



United States Department of Agriculture

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# **Administrative Change**

## **Helena – Lewis and Clark National Forest**

### **2021 Land Management Plan**

**The Helena – Lewis and Clark National Forest is in central Montana and includes approximately 2,883,227 acres in portions of the following counties: Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Fergus, Gallatin, Glacier, Golden Valley, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Powell, Sweet Grass, Teton, and Wheatland.**



Forest Service

Region 1

[May 2024]

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**Lead Agency:**

USDA Forest Service

**Responsible Official:**

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Helena, MT 59601

**For information, contact:**

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**Project website:** [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/hlc/forestplanrevision](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/hlc/forestplanrevision)

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## Overview

The Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest is making an administrative change to Table 4 in Appendix D: Vegetation Classifications and Descriptions. The Forest Plan utilizes the National Technical Guide size class categories that are in 5-inch increments. However, Appendix D displayed incorrect diameter breaks for the small tree and medium tree size classes. Table 4 has been updated with the correct diameter ranges and is shown below. This change will be effective as of May 29, 2024.

Updated Table 4: Forest size classes on the HLC NF

Size Class	Diameter range	Description
Seedling/sapling	0 to 4.9 inches	The seedling/sapling size class represents the early successional stage of development. Forests are dominated by seedlings (less than 4 ½ feet tall) and saplings (less than 5 inches diameter). There may be low numbers of overstory larger trees present. Most trees are less than 40 years old and less than 40 feet tall. On sites of lower productivity (higher elevation, poor soils) or in dense stands, trees in in this class may be older because of their slower diameter growth rates.
Small tree	5 to 9.9 inches	Small size class forests are in the mid-successional stage of development, composed mostly of immature trees 5 to 9.9 inches diameter. Typical tree ages range from 40 to 75 years old. They often have a single canopy layer, but two or more layers are not uncommon, depending on disturbance history and site conditions.
Medium tree	10 to 14.9 inches	Medium size class forests are also in the mid-successional stage of development, where trees 10 to 14.9 inches diameter dominate. Vertical structures vary considerably. Tree age varies depending on species composition, site conditions, and stand density, but is typically 75 to 110 years old. On sites with harsher growing conditions or in stands of very high densities and low growth rates, trees in this medium size class might be substantially older.
Large tree	15 to 19.9 inches	Large size class forests are usually older than those in the medium class. Trees 15 to 19.9 inches diameter dominate. Most trees are over 90 years old, and most stands are in the mid or late successional stage of development. There are sites where trees of large tree size classes are substantially younger or much older.
Very large tree	20+ inches	Very large size class forests represent the oldest stands, where trees $\geq 20$ inches diameter dominate. The larger trees are typically over 130 years old, and some may be several centuries in age. Forests are in the late successional stage of development, and some correlate to old growth forest. These forests typically have a more complex structure than other successional stages.

## Contact Person

For additional information concerning these changes, please contact Deborah Entwistle, Planning and Resources Staff Officer at Helena – Lewis and Clark National Forest- Forest Supervisor’s Office, 2880 Skyway Drive, Helena, MT or by phone at (406) 449-5201.

## Signature and Date

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EMILY PLATT

Forest Supervisor

Helena – Lewis and Clark National Forest

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DATE