APPENDIX G

SUMMARY OF HABITAT GUIDELINES FOR GRIZZLY BEARS IN WESTERN MONTANA

The management of habitat that grizzly bears in western Montana require for survival is dependent upon the laws and regulations of both federal and state agencies. These laws and regulations provide the legal basis for providing secure habitat, managing human/bear conflicts, limiting access where necessary, controlling livestock grazing, and monitoring habitats. In addition, tribal designations and wildlife management programs, coupled with corporate, individual and community based stewardship initiatives form an integral part of grizzly bear habitat conservation efforts by providing regional and local support. Consequently, management direction, standards and guidelines for the grizzly bear in western Montana are currently located in numerous documents. The following represents a synopsis of current habitat direction for grizzly bears across the 17-county area of this management plan. Corporate, tribal, state and federal plans and conservation strategies are compared in tabular form after the narrative.

1. Private Lands

American Wildlands (AWL)

AWL is a regional conservation organization that advocates working with community residents, local land trusts, agency biologists and county and transportation planners in an effort to create a network of habitat linkage zones that allow for safer wildlife movement between core protected areas in the Northern Rockies. Their Safe Passages project and Corridors of Life program employs Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to identify potential wildlife corridors. This information is used to promote the design of more wildlife friendly highways and construct animal crossings.

Blackfoot Challenge (BC)

The BC is a watershed-wide stewardship group whose mission is to coordinate efforts that will enhance, conserve and protect the natural resources and rural lifestyle of Montana's Blackfoot River Valley for present and future generations. In addition to engaging in voluntary efforts to reduce grizzly bear-human conflicts, the group has begun to coordinate management strategies for grizzly bears and participate in the USGS Grizzly Bear DNA study. Work in the Blackfoot is monitored with help from Montana FWP and data integrated into a GIS database to facilitate spatial monitoring for management application. In addition, the BC has established a Conservation Strategies Committee that is currently working with private landowners to conserve intact landscapes through voluntary conservation easements.

Blackfoot Community Project

The Blackfoot Community Project is a land transaction program involving the Blackfoot Challenge, The Nature Conservancy and Plum Creek Timber Company. This community-based effort provides an opportunity for local residents to guide the future ownership and management of nearly 88,000 acres of large, relatively intact landscapes with critical community, agricultural and biological values in the Blackfoot Valley. Land will be purchased and re-sold according to a community-driven plan.

In the first phase of the project, the Montana Nature Conservancy (TNC), on behalf of the Blackfoot Community Project, acquired 42, 927 acres of former Plum Creek Timber Company lands and is in the process of re-selling them to private buyers with conservation agreements and to public buyers, in accordance with the community-developed plan. In 2005, TNC purchased an additional 11,000 acres

from Plum Creek, bringing the total number of acres purchased within the 88,000-acre Blackfoot project area to 54,000. Of this, 9,460 acres have been re-sold to public and private landowners. Another 11,000 acres is expected to be sold to the U.S. Forest Service.

Flathead Land Trust (FLT)

The FLT, based out of Kalispell, is a community land trust that actively works with local landowners, community members and organizations in the Flathead Valley to protect wildlife, scenery and water quality through voluntary conservation easements. Once an easement is completed, the trust initiates regular monitoring to ensure that conditions of the easement are being observed. The Trust currently manages 32 conservation easements in the Flathead Valley and 7,000 acres of protected wetlands, farmland, wildlife sanctuaries, and working forests. The FLT has also received several grants recently that will increase their ability to add new conservation easements as well as monitor and steward existing easements.

Great Northern Environmental Stewardship Area (GNESA)

GNESA is a partnership comprised of private landowners, citizen's organizations, business corporations and government agencies with a presence in the Middle Fork Flathead River corridor: an area that bisects the natural lands of the Bob Marshall Complex and Glacier National Park. This corridor encompasses unparalleled natural landscapes, critical wildlife habitat, a pristine free-flowing river and vital transportation and utility routes, all of which contribute essential values to the region. The goal of the partnership is to work collaboratively towards resolution of important resource issues in an effort to promote enlightened stewardship and collaborative responsibility. Projects undertaken by GNESA include:

- reducing human and grizzly conflicts and preventable bear deaths
- · proactive efforts for safe transport of hazardous materials through the corridor
- improving corridor communication and emergency response coordination
- conservation planning for private lands

