

Appendix I: Forest Plan Amendments—Incorporating Habitat Management Direction for the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Population Helena-Lewis and Clark, Kootenai, and Lolo National Forests

Lead Agency: USDA Forest Service

Responsible Officials: William Avey, Forest Supervisor
Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest
2880 Skyway Drive
Helena, MT 59602
406-449-5201

Christopher S. Savage, Forest Supervisor
Kootenai National Forest
31374 U.S. Highway 2
Libby, MT 59923
406-293-6211

Timothy Garcia, Forest Supervisor
Lolo National Forest
24 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59803
406-329-3750

For information, contact: Joe Krueger, Forest Plan Revision Planning Team Leader
Flathead National Forest
650 Wolfpack Way
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-758-5243

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Abbreviations

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DC	desired condition (forest plan component)
DCA	demographic connectivity area
GBCS	Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy
GDL	guideline (forest plan component)
NCDE	Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem
NFS	National Forest System
OMRD	open motorized route density
PCA	primary conservation area
STD	standard (forest plan component)
TMRD	total motorized route density
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Amendment Management Direction

The desired conditions, standards, and guidelines have specific alphanumeric identifiers. All identifiers for the management direction begin with “NCDE” because they are only applicable to the NCDE and are not applicable to other grizzly bear ecosystems. The identifiers are further differentiated as follows:

- area where direction applies (e.g., NCDE or NCDE-HNF Zone 1);
- type of forest plan component (i.e., DC = desired condition, STD = standard, GDL = guideline), or MON = monitoring item;
- resource (e.g., AR = access and recreation, GRZ = grazing, SFP = special forest products); and
- a unique number (i.e., numerical order starting with “01”).

As an example, direction from this amendment for a desired condition associated with access and recreation would be identified as NCDE-DC-AR-01.

For clarity, the plan components have been tailored to each forest plan to reflect whether the various zones and demographic connectivity areas occur on that unit (table 1-1). For example, only those plan components that are applicable to the recovery zone/primary conservation area, zone 1, and the Salish demographic connectivity area are included for the Kootenai National Forest plan since there is no zone 2 or zone 3 on the Kootenai National Forest. See figure 1-1 for the vicinity map of the NCDE national forests and management zones. The section on each Forest includes a Forest-specific map that shows the draft Conservation Strategy management zones.

Table 1-1. Acres of NFS land and percent* of total acres of all lands in each grizzly bear management zone, for each of the forest plans in the NCDE

National Forest	Recovery zone/PCA acres (percent)	Zone 1 including DCA acres (percent)	Zone 2 acres (percent)	Zone 3 acres (percent)
Flathead	2,136,536 (37%)	231,548 (5%)	-	-
Helena	183,758 (3%)	149,207 (3%)	642,786 (14%)	5,792 (< 1%)
Kootenai	118,770 (2%)	283,302 (6%)	-	-
Lewis and Clark	777,963 (14%)	6 (< 1%)	2 acres (< 1%)	972,612 (8%)
Lolo	268,390 (5%)	386,274 (8%)	38 acres (< 1%)	-

Note. DCA = demographic connectivity area, PCA = primary conservation area.

* Percent is Forest's acres of that zone by the total acres for all lands within that zone.

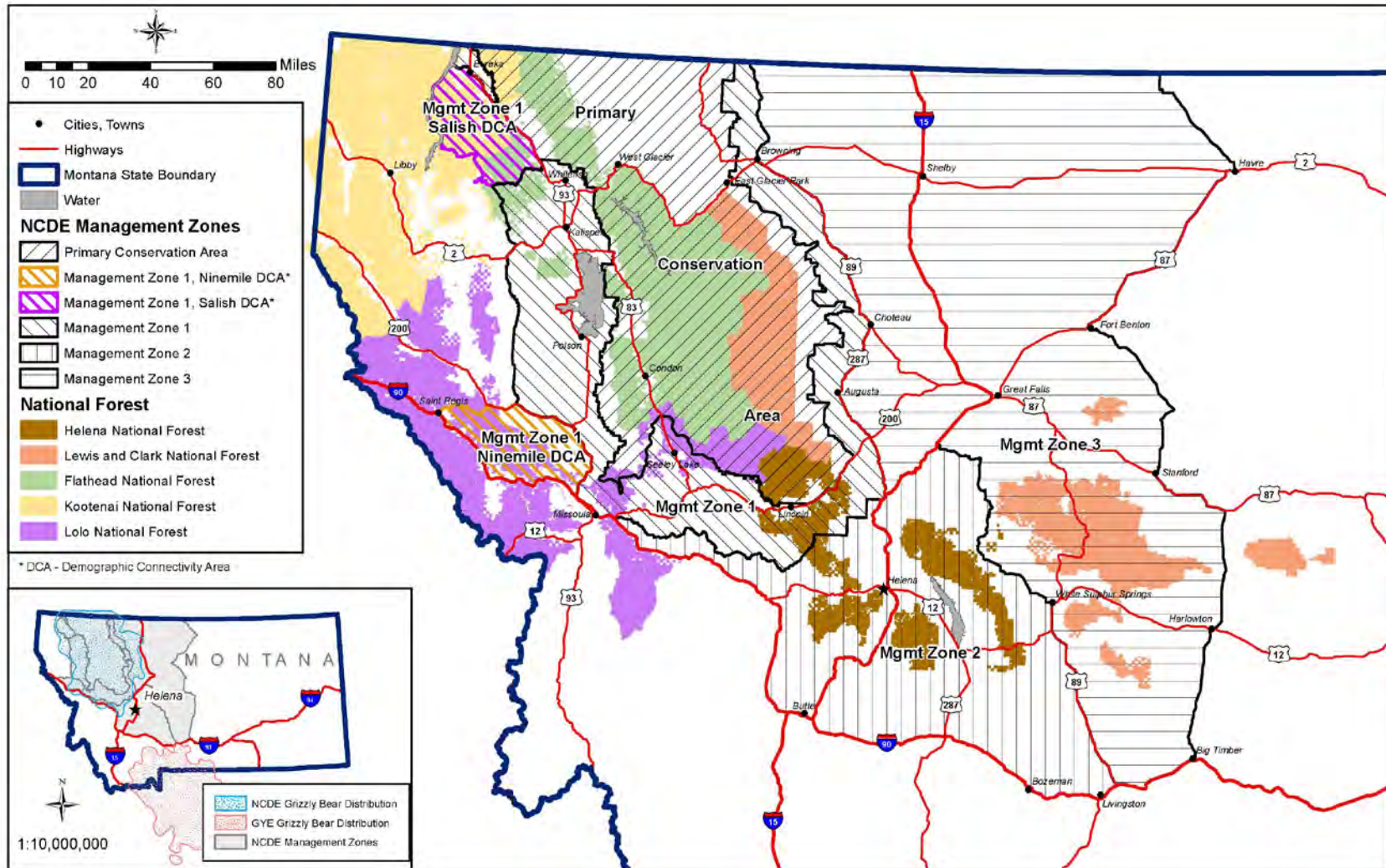


Figure 1-1. The Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem vicinity map, with inset showing NCDE and Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear distributions.

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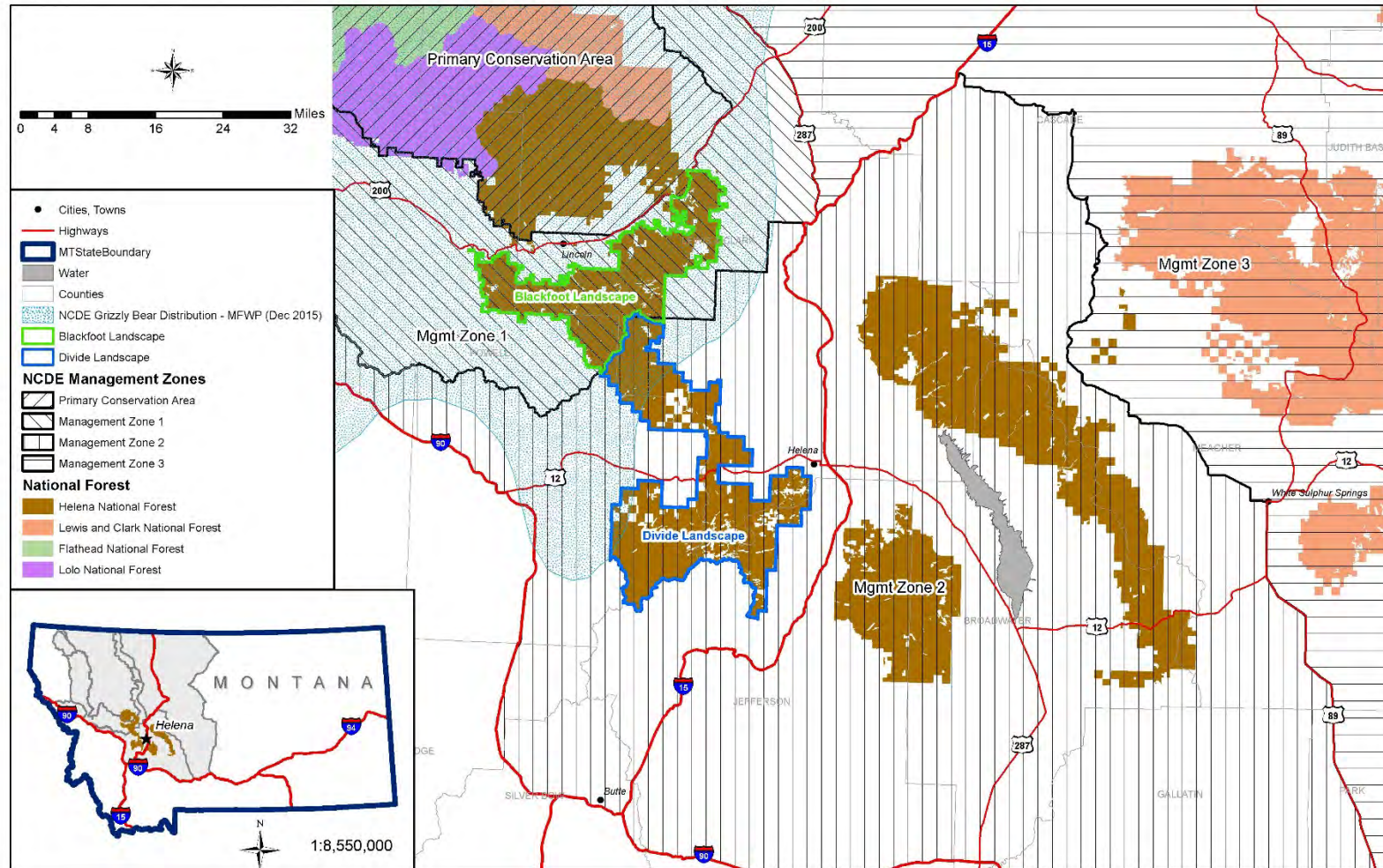


Figure 1-2. Grizzly bear management zones on the Helena National Forest and NCDE grizzly bear distribution (MFWP 2015)

Wildlife (WL)

Desired conditions

NCDE-DC-WL-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, zone 1, and zone 2, bear attractants on NFS lands are stored in a manner that reduces the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts in the NCDE.

NCDE-DC-WL-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, grizzly bear habitat on NFS lands contributes to sustaining the recovery of the grizzly bear population in the NCDE and contributes to connectivity with neighboring grizzly bear recovery zones.

NCDE-DC-WL-03. The risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts is reduced by information, education, and design features or criteria for management activities.

Standards

NCDE-STD-WL-01. Grizzly bear habitat on NFS lands in the NCDE shall be delineated and managed as primary conservation area, zone 1, zone 2, or zone 3 (see figure 1-2 or subsequent USFWS updates if applicable).

NCDE-STD-WL-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, zone 1, and zone 2, food/wildlife attractant storage special order(s) shall apply to NFS lands.

NCDE-STD-WL-03. In each bear management subunit within the NCDE primary conservation area, temporary changes in the open motorized route density, total motorized route density, and secure core shall be calculated for roads used for projects (as defined by “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)”) during the non-denning season (see glossary). Calculations will include estimated changes for each year of the anticipated duration of the project and shall be incorporated into the 10-year running average required by standard NCDE-STD-AR-03.

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-WL-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, zone 1, and zone 2, contractors, permittees, lessees, operators, and their employees should be informed of food/wildlife attractant storage special order(s) and procedures for safely working and recreating in grizzly bear country, prior to turnout of livestock or beginning work and annually thereafter, in order to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.

NCDE-GDL-WL-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, zone 1, and zone 2, if a contractor, permittee, lessee, or operator or their employees elect to camp on NFS lands other than in a developed recreation site, the site should be evaluated and written authorization (i.e., a campsite agreement that includes the food/wildlife attractant storage special order) should be provided before the campsite is established. The purpose is to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.

NCDE-GDL-WL-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, clover should not be used in seed mixes on NFS lands. Native seed mixes or those that are less palatable to grizzly bears should be used so that seeded areas do not become an attractant.

Access and Recreation (AR)

Desired conditions

NCDE-DC-AR-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, motorized access provides for multiple uses (such as harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products; hunting, fishing, and recreation opportunities) on NFS lands while providing open motorized route density, total motorized route density, and secure core levels that contribute to sustaining the recovery of the grizzly bear population in the NCDE.

NCDE-DC-AR-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the number, capacity, and improvements of developed recreation sites provide for user comfort and safety while minimizing the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts on NFS lands.

NCDE-DC-AR-03. Within each bear management unit in the primary conservation area, increases in the number and capacity of developed recreation sites on NFS lands that are designed and managed for overnight use during the non-denning season are at levels that contribute to sustaining the recovery of the grizzly bear population in the NCDE.

Standards

NCDE-STD-AR-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, motorized use of roads with public restrictions shall be permitted for administrative use (see glossary) as long as doing so does not exceed either six trips (three round trips) per week *or* one 30-day unlimited use period during the non-denning season (see glossary). The exception to this standard is:

- emergency situations as defined by 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 218.21.

Note: Administrative use is not included in baseline calculations and is not included in calculations of net increases or decreases. If the level of administrative use exceeds this standard, the use is counted as a project (see “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary).

NCDE-STD-AR-02. In each bear management subunit within the NCDE primary conservation area, there shall be no net decrease to the baseline (see glossary) for secure core and no net increase to the baseline for open motorized route density or total motorized route density on NFS lands during the non-denning season (see glossary). The following conditions are not considered a net increase/decrease from the baseline:

- administrative use (see glossary);
- temporary use of a motorized route for a project (see “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary) that meets the conditions stipulated in NCDE-STD-AR-03;
- mining activities (as authorized under the Mining Law of 1872) and oil and gas activities (as authorized under the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987) conducted in accordance with valid existing rights and applicable standards and guidelines listed under NCDE-MIN;
- updated or improved data on a motorized route without an actual change on the ground;
- changes in technology or projections that result in changed open motorized route density, total motorized route density, or secure core values without actual change on the ground (e.g., a switch from the North American Datum of 1927 to the North American Datum of 1983 geodetic reference system);

- a road closure location is moved a short distance to a better location (e.g., to the nearest intersection or turnout) to allow a turn-around providing for public safety, to reduce vandalism, or to improve enforcement of the road closure;
- the agency exchanges, acquires, buys, or sells lands with motorized routes;
- a change in a motorized route necessary to comply with Federal laws;
- a change in a motorized route necessary to address grizzly bear-human conflicts, human safety concerns, or resource damage or concerns (e.g., a road paralleling a stream may be decommissioned and replaced by a new upslope road to reduce water quality impacts);
- a change made by an adjacent landowner that decreases the percentage of secure core or increases open motorized route density or total motorized route density values on an adjacent national forest;
- use of a motorized route for emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21; and
- temporary roads (see glossary).

NCDE-STD-AR-03. In each bear management subunit within the NCDE primary conservation area, temporary changes in open motorized route density, total motorized route density, and secure core shall be allowed for projects (as defined by “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary). The 10-year running average for open motorized route density, total motorized route density, and secure core shall not exceed the following limits during the non-denning season (see glossary):

- 5 percent temporary increase in open motorized route density in each bear management subunit (i.e., open motorized route density baseline plus 5 percent);
- 3 percent temporary increase in total motorized route density in each bear management subunit (i.e., total motorized route density baseline plus 3 percent); and
- 2 percent temporary decrease in secure core in each bear management subunit (i.e., secure core baseline minus 2 percent).

Exceptions to this standard include

- temporary changes for emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21 and
- temporary changes for actions where valid existing rights preclude or constrain agency discretion (e.g., certain contracts, permits, leases).

