenic integrity objective of "high" (management activities are not evident to the casual viewer and the area appears natural) should be met within the foreground for all National Scenic and Recreation trails (i.e. Bucking Mule Falls). [Desk Guide]
8. Retrofit culverts or other drainage structures as necessary to allow continued beaver use in roaded riparian areas where drainage problems occur. Should beaver need to be removed, arrange for live trapping and moving the animal(s) to another more suited location. [New]

Real Estate – Land Adjustments

- Standard
- 1. In land adjustment activities (including land exchange, purchase, disposal, donation), consider the following: [Desk Guide]
 - a. Evaluate and balance the overall combination of all resource values and factors including wildlife habitat, fisheries habitat, riparian areas, wetlands, cultural resources, recreation opportunities, scenic value, watershed protection, timber resources, rangelands, public access, better federal land management, and other factors.

- b. Consider the effect of land adjustments on sensitive species habitat. Avoid land adjustments that could result in a trend toward federal listing, or loss of population viability for any sensitive species. Convey sensitive species habitat if conveyance would not result in a trend toward federal listing or adversely impact the population viability of the species, or if effects could be mitigated.
- c. Acquire lands that contain resource values identified during scoping as important in contributing toward National Forest System resource management goals and objectives as stated in the forest plan. Examples include wetlands, riparian areas, essential wildlife habitat, threatened or endangered species habitat, sensitive species habitat, significant cultural resources, timber lands, rangelands, and recreation access or values. [Desk Guide]

- Guidelines
- 1. In land adjustment activities (including land exchange, purchase, disposal, donation), consider the following: [Desk Guide]
 - a. Reduction of Forest Service administrative costs and improvement of management efficiency. This includes: reducing miles of landline boundaries and number of corners, eliminating potential encroachments, special uses, title claims, rights-of-way grants and easements, numbers of allotments and intermingled ownership livestock pastures, and other factors which decrease administrative costs and improve management efficiency.
 - b. Reduction of conflicts between Forest Service and private landowner objectives, especially when conflicts are adversely impacting National Forest System management.
 - 2. Evaluate the following when considering opportunities to acquire non-federal lands by purchase or exchange where lands are valuable for National Forest System purposes: [Desk Guide]
 - a. Lands in designated wilderness areas and other Congressionally classified areas.
 - b. Lands with important heritage resources, important paleontological or geologic sites, outstanding scenic values, or critical ecosystems when these resources are threatened by change of use, or when management may be enhanced by public ownership.
 - c. Lakes, streams, flood plains, wetlands, and riparian ecosystems.

- d. Lands with important botanical, wildlife and fishery management areas. This includes lands that provide habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive animals or plants, and rare plant communities.
 - e. Lands needed to protect resource values by eliminating or reducing fire risks or soil erosion.
 - f. Lands needed to consolidate existing National Forest System lands.
 - g. Avoidance of land acquisition where it is likely that the lands will go to patent under the 1872 Mining Law unless the minerals will be donated to the United States.
 - h. Lands that will add significantly to available National Forest goods and services.
 - i. Lands needed to acquire necessary access.
 - j. Lands in a municipal supply watershed when:
 - i. The community does not have the capability to acquire the essential tract
 - ii. The National Forest ownership would protect against existing or potential uses that are incompatible with effective watershed management.
 - iii. The lands are suitable, and will be used for other National Forest programs in addition to watershed protection
 - a. Lands with improvements suitable for National Forest purposes.
 - b. Lands with cave resources.
 - c. Lands with important outdoor recreation values.
3. Evaluate the following when considering opportunities to dispose of lands: [Desk Guide]
- a. Lands in developed areas that have lost or are losing their National Forest character.
 - b. To states, counties, cities, or other federal agencies when disposal will serve a greater public interest, than retention in Federal ownership.

- c. Lands suitable for development by the private sector, when development (such as residential, agricultural, industrial, or recreational) will not adversely affect management of adjoining National Forest System land.
- d. Lands isolated from other National Forest System lands.
- e. Reserved or acquired road rights-of-way parcels that are substantially surrounded by private lands and are no longer needed.
- f. In parcels intermingled with mineral or homestead patents.
- g. Lands encumbered by special use permits and occupied by substantial structural improvements that no longer serve a greater public need.
- h. Lands encumbered with occupancy trespass cases and encroachments involving substantial structural improvements.

Real Estate – Rights-of-Way

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| Standard | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retain existing access rights, where needed, to meet forest plan goals and objectives. 2. Obtain reasonable public and administrative access to all National Forest System lands in the following ways: [Desk Guide] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Require reciprocal grants, where needed, when granting rights-of-way easements across National Forest System lands. b. Reserve in land disposal action, existing and designated inventoried rights-of-way that are needed for implementation of the management plan and to protect them for future construction and occupancy. |
| Guidelines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acquire rights-of-way to provide general unrestricted access for full public use and management activities where needed. [Desk Guide] 2. Actively pursue access rights where needed to meet forest plan goals and objectives. [Desk Guide] |

Lands – Special Uses

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| Standard | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do not approve special use applications for areas adjacent to developed sites unless the proposed use is compatible with the purpose and use of the developed site. [New] |
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- Guidelines
1. Do not approve land use authorizations on National Forest System lands identified for disposal if that occupancy may affect disposal action. [Desk Guide]
 2. Consider special use proposals according to the following priorities: [Desk Guide]
 - a. Activity requests relating to public safety, health and welfare, e.g. highways, power lines and public service improvements.
 - b. Land and land use activities contributing to increased economic activity associated with National Forest System resources, e.g., oil and gas and energy minerals
 - c. Land and land use activities that benefit only private users, e.g., road permits, rights-of-way for power lines, telephone lines, waterlines, etc.

Transportation and Utility Corridors

- Standards
1. Design new or replacement power lines to reduce the risk of electrocuting raptors. Refer to *Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines* (APLIC 1996) or equivalent measures. [Desk Guide]
 2. Conserve existing and designated inventoried utility corridors identified in the forest plan to protect them for future construction and occupancy. [Desk Guide]
 3. Require burial of electrical utility lines of 33 kilovolts or less and telephone lines unless it is not technically feasible. [1985 Plan & Desk Guide]
- Guidelines
1. Consolidate occupancy of transportation or utility corridors and sites wherever possible and compatible. [Desk Guide]
 2. Route overhead power lines in a manner that minimizes visual impacts and conforms to approved corridors. [Desk Guide]
 3. To the extent possible, manage activities within linear corridors to be compatible with the goals of the individual management area prescriptions through which corridors pass. [Desk Guide]
 4. In areas occupied by sage grouse, discourage raptor use of power lines (anti-perching devices or similar measures) to avoid excess predation on sage grouse. [New – Sage Grouse Management Guidelines]
 5. Consider existing and designated inventories rights-of-way that are identified in the *Western Utility Study*, during the development of corridor studies. [Desk Guide]