Montana Land Reliance (MLR)

Primarily using conservation easements, the MLR works with Montana's private landowners both one-on-one and in neighborhood-based groups to provide long-term, legally sound conservation strategies to protect the economic and natural elements of their land and neighborhoods. The goal is to protect 1 million acres of private lands through conservation easements in Montana by 2010. Presently, the land trust has put 400,000 acres in conservation easements, including four around Flathead Lake. The organization has played an active role in the Swan Valley, completing 22 additional easements to protect roughly 2,000 acres. Easements completed in 2004 have increased the total land in the Montana portion of the NCDE to nearly 13,000 acres. The organization also has a Land Stewardship Program to develop management plans with landowners.

Northwest Connections (NWC)

NWC engages in community based projects which assist land managers and private land owners in better understanding, conserving and restoring critical habitats and habitat connections in the Swan Valley and surrounding areas. As part of its long-term grizzly bear strategy, NWC, in conjunction with the Flathead National Forest, plants blister-rust resistant whitebark pine seedlings, helps conduct surveys to assess remnant whitebark pine populations and monitors open and closed roads and trails.

The Montana Nature Conservancy (TNC)

The Montana TNC's goal is to protect unique habitat, areas rich in biodiversity, and areas critical for threatened or endangered species. Their efforts focus on land acquisition and conservation easements. Their strategy along the Rocky Mountain Front is to secure habitats used most heavily by grizzly bears and maintain critical linkages between public and private lands that enable bears to continue their seasonal movements. To achieve this goal, the organization works with a variety of partners and employs a number of tools including accepting or purchasing conservation easements from private landowners, providing technical expertise to help other organizations acquire habitat and potentially acquiring additional preserve lands.

Working extensively with the Blackfoot Challenge and Plum Creek Timber Company, TNC has purchased thousands of acres of former Plum Creek Timber Company lands in the Blackfoot region (see Blackfoot Community Project).

Other TNC projects involving maintenance and preservation of grizzly bear habitat include purchase, in 1978, of the 18,000 acre Pine Butte Swamp Preserve, on the Rocky Mountain Eastern Front. A travel plan is in effect on the preserve that governs human movement relative to seasonal activities and grizzly bear habitat. The goal of the plan is to reduce human induced displacement of bears, particularly in riparian and wetland areas. In addition, in 1986, the Conservancy purchased 392 acres in the Swan Valley, creating the Swan River Oxbow Preserve. The area provides grizzly bears with a corridor between the Swan Mountain Range to the east, and the Mission Mountains to the west.

2. Corporate Lands

Plum Creek Timber Company

Plum Creek Timber Company has implemented voluntary habitat management guidelines, outlined in its *Plum Creek Grizzly Bear Best Management Practices* document, in areas adjacent to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Management Situation (MS) 1 lands. The guidelines are implemented on a site-specific scale and are subject to change as new scientific information or site conditions warrant (Henning Stabins, senior wildlife biologist, Plum Creek Timber Company). Management guidelines include:

Plum Creek Grizzly Bear Best Management Practices		
Road density	Maintaining open road density (ORD) of 1 mi/ sq. mi or less on timber	
	company lands.	
Timing of	Coordinate management activities so they occur at time when area has least	
management	biological importance to bears.	
Road construction	Limit construction of new roads in preferred grizzly bear habitat such as	
	riparian zones and show chutes. If impractical, consider screening.	
Cover	Retain cover in preferred habitat and along open roads. Even-aged cutting	
	units laid out so that no point in unit >600 ft from cover.	
Harvest in riparian	Utilize silviculture prescriptions that maintain cover and forage values. Plum	
habitat	Creek's Native Fish Habitat Conservation Plan also provides benefits.	

Plum Creek Timber Company is also a primary party in the *Swan Valley Grizzly Bear Conservation Agreement* (1997), along with the Montana Department of Natural Resources (DNRC), Flathead National Forest and the USFWS. The objective of the agreement is to establish an ecosystem based management plan throughout the conservation area which allows affected parties to realize economic and recreational benefits of their ownership while helping to conserve the grizzly bear and other species. Major elements

of the agreement include special management of four grizzly bear "linkage zones" across the Swan Valley, especially during the critical spring period, guidelines and limitations on commercial timber harvest operations, protection of riparian habitat and road management. Specific guidelines in the agreement are summarized below.

