

Ashley National Forest

Supervisor's Office 355 North Vernal Avenue Vernal, UT 84078

File Code: 1920 Date: February 2023

Route To: 1920; 1950

Subject: 1986 Ashley Forest Plan Correction

To: Ashley National Forest Staff

This letter is to notify you that I have approved a revised correction to our existing 1986 Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). I originally approved this correction on October 14, 2020. However, the 2020 correction erroneously referenced the 2000 Planning Rule rather than the 2012 Planning Rule. Therefore, I am rescinding the October 14, 2020 correction and reissuing this revised correction in accordance with the 2012 Planning Rule Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs).

The correction is needed due to an inconsistency between the current Forest Plan language and the language contained in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Alternative J, the preferred alternative, which was subsequently authorized in the Record of Decision. This correction will remedy that inconsistency.

Should you have any questions regarding this revised correction, please contact Lesley Tullis, Environmental Coordinator (lesley.tullis@usda.gov; 435-781-5103).

SUSAN R. EICKHOFF Forest Supervisor

Attachment:

Revised Administrative Change (Correction) 1 to the 1986 Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan





REVISED ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE (CORRECTION) 1

1986 ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Wildlife and Fish Standard

This is a revised correction to our existing 1986 Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) regarding the wording of a wildlife and fish standard. I originally approved the correction on October 14, 2020. However, the 2020 correction erroneously referenced the 2000 Planning Rule rather than the 2012 Planning Rule. Therefore, I am completing a revised correction in accordance with the 2012 Planning Rule Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs).

The 1986 Forest Plan contains an inconsistency regarding the use of the term sensitive species. Given this inconsistency, an administrative change, in this case a correction, is warranted.

An administrative change, as defined at <u>36 CFR 219.13(c)</u> (2012 Planning Rule), is defined as any change to a plan that is not a plan amendment or plan revision. Administrative changes include the following:

- corrections of clerical errors to any part of the plan;
- conformance of the plan to new statutory or regulatory requirements; or
- changes to other content in the plan (§ 219.7[f]).

This administrative change falls under the "corrections" category. All categories of administrative changes may be made at any time and do not require the preparation of an environmental document under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures.

This administrative change may be made following public notice (§ 219.13[c][2]). The public notice may occur in any way the responsible official deems appropriate (§ 219.16[c])[6]), but at a minimum must be posted online (§ 219.16[c], first paragraph). We provided this revised administrative change (correction) 1 online on our planning website at https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ashley/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5277265 prior to finalizing the change.

Background Information

Forest Plan standard for Wildlife Objective 3 (Forest Plan, p. IV-30) states: "Resource activities will be allowed if they will not adversely affect any T and E or sensitive species."

The Record of Decision (ROD) authorized Alternative J in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), which is the Balanced Resource Alternative and the current Forest Plan. The inconsistency occurs in the language that was written in the FEIS and authorized in the ROD pertaining to wildlife and fish management. Specifically, Chapter II – Comparison of Alternatives states the following for wildlife and fish: "No action will be taken in any alternative that will adversely affect a Threatened or Endangered species" (p. II-36 of the FEIS).

Forest Plan Correction

Because the ROD authorized Alternative J, which the above excerpt pertains to, the language contained in the Forest Plan is incorrect. Considering this information, I am issuing the attached

correction. Please replace p. IV-30 in your copy of the Forest Plan with the attached p. IV-30 which corrects the standard for Wildlife Objective 3 to read: "Resource activities will be allowed if they will not adversely affect any T and E species." I am making this correction to the Forest Plan so that it is consistent with the FEIS and the ROD that authorized the Forest Plan.

Should you have any questions regarding this revised administrative change (correction) 1, please contact Lesley Tullis, Environmental Coordinator (lesley.tullis@usda.gov; 435-781-5103).

SUSAN R. EICKHOFF Forest Supervisor

WILDLIFE AND FISH - CONTINUED

Objective	Standards and Guidelines	Management Areas													
		а	b	d	e	f	g	h	i	k	1	n	N ₁	р	r
	Maintain all streams for a biotic condition index (BCI) of 75 or above and a habitat index (HCI) of 42 or above.		х	х	х	х	х	Х		х	х	х	х	х	х
	Complete aquatic inventories using General Aquatic Wildlife Survey (GAWS) and R-1 stream channel stability ratings on stream orders 3, 4, and 5. Complete inventory of all streams.	x	x	x	х	х	x	Х	x	x	x	x	x	х	x
	Mitigation activities associated with the CUP will be designed and implemented to protect or enhance habitat values for existing fish and wildlife species.		x	x	х	х	x			х	х	х			
	Where feasible, emphasis for terrestrial mitigation from the CUP will be in the area of land acquisition or habitat enhancement projects.		x	х	x	х	х			x	x	х			
	Emphasis for aquatic mitigation from the CUP will be the establishment of minimum stream flows and the physical enhancement of streams affected by the CUP.		x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x			
3. Manage the habitat of all T&E or sensitive plant and animal species to maintain or enhance their status.	Resource management activities will be allowed if they will not adversely affect any T and E or sensitive (Revised Correction 1, February 2023) species.		x	х	x	X	x		x	x	x	x	X	x	x
	Participate with state wildlife agencies in evaluating the potential for reestablishment of the peregrine falcon.	х	x	х	x	х	х			х	x	х	х	х	x
	Give priority to structural habitat improvement work in stream containing Colorado River cutthroat trout strains.	х	x	x	x	x	x	х		х	x	х	х	х	x