Refer to page 1-55 for examples of how to calculate and apply the 10-year running average and temporary increase/decrease.

NCDE-STD-AR-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, a restricted road may be temporarily opened for public motorized use to allow authorized uses (such as firewood gathering), provided the period of use does not exceed 30 consecutive days during one non-denning season and occurs outside of spring and fall bear hunting seasons. However, temporary public use of a restricted road shall not be authorized in secure core (see glossary).

NCDE-STD-AR-05. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the number and capacity of developed recreation sites on NFS lands that are designed and managed for overnight use by the public during the non-denning season (e.g., campgrounds, cabin rentals, huts, guest lodges, recreation residences) shall be limited to one increase above the baseline (see glossary) in the number or capacity per decade per bear management unit. The following conditions are not considered an increase from the baseline:

- the agency obtains better information or updated information in its database(s);

- the agency acquires land that contains developed recreation sites;
- the agency increases the number or capacity of a developed recreation site in order to comply with Federal laws;
- the agency maintains or modifies an existing overnight developed or dispersed recreation site in such a way that does not increase the number or capacity of the site (e.g., installing a pit toilet to avoid damage to water resources or installing a bear-resistant food storage structure to reduce grizzly bear-human conflicts);
- the agency modifies an existing developed recreation site to enhance human safety (e.g., enlarging a road pullout to allow trailers to safely turn around);
- the agency operates a developed recreation site to allow overnight use only during the denning season (see glossary); and
- the agency makes a corresponding reduction in the number or capacity of overnight developed recreation sites in the same bear management unit through any of the following means: (1) equal reduction in capacity at another site; (2) closure of a developed site(s); or (3) consolidation and/or elimination of dispersed camping, when and where it can be enforced effectively and it is reasonably assured that new dispersed sites will not develop nearby. If these measures are used to offset an increase in number or capacity, they must be in place before the initiation of the increase. If the agency reduces the number or capacity of developed sites below baseline levels, these reductions may be used at a future date to mitigate equivalent impacts of an increase, expansion, or change of use in developed sites within that bear management unit.

Note: This standard does not apply to dispersed recreation sites or to developed recreation sites managed for day use only (e.g., outfitter camps, roadside trail crossings, or interpretive pullouts; trailheads, picnic areas, or boat launches that are closed at night; ski areas that do not have overnight lodging).

NCDE-STD-AR-06. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, new or reauthorized recreation permits shall include a clause providing for modification, cancellation, suspension, or temporary cessation of activities if needed to resolve a grizzly bear-human conflict situation.

NCDE-STD-AR-07. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, new or reauthorized permits for ski areas on NFS lands that operate during the non-denning season shall include requirements to limit the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts (e.g., to store garbage in a bear-resistant manner).

NCDE-STD-AR-08. Within modeled grizzly bear denning habitat in the NCDE primary conservation area, there shall be no net increase in the percentage of area or miles of routes designated for motorized over-snow vehicle use on NFS lands during the den emergence time period (see glossary).

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-AR-01. In each bear management subunit within the NCDE primary conservation area, each project (as defined by “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary) should be designed so that on-the-ground implementation does not exceed 5 years to reduce the potential for grizzly bear disturbance or displacement. Exceptions may be made where necessary, for example to accommodate:

- actions where existing rights preclude or constrain agency discretion (e.g., certain contracts, permits, leases);

- prescribed burning (including slash disposal), best management practices to protect water quality, or required reforestation activities; or
- emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21.

If an extension to the five-year time limitation is required (e.g., to meet contractual obligations or to complete on-the-ground treatments), the reasons should be documented in writing prior to authorization of the extension.

NCDE-GDL-AR-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, secure core, open motorized route density, and total motorized route density should be restored to pre-project levels (as defined by “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary) within 1 year after completion of the project to reduce the potential duration of grizzly bear disturbance due to project-related activities. Exceptions may be made where necessary, for example to accommodate:

- actions where existing rights preclude or constrain agency discretion (e.g., certain contracts, permits, leases);
- prescribed burning (including slash disposal), best management practices to protect water quality, or required reforestation activities; or
- emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21.

If an extension to the 1-year time limitation is made (e.g., to meet contractual obligations or to complete on-the-ground treatments), the reasons should be documented in writing prior to authorization of the extension.

NCDE-GDL-AR-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, if the number or capacity of day-use or overnight developed recreation sites is increased, the project should include one or more measures to reduce the risk of grizzly-bear human conflicts in that bear management unit. These measures can include but are not limited to additional public information and education; providing backcountry food-hanging poles or bear-resistant food or garbage storage devices; including design criteria that would limit capacity increases to those needed for public health and safety; and increasing law enforcement and patrols.

Terrestrial Ecosystems Vegetation (VEG)

Desired conditions

NCDE-DC-VEG-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the amount, type, and distribution of vegetation provide for the ecological, social, and economic sustainability of NFS lands while providing habitat components that contribute to sustaining the recovery of the grizzly bear population in the NCDE.

NCDE-DC-VEG-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, there is a mosaic of successional stages to provide for grizzly bear habitat needs over the long term.

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-VEG-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, measures to reduce the risk of disturbance to the grizzly bear population should be incorporated into vegetation and fuels project design criteria, which vary on a site-specific basis (e.g., some activities should be restricted in spring habitat during the spring; areas with low levels of human activity should be provided adjacent to areas with high levels of disturbance). Note: Management activities such as pre-commercial thinning, burning, weed spraying, and implementation of road best management practices may need to be completed during the spring in order to meet resource objectives (especially if needed to prevent resource damage), in which

case other measures should be used to reduce the risk of disturbance (e.g., limiting the duration of the activity or limiting the use of closed roads).

NCDE-GDL-VEG-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, vegetation management activities should be designed to avoid detrimental effects on the grizzly bear population and to include one or more measures to protect, maintain, increase, and/or improve grizzly habitat quantity or quality (e.g., promoting growth of berry-producing shrubs, forbs, or grasses known to be bear foods) in areas where it would not increase the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.

NCDE-GDL-VEG-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, measures to retain cover (where present) along a portion of grass/forb/shrub openings, riparian wildlife habitat, or wetlands should be incorporated in project design criteria (this varies on a site-specific basis).

NCDE-GDL-VEG-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, vegetation management projects (including timber sales and other non-commercial vegetation management contracts) should include a provision for modification, cancellation, suspension, or temporary cessation of activities, if needed, to resolve a grizzly bear-human conflict situation.

NCDE-GDL-VEG-05. To reduce the risk of grizzly-bear human conflicts within the NCDE primary conservation area, vegetation management activities designed to enhance grizzly habitat (e.g., to increase huckleberry production) should not occur in or next to campgrounds, administrative facilities, or other developed recreation sites that operate during the non-denning season.

Grazing (GRZ)

Desired condition

NCDE-DC-GRZ-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the number, capacity of, and improvements on cattle and sheep grazing allotments support ecologically sustainable grazing, and temporary grazing permits are used effectively for management of noxious weeds while minimizing the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts on NFS lands.

Standards

NCDE-STD-GRZ-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, new or reauthorized livestock grazing permits and annual operating plans shall incorporate requirements to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts (e.g., a food/wildlife attractant storage special order). New or reauthorized permits shall include a clause providing for modification, cancellation, suspension, or temporary cessation of activities, if needed, to resolve a grizzly bear-human conflict situation.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, a sheep grazing permit in non-use status shall not be allowed to increase allowable animal unit months beyond what was previously permitted prior to being in non-use when it is returned to use.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, permits for livestock grazing shall include a provision that requires the reporting of livestock carcasses within 24 hours of discovery, which shall be followed by proper disposal of the carcass. Boneyards shall not be established on NFS lands.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, there shall be no increase in the number of active sheep allotments or in permitted sheep animal unit months above the baseline (see glossary) on NFS lands. Allowable animal unit months shall not be increased for inactive allotments.

Note: Existing allotments may be combined or divided as long as doing so does not result in grazing allotments in currently unallotted lands or an increase in animal unit months.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-05. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, there shall be no net increase in the number of active cattle grazing allotments above the baseline (see glossary) on NFS lands. Note: Existing allotments may be combined or divided as long as doing so does not result in grazing allotments in currently unallotted lands.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-06. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, temporary permits for grazing by small livestock for purposes such as controlling invasive exotic weeds, reducing fire risk, or trailing of small livestock across NFS lands shall not result in an increase in bear-small livestock conflicts.

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-GRZ-01. On NFS lands within the NCDE primary conservation area, the number of open or active sheep grazing allotments should be reduced if an opportunity exists with a willing permittee, to reduce the risk of conflicts with grizzly bears.

NCDE-GDL-GRZ-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, an allotment management plan and plan of operation should specify any needed measures to protect key grizzly bear food production areas (e.g., wet meadows, stream bottoms, aspen groves, and other riparian wildlife habitats) from conflicting and competing use by livestock (this varies on a site-specific basis).

Special Forest Products (SFP)

Desired condition

NCDE-DC-SFP-01. National forest system lands provide a variety of public services and special forest products (such as mushrooms, huckleberries, firewood) while minimizing the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts on NFS lands in the NCDE.

Standard

NCDE-STD-SFP-01. Special-use permits for apiaries (beehives) located on NFS lands shall incorporate measures including electric fencing to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts, as specified in the food/wildlife attractant storage special order.

Renewable/Non-Renewable Energy and Mineral Resources (MIN)

Desired condition

NCDE-DC-MIN-01. Mineral materials are available based upon public interest, in-service needs, material availability, and valid existing rights, where consistent with desired conditions for other resources.

Standards

NCDE-STD-MIN-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, mining activities (as authorized under the Mining Law of 1872) and oil and gas activities (as authorized under the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987) occurring on NFS lands, where feasible shall avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate environmental impacts to grizzly bears or their habitat, subject to valid existing rights. Stipulations or mitigation measures already included in existing leases, permits, or plans of

operation on NFS lands shall not be changed, nor will additional stipulations or mitigation measures be added, without the lease, permit, or plan of operation holder's agreement.

NCDE-STD-MIN-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, new or reauthorized permits, leases, and/or plans of operation shall include a provision for modification or temporary cessation of activities if needed to resolve a grizzly bear-human conflict situation.

NCDE-STD-MIN-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, new plans of operation, permits, and/or leases for mineral activities shall include measures to reasonably mitigate potential impacts of mineral development for the following:

- land surface and vegetation disturbance;
- water table alterations that affect bear foods on the surface; and
- construction, operation, and reclamation of mine-related facilities such as impoundments, rights of way, motorized routes, pipelines, canals, transmission lines, or other structures.

NCDE-STD-MIN-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, in addition to measures included in the food/wildlife attractant special order(s), new plans of operation, permits, and/or leases for mineral activities shall include the following measures regarding grizzly bear attractants:

- bear-resistant food storage and garbage containers shall be used at development sites and at any campgrounds or dispersed sites where exploration or production-related human occupancy is anticipated;
- garbage shall be removed in a timely manner;
- road kills shall be removed daily during active operating periods to a designated location determined in close coordination with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks;
- feeding of wildlife shall not be allowed; and
- locations of work camps shall be approved in advance of operations. Food storage requirements shall be strictly adhered to in any work camps.

NCDE-STD-MIN-05. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, if minerals activities have the potential to adversely affect grizzly bears or their habitat as determined by a site-specific analysis, new plans of operation, permits, and/or leases for mineral activities shall include the following mitigation measures, stipulations, or surface use criteria regarding grizzly bear habitat:

- ground-disturbing activities in identified grizzly bear spring habitat (as identified in a site-specific biological evaluation or other environmental document) shall be avoided between April 1 and June 30. If timing restrictions are not practicable, other measures shall be taken to reasonably mitigate negative impacts of mineral activity to grizzly bears;
- seismic activity in identified grizzly bear denning habitat (as identified in a site-specific biological evaluation or other environmental document) shall be avoided during the denning season (see glossary). If timing restrictions are not practicable, other measures shall be taken to reasonably mitigate negative impacts to the grizzly bear;
- cumulative impacts of multiple concurrent seismic and/or drilling operations shall be limited by timing restrictions. If timing restrictions are not practicable, reasonable and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate negative impacts to the grizzly bear;
- reasonable and appropriate measures regarding the maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, or mitigation of functioning aquatic systems and riparian habitat conservation areas shall identify how

reclamation will occur, plant species to be used in reclamation, a timeframe of when reclamation will be completed, and monitoring criteria; and

- reclamation and revegetation of motorized routes, drilling pads, and other areas disturbed by mineral activities shall be completed as soon as practicable by the operator.

NCDE-STD-MIN-06. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, if mineral activities have the potential to adversely affect grizzly bears or their habitat as determined by a site-specific analysis, new plans of operation, permits, and/or leases shall include the following mitigation measures regarding motorized access:

- public motorized use that is not associated with minerals activities shall be prohibited on motorized routes constructed for exploration and/or development;
- a traffic management plan shall be developed as part of the proposed activity to identify when and how motorized routes will be used, maintained, and monitored (if required) and how motorized route standards and guidelines will be implemented after activities have ended;
- helicopter use associated with seismic activity, exploration, drilling, or development must follow an approved plan or permit; and
- speed limits shall be adopted on motorized routes if needed to prevent or reduce collisions with grizzly bears.

NCDE-STD-MIN-07. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, minerals contractors and lessees shall require employees to attend training related to safely living near and working in grizzly bear habitat prior to starting work and on an annual basis thereafter.

NCDE-STD-MIN-08. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, new leases for leasable minerals shall include a no surface occupancy stipulation (see glossary).

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-MIN-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, in addition to forestwide guidelines, the following guidelines apply to new leasable minerals activities, including leases, surface use plans for proposed wells or operations, and permits to conduct seismic exploration or drilling. To reduce potential grizzly bear disturbance or displacement, helicopter use plans should:

- avoid establishing recurring helicopter use (see glossary), especially in spring habitats or other known important grizzly bear habitats or use areas; and
- avoid establishing landing zones, especially in spring habitats or other known important grizzly bear habitats or use areas. If a landing zone is deemed necessary for safe implementation of the seismic or surface use plan or permit to drill, the landing zone should be constructed only in an area that has had site-specific analysis and approval.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, leasable energy activities should use the best available noise-reduction technology on equipment and motorized vehicles to reduce potential disturbance or displacement of grizzly bears, whenever possible.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, along motorized routes, seismic corridors, and pipelines constructed for leasable energy activities, wildlife cover should be maintained at regular intervals where present (this varies on a site-specific basis) in order to provide habitat connectivity for grizzly bears.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, for locatable and non-energy leasable minerals activities with the potential to adversely affect the grizzly bear or its habitat (this varies on a site-specific basis), the following tiered measures should be considered to mitigate impacts to grizzly bear habitat. Beginning at step 1, any subsequent steps would be implemented only if the prior steps are not possible or achievable.

- Step 1: The operator should reclaim the affected area back to suitable bear habitat that has similar or improved characteristics and qualities compared to the original habitat (such as the same native vegetation).
- Step 2: If step 1 is not attainable, operators should either acquire a perpetual conservation easement (or easements) or purchase comparable or better replacement grizzly bear habitat within the primary conservation area. Acquisition of habitat within connectivity corridors could also be considered for mitigation, when appropriate. Habitat acquired for mitigation may require a purchase rate of > 1:1 on an acreage basis, depending on the quality of habitat degraded and habitat available for acquisition.
- Step 3: If steps 1 and 2 are not achievable, the next option is to offset negative effects to bears and grizzly bear habitat with other appropriate types of actions.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-05. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, carrying bear deterrent spray should be recommended to mineral permittees, lessees and operators to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-06. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, available resources at existing gravel pits should be used before constructing new pits to reduce the risk of grizzly bear disturbance or displacement associated with blasting of rock or crushing of gravel.

Helena National Forest—Zone 1

Desired conditions

NCDE-HNF Zone 1-DC-01. Within zone 1 on the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest (see figure 1-2), roads and trails provide for public and administrative access to NFS lands. Grizzly bear habitat in zone 1 contributes to sustaining the recovery of the grizzly bear population in the NCDE and providing the opportunity for movement of male bears to provide genetic connectivity with the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

NCDE-HNF Zone 1&2-DC-02. On the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest, within zone 1 and the portion of zone 2 west of Interstate 15, NFS lands adjacent to highways are consolidated and other efforts to reduce barriers to genetic connectivity of grizzly bear populations are supported.