	Swan Valley Grizzly Bear Conservation Agreement
Road density and	No more than 33% of any BMU subunit shall exceed ORD of 1 mi/ sq. mi (long
secure core habitat	term goal of no more than 21%). Plum Creek and DNRC not subject to TRD
	standard.
Timing of	Management activities, other than planting and burning, should not be
management	conducted in preferred spring habitats from April 1 to June 15. Commercial
activity	use (major forest management) will be concentrated in active subunits
	according to rotation schedule.
Road construction	New road construction in preferred grizzly bear habitat, including riparian
	zones, will be limited. Existing roads in these areas not needed for
	management will be reclaimed or relocated.
Cover	No less than 40% by subunit. Visual screening will be the objective adjacent to
	open roads. Even-aged cutting units laid out so that no point in unit >600 ft
	from cover.
Harvest in riparian	Use of uneven-aged forest management practices in riparian zones
habitat	
Road reclamation	Contribute to security within linkage zones by reclaiming or restricting roads.
	Reclaim roads to enhance use of high quality grizzly bear habitat areas, and to
	complement adjacent areas of secure habitat

Plum Creek's *Native Fish Habitat Conservation Plan* (2000) applies to 1.4 million acres of Company land in Idaho and Montana. Under this 30- year plan, habitat for eight species of native trout and salmon are protected in over 1,300 miles of fish-bearing streams on Plum Creek property. The HCP contains 56 conservation commitments covering a wide range of activities including timber harvest, road construction, stream habitat enhancement and livestock grazing; some of the objectives and guidelines may well provide benefit to grizzly bears and their habitat.

Substantial federal grants, awarded between 2001 and 2004, have also allowed the USFWS to work collaboratively with Plum Creek Timber Company, MTFWP and the Trust for Public Lands, to protect thousands of acres in the Thompson, and Fisher River Valleys through the purchase of conservation easements. These conservation easements have helped maintain and protect important grizzly bear habitat (riparian and wetland) from the threat of subdivision and development and represents the largest conservation easement in Montana's history.

More recently, Avista Corporation, The Conservation Fund, Plum Creek Timber Company and Montana FWP completed a conservation agreement on more than 1,800 acres of land formerly owned by Plum Creek and Genesis Mining Company. The result was the creation of the Bull River Wildlife Management Area (WMA), which is to be managed by Montana FWP. The Bull River WMA was formally dedicated in May 2005.

Burlington Northern – Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF)

In cooperation with GNESA, the BNSF has implemented an operating protocol that includes several railroad operation and maintenance procedures intended to minimize grizzly bear/train collisions and ensure a rapid response and removal of attractants from the railroad right-of-way. In addition to the protocol, the GNESA agreement includes the provision for developing a \$1 million conservation trust fund for the purpose of assisting GNESA cooperators in implementing a variety of grizzly bear conservation activities in the Middle Fork Flathead River corridor.

The BNSF, in consultation with the USFWS, is also preparing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) which will (i) clarify activities associated with the operation and maintenance of the railroad which may affect grizzly bears (ii) evaluate other factors that contribute to human caused mortality of bears in the corridor (iii) evaluate alternative strategies to minimize the effects of railroad operations on grizzly bears and (iv) develop an adaptive management framework for grizzly bear conservation in the corridor. BNSF anticipates that the HCP will update and build upon the GNESA existing agreement and will incorporate active adaptive management features, with an emphasis on documenting all human-caused grizzly bear mortality in the corridor, evaluating factors that contribute to each mortality, and evaluating methods to reduce the potential for human-caused mortality.

3. State Lands

3.1 Montana, Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

The Administrative Rules of Montana (ARMs), Grizzly Bear Policy (MCA 12.9.103) outlines guidelines for Montana FWP to promote the conservation of grizzly bears within the State. With specific reference to habitat, the department will work to perpetuate and manage grizzly bear in suitable habitats for the welfare of the bear and the enjoyment of the people of Montana and the nation.

In addition to legislated ARMs, the *Interagency Rocky Mountain Front Wildlife Monitoring/Evaluation Program Management Guidelines for Selected Species* (1987) provides guidelines for managing grizzly bears along the eastern front of the Continental Divide. These deal with mitigating the influences of human activities on grizzly bears and grizzly bear habitat through area use restrictions, maintenance of cover adjacent to roads to providing security cover, planning and coordination of commercial activities on public lands and livestock restrictions. The Rocky Mountain Front Guidelines (RMFG) represent best management practices for coordinating multiple use activities within the grizzly bear management situations delineated on the Front. The RMFG are detailed coordination measures for specific activities that will assist land managers in meeting the management direction provided in the IGBG. They are consistent with the IGBG and further refine the IGBG to specific habitat conditions on the Front. Specifically, the habitat guidelines address seasonal use periods and locations of use for human activity; timing and location of helicopter use; scheduling and location of seismic and drilling activities; stipulations on cover density; timing of livestock grazing. A summary of these guidelines is provided below (overpage).

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Rocky Mountain Front Grizzly Bear Management Program (1988) provides further direction by outlining and addressing local management plans for the Rocky Mountain Front. It includes goals and strategies that support those outlined in the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan (USFWS, 1993) while meeting the objectives of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Northwestern Montana (MTFWP, 1986). Included in the framework are strategy directives for dealing with human/bear conflicts, population and habitat management and program evaluations.

I	nteragency Rocky Mountain Front Grizzly Bear Guidelines
Seasonal use	Avoid human activities in defined grizzly bear habitat during clearly defined
restrictions	seasonal use periods.
Spring/summer	Maintain undisturbed zone of at least ½ mi. between activities and edge of
feeding habitat	habitats where important food sources occur.
Cover	Retain dense cover adjacent to roads for travel corridors and security cover.
	Visual security - three sight distances; same applies to timber harvest units.
Flights patterns	Establish flight patterns for helicopters in advance; locate to avoid seasonally
	important habitat.
Seismic/drilling	No seismic/drilling activities within 1 mi. of den site during denning period;
activities	scheduled drilling on adjacent sites in important bear use areas to be staggered
	to provide disturbance free area for displaced bears; field operation centers
	placed to avoid seasonally important habitat; permits to include clause
	providing for cancellation or temporary cessation.
Livestock grazing	Grazing deferred until after July 1; after July 1, cattle to be removed before
	riparian forage base reduced by 50% by either grazing or structural damage; in
	areas with high bear use, fencing of riparian zones to exclude livestock.
Sheep allotments	If grizzly depredation authenticated, consider seasonal changes, changing
	class of livestock and/or closing allotment.

The *Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, Grizzly Bear Management Plan in Western Montana,* 2005 (this document) outlines the States goal to manage for a recovered grizzly bear population in western Montana and to provide for continuing expansion of that population into areas that are biologically suitable and socially acceptable. The objectives of the EIS are to (i) give a comprehensive presentation of the subject (ii) review the many variables involved (iii) develop a framework for review of alternatives and (iv) through public discussion, weigh the merits and impacts of various alternatives thus allowing selection of a program for future regional grizzly bear management. Included in the plan is direction for habitat monitoring and management, including guidelines for road densities, cover, seasonal closures road construction and human activities in seasonally important grizzly habitat. Livestock conflict resolution is also dealt with.

Additionally, as mentioned in the preceding Corporate Lands section, Montana FWP together with the Plum Creek Timber Company, and other partners, completed a conservation agreement on more than 1,800 acres of land formerly owned by Plum Creek and Genesis Mining Company. The result was the creation, in 2005, of the Bull River Wildlife Management Area (WMA), which is to be managed by FWP.

In December 2005, Montana FWP also announced that it plans to purchase conservation easements within Lake County as part of its North Swan Valley Conservation Project. The project encompasses approximately 10,880 acres in Lake County, with lands generally checker-boarded within the Swan River State Forest. FWP will acquire a conservation easement on 7,200 acres of this total, and will purchase the remaining 3,680 acres in fee, as funding allows. FWP proposes to convey any fee lands that it acquires to another management entity (agency or nonprofit) that will manage the land consistent with the habitat conservation and working forest principles of the Forest Legacy Program.