Standard

NCDE-HNF Zone 1-STD-01. Within zone 1 on the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest (see figure 1-2), there shall be no net increase above the baseline in density of motorized routes (roads and trails) open to public motorized use during the non-denning season on NFS lands. Open motorized route density is calculated by dividing the total miles of open motorized routes on NFS lands in zone 1 by the total square miles of NFS land area in that same area (see figure 1-2). This standard does not apply to the following:

- motorized use by agency personnel or others authorized by the appropriate agency personnel;

- temporarily opening a road for a short period of time to allow for public firewood gathering and other authorized use;
- updated or improved road data without an actual change on the ground;
- changes in technology or projections that result in changed calculations without actual change on the ground (e.g., a switch in geodetic systems from the North American Datum of 1927 to the North American Datum of 1983);
- a road closure location is moved a short distance to a better location (e.g., to the nearest intersection or turnout) to allow a turn-around providing for public safety, to reduce vandalism, or to improve enforcement of the road closure;
- the agency exchanges, acquires, buys, or sells lands with motorized routes;
- a change in an open road necessary to comply with Federal laws;
- motorized use for mining activities (as authorized under the Mining Law of 1872) and oil and gas activities (as authorized under the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987) conducted in accordance with valid existing rights and applicable standards and guidelines;
- a change in a motorized route necessary to address grizzly bear-human conflicts, resource damage, or human safety concerns;
- use of motorized routes in emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21; and
- temporary roads (see glossary).

Kootenai National Forest Plan Amendment

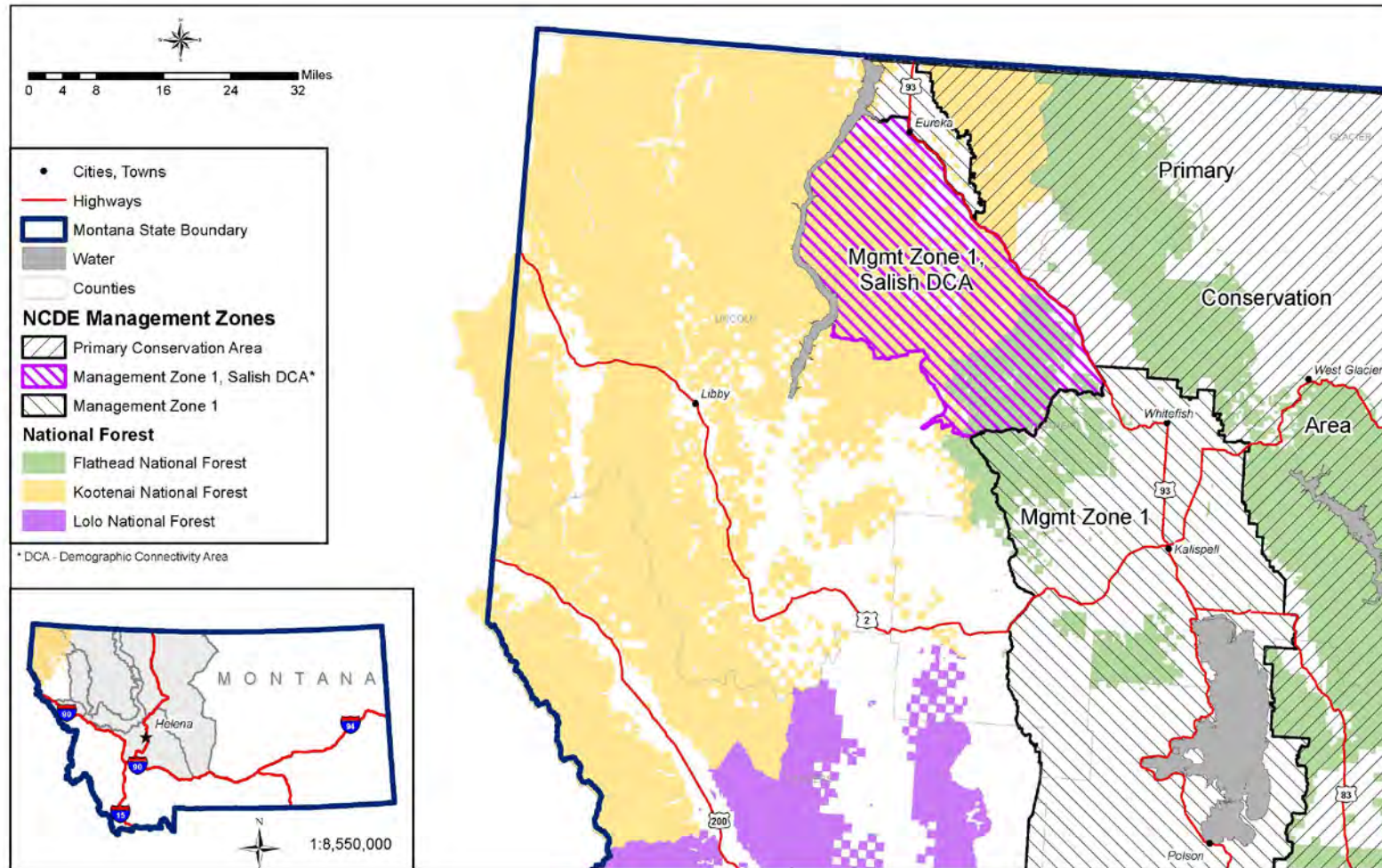


Figure 1-3. Grizzly bear management zones on the Kootenai National Forest

Wildlife (WL)

Desired conditions

NCDE-DC-WL-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), bear attractants on NFS lands are stored in a manner that reduces the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts in the NCDE.

NCDE-DC-WL-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), grizzly bear habitat on NFS lands contributes to sustaining the recovery of the grizzly bear population in the NCDE and contributes to connectivity with neighboring grizzly bear recovery zones.

NCDE-DC-WL-03. The risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts is reduced by information, education, and design features or criteria for management activities.

Standards

NCDE-STD-WL-01. Grizzly bear habitat on NFS lands in the NCDE shall be delineated and managed as primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area) (see Figure 1-3 or subsequent USFWS updates if applicable).

NCDE-STD-WL-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), food/wildlife attractant storage special order(s) shall apply to NFS lands.

NCDE-STD-WL-03. In each bear management subunit within the NCDE primary conservation area, temporary changes in the open motorized route density, total motorized route density, and secure core shall be calculated for roads used for projects (as defined by “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)”) during the non-denning season (see glossary). Calculations will include estimated changes for each year of the anticipated duration of the project and will be incorporated into the 10-year running average required by standard NCDE-STD-AR-03.

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-WL-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), contractors, permittees, lessees, operators, and their employees should be informed of food/wildlife attractant storage special order(s) and procedures for safely working and recreating in grizzly bear country, prior to turnout of livestock or beginning work and annually thereafter, in order to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.

NCDE-GDL-WL-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), if a contractor, permittee, lessee, operator or their employees elect to camp on NFS lands other than in a developed recreation site, the site should be evaluated and written authorization (i.e., a campsite agreement that includes the food/wildlife attractant storage special order) should be provided before the campsite is established. The purpose is to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.

NCDE-GDL-WL-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), clover should not be used in seed mixes on NFS lands. Native seed mixes or those that are less palatable to grizzly bears should be used so that seeded areas do not become an attractant.

Access and Recreation (AR)

Desired conditions

NCDE-DC-AR-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, motorized access provides for multiple uses (such as harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products; hunting, fishing, and recreation opportunities) on NFS lands while providing open motorized route density, total motorized route density, and secure core levels that contribute to sustaining the recovery of the grizzly bear population in the NCDE.

NCDE-DC-AR-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the number, capacity, and improvements of developed recreation sites provide for user comfort and safety while minimizing the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts on NFS lands.

NCDE-DC-AR-03. Within each bear management unit in the primary conservation area, increases in the number and capacity of developed recreation sites on NFS lands that are designed and managed for overnight use during the non-denning season are at levels that contribute to sustaining the recovery of the grizzly bear population in the NCDE.

Standards

NCDE-STD-AR-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, motorized use of roads with public restrictions shall be permitted for administrative use (see glossary) as long as doing so does not exceed either six trips (three round trips) per week *or* one 30-day unlimited use period during the non-denning season (see glossary). The exception to this standard is:

- emergency situations as defined by 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 218.21.

Note: Administrative use is not included in baseline calculations and is not included in calculations of net increases or decreases. If the level of administrative use exceeds this standard, the use is counted as a project (see “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary).

NCDE-STD-AR-02. In each bear management subunit within the NCDE primary conservation area, there shall be no net decrease to the baseline (see glossary) for secure core and no net increase to the baseline for open motorized route density open motorized route density or total motorized route density on NFS lands during the non-denning season (see glossary). The following conditions are not considered a net increase/decrease from the baseline:

- administrative use (see glossary);
- temporary use of a motorized route for a project (see “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary) that meets the conditions stipulated in NCDE-STD-AR-03;
- mining activities (as authorized under the Mining Law of 1872) and oil and gas activities (as authorized under the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987) conducted in accordance with valid existing rights and applicable standards and guidelines listed under NCDE-MIN;
- updated or improved data on a motorized route without an actual change on the ground;
- changes in technology or projections that result in changed open motorized route density, total motorized route density, or secure core values without actual change on the ground (e.g., a switch from the North American Datum of 1927 to the North American Datum of 1983 geodetic reference system);

- a road closure location is moved a short distance to a better location (e.g., to the nearest intersection or turnout) to allow a turn-around providing for public safety, to reduce vandalism, or to improve enforcement of the road closure;
- the agency exchanges, acquires, buys, or sells lands with motorized routes;
- a change in a motorized route necessary to comply with Federal laws;
- a change in a motorized route necessary to address grizzly bear-human conflicts, human safety concerns, or resource damage/concerns (e.g., a road paralleling a stream may be decommissioned and replaced by a new upslope road to reduce water quality impacts);
- a change made by an adjacent landowner that decreases the percentage of secure core or increases open motorized route density or total motorized route density values on an adjacent national forest;
- use of a motorized route for emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21; and
- temporary roads (see glossary).

NCDE-STD-AR-03. In each bear management subunit within the NCDE primary conservation area, temporary changes in open motorized route density, total motorized route density, and secure core shall be allowed for projects (as defined by “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary). The 10-year running average for open motorized route density, total motorized route density, and secure core shall not exceed the following limits during the non-denning season (see glossary):

- 5 percent temporary increase in open motorized route density in each bear management subunit (i.e., open motorized route density baseline plus 5 percent);
- 3 percent temporary increase in total motorized route density in each bear management subunit (i.e., total motorized route density baseline plus 3 percent); and
- 2 percent temporary decrease in secure core in each bear management subunit (i.e., secure core baseline minus 2 percent).

Exceptions to this standard include

- temporary changes for emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21; and
- temporary changes for actions where valid existing rights preclude or constrain agency discretion (e.g., certain contracts, permits, leases).

Refer to page 1-55 for examples of how to calculate and apply the 10-year running average and temporary increase/decrease.

NCDE-STD-AR-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, a restricted road may be temporarily opened for public motorized use to allow authorized uses (such as firewood gathering), provided the period of use does not exceed 30 consecutive days during one non-denning season and occurs outside of spring and fall bear hunting seasons. However, temporary public use of a restricted road shall not be authorized in secure core (see glossary).

NCDE-STD-AR-05. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the number and capacity of developed recreation sites on NFS lands that are designed and managed for overnight use by the public during the non-denning season (e.g., campgrounds, cabin rentals, huts, guest lodges, recreation residences) shall be limited to one increase above the baseline (see glossary) in the number or capacity per decade per bear management unit. The following conditions are not considered an increase from the baseline:

- the agency obtains better information or updated information in its database(s);

- the agency acquires land that contains developed recreation sites;
- the agency increases the number or capacity of a developed recreation site in order to comply with Federal laws;
- the agency maintains or modifies an existing overnight developed or dispersed recreation site in such a way that does not increase the number or capacity of the site (e.g., installing a pit toilet to avoid damage to water resources or installing a bear-resistant food storage structure to reduce grizzly bear-human conflicts);
- the agency modifies an existing developed recreation site to enhance human safety (e.g., enlarging a road pullout to allow trailers to safely turn around);
- the agency operates a developed recreation site to allow overnight use only during the denning season (see glossary); and
- the agency makes a corresponding reduction in the number or capacity of overnight developed recreation sites in the same bear management unit through any of the following means: (1) equal reduction in capacity at another site; (2) closure of a developed site(s); or (3) consolidation and/or elimination of dispersed camping, when and where it can be enforced effectively and it is reasonably assured that new dispersed sites will not develop nearby. If these measures are used to offset an increase in number or capacity, they must be in place before the initiation of the increase. If the agency reduces the number or capacity of developed sites below baseline levels, these reductions may be used at a future date to mitigate equivalent impacts of an increase, expansion, or change of use in developed sites within that bear management unit.

Note: This standard does not apply to dispersed recreation sites or to developed recreation sites managed for day use only (e.g., outfitter camps, roadside trail crossings, or interpretive pullouts; trailheads, picnic areas, or boat launches that are closed at night; ski areas that do not have overnight lodging).

NCDE-STD-AR-06. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, new or reauthorized recreation permits shall include a clause providing for modification, cancellation, suspension, or temporary cessation of activities if needed to resolve a grizzly bear-human conflict situation.

NCDE-STD-AR-07. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, new or reauthorized permits for ski areas on NFS lands that operate during the non-denning season shall include requirements to limit the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts (e.g., to store garbage in a bear-resistant manner).

NCDE-STD-AR-08. Within modeled grizzly bear denning habitat in the NCDE primary conservation area, there shall be no net increase in the percentage of area or miles of routes designated for motorized over-snow vehicle use on NFS lands during the den emergence time period (see glossary).

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-AR-01. In each bear management subunit within the NCDE primary conservation area, each project (as defined by “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary) should be designed so that on-the-ground implementation does not exceed 5 years to reduce the potential duration of grizzly bear disturbance or displacement due to project-related activities. Exceptions may be made where necessary, for example to accommodate:

- actions where existing rights preclude or constrain agency discretion (e.g., certain contracts, permits, leases);

- prescribed burning (including slash disposal), best management practices to protect water quality, or required reforestation activities; or
- emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21.

If an extension to the five-year time limitation is required (e.g., to meet contractual obligations or to complete on-the-ground treatments), the reasons should be documented in writing prior to authorization of the extension.

NCDE-GDL-AR-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, secure core, open motorized route density, and total motorized route density should be restored to pre-project levels (as defined by “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary) within 1 year after completion of the project to reduce the potential duration of grizzly bear disturbance due to project-related activities. Exceptions may be made where necessary, for example to accommodate:

- actions where existing rights preclude or constrain agency discretion (e.g., certain contracts, permits, leases);
- prescribed burning (including slash disposal), best management practices to protect water quality, or required reforestation activities; or
- emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21.

If an extension to the 1-year time limitation is made (e.g., to meet contractual obligations or to complete on-the-ground treatments), the reasons should be documented in writing prior to authorization of the extension.

NCDE-GDL-AR-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, if the number or capacity of day-use or overnight developed recreation sites is increased, the project should include one or more measures to reduce the risk of grizzly-bear human conflicts in that bear management unit. These measures can include but are not limited to: additional public information and education; providing backcountry food-hanging poles or bear-resistant food or garbage storage devices; including design criteria that would limit capacity increases to those needed for public health and safety; and increasing law enforcement and patrols.

Terrestrial Ecosystems Vegetation (VEG)

Desired conditions

NCDE-DC-VEG-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the amount, type, and distribution of vegetation provide for the ecological, social, and economic sustainability of NFS lands while providing habitat components that contribute to sustaining the recovery of the grizzly bear population in the NCDE.

NCDE-DC-VEG-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, there is a mosaic of successional stages to provide for grizzly bear habitat needs over the long term.

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-VEG-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, measures to reduce the risk of disturbance to the grizzly bear population should be incorporated into vegetation and fuels project design criteria, which vary on a site-specific basis (e.g., some activities should be restricted in spring habitat during the spring; areas with low levels of human activity should be provided adjacent to areas with high levels of disturbance). Note: Management activities such as pre-commercial thinning, burning, weed spraying, and implementation of road best management practices may need to be completed during the spring in order to meet resource objectives (especially if needed to prevent resource damage), in which

case other measures should be used to reduce the risk of disturbance (e.g., limiting the duration of the activity or limiting the use of closed roads).

NCDE-GDL-VEG-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, vegetation management activities should be designed to avoid detrimental effects on the grizzly bear population and to include one or more measures to protect, maintain, increase, and/or improve grizzly habitat quantity or quality (e.g., promoting growth of berry-producing shrubs, forbs, or grasses known to be bear foods) in areas where it would not increase the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.

NCDE-GDL-VEG-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, measures to retain cover (where present) along a portion of grass/forb/shrub openings, riparian wildlife habitat, or wetlands should be incorporated in project design criteria (this varies on a site-specific basis).

NCDE-GDL-VEG-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, vegetation management projects (including timber sales and other non-commercial vegetation management contracts) should include a provision for modification, cancellation, suspension, or temporary cessation of activities, if needed, to resolve a grizzly bear-human conflict situation.

NCDE-GDL-VEG-05. To reduce the risk of grizzly-bear human conflicts within the NCDE primary conservation area, vegetation management activities designed to enhance grizzly habitat (e.g., to increase huckleberry production) should not occur in or next to campgrounds, administrative facilities, or other developed recreation sites that operate during the non-denning season.

Grazing (GRZ)

Desired condition

NCDE-DC-GRZ-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the number, capacity of, and improvements on cattle and sheep grazing allotments support ecologically sustainable grazing, and temporary grazing permits are used effectively for management of noxious weeds while minimizing the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts on NFS lands.

Standards

NCDE-STD-GRZ-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), new or reauthorized livestock grazing permits and annual operating plans shall incorporate requirements to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts (e.g., a food/wildlife attractant storage special order). New or reauthorized permits shall include a clause providing for modification, cancellation, suspension, or temporary cessation of activities, if needed, to resolve a grizzly bear-human conflict situation.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, a sheep grazing permit in non-use status shall not be allowed to increase allowable animal unit months beyond what was previously permitted prior to being in non-use when it is returned to use. Note: The Kootenai National Forest does not have any sheep allotments.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), permits for livestock grazing shall include a provision that requires the reporting of livestock carcasses within 24 hours of discovery, which shall be followed by proper disposal of the carcass. Boneyards shall not be established on NFS lands.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), there shall be no net increase in the number of active sheep allotments or in permitted sheep animal unit months above the baseline (see glossary) on NFS lands. Allowable animal unit months shall not be increased for inactive allotments. Note: Existing allotments may be combined or divided as long as doing so does not result in grazing allotments in currently unallotted lands or an increase in animal unit months.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-05. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, there shall be no net increase in the number of active cattle grazing allotments above the baseline (see glossary) on NFS lands. Note: Existing allotments may be combined or divided as long as doing so does not result in grazing allotments in currently unallotted lands.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-06. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), temporary permits for grazing by small livestock for purposes such as controlling invasive exotic weeds, reducing fire risk, or trailing of small livestock across NFS lands shall not result in an increase in bear-small livestock conflicts.

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-GRZ-01. On NFS lands within the NCDE primary conservation area, the number of open or active sheep grazing allotments should be reduced if an opportunity exists with a willing permittee, to reduce the risk of conflicts with grizzly bears.

NCDE-GDL-GRZ-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, an allotment management plan and plan of operation should specify any needed measures to protect key grizzly bear food production areas (e.g., wet meadows, stream bottoms, aspen groves, other riparian wildlife habitats) from conflicting and competing use by livestock (this varies on a site-specific basis).

Special Forest Products (SFP)

Desired condition

NCDE-DC-SFP-01. National Forest System lands provide a variety of public services and special forest products (such as mushrooms, huckleberries, firewood) while minimizing the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts on NFS lands in the NCDE.

Standard

NCDE-STD-SFP-01. Special-use permits for apiaries (beehives) located on NFS lands shall incorporate measures including electric fencing to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts, as specified in the food/wildlife attractant storage special order.

Renewable/Non-Renewable Energy and Mineral Resources (MIN)

Desired condition

NCDE-DC-MIN-01. Mineral materials are available based upon public interest, in-service needs, material availability, and valid existing rights, where consistent with desired conditions for other resources.

Standards

NCDE-STD-MIN-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), mining activities (as authorized under the Mining Law of 1872) and oil and gas activities (as authorized under the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987) occurring on NFS lands, where feasible shall avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate environmental impacts to grizzly bears or their habitat, subject to valid existing rights. Stipulations or mitigation measures already included in existing leases, permits, or plans of operation on NFS lands shall not be changed, nor will additional stipulations or mitigation measures be added, without the lease, permit, or plan of operation holder's agreement.

NCDE-STD-MIN-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), new or reauthorized permits, leases, and/or plans of operation shall include a provision for modification or temporary cessation of activities if needed to resolve a grizzly bear-human conflict situation.

NCDE-STD-MIN-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), new plans of operation, permits, and/or leases for mineral activities shall include measures to reasonably mitigate potential impacts of mineral development for the following:

- land surface and vegetation disturbance;
- water table alterations that affect bear foods on the surface; and
- construction, operation, and reclamation of mine-related facilities such as impoundments, rights of way, motorized routes, pipelines, canals, transmission lines, or other structures.

NCDE-STD-MIN-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), in addition to measures included in the food/wildlife attractant special order(s), new plans of operation, permits, and/or leases for mineral activities shall include the following measures regarding grizzly bear attractants:

- bear-resistant food storage and garbage containers shall be used at development sites and at any campgrounds or dispersed sites where exploration or production-related human occupancy is anticipated;
- garbage shall be removed in a timely manner;
- road kills shall be removed daily during active operating periods to a designated location determined in close coordination with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks;
- feeding of wildlife shall not be allowed; and
- locations of work camps shall be approved in advance of operations. Food storage requirements shall be strictly adhered to in any work camps.

NCDE-STD-MIN-05. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), if minerals activities have the potential to adversely affect grizzly bears or their habitat as determined by a site-specific analysis, new plans of operation, permits, and/or leases for mineral activities shall include the following mitigation measures, stipulations, or surface use criteria regarding grizzly bear habitat:

- ground-disturbing activities in identified grizzly bear spring habitat (as identified in a site-specific biological evaluation or other environmental document) shall be avoided between April 1 and June 30. If timing restrictions are not practicable, other measures shall be taken to reasonably mitigate negative impacts of mineral activity to grizzly bears;

- seismic activity in identified grizzly bear denning habitat (as identified in a site-specific biological evaluation or other environmental document) shall be avoided during the denning season (see glossary). If timing restrictions are not practicable, other measures shall be taken to reasonably mitigate negative impacts to the grizzly bear;
- cumulative impacts of multiple concurrent seismic and/or drilling operations shall be limited by timing restrictions. If timing restrictions are not practicable, reasonable and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate negative impacts to the grizzly bear;
- reasonable and appropriate measures regarding the maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, or mitigation of functioning aquatic systems and riparian habitat conservation areas shall identify how reclamation will occur, plant species to be used in reclamation, a timeframe of when reclamation will be completed, and monitoring criteria; and
- reclamation and revegetation of motorized routes, drilling pads, and other areas disturbed by mineral activities shall be completed as soon as practicable by the operator.

NCDE-STD-MIN-06. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), if mineral activities have the potential to adversely affect grizzly bears or their habitat as determined by a site-specific analysis, new plans of operation, permits, and/or leases shall include the following mitigation measures regarding motorized access:

- public motorized use that is not associated with minerals activities shall be prohibited on motorized routes constructed for exploration and/or development;
- a traffic management plan shall be developed as part of the proposed activity to identify when and how motorized routes will be used, maintained, and monitored (if required) and how motorized route standards and guidelines will be implemented after activities have ended;
- helicopter use associated with seismic activity, exploration, drilling, or development must follow an approved plan or permit; and
- speed limits shall be adopted on motorized routes if needed to prevent or reduce collisions with grizzly bears.

NCDE-STD-MIN-07. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), minerals contractors and lessees shall require employees to attend training related to safely living near and working in grizzly bear habitat prior to starting work and on an annual basis thereafter.

NCDE-STD-MIN-08. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, new leases for leasable minerals shall include a no surface occupancy stipulation (see glossary).

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-MIN-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), in addition to forestwide guidelines, the following guidelines apply to new leasable minerals activities, including leases, surface use plans for proposed wells or operations, and permits to conduct seismic exploration or drilling. To reduce potential grizzly bear disturbance or displacement, helicopter use plans should:

- avoid establishing recurring helicopter use (see glossary), especially in spring habitats or other known important grizzly bear habitats or use areas and
- avoid establishing landing zones, especially in spring habitats or other known important grizzly bear habitats or use areas. If a landing zone is deemed necessary for safe implementation of the

seismic or surface use plan or permit to drill, the landing zone should be constructed only in an area that has had site-specific analysis and approval.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), leasable energy activities should use the best available noise-reduction technology on equipment and motorized vehicles to reduce potential disturbance or displacement of grizzly bears, whenever possible.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), along motorized routes, seismic corridors, and pipelines constructed for leasable energy activities, wildlife cover should be maintained at regular intervals where present (this varies on a site-specific basis) in order to provide habitat connectivity for grizzly bears.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), for locatable and non-energy leasable minerals activities with the potential to adversely affect the grizzly bear or its habitat (this varies on a site-specific basis), the following tiered measures should be considered to mitigate impacts to grizzly bear habitat. Beginning at step 1, any subsequent steps would be implemented only if the prior steps are not possible or achievable.

- Step 1: The operator should reclaim the affected area back to suitable bear habitat that has similar or improved characteristics and qualities compared to the original habitat (such as the same native vegetation).
- Step 2: If step 1 is not attainable, operators should either acquire a perpetual conservation easement (or easements) or purchase comparable or better replacement grizzly bear habitat within the primary conservation area. Acquisition of habitat within connectivity corridors could also be considered for mitigation, when appropriate. Habitat acquired for mitigation may require a purchase rate of > 1:1 on an acreage basis, depending on the quality of habitat degraded and habitat available for acquisition.
- Step 3: If steps 1 and 2 are not achievable, the next option is to offset negative effects to bears and grizzly bear habitat with other appropriate types of actions.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-05. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), carrying bear deterrent spray should be recommended to mineral permittees, lessees and operators to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-06. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area), available resources at existing gravel pits should be used before constructing new pits to reduce the risk of grizzly bear disturbance or displacement associated with blasting of rock or crushing of gravel.

Kootenai National Forest—Zone 1

Desired conditions

NCDE-KNF Zone 1-DC-01. Within the Kootenai National Forest portion of NCDE zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area) (see figure 1-3), roads provide for public and administrative access to NFS lands while contributing to sustaining the grizzly bear population in the NCDE. The demographic connectivity area provides habitat that can be used by female grizzly bears and allows for bear movement between grizzly bear ecosystems.

NCDE-KNF Zone 1-DC-02. In areas between the primary conservation area and the Salish demographic connectivity area, NFS lands are consolidated and conservation easements with willing landowners are supported in a manner that provides habitat connectivity and facilitates movement of wildlife.

Standards

NCDE- KNF Zone 1-STD-01. Within zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area) (see figure 1-3) on the Kootenai National Forest, there shall be no increases in permanent linear miles of open roads, total roads, or motorized trails within the bears outside recovery zone polygons, with listed exceptions (Kootenai forest plan, appendix B). A temporary increase in open and total miles of road is allowed under specified conditions (Kootenai forest plan, appendix B, p. 150).

NCDE-KNF Zone 1-STD-02. Within zone 1 (including the Salish demographic connectivity area) on the Kootenai National Forest (see figure 1-3), NFS lands that lie outside the area covered by the Tobacco bears outside recovery zone polygons (Kootenai forest plan, appendix B, pp. 150-151) shall be managed according to the Kootenai forest plan direction.

Lewis and Clark National Forest Plan Amendment

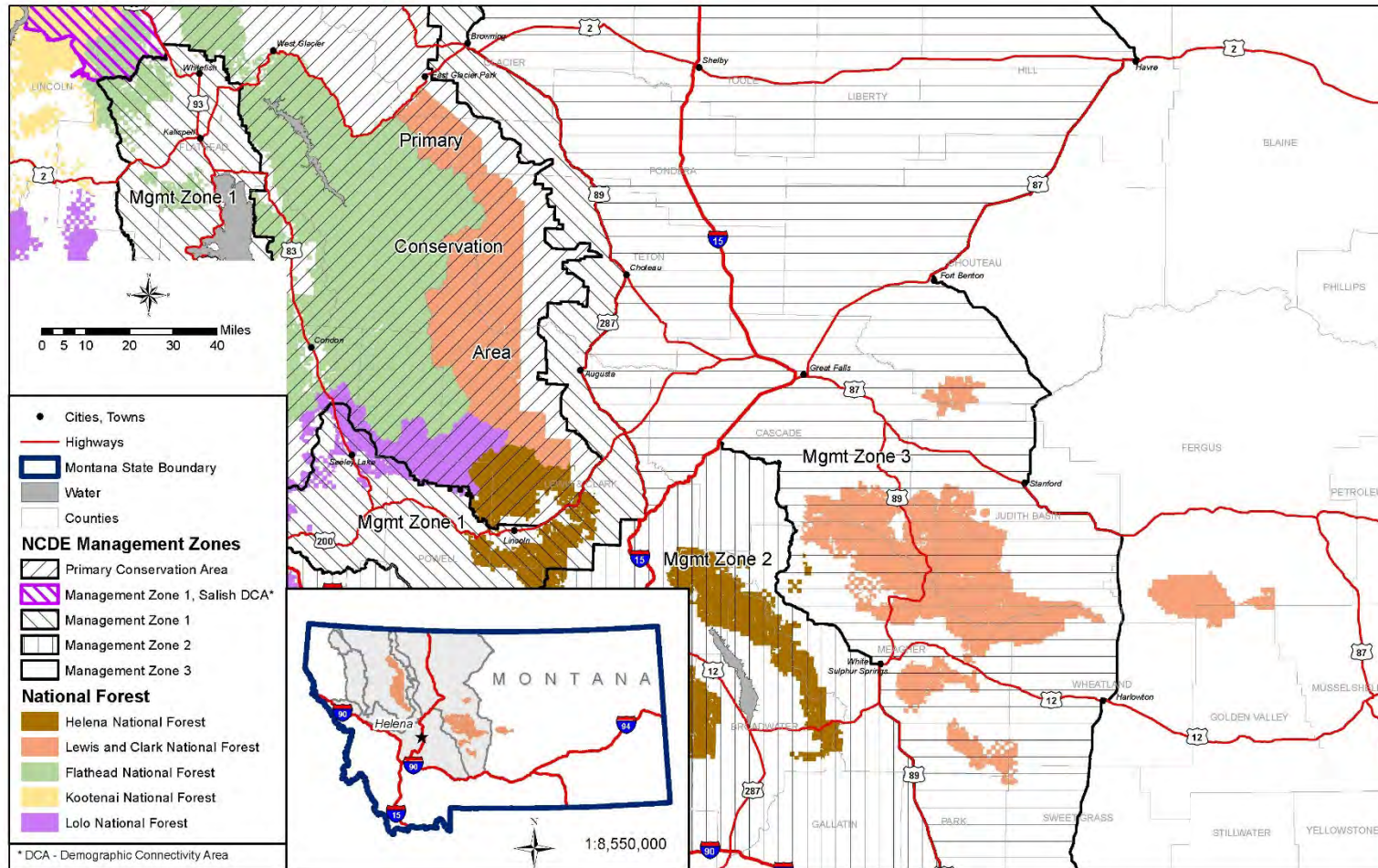


Figure 1-4. Grizzly bear management zones on the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

Wildlife (WL)

Desired Conditions

NCDE-DC-WL-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, zone 1, and zone 2, bear attractants on NFS lands are stored in a manner that reduces the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts in the NCDE.

NCDE-DC-WL-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, grizzly bear habitat on NFS lands contributes to sustaining the recovery of the grizzly bear population in the NCDE and contributes to connectivity with neighboring grizzly bear recovery zones.

NCDE-DC-WL-03. The risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts is reduced by information, education, and design features or criteria for management activities.

Standards

NCDE-STD-WL-01. Grizzly bear habitat on NFS lands in the NCDE shall be delineated and managed as primary conservation area, zone 1, zone 2, or zone 3 (see figure 1-4 or subsequent USFWS updates if applicable).

NCDE-STD-WL-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, zone 1, and zone 2, food/wildlife attractant storage special order(s) shall apply to NFS lands.

NCDE-STD-WL-03. In each bear management subunit within the NCDE primary conservation area, temporary changes in the open motorized route density, total motorized route density, and secure core shall be calculated for roads used for projects (as defined by “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)”) during the non-denning season (see glossary). Calculations will include estimated changes for each year of the anticipated duration of the project and will be incorporated into the 10-year running average required by standard NCDE-STD-AR-03.

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-WL-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, zone 1, and zone 2, contractors, permittees, lessees, operators, and their employees should be informed of food/wildlife attractant storage special order(s) and procedures for safely working and recreating in grizzly bear country, prior to turnout of livestock or beginning work and annually thereafter, in order to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.

NCDE-GDL-WL-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, zone 1, and zone 2, if a contractor, permittee, lessee, operator or their employees elect to camp on NFS lands other than in a developed recreation site, the site should be evaluated and written authorization (i.e., a campsite agreement that includes the food/wildlife attractant storage special order) should be provided before the campsite is established. The purpose is to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.

NCDE-GDL-WL-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, clover should not be used in seed mixes on NFS lands. Native seed mixes or those that are less palatable to grizzly bears should be used so that seeded areas do not become an attractant.

Access and Recreation (AR)

Desired conditions

NCDE-DC-AR-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, motorized access provides for multiple uses (such as harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products; hunting, fishing, and recreation opportunities) on NFS lands while providing open motorized route density, total motorized route density, and secure core levels that contribute to sustaining the recovery of the grizzly bear population in the NCDE.

NCDE-DC-AR-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the number, capacity, and improvements of developed recreation sites provide for user comfort and safety while minimizing the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts on NFS lands.

NCDE-DC-AR-03. Within each bear management unit in the primary conservation area, increases in the number and capacity of developed recreation sites on NFS lands that are designed and managed for overnight use during the non-denning season are at levels that contribute to sustaining the recovery of the grizzly bear population in the NCDE.

Standards

NCDE-STD-AR-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, motorized use of roads with public restrictions shall be permitted for administrative use (see glossary) as long as doing so does not exceed either six trips (three round trips) per week *or* one 30-day unlimited use period during the non-denning season (see glossary). The exception to this standard is:

- emergency situations as defined by 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 218.21.

Note: Administrative use is not included in baseline calculations and is not included in calculations of net increases or decreases. If the level of administrative use exceeds this standard, the use is counted as a project (see “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary).

NCDE-STD-AR-02. In each bear management subunit within the NCDE primary conservation area, there shall be no net decrease to the baseline (see glossary) for secure core and no net increase to the baseline for open motorized route density or total motorized route density on NFS lands during the non-denning season (see glossary). The following conditions are not considered a net increase/decrease from the baseline:

- administrative use (see glossary);
- temporary use of a motorized route for a project (see “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary) that meets the conditions stipulated in NCDE-STD-AR-03;
- mining activities (as authorized under the Mining Law of 1872) and oil and gas activities (as authorized under the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987) conducted in accordance with valid existing rights and applicable standards and guidelines listed under NCDE-MIN;
- updated or improved data on a motorized route without an actual change on the ground;
- changes in technology or projections that result in changed open motorized route density, total motorized route density, or secure core values without actual change on the ground (e.g., a switch from the North American Datum of 1927 to the North American Datum of 1983 geodetic reference system);

- a road closure location is moved a short distance to a better location (e.g., to the nearest intersection or turnout) to allow a turn-around providing for public safety, to reduce vandalism, or to improve enforcement of the road closure;
- the agency exchanges, acquires, buys, or sells lands with motorized routes;
- a change in a motorized route necessary to comply with Federal laws;
- a change in a motorized route necessary to address grizzly bear-human conflicts, human safety concerns, or resource damage/concerns (e.g., a road paralleling a stream may be decommissioned and replaced by a new upslope road to reduce water quality impacts);
- a change made by an adjacent landowner that decreases the percentage of secure core or increases open motorized route density or total motorized route density values on an adjacent national forest;
- use of a motorized route for emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21; and
- temporary roads (see glossary).

NCDE-STD-AR-03. In each bear management subunit within the NCDE primary conservation area, temporary changes in open motorized route density, total motorized route density, and secure core shall be allowed for projects (as defined by “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary). The 10-year running average for open motorized route density, total motorized route density, and secure core shall not exceed the following limits during the non-denning season (see glossary):

- 5 percent temporary increase in open motorized route density in each bear management subunit (i.e., open motorized route density baseline plus 5 percent);
- 3 percent temporary increase in total motorized route density in each bear management subunit (i.e., total motorized route density baseline plus 3 percent); and
- 2 percent temporary decrease in secure core in each bear management subunit (i.e., secure core baseline minus 2 percent).

Exceptions to this standard include

- temporary changes for emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21 and
- temporary changes for actions where valid existing rights preclude or constrain agency discretion (e.g., certain contracts, permits, leases).

Refer to page 1-57 for examples of how to calculate and apply the 10-year running average and temporary increase/decrease.

NCDE-STD-AR-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, a restricted road may be temporarily opened for public motorized use to allow authorized uses (such as firewood gathering), provided the period of use does not exceed 30 consecutive days during one non-denning season and occurs outside of spring and fall bear hunting seasons. However, temporary public use of a restricted road shall not be authorized in secure core (see glossary).

NCDE-STD-AR-05. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the number and capacity of developed recreation sites on NFS lands that are designed and managed for overnight use by the public during the non-denning season (e.g., campgrounds, cabin rentals, huts, guest lodges, recreation residences) shall be limited to one increase above the baseline (see glossary) in the number or capacity per decade per bear management unit. The following conditions are not considered an increase from the baseline:

- the agency obtains better information or updated information in its database(s);

- the agency acquires land that contains developed recreation sites;
- the agency increases the number or capacity of a developed recreation site in order to comply with Federal laws;
- the agency maintains or modifies an existing overnight developed or dispersed recreation site in such a way that does not increase the number or capacity of the site (e.g., installing a pit toilet to avoid damage to water resources or installing a bear-resistant food storage structure to reduce grizzly bear-human conflicts);
- the agency modifies an existing developed recreation site to enhance human safety (e.g., enlarging a road pullout to allow trailers to safely turn around);
- the agency operates a developed recreation site to allow overnight use only during the denning season (see glossary); and
- the agency makes a corresponding reduction in the number or capacity of overnight developed recreation sites in the same bear management unit through any of the following means: (1) equal reduction in capacity at another site; (2) closure of a developed site(s); or (3) consolidation and/or elimination of dispersed camping, when and where it can be enforced effectively and it is reasonably assured that new dispersed sites will not develop nearby. If these measures are used to offset an increase in number or capacity, they must be in place before the initiation of the increase. If the agency reduces the number or capacity of developed sites below baseline levels, these reductions may be used at a future date to mitigate equivalent impacts of an increase, expansion, or change of use in developed sites within that bear management unit.

Note: This standard does not apply to dispersed recreation sites or to developed recreation sites managed for day use only (e.g., outfitter camps, roadside trail crossings, or interpretive pullouts; trailheads, picnic areas, or boat launches that are closed at night; ski areas that do not have overnight lodging).

NCDE-STD-AR-06. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, new or reauthorized recreation permits shall include a clause providing for modification, cancellation, suspension, or temporary cessation of activities if needed to resolve a grizzly bear-human conflict situation.

NCDE-STD-AR-07. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, new or reauthorized permits for ski areas on NFS lands that operate during the non-denning season shall include requirements to limit the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts (e.g., to store garbage in a bear-resistant manner).

NCDE-STD-AR-08. Within modeled grizzly bear denning habitat in the NCDE primary conservation area, there shall be no net increase in the percentage of area or miles of routes designated for motorized over-snow vehicle use on NFS lands during the den emergence time period (see glossary).

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-AR-01. In each bear management subunit within the NCDE primary conservation area, each project (as defined by “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary) should be designed so that on-the-ground implementation does not exceed 5 years to reduce the potential duration of grizzly bear disturbance or displacement due to project-related activities. Exceptions may be made where necessary, for example to accommodate:

- actions where existing rights preclude or constrain agency discretion (e.g., certain contracts, permits, leases);

- prescribed burning (including slash disposal), best management practices to protect water quality, or required reforestation activities; or
- emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21.

If an extension to the five-year time limitation is required (e.g., to meet contractual obligations or to complete on-the-ground treatments), the reasons should be documented in writing prior to authorization of the extension.

NCDE-GDL-AR-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, secure core, open motorized route density, and total motorized route density should be restored to pre-project levels (as defined by “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary) within 1 year after completion of the project to reduce the potential duration of grizzly bear disturbance due to project-related activities. Exceptions may be made where necessary, for example to accommodate:

- actions where existing rights preclude or constrain agency discretion (e.g., certain contracts, permits, leases);
- prescribed burning (including slash disposal), best management practices to protect water quality, or required reforestation activities; or
- emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21.

If an extension to the 1-year time limitation is made (e.g., to meet contractual obligations or to complete on-the-ground treatments), the reasons should be documented in writing prior to authorization of the extension.

NCDE-GDL-AR-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, if the number or capacity of day-use or overnight developed recreation sites is increased, the project should include one or more measures to reduce the risk of grizzly-bear human conflicts in that bear management unit. These measures can include but are not limited to: offering additional public information and education; providing backcountry food-hanging poles or bear-resistant food or garbage storage devices; including design criteria that would limit capacity increases to those needed for public health and safety; and increasing law enforcement and patrols. Measures to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts shall be selected during a separate site-specific analysis.

Terrestrial Ecosystems Vegetation (VEG)

Desired conditions

NCDE-DC-VEG-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the amount, type, and distribution of vegetation provide for the ecological, social, and economic sustainability of NFS lands while providing habitat components that contribute to sustaining the recovery of the grizzly bear population in the NCDE.

NCDE-DC-VEG-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, there is a mosaic of successional stages to provide for grizzly bear habitat needs over the long term.

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-VEG-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, measures to reduce the risk of disturbance to the grizzly bear population should be incorporated into vegetation and fuels project design criteria, which vary on a site-specific basis (e.g., some activities should be restricted in spring habitat during the spring; areas with low levels of human activity should be provided adjacent to areas with high levels of disturbance). Note: Management activities such as pre-commercial thinning, burning, weed spraying, and implementation of road best management practices may need to be completed during the

spring in order to meet resource objectives (especially if needed to prevent resource damage), in which case other measures should be used to reduce the risk of disturbance (e.g., limiting the duration of the activity or limiting the use of closed roads).

NCDE-GDL-VEG-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, vegetation management activities should be designed to avoid detrimental effects on the grizzly bear population and to include one or more measures to protect, maintain, increase, and/or improve grizzly habitat quantity or quality (e.g., promoting growth of berry-producing shrubs, forbs, or grasses known to be bear foods) in areas where it would not increase the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.

NCDE-GDL-VEG-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, measures to retain cover (where present) along a portion of grass/forb/shrub openings, riparian wildlife habitat, or wetlands should be incorporated in project design criteria (this varies on a site-specific basis).

NCDE-GDL-VEG-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, vegetation management projects (including timber sales and other non-commercial vegetation management contracts) should include a provision for modification, cancellation, suspension, or temporary cessation of activities, if needed, to resolve a grizzly bear-human conflict situation.

NCDE-GDL-VEG-05. To reduce the risk of grizzly-bear human conflicts within the NCDE primary conservation area, vegetation management activities designed to enhance grizzly habitat (e.g., to increase huckleberry production) should not occur in or next to campgrounds, administrative facilities, or other developed recreation sites that operate during the non-denning season.

Grazing (GRZ)

Desired condition

NCDE-DC-GRZ-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the number, capacity of, and improvements on cattle and sheep grazing allotments support ecologically sustainable grazing, and temporary grazing permits are used effectively for management of noxious weeds while minimizing the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts on NFS lands.

Standards

NCDE-STD-GRZ-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, new or reauthorized livestock grazing permits and annual operating plans shall incorporate requirements to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts (e.g., a food/wildlife attractant storage special order). New or reauthorized permits shall include a clause providing for modification, cancellation, suspension, or temporary cessation of activities, if needed, to resolve a grizzly bear-human conflict situation.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, a sheep grazing permit in non-use status shall not be allowed to increase allowable animal unit months beyond what was previously permitted prior to being in non-use when it is returned to use. Note: The Lewis and Clark National Forest does not have any sheep allotments.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, permits for livestock grazing shall include a provision that requires the reporting of livestock carcasses within 24 hours of discovery, which shall be followed by proper disposal of the carcass. Boneyards shall not be established on NFS lands.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, there shall be no net increase in the number of active sheep allotments or in permitted sheep animal unit months above the baseline (see glossary) on NFS lands. Allowable animal unit months shall not be increased for inactive allotments. Note: Existing allotments may be combined or divided as long as doing so does not result in grazing allotments in currently unallotted lands or an increase in animal unit months.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-05. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, there shall be no net increase in the number of active cattle grazing allotments above the baseline (see glossary) on NFS lands. Note: Existing allotments may be combined or divided as long as doing so does not result in grazing allotments in currently unallotted lands.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-06. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1, temporary permits for grazing by small livestock for purposes such as controlling invasive exotic weeds, reducing fire risk, or trailing of small livestock across NFS lands shall not result in an increase in bear-small livestock conflicts.

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-GRZ-01. On NFS lands within the NCDE primary conservation area, the number of open or active sheep grazing allotments should be reduced if an opportunity exists with a willing permittee, to reduce the risk of conflicts with grizzly bears.

NCDE-GDL-GRZ-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, an allotment management plan and plan of operation should specify any needed measures to protect key grizzly bear food production areas (e.g., wet meadows, stream bottoms, aspen groves, and other riparian wildlife habitats) from conflicting and competing use by livestock (this varies on a site-specific basis).

Special Forest Products (SFP)

Desired condition

NCDE-DC-SFP-01. National Forest System lands provide a variety of public services and special forest products (such as mushrooms, huckleberries, firewood) while minimizing the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts on NFS lands in the NCDE.

Standard

NCDE-STD-SFP-01. Special-use permits for apiaries (beehives) located on NFS lands shall incorporate measures including electric fencing to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts, as specified in the food/wildlife attractant storage special order.

Renewable/Non-Renewable Energy and Mineral Resources (MIN)

Desired condition

NCDE-DC-MIN-01. Mineral materials are available based upon public interest, in-service needs, material availability, and valid existing rights, where consistent with desired conditions for other resources.

Standards

NCDE-STD-MIN-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, mining activities (as authorized under the Mining Law of 1872) and oil and gas activities (as authorized under the Federal Onshore Oil

and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987) occurring on NFS lands, where feasible shall avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate environmental impacts to grizzly bears or their habitat, subject to valid existing rights. Stipulations or mitigation measures already included in existing leases, permits, or plans of operation on NFS lands shall not be changed, nor will additional stipulations or mitigation measures be added, without the lease, permit, or plan of operation holder's agreement.

NCDE-STD-MIN-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, new or reauthorized permits, leases, and/or plans of operation shall include a provision for modification or temporary cessation of activities if needed to resolve a grizzly bear-human conflict situation.

NCDE-STD-MIN-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, new plans of operation, permits, and/or leases for mineral activities shall include measures to reasonably mitigate potential impacts of mineral development for the following:

- land surface and vegetation disturbance;
- water table alterations that affect bear foods on the surface; and
- construction, operation, and reclamation of mine-related facilities such as impoundments, rights of way, motorized routes, pipelines, canals, transmission lines, or other structures.

NCDE-STD-MIN-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, in addition to measures included in the food/wildlife attractant special order(s), new plans of operation, permits, and/or leases for mineral activities shall include the following measures regarding grizzly bear attractants:

- bear-resistant food storage and garbage containers shall be used at development sites and at any campgrounds or dispersed sites where exploration or production-related human occupancy is anticipated;
- garbage shall be removed in a timely manner;
- road kills shall be removed daily during active operating periods to a designated location determined in close coordination with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks;
- feeding of wildlife shall not be allowed; and
- locations of work camps shall be approved in advance of operations. Food storage requirements shall be strictly adhered to in any work camps.

NCDE-STD-MIN-05. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, if minerals activities have the potential to adversely affect grizzly bears or their habitat as determined by a site-specific analysis, new plans of operation, permits, and/or leases for mineral activities shall include the following mitigation measures, stipulations, or surface use criteria regarding grizzly bear habitat:

- ground-disturbing activities in identified grizzly bear spring habitat (as identified in a site-specific biological evaluation or other environmental document) shall be avoided between April 1 and June 30. If timing restrictions are not practicable, other measures shall be taken to reasonably mitigate negative impacts of mineral activity to grizzly bears;
- seismic activity in identified grizzly bear denning habitat (as identified in a site-specific biological evaluation or other environmental document) shall be avoided during the denning season (see glossary). If timing restrictions are not practicable, other measures shall be taken to reasonably mitigate negative impacts to the grizzly bear;
- cumulative impacts of multiple concurrent seismic and/or drilling operations shall be limited by timing restrictions. If timing restrictions are not practicable, reasonable and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate negative impacts to the grizzly bear;

- reasonable and appropriate measures regarding the maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, or mitigation of functioning aquatic systems and riparian habitat conservation areas shall identify how reclamation will occur, plant species to be used in reclamation, a timeframe of when reclamation will be completed, and monitoring criteria; and
- reclamation and revegetation of motorized routes, drilling pads, and other areas disturbed by mineral activities shall be completed as soon as practicable by the operator.

NCDE-STD-MIN-06. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, if mineral activities have the potential to adversely affect grizzly bears or their habitat as determined by a site-specific analysis, new plans of operation, permits, and/or leases shall include the following mitigation measures regarding motorized access:

- public motorized use that is not associated with minerals activities shall be prohibited on motorized routes constructed for exploration and/or development;
- a traffic management plan shall be developed as part of the proposed activity to identify when and how motorized routes will be used, maintained, and monitored (if required) and how motorized route standards and guidelines will be implemented after activities have ended;
- helicopter use associated with seismic activity, exploration, drilling, or development must follow an approved plan or permit; and
- speed limits shall be adopted on motorized routes if needed to prevent or reduce collisions with grizzly bears.

NCDE-STD-MIN-07. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, minerals contractors and lessees shall require employees to attend training related to safely living near and working in grizzly bear habitat prior to starting work and on an annual basis thereafter.

NCDE-STD-MIN-08. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, new leases for leasable minerals shall include a no surface occupancy stipulation (see glossary).

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-MIN-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, in addition to forestwide guidelines, the following guidelines apply to new leasable minerals activities, including leases, surface use plans for proposed wells or operations, and permits to conduct seismic exploration or drilling. To reduce potential grizzly bear disturbance or displacement, helicopter use plans should:

- avoid establishing recurring helicopter use (see glossary), especially in spring habitats or other known important grizzly bear habitats or use areas; and
- avoid establishing landing zones, especially in spring habitats or other known important grizzly bear habitats or use areas. If a landing zone is deemed necessary for safe implementation of the seismic or surface use plan or permit to drill, the landing zone should be constructed only in an area that has had site-specific analysis and approval.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, leasable energy activities should use the best available noise-reduction technology on equipment and motorized vehicles to reduce potential disturbance or displacement of grizzly bears, whenever possible.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, along motorized routes, seismic corridors, and pipelines constructed for leasable energy activities, wildlife cover should be maintained at regular intervals where present (this varies on a site-specific basis) in order to provide habitat connectivity for grizzly bears.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, for locatable and non-energy leasable minerals activities with the potential to adversely affect the grizzly bear or its habitat (this varies on a site-specific basis), the following tiered measures should be considered to mitigate impacts to grizzly bear habitat. Beginning at step 1, any subsequent steps would be implemented only if the prior steps are not possible or achievable.

- Step 1: The operator should reclaim the affected area back to suitable bear habitat that has similar or improved characteristics and qualities compared to the original habitat (such as the same native vegetation).
- Step 2: If step 1 is not attainable, operators should either acquire a perpetual conservation easement (or easements) or purchase comparable or better replacement grizzly bear habitat within the primary conservation area. Acquisition of habitat within connectivity corridors could also be considered for mitigation, when appropriate. Habitat acquired for mitigation may require a purchase rate of > 1:1 on an acreage basis, depending on the quality of habitat degraded and habitat available for acquisition.
- Step 3: If steps 1 and 2 are not achievable, the next option is to offset negative effects to bears and grizzly bear habitat with other appropriate types of actions.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-05. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, carrying bear deterrent spray should be recommended to mineral permittees, lessees and operators to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-06. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, available resources at existing gravel pits should be used before constructing new pits to reduce the risk of grizzly bear disturbance or displacement associated with blasting of rock or crushing of gravel.

Lolo National Forest Plan Amendment

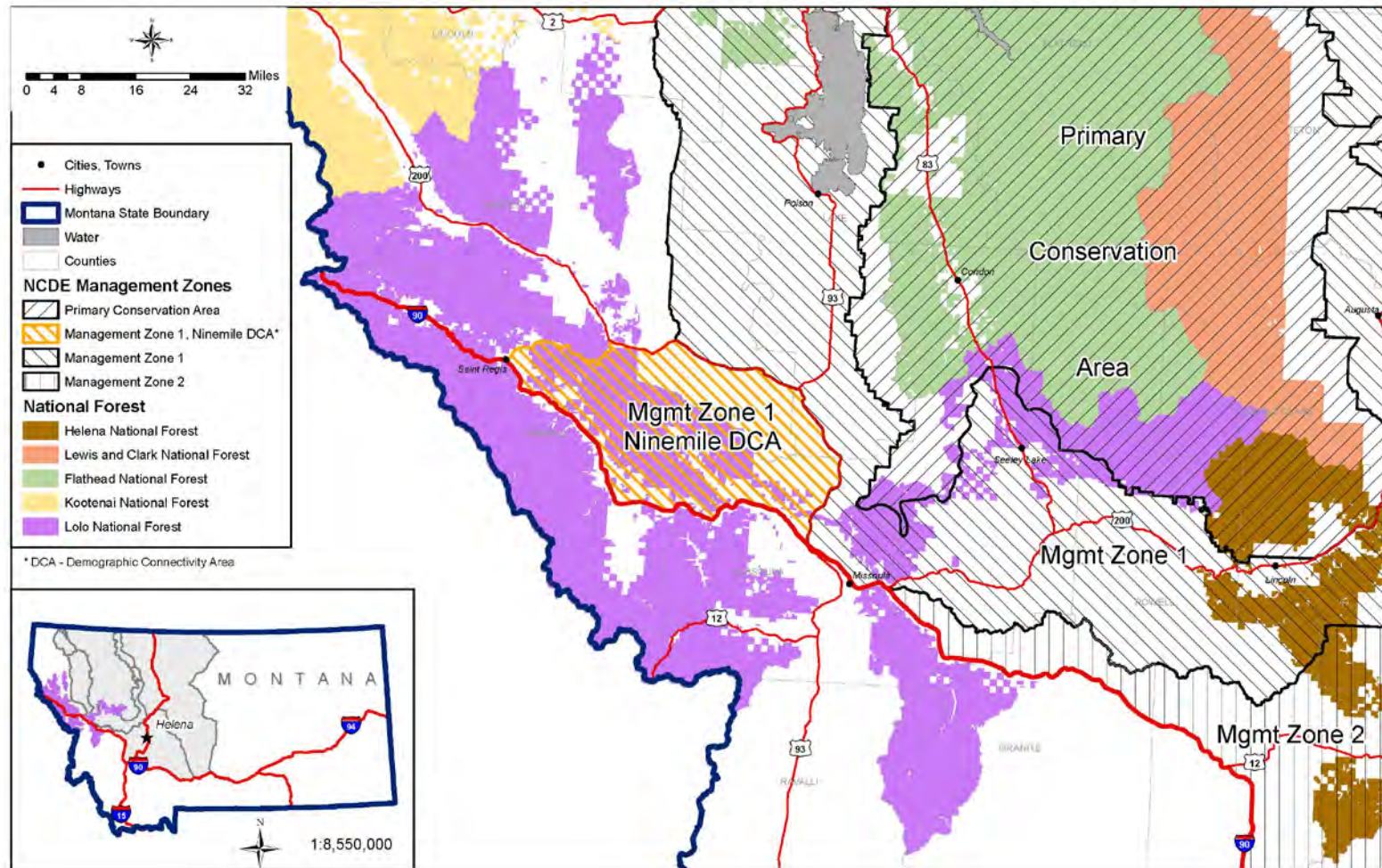


Figure 1-5. Grizzly bear management zones on the Lolo National Forest.

Wildlife (WL)

Desired conditions

NCDE-DC-WL-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), and zone 2, bear attractants on NFS lands are stored in a manner that reduces the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts in the NCDE.

NCDE-DC-WL-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), grizzly bear habitat on NFS lands contributes to sustaining the recovery of the grizzly bear population in the NCDE and contributes to connectivity with neighboring grizzly bear recovery zones.

NCDE-DC-WL-03. The risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts is reduced by information, education, and design features or criteria for management activities.

Standards

NCDE-STD-WL-01. Grizzly bear habitat on NFS lands in the NCDE shall be delineated and managed as primary conservation area, zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), or zone 2 (see figure 1-5 or subsequent USFWS updates if applicable).

NCDE-STD-WL-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), and zone 2, food/wildlife attractant storage special order(s) shall apply to NFS lands.

NCDE-STD-WL-03. In each bear management subunit within the NCDE primary conservation area, temporary changes in the open motorized route density, total motorized route density, and secure core shall be calculated for roads used for projects (as defined by “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)”) during the non-denning season (see glossary). Calculations will include estimated changes for each year of the anticipated duration of the project and will be incorporated into the 10-year running average required by standard NCDE-STD-AR-03.

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-WL-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), and zone 2, contractors, permittees, lessees, operators, and their employees should be informed of food/wildlife attractant storage special order(s) and procedures for safely working and recreating in grizzly bear country, prior to turnout of livestock or beginning work and annually thereafter, in order to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.

NCDE-GDL-WL-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), and zone 2, if a contractor, permittee, lessee, operator or their employees elect to camp on NFS lands other than in a developed recreation site, the site should be evaluated and written authorization (i.e., a campsite agreement that includes the food/wildlife attractant storage special order) should be provided before the campsite is established. The purpose is to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.

NCDE-GDL-WL-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), clover should not be used in seed mixes on NFS lands. Native seed mixes or those that are less palatable to grizzly bears should be used so that seeded areas do not become an attractant.

Access and Recreation (AR)

Desired conditions

NCDE-DC-AR-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, motorized access provides for multiple uses (such as harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products; hunting, fishing, and recreation opportunities) on NFS lands while providing open motorized route density, total motorized route density, and secure core levels that contribute to sustaining the recovery of the grizzly bear population in the NCDE.

NCDE-DC-AR-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the number, capacity, and improvements of developed recreation sites provide for user comfort and safety while minimizing the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts on NFS lands.

NCDE-DC-AR-03. Within each bear management unit in the primary conservation area, increases in the number and capacity of developed recreation sites on NFS lands that are designed and managed for overnight use during the non-denning season are at levels that contribute to sustaining the recovery of the grizzly bear population in the NCDE.

Standards

NCDE-STD-AR-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, motorized use of roads with public restrictions shall be permitted for administrative use (see glossary) as long as doing so does not exceed either six trips (three round trips) per week *or* one 30-day unlimited use period during the non-denning season (see glossary). The exception to this standard is:

- emergency situations as defined by 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 218.21.

Note: Administrative use is not included in baseline calculations and is not included in calculations of net increases or decreases. If the level of administrative use exceeds this standard, the use is counted as a project (see “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary).

NCDE-STD-AR-02. In each bear management subunit within the NCDE primary conservation area, there shall be no net decrease to the baseline (see glossary) for secure core and no net increase to the baseline for open motorized route density or total motorized route density on NFS lands during the non-denning season (see glossary). The following conditions are not considered a net increase/decrease from the baseline:

- administrative use (see glossary);
- temporary use of a motorized route for a project (see “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary) that meets the conditions stipulated in NCDE-STD-AR-03;
- mining activities (as authorized under the Mining Law of 1872) and oil and gas activities (as authorized under the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987) conducted in accordance with valid existing rights and applicable standards and guidelines listed under NCDE-MIN;
- updated or improved data on a motorized route without an actual change on the ground;
- changes in technology or projections that result in changed open motorized route density, total motorized route density, or secure core values without actual change on the ground (e.g., a switch from the North American Datum of 1927 to the North American Datum of 1983 geodetic reference system);

- a road closure location is moved a short distance to a better location (e.g., to the nearest intersection or turnout) to allow a turn-around providing for public safety, to reduce vandalism, or to improve enforcement of the road closure;
- the agency exchanges, acquires, buys, or sells lands with motorized routes;
- a change in a motorized route necessary to comply with Federal laws;
- a change in a motorized route necessary to address grizzly bear-human conflicts, human safety concerns, or resource damage/concerns (e.g., a road paralleling a stream may be decommissioned and replaced by a new upslope road to reduce water quality impacts);
- a change made by an adjacent landowner that decreases the percentage of secure core or increases open motorized route density or total motorized route density values on an adjacent national forest;
- use of a motorized route for emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21; and
- temporary roads (see glossary).

NCDE-STD-AR-03. In each bear management subunit within the NCDE primary conservation area, temporary changes in open motorized route density, total motorized route density, and secure core shall be allowed for projects (as defined by “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary). The 10-year running average for open motorized route density, total motorized route density, and secure core shall not exceed the following limits during the non-denning season (see glossary):

- 5 percent temporary increase in open motorized route density in each bear management subunit (i.e., open motorized route density baseline plus 5 percent);
- 3 percent temporary increase in total motorized route density in each bear management subunit (i.e., total motorized route density baseline plus 3 percent); and
- 2 percent temporary decrease in secure core in each bear management subunit (i.e., secure core baseline minus 2 percent).

Exceptions to this standard include

- temporary changes for emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21 and
- temporary changes for actions where valid existing rights preclude or constrain agency discretion (e.g., certain contracts, permits, leases).

Refer to page 1-51 for examples of how to calculate and apply the 10-year running average and temporary increase/decrease.

NCDE-STD-AR-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, a restricted road may be temporarily opened for public motorized use to allow authorized uses (such as firewood gathering), provided the period of use does not exceed 30 consecutive days during one non-denning season and occurs outside of spring and fall bear hunting seasons. However, temporary public use of a restricted road shall not be authorized in secure core (see glossary).

NCDE-STD-AR-05. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the number and capacity of developed recreation sites on NFS lands that are designed and managed for overnight use by the public during the non-denning season (e.g., campgrounds, cabin rentals, huts, guest lodges, recreation residences) shall be limited to one increase above the baseline (see glossary) in the number or capacity per decade per bear management unit. The following conditions are not considered an increase from the baseline:

- the agency obtains better information or updated information in its database(s);

- the agency acquires land that contains developed recreation sites;
- the agency increases the number or capacity of a developed recreation site in order to comply with Federal laws;
- the agency maintains or modifies an existing overnight developed or dispersed recreation site in such a way that does not increase the number or capacity of the site (e.g., installing a pit toilet to avoid damage to water resources or installing a bear-resistant food storage structure to reduce grizzly bear-human conflicts);
- the agency modifies an existing developed recreation site to enhance human safety (e.g., enlarging a road pullout to allow trailers to safely turn around);
- the agency operates a developed recreation site to allow overnight use only during the denning season (see glossary); and
- the agency makes a corresponding reduction in the number or capacity of overnight developed recreation sites in the same bear management unit through any of the following means: (1) equal reduction in capacity at another site; (2) closure of a developed site(s); or (3) consolidation and/or elimination of dispersed camping, when and where it can be enforced effectively and it is reasonably assured that new dispersed sites will not develop nearby. If these measures are used to offset an increase in number or capacity, they must be in place before the initiation of the increase. If the agency reduces the number or capacity of developed sites below baseline levels, these reductions may be used at a future date to mitigate equivalent impacts of an increase, expansion, or change of use in developed sites within that bear management unit.

Note: This standard does not apply to dispersed recreation sites or to developed recreation sites managed for day use only (e.g., outfitter camps, roadside trail crossings, or interpretive pullouts; trailheads, picnic areas, or boat launches that are closed at night; ski areas that do not have overnight lodging).

NCDE-STD-AR-06. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, new or reauthorized recreation permits shall include a clause providing for modification, cancellation, suspension, or temporary cessation of activities if needed to resolve a grizzly bear-human conflict situation.

NCDE-STD-AR-07. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, new or reauthorized permits for ski areas on NFS lands that operate during the non-denning season shall include requirements to limit the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts (e.g., to store garbage in a bear-resistant manner).

NCDE-STD-AR-08. Within modeled grizzly bear denning habitat in the NCDE primary conservation area, there shall be no net increase in the percentage of area or miles of routes designated for motorized over-snow vehicle use on NFS lands during the den emergence time period (see glossary).

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-AR-01. In each bear management subunit within the NCDE primary conservation area, each project (as defined by “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary) should be designed so that on-the-ground implementation does not exceed 5 years to reduce the potential duration of grizzly bear disturbance or displacement due to project-related activities. Exceptions may be made where necessary, for example to accommodate:

- actions where existing rights preclude or constrain agency discretion (e.g., certain contracts, permits, leases);

- prescribed burning (including slash disposal), best management practices to protect water quality, or required reforestation activities; or
- emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21.

If an extension to the five-year time limitation is required (e.g., to meet contractual obligations or to complete on-the-ground treatments), the reasons should be documented in writing prior to authorization of the extension.

NCDE-GDL-AR-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, secure core, open motorized route density, and total motorized route density should be restored to pre-project levels (as defined by “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary) within 1 year after completion of the project to reduce the potential duration of grizzly bear disturbance due to project-related activities. Exceptions may be made where necessary, for example to accommodate:

- actions where existing rights preclude or constrain agency discretion (e.g., certain contracts, permits, leases);
- prescribed burning (including slash disposal), best management practices to protect water quality, or required reforestation activities; or
- emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21.

If an extension to the 1-year time limitation is made (e.g., to meet contractual obligations or to complete on-the-ground treatments), the reasons should be documented in writing prior to authorization of the extension.

NCDE-GDL-AR-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, if the number or capacity of day-use or overnight developed recreation sites is increased, the project should include one or more measures to reduce the risk of grizzly-bear human conflicts in that bear management unit. These measures can include but are not limited to additional public information and education; providing backcountry food-hanging poles or bear-resistant food or garbage storage devices; including design criteria that would limit capacity increases to those needed for public health and safety; and increasing law enforcement and patrols).

Terrestrial Ecosystems Vegetation (VEG)

Desired conditions

NCDE-DC-VEG-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the amount, type, and distribution of vegetation provide for the ecological, social, and economic sustainability of NFS lands while providing habitat components that contribute to sustaining the recovery of the grizzly bear population in the NCDE.

NCDE-DC-VEG-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, there is a mosaic of successional stages to provide for grizzly bear habitat needs over the long term.

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-VEG-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, measures to reduce the risk of disturbance to the grizzly bear population should be incorporated into vegetation and fuels project design criteria, which vary on a site-specific basis (e.g., some activities should be restricted in spring habitat during the spring; areas with low levels of human activity should be provided adjacent to areas with high levels of disturbance). Note: Management activities such as pre-commercial thinning, burning, weed spraying, and implementation of road best management practices may need to be completed during the spring in order to meet resource objectives (especially if needed to prevent resource damage), in which

case other measures should be used to reduce the risk of disturbance (e.g., limiting the duration of the activity or limiting the use of closed roads).

NCDE-GDL-VEG-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, vegetation management activities should be designed to avoid detrimental effects on the grizzly bear population and to include one or more measures to protect, maintain, increase, and/or improve grizzly habitat quantity or quality (e.g., promoting growth of berry-producing shrubs, forbs, or grasses known to be bear foods) in areas where it would not increase the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.

NCDE-GDL-VEG-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, measures to retain cover (where present) along a portion of grass/forb/shrub openings, riparian wildlife habitat, or wetlands should be incorporated in project design criteria (this varies on a site-specific basis).

NCDE-GDL-VEG-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, vegetation management projects (including timber sales and other non-commercial vegetation management contracts) should include a provision for modification, cancellation, suspension, or temporary cessation of activities, if needed, to resolve a grizzly bear-human conflict situation.

NCDE-GDL-VEG-05. To reduce the risk of grizzly-bear human conflicts within the NCDE primary conservation area, vegetation management activities designed to enhance grizzly habitat (e.g., to increase huckleberry production) should not occur in or next to campgrounds, administrative facilities, or other developed recreation sites that operate during the non-denning season.

Grazing (GRZ)

Desired condition

NCDE-DC-GRZ-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the number, capacity of, and improvements on cattle and sheep grazing allotments support ecologically sustainable grazing, and temporary grazing permits are used effectively for management of noxious weeds while minimizing the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts on NFS lands.

Standards

NCDE-STD-GRZ-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), new or reauthorized livestock grazing permits and annual operating plans shall incorporate requirements to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts (e.g., a food/wildlife attractant storage special order). New or reauthorized permits shall include a clause providing for modification, cancellation, suspension, or temporary cessation of activities, if needed, to resolve a grizzly bear-human conflict situation.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, a sheep grazing permit in non-use status shall not be allowed to increase allowable animal unit months beyond what was previously permitted prior to being in non-use when it is returned to use. Note: The Lolo National Forest does not have any sheep allotments.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), permits for livestock grazing shall include a provision that requires the reporting of livestock carcasses within 24 hours of discovery, which shall be followed by proper disposal of the carcass. Boneyards shall not be established on NFS lands.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), there shall be no net increase in the number of active sheep allotments or in permitted sheep animal unit months above the baseline (see glossary) on NFS lands. Allowable animal unit months shall not be increased for inactive allotments. Note: Existing allotments may be combined or divided as long as doing so does not result in grazing allotments in currently un-allotted lands or an increase in animal unit months.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-05. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, there shall be no net increase in the number of active cattle grazing allotments above the baseline (see glossary) on NFS lands. Note: Existing allotments may be combined or divided as long as doing so does not result in grazing allotments in currently un-allotted lands.

NCDE-STD-GRZ-06. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), temporary permits for grazing by small livestock for purposes such as controlling invasive exotic weeds, reducing fire risk, or trailing of small livestock across NFS lands shall not result in an increase in bear-small livestock conflicts.

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-GRZ-01. On NFS lands within the NCDE primary conservation area, the number of open or active sheep grazing allotments should be reduced if an opportunity exists with a willing permittee, to reduce the risk of conflicts with grizzly bears.

NCDE-GDL-GRZ-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, an allotment management plan and plan of operation should specify any needed measures to protect key grizzly bear food production areas (e.g., wet meadows, stream bottoms, aspen groves, and other riparian wildlife habitats) from conflicting and competing use by livestock (this varies on a site-specific basis).

Special Forest Products (SFP)

Desired condition

NCDE-DC-SFP-01. National Forest System lands provide a variety of public services and special forest products (such as mushrooms, huckleberries, firewood) while minimizing the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts on NFS lands in the NCDE.

Standard

NCDE-STD-SFP-01. Special-use permits for apiaries (beehives) located on NFS lands shall incorporate measures including electric fencing to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts, as specified in the food/wildlife attractant storage special order.

Renewable/Non-Renewable Energy and Mineral Resources (MIN)

Desired condition

NCDE-DC-MIN-01. Mineral materials are available based upon public interest, in-service needs, material availability, and valid existing rights, where consistent with desired conditions for other resources.

Standards

NCDE-STD-MIN-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), mining activities (as authorized under the Mining Law of 1872) and oil and gas activities (as authorized under the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987) occurring on NFS lands, where feasible shall avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate environmental impacts to grizzly bears or their habitat, subject to valid existing rights. Stipulations or mitigation measures already included in existing leases, permits, or plans of operation on NFS lands shall not be changed, nor will additional stipulations or mitigation measures be added, without the lease, permit, or plan of operation holder's agreement.

NCDE-STD-MIN-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), new or reauthorized permits, leases, and/or plans of operation shall include a provision for modification or temporary cessation of activities if needed to resolve a grizzly bear-human conflict situation.

NCDE-STD-MIN-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), new plans of operation, permits, and/or leases for mineral activities shall include measures to reasonably mitigate potential impacts of mineral development for the following:

- land surface and vegetation disturbance;
- water table alterations that affect bear foods on the surface; and
- construction, operation, and reclamation of mine-related facilities such as impoundments, rights of way, motorized routes, pipelines, canals, transmission lines, or other structures.

NCDE-STD-MIN-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), in addition to measures included in the food/wildlife attractant special order(s), new plans of operation, permits, and/or leases for mineral activities shall include the following measures regarding grizzly bear attractants:

- bear-resistant food storage and garbage containers shall be used at development sites and at any campgrounds or dispersed sites where exploration or production-related human occupancy is anticipated;
- garbage shall be removed in a timely manner;
- road kills shall be removed daily during active operating periods to a designated location determined in close coordination with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks;
- feeding of wildlife shall not be allowed; and
- locations of work camps shall be approved in advance of operations. Food storage requirements shall be strictly adhered to in any work camps.

NCDE-STD-MIN-05. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), if minerals activities have the potential to adversely affect grizzly bears or their habitat as determined by a site-specific analysis, new plans of operation, permits, and/or leases for mineral activities shall include the following mitigation measures, stipulations, or surface use criteria regarding grizzly bear habitat:

- ground-disturbing activities in identified grizzly bear spring habitat (as identified in a site-specific biological evaluation or other environmental document) shall be avoided between April 1 and June 30. If timing restrictions are not practicable, other measures shall be taken to reasonably mitigate negative impacts of mineral activity to grizzly bears;

- seismic activity in identified grizzly bear denning habitat (as identified in a site-specific biological evaluation or other environmental document) shall be avoided during the denning season (see glossary). If timing restrictions are not practicable, other measures shall be taken to reasonably mitigate negative impacts to the grizzly bear;
- cumulative impacts of multiple concurrent seismic and/or drilling operations shall be limited by timing restrictions. If timing restrictions are not practicable, reasonable and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate negative impacts to the grizzly bear;
- reasonable and appropriate measures regarding the maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, or mitigation of functioning aquatic systems and riparian habitat conservation areas shall identify how reclamation will occur, plant species to be used in reclamation, a timeframe of when reclamation will be completed, and monitoring criteria; and
- reclamation and revegetation of motorized routes, drilling pads, and other areas disturbed by mineral activities shall be completed as soon as practicable by the operator.

NCDE-STD-MIN-06. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), if mineral activities have the potential to adversely affect grizzly bears or their habitat as determined by a site-specific analysis, new plans of operation, permits, and/or leases shall include the following mitigation measures regarding motorized access:

- public motorized use that is not associated with minerals activities shall be prohibited on motorized routes constructed for exploration and/or development;
- a traffic management plan shall be developed as part of the proposed activity to identify when and how motorized routes will be used, maintained, and monitored (if required) and how motorized route standards and guidelines will be implemented after activities have ended;
- helicopter use associated with seismic activity, exploration, drilling, or development must follow an approved plan or permit; and
- speed limits shall be adopted on motorized routes if needed to prevent or reduce collisions with grizzly bears.

NCDE-STD-MIN-07. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), minerals contractors and lessees shall require employees to attend training related to safely living near and working in grizzly bear habitat prior to starting work and on an annual basis thereafter.

NCDE-STD-MIN-08. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, new leases for leasable minerals shall include a no surface occupancy stipulation (see glossary).

Guidelines

NCDE-GDL-MIN-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), in addition to forestwide guidelines, the following guidelines apply to new leasable minerals activities, including leases, surface use plans for proposed wells or operations, and permits to conduct seismic exploration or drilling. To reduce potential grizzly bear disturbance or displacement, helicopter use plans should:

- avoid establishing recurring helicopter use (see glossary), especially in spring habitats or other known important grizzly bear habitats or use areas; and
- avoid establishing landing zones, especially in spring habitats or other known important grizzly bear habitats or use areas. If a landing zone is deemed necessary for safe implementation of the

seismic or surface use plan or permit to drill, the landing zone should be constructed only in an area that has had site-specific analysis and approval.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), leasable energy activities should use the best available noise-reduction technology on equipment and motorized vehicles to reduce potential disturbance or displacement of grizzly bears, whenever possible.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), along motorized routes, seismic corridors, and pipelines constructed for leasable energy activities, wildlife cover should be maintained at regular intervals where present (this varies on a site-specific basis) in order to provide habitat connectivity for grizzly bears.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), for locatable and non-energy leasable minerals activities with the potential to adversely affect the grizzly bear or its habitat (this varies on a site-specific basis), the following tiered measures should be considered to mitigate impacts to grizzly bear habitat. Beginning at step 1, any subsequent steps would be implemented only if the prior steps are not possible or achievable.

- Step 1: The operator should reclaim the affected area back to suitable bear habitat that has similar or improved characteristics and qualities compared to the original habitat (such as the same native vegetation).
- Step 2: If step 1 is not attainable, operators should either acquire a perpetual conservation easement (or easements) or purchase comparable or better replacement grizzly bear habitat within the primary conservation area. Acquisition of habitat within connectivity corridors could also be considered for mitigation, when appropriate. Habitat acquired for mitigation may require a purchase rate of > 1:1 on an acreage basis, depending on the quality of habitat degraded and habitat available for acquisition.
- Step 3: If steps 1 and 2 are not achievable, the next option is to offset negative effects to bears and grizzly bear habitat with other appropriate types of actions.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-05. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), carrying bear deterrent spray should be recommended to mineral permittees, lessees and operators to reduce the risk of grizzly bear-human conflicts.

NCDE-GDL-MIN-06. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), available resources at existing gravel pits should be used before constructing new pits to reduce the risk of grizzly bear disturbance or displacement associated with blasting of rock or crushing of gravel.

Lolo National Forest—Zone 1

Desired conditions

NCDE-LNF Zone 1-DC-01. Within the Lolo National Forest portion of NCDE zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area) (see figure 1-5), roads provide for public and administrative access to NFS lands while contributing to sustaining the grizzly bear population in the NCDE. The Ninemile demographic connectivity area provides habitat that can be used by female grizzly bears and allows for bear movement between grizzly bear ecosystems.

NCDE-LNF Zone 1-DC-02. In areas between the primary conservation area and the Ninemile demographic connectivity area, NFS lands are consolidated and conservation easements with willing landowners are supported in a manner that provides habitat connectivity and facilitates movement of wildlife.

Standards

NCDE-LNF Zone 1-STD-01. Within zone 1 (outside the Ninemile demographic connectivity area) on the Lolo National Forest, there shall be no net increase above the baseline (see glossary) in the density of roads open to public motorized use during the non-denning season on National Forest System lands. Inside the Ninemile demographic connectivity area, there shall be no net increase above the baseline (see glossary) in the density of roads and trails open to public motorized use during the non-denning season on National Forest System lands. Density is calculated by dividing the total miles open to public motorized use on NFS lands during the non-denning season, by the total square miles of NFS lands in that same area. This standard does not apply to the following:

- motorized use by agency personnel or others authorized by the appropriate agency personnel;
- temporarily opening a road for a short periods of time to allow for public firewood gathering and other authorized use;
- updated/improved data on a motorized route without an actual change on the ground;
- changes in technology or projections that result in changed calculations without actual change on the ground (e.g., a switch from the North American Datum of 1927 to the North American Datum of 1983 geodetic reference system);
- a road closure location is moved a short distance (e.g., to the nearest intersection or turnout) to a better location to allow turn-arounds providing for public safety, to reduce vandalism, or to improve enforcement of the road closure;
- the agency exchanges, acquires, buys, or sells lands with motorized routes;
- a change in an open road necessary to comply with Federal laws;
- motorized use for mining activities (as authorized under the Mining Law of 1872) and oil and gas activities (as authorized under the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987) conducted in accordance with valid existing rights and applicable standards and guidelines;
- a change in a motorized route is necessary to address grizzly bear-human conflicts, human safety concerns, or resource damage/concerns (e.g., a road paralleling a stream may be decommissioned and replaced by a new upslope road to reduce water quality impacts);
- motorized use for emergency situations as defined by 36 CFR 218.21; or
- temporary roads (see glossary).

Monitoring (MON)

NCDE-MON-01. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the levels of secure core, open motorized route density (> 1 mile/mile²), and total motorized route density (> 2 miles/mile²) within each bear management unit subunit during the non-denning season will be monitored and compared to the baseline.

NCDE-MON-02. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the number and overnight capacity of developed recreation sites designed and managed for overnight use on NFS lands within each bear management unit will be monitored and compared to the baseline. The number of day-use recreation sites

and trailheads in each bear management unit in the NCDE primary conservation area and administrative sites (see glossary) will also be monitored.

NCDE-MON-03. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the number of commercial livestock grazing allotments and the number of sheep animal unit months will be monitored and compared to the baseline. The number of grizzly bear-livestock conflicts occurring on NFS lands within the primary conservation area, zone 1, and zone 2 will be monitored.

NCDE-MON-04. Within the NCDE primary conservation area and zone 1 (including the Ninemile demographic connectivity area), where it is determined there is potential for adverse effects to the grizzly bear population or its habitat resulting from leasable or locatable mineral activities, a monitoring plan will be developed for the life of the mineral activity. The monitoring plan will outline how changes in habitat and/or disturbance to bears will be monitored and how mitigations (e.g., monitoring of mining reclamation measures) will be identified and funded.

NCDE-MON-05. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the 10-year running average of open motorized route density, total motorize route density and secure core will be monitored by the Forest and documented for each project (see NCDE STD-AR-03 and “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary).

NCDE-MON-06. Within the NCDE primary conservation area, the duration of projects will be monitored by the Forest (see NCDE-GDL-AR-01 and the definition of “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary).

NCDE-MON-07. In NCDE zone 1 on the Helena National Forest, the density of motorized routes open for public use during the non-denning season on National Forest System lands will be monitored and compared with the baseline.

NCDE-MON-08. In NCDE zone 1 on the Kootenai National Forest, the permanent linear miles of open roads, total roads and motorized trails on National Forest System lands within the bears outside recovery zone (BORZ) polygons will be monitored.

NCDE-MON-09. In NCDE zone 1 outside of the Ninemile demographic connectivity area on the Lolo National Forest, the density of roads open for public motorized use during the non-denning season on NFS lands will be monitored and compared with the baseline. Inside the Ninemile demographic connectivity area, the density of roads and trails open to public motorized use on NFS lands will be monitored and compared with the baseline.

NCDE-MON-10. In the NCDE primary conservation area, the percentage of modeled grizzly bear denning habitat (as updated by MFWP) where public motorized over-snow vehicle use is allowed during the den emergence time period will be monitored and compared to the baseline.

How Changes in Route Density and Secure Core Would Be Implemented

As stated in NCDE-STD-AR-03, in each bear management subunit within the NCDE primary conservation area, temporary changes in the open motorized route density, total motorized route density, and secure core shall be allowed for projects (as defined by “project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE)” in the glossary).

The 10-year running average for open motorized route density, total motorized route density, and secure core numeric parameters shall not exceed the following limits per bear management subunit:

- 5 percent temporary increase in open motorized route density in each subunit (i.e., open motorized route density baseline plus 5 percent);
- 3 percent temporary increase in total motorized route density in each subunit (i.e., total motorized route density baseline plus 3 percent);
- 2 percent temporary decrease in secure core in each subunit (i.e., secure core baseline minus 2 percent).

Hypothetical Example

The following hypothetical example (displayed as table 1-2 and table 1-3) shows how temporary changes in open motorized route density (OMRD), total motorized route density (TMRD), and secure core would be implemented for a project.

Table 1-2. Values in a bear management subunit for OMRD, TMRD, and secure core for project in years 11 through 14

Variable	Baseline Value	Allowed Value for Project	year 1	year 2	year 3	year 4	year 5	year 6	year 7	year 8	year 9	year 10	project year 11	project year 12	project year 13	project year 14	year 15	year 16	year 17
OMRD	19	24	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	31	31	31	31	19	19	19
TMRD	19	22	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	22	22	22	22	19	19	19
Secure Core	69	67	69	69	69	69	69	69	69	69	69	69	63	63	63	63	69	69	69

Table 1-3. Using data from table 1-2 to show the 10-year running averages for OMRD, TMRD, and secure core before, during, and after project completion

Variable	Before yr 1-10	During yr 2-11	During yr 3-12	During yr 4-13	During yr 5-14	During yr 6-15	After yr 7-16	After yr 8-17
OMRD	19	20	21	23	24	24	24	24
TMRD	19	19	20	20	20	20	20	20
Secure Core	69	69	68	67	67	67	67	67

yr = year

It should be noted that in this hypothetical example, another project in this subunit would not be possible until year 24, unless that project did not require any changes in values for open motorized route density, total motorized route density, or secure core.

Glossary

If a term's definition(s) is associated with a particular species or management direction or originates from a specific source, the source is cited or applicable direction is referenced using the following bracketed abbreviations:

The following terms, and definitions, are to be used only where they apply within the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) for grizzly bears, see amendment standard NCDE-STD-WL-01.

administrative site A location or facility constructed for use primarily by government employees to facilitate the administration and management of public lands. Examples on NFS lands include, but are not limited to, ranger stations, warehouses, and guard stations.

administrative use A generic term for authorized agency activity. Specifically, in the portion of the NCDE for grizzly bears mapped as the primary conservation area, motorized use of roads closed to the public is permitted for Federal agency personnel or other personnel authorized to perform duties by appropriate agency officials as long as doing so does not exceed either six trips (three round trips) per week *or* one 30-day unlimited use period during the non-denning season (see also **non-denning season**).

baseline The baseline for the NCDE is defined as conditions as of December 31, 2011, as modified by changes in numbers that were evaluated and found to be acceptable through the Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation with USFWS while the grizzly bear was listed as threatened. The baseline will be updated to reflect changes allowed under the standards and guidelines.

bear management subunit An area of a bear management unit, in the portion of the NCDE for grizzly bears mapped as the primary conservation area, representing the approximate size of an average annual female grizzly bear home range (e.g., 31-68 square miles, (Mace & Roberts, 2012¹)).

bear management unit An area about 400 square miles, in the portion of the NCDE for grizzly bears mapped as the primary conservation area, that meets yearlong habitat needs of both male and female grizzly bears.

boneyard An established site that is used repeatedly by a grazing permittee for disposing of entire animal carcasses.

capacity (of developed recreation sites within the NCDE primary conservation area) The number of sites available for overnight use (e.g., the number of sites in a campground; the number of rooms available for lodging (as a commercial rental); or the number of cabins, bunkhouses, or recreation residences managed under a special-use permit).

consultation See **interagency consultation**.

cover The elements of the environment used by an animal for hiding. Cover varies on a site-specific basis and depends on the species or the time of year. Cover may include topography as well as a variety of vegetation types (e.g., shrubs, dead trees, and live trees). The amount and quality of cover needed depends on the animal's size, mobility, and reluctance or willingness to venture into relatively open areas.

¹ R. D. Mace & L. L. Roberts (2012), Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem grizzly bear monitoring team annual report, 2012 (Kalispell, MT: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks), retrieved from <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/management/grizzlyBear/monitoring.html>.

demographic connectivity area an area intended to allow female grizzly bear occupancy and potential dispersal beyond the NCDE to other recovery areas.

den emergence time period The time period in the spring when a grizzly bear emerges from its den and remains in the vicinity before moving to lower elevations. The den emergence time period occurs at the beginning of the non-denning season. Females with cubs usually emerge later and spend more time (a few days to a few weeks) near the den after emergence than do male bears.

denning season The typical time period, within the NCDE, during which most grizzly bears are hibernating in dens. There are no restrictions on motorized use related to grizzly bears during the denning season, which occurs

- west of the Continental Divide: from December 1 through March 31.
- east of the Continental Divide: from December 1 through April 15.

developed recreation site capacity within the NCDE primary conservation area For purposes of implementing standard NCDE-STD-AR-05, developed recreation site capacity on NFS lands that are designed and managed for overnight use includes

- the number of camp sites available in a campground,
- the number of rooms available for lodging at a ski area or guest lodge,
- the maximum sleeping capacity of a cabin rental or bunkhouse that is available for overnight use by the public, and
- the maximum parking capacity at picnic areas, trailheads, or boat launches that are not closed to overnight use.

developed recreation site within the NCDE primary conservation area For purposes of implementing standard NCDE-STD-AR-05, developed recreation sites on NFS lands that are designed and managed for overnight use include campgrounds, lodging at ski areas, cabin rentals, huts, guest lodges, and recreation residences. This standard does not apply to dispersed recreation sites nor to developed recreation sites managed for day-use only (e.g., outfitter camps, roadside trail crossings or interpretive pull-outs; trailheads, picnic areas, or boat launches that are closed at night; and ski areas that do not have overnight lodging).

dispersed recreation An area in a national forest or national grassland with limited or no amenities provided for recreational users (36 CFR § 261.2).

emergency situation A circumstance on NFS lands for which immediate implementation of all or part of a decision is necessary for relief from hazards threatening human health and safety or natural resources on those NFS or adjacent lands or that would result in substantial loss of economic value to the Federal Government if implementation of the decision were delayed (must meet the requirements of 36 § CFR 218.21).

grazing allotment A designated area of land that is available for livestock grazing and is represented on a map. A grazing allotment can include NFS and non-NFS lands. Permits are issued for the use of allotments or portions of allotments. Allotments may be

- **active:** Livestock grazing allotments that are in use, including pack and saddle stock allotments.
- **closed:** Areas having suitable livestock range that have been closed to livestock grazing by administrative decision or action.

- **combined:** An allotment that has been combined into another allotment and therefore no longer exists as an independent allotment.
- **vacant:** An allotment that does not have a current grazing permit issued. (Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2205)

grazing permit in inactive status A grazing permit for which all permitted uses have expired, been cancelled, or been waived.

grazing permit in non-use status A grazing permit that is not being used. Non-use of a term grazing permit, in whole or in part, must be approved by a Forest supervisor and is allowed for permittee convenience, resource protection or development, or range research (Forest Service Manual 2231.7).

grizzly bear-human conflict An interaction between a grizzly bear and human in which bears either do, or attempt to, injure people, damage property, kill or injure livestock, damage beehives, or obtain anthropogenic foods or attractants or agricultural crops.

interagency consultation A process required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act whereby federal agencies proposing activities that may affect a listed species or critical habitat confer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about the impacts of the activity on the species (50 CFR 402).

livestock A type of domestic animal raised for commercial production purposes, e.g., cattle. Small livestock refers to animals smaller than a cow, such as sheep, goats, and llamas.

mitigate To avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate the adverse environmental impacts associated with an action.

motorized route A NFS road or trail that is designated for motorized use on a motor vehicle use map pursuant to 36 CFR 212.51.

motorized use The designation of roads, trails, and areas that are open to motor vehicle use as specified in Federal Register / Vol. 70, No. 216 / Wednesday, November 9, 2005 /36 CFR §§ 212, 251, 261, Travel Management; Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use; Final Rule.

moving window analysis A geographic information system procedure that quantifies the density of roads and trails by incrementally moving a template across a digital map.

net change The difference in a measurement (such as road density) after on-the-ground changes are accounted for pre- and post-project; allows for temporary changes during a project.

no surface occupancy A stipulation in a fluid mineral lease that prohibits use or occupancy of the land surface in order to protect identified resource values. Lessees may develop the oil and gas or geothermal resources under the area restricted by this stipulation through the use of directional drilling from sites outside the no surface occupancy area.

non-denning season The time period when grizzly bears typically are not hibernating:

- West side of the Continental Divide: from 1 April through 30 November.
- East side of the Continental Divide: from 16 April through 30 November.

Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem A region identified in the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy encompassing about 27.3 million acres of land in western and central Montana that is one of five areas in the lower 48 states where grizzly bear populations occur.

Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) Coordinating Committee An interagency group that evaluates implementation of the NCDE Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy, promotes the exchange of data and information about the NCDE grizzly bear population among agencies and the public, and makes recommendations to the management agencies regarding implementation of the strategy. Members of the interagency group may include Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; U.S. National Park Service; U.S. Forest Service; U.S. APHIS Wildlife Services; U.S. Geological Survey; U.S. Bureau of Land Management; the Blackfoot Tribe; and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

open motorized route density A moving window analysis calculation that applies to the primary conservation area portion of the NCDE and includes Federal, State, and tribal roads and motorized trails that are open to wheeled motor vehicle use by the public for any part of the non-denning season. *Note:* Motorized routes closed only by sign or order are considered to be open for purposes of this calculation. See also **moving window analysis**.

primary conservation area An area identified in the NCDE Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy to be managed as a source area for the grizzly bear population where continuous occupancy by grizzly bears would be maintained. Habitat within the primary conservation area would receive the most stringent protection. The primary conservation area is the same area as the NCDE grizzly bear recovery zone identified in the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan (USFWS, 1993²).

project An organized effort to achieve an outcome on NFS lands identified by location, tasks, outputs, effects, times, and responsibilities for execution (36 CFR § 219.19).

project (in grizzly bear habitat in the NCDE) For purposes of the motorized access standards and guidelines in the primary conservation area of the NCDE, refers to any temporary activity requiring construction of new roads, temporary roads, reconstruction or opening of restricted roads during the non-denning season, if such use exceeds administrative use levels (see **administrative use**). Activities involving recurring helicopter use (see **recurring helicopter use**) are also considered to be a project.

recurring helicopter use A type of helicopter flight that involves multiple trips/passes each day consisting of low-altitude (< 500 meters above-ground-level) flights that continues for a duration longer than 48 consecutive hours.

road A motor vehicle route more than 50 inches wide, unless identified and managed as a trail (36 CFR 212.1, Forest Service Manual 7705):

decommissioned: An unneeded road that has been stabilized and restored to a more natural state (36 CFR § 212.1). Decommissioned roads do not count towards total motorized route density as long as they meet the definition of impassable.

forest road or trail: A route wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving National Forest System lands that is necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of the National Forest System and the use and development of its resources (36 CFR § 212.1 – Definitions).

impassable: A road that has been treated in such a manner that the road is blocked and there is little resource risk if road maintenance is not performed on a regular basis (self-maintaining). These roads are not counted in the total motorized route density as long as the road (generally the first 50 to 300 feet) has been treated to make it inaccessible to wheeled motorized vehicles during the non-denning

² USFWS (1993), Grizzly bear recovery plan (Missoula, MT: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), retrieved from https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/species/mammals/grizzly/Grizzly_bear_recovery_plan.pdf, <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/mammals/grizzly/>.

season. Roads may become impassable due to a variety of causes, including but not limited to one or more of the following: natural vegetation growth, road entrance obliteration, scarified ground, fallen trees, boulders, or culvert or bridge removal. Impassable roads may remain on the inventoried road system if use of the road is anticipated at some point in the future. Some, but not all, roads placed in intermittent stored service may be impassable. [NCDE]

intermittent stored service/intermittent service road, closed to traffic: The road is in a condition such that there is little resource risk if maintenance is not performed.

maintenance level: The level of service provided by, and maintenance required for, a specific road, consistent with road management objectives and maintenance criteria (Forest Service Handbook 7709.59, 62.32):

Level 1: Assigned to roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses. The period of storage must exceed 1 year. Basic custodial maintenance is performed to prevent damage to adjacent resources and to perpetuate the road for future resource management needs. Emphasis is normally given to maintaining drainage facilities and runoff patterns.

Level 2: Assigned to roads open for use by high-clearance vehicles. Passenger car traffic, user comfort, and user convenience are not considerations.

Level 3: Assigned to roads open and maintained for travel by a prudent driver in a standard passenger car. User comfort and convenience are not considered priorities

Level 4: Assigned to roads that provide a moderate degree of user comfort and convenience at moderate travel speeds

Level 5: Assigned to roads that provide a high degree of user comfort and convenience.

National Forest System: A forest road other than a road that has been authorized by a legally documented right-of-way held by a State, county, or other local public road authority (36 CFR § 212.1)

temporary: A road necessary for emergency operations or authorized by contract, permit, lease, or other written authorization that is not a forest road and that is not included in a forest transportation atlas (36 CFR § 212.1). In the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem primary conservation area, temporary roads will meet the definition of impassable when no longer needed.

running average A method for computing the average of a stream of numbers for a specified period. A 10-year running average computes the mean for the values in the current year plus the previous 9 years. A running average is commonly used with time series data to smooth out short-term fluctuations and highlight longer-term trends or cycles.

secure core (grizzly bear) An area of the NCDE primary conservation area 500 meters or more from (1) a route open to public wheeled motorized use during the grizzly bear non-denning season, (2) a gated route, or (3) a route closed only with a sign that is greater than or equal to 2,500 acres in size. Roads restricted with physical barriers (not gates), decommissioned roads, impassable roads, temporary roads, over-the-snow motorized routes/areas, and non-motorized trails are allowed within secure core, unless otherwise restricted (e.g., by other national forest plan direction).

total motorized route density A moving window analysis calculation that applies to the primary conservation area portion of the NCDE and includes Federal, State, and tribal roads and motorized trails that do not meet the definition of an impassable road. See also **moving window analysis**.

zone 1 An area surrounding the grizzly bear primary conservation area in the NCDE where the intent is to maintain occupancy by grizzly bears but at expected lower densities than inside the primary conservation area. Zone 1 also includes two demographic connectivity areas (Salish and Ninemile).

zone 2 An area adjacent to the grizzly bear zone 1 and/or zone 3 in the NCDE where grizzly bears, particularly males, would have the opportunity to move between the NCDE and adjacent ecosystems. The intent of the zone 2 area is to allow for resource management and recreational opportunities while responding to grizzly bear-human conflicts with appropriate management actions.

zone 3 The area that primarily consists of areas where grizzly bears do not have enough suitable habitat to support population growth. Grizzly bear occupancy will not be actively discouraged in zone 3, and the management emphasis is on conflict response.

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