3.2 Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Lands (DNRC)

Montana DNRC manages land that contains important seasonal and yearlong habitats for grizzly bears in western Montana. It is the policy of the Montana DNRC to conduct programs and activities in a manner

that limits the potential for conflicts between grizzly bears and humans and that provides habitat to recover of the bear. Land uses that have the potential to adversely affect grizzly bears, or their habitat, will be conducted in a manner that is compatible with bear behavior and habitat needs, but not to the extent of excluding other uses. The Forest Management Bureau of the Montana DNRC has administrative rules for management of state Trust lands regarding grizzly bear habitat in western Montana. Currently, the following summarized direction is provided:

DNRC Grizzly Bear Management on Blocked Lands in NCDE			
(Stillwater and Coal Creek State Forests)			
Secure core habitat	No net decrease in proportion of each BMU subunit (trust lands only)		
	designated as secure core habitat from baseline levels calculated in 1996		
Road densities	No net increase in the proportion of each BMU subunit (trust lands only) that		
	exceeds ORD of 1mi/sq. mi from baseline levels calculated in 1996; calculate		
	TRD and make efforts to reduce TRD		
Timing of harvest	If management activities need to occur in secure core areas, efforts to conduct		
activities in secure	such activities during denning period. In non-denning period, efforts to		
core habitat	minimize air and ground-based harvest activities to extent practical		
Cover	Retain no less than 40% of any BMU subunit (trust lands only) in hiding cover;		
	provide visual screening adjacent to open roads, where practical		
Road closures	Monitor road closures annually to effectiveness and make necessary repairs		
	within one operating season		
Firearms	Prohibit contractors from carrying firearms in recovery zones		
DNRC Grizzly	DNRC Grizzly Bear Management on Other Scattered Western Lands in NCDE and CYE		
	(Lincoln, Missoula, Kalispell, Plains, Libby)		
Road densities	No permanent net increase of ORD on parcels that exceed ORD of 1 mi/sq. mi		
	using simple linear calculations		
Cover	Retain visual screening cover to extend practical; maintain hiding cover along		
	all riparian zones		
Firearms	Prohibit contractors from carrying firearms in recovery zones		
DNRC Grizzly Bear Management on Eastern Montana Lands in NCDE			
(Helena, Conrad)			
Habitat	Determine appropriate method to comply with ESA on a project level basis		
Firearms	Prohibit contractors from carrying firearms in recovery zones		

The DNRC, along with the USFWS, is currently developing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Conservation objectives outlined in the *Montana DNRC Forested Trust Land Habitat Conservation Plan, Draft Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy* (2005) address promoting safety for humans and bears, minimizing displacement of bears from suitable habitat, contributing to overall bear recovery, maintaining important habitat and connectivity as well as monitoring of grizzly bears. Because of the varied mix of ownership that exists on these lands, some commitments apply to all DNRC HCP project area lands, while others are applicable to specific locations and types of ownership in relation to federally designated grizzly bear recovery zones and non-recovery occupied habitat. Additive measures contained in the draft HCP progressively state higher levels of commitment that are applied for various areas as the likelihood of grizzly bear presence and the need for conservation increase. Completion of the HCP process and policy implementation is expected by 2009. Proposed commitments are briefly summarized in the following table (overpage).

	DNRC – Draft HCP Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy		
All HCP Covered Lands			
Active den sites	Suspend all motorized forest management activities within 1 km of active den		
rictive deli sites	site through May 31.		
Road construction	Avoid open road construction in riparian and avalanche chute areas.		
Cover	Provide vegetative screening in riparian zones and wetland management		
	zones: maintain 25 ft. no-cut buffer in riparian zones.		
Firearms	Restrict employees and contractors from carrying firearms while on duty.		
	Additional Specific Measures to Apply Within Occupied Habitat Outside the Recovery Zones		
Road construction	Avoid new road construction to extent practical; no target or cap on TRD.		
Cover	Design cutting units so no point in unit >600 ft. from cover.		
Spring management	Prohibit forest activities in spring habitat during spring but allow commercial,		
	salvage harvest and low-intensity forest management activities within 100 ft.		
	of open road.		
Grazing restrictions	Provide USFWS opportunity to review grazing mitigation plan for weed		
	control and provide DNRC information on site specific bear use.		
Ado	Additional Specific Measures that Apply Inside Recovery Zones		
Habitat	Assess impacts of new timber sale projects and develop site-specific		
considerations	mitigations to avoid important bear habitat components.		
Cover	Where practical, leave vegetation along open roads where clearcut and seed		
	tree harvesting occur.		
Road closures	Examine road closures annually and make repairs within one year.		
Grazing restrictions	Prohibit any new small livestock licenses; will not initiate establishment of		
	new grazing licenses.		
Post-denning	Prohibit mechanized forest activities at elevations above 6,300 ft, with 45		
mitigations	degree elevation between April 1 and May 31.		
Swan Rive	er State Forest – Swan Valley Grizzly Bear Conservation Agreement		
n/a	description under the Plum Creek Timber Company sub-section.		
Additional	Specific Measures that Apply within Stillwater Block – inside NCDE		
Timing of	Operational activity restrictions for spring and fall seasons in areas which are		
management	of particular importance to grizzly bears.		
Timber harvest	Active management, followed by rest in secure zones (4 years of management,		
	8 years rest).		
Road density	Static road transportation system and motorized access restrictions specifically		
	designed to promote seasonal-habitat security; no new permanent roads in		
	identified secure zones; seasonal restrictions on other land.		
Addition	al Specific Measures that Apply on Scattered Lands - inside NCDE		
Road density	Reduce ORD for each timber sale project to extent possible.		
Timber harvest	Active management, followed by rest (4 years of management, 8 years rest);		
	DNRC may interrupt rest for salvage harvest.		
Additional S	pecific Measures that Apply in CYE & Occupied Habitat Near the CYE		
Road density	Inside RZ, expedite addressing ORD; where possible, implement closures.		
Timber harvest	Inside & outside RZ, more restrictive short-term exceptions to 8 year rest		
	period.		
Spring management	Inside RZ, more restrictive management in spring period; may conduct		
	motorized low-intensity activities such as road maintenance, tree-planting.		

Montana DNRC also participated in the development of the *Swan Valley Conservation Agreement* (1995), and intends to manage lands in the Swan Valley State Forest according to the management direction contained therein. Should the agreement dissolve, it is the intention of the DNRC to implement alternate measures developed during the HCP process. This strategy assumes a worst-case scenario, however, and would not necessarily preclude the DNRC from participation in future access management agreements.

4. Tribal Lands

4.1 Bureau of Indian Affairs

The Blackfeet Agency Forest Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (1984) does not make specific mention of grizzly bear management. Page 56 does, however, refer to the National Environmental Policy Act that contains regulations applicable to Indian Lands administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. There are sufficient guidelines to implement this act as it relates to forest management actions. All forestry projects affecting the environment require preparation of an environmental assessment prior to approval. The plan also calls for mitigating measures (page 33) to preserve or increase the present populations of elk, deer and bear. Specific mitigation measures for designated management units are listed on page 35.

Currently the Bureau of Indian Affairs manages the timber, range, and oil and gas resources on tribal trust land. The Bureau consults with the FWS when activities are planned in areas containing sensitive grizzly bear habitat.

4.2 Blackfeet Indian Reservation

Approximately six percent of the Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone in the NCDE occurs within the boundaries of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. Grizzly occupied areas on the reservation are bordered on the north by Alberta, Canada, on the west by Glacier National Park and Lewis and Clark National Forest, and on the south by State and private land. Most of the grizzly habitat on the Reservation is on tribal trust land, the rest being privately owned by tribal members and non-tribal members.

Habitat guidelines and directions are covered in the *Tribal Fish and Game Code* (1988) that deals with the management of all fish and wildlife species on the reservation. Objectives of the Code include the development of specific management plans for individual species such as grizzly bears [chapter 2, sec. C (5)], monitoring and quantifying seasonal habitat use of such species, and preparing regulations necessary for resource management within the Blackfeet Reservation [sec.C(6,10)].

Grizzly bears are defined as big game species on the Reservation (Chapter 4, sec.1) and procedures for actions to be taken in the case of depredation by bears (section 14) are in compliance with the IGBC guidelines.

The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee has defined five management situations for grizzly bears and the Blackfeet tribe uses these in its management programs. Although no MS 1 habitat occurs on the reservation, the *Draft Bear Management Plan and Guidelines for Bear Management on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation* (1988) provides overall goals, objectives and guidance for management of bears. The area currently included in Big Game Management Zones 1 and 2 will be treated as MS 2. Town sites within that area will be considered MS 3 in which bear presence and factors contributing to their presence are discouraged. The remainder of the Reservation will be managed as MS 5 in which bears occur only rarely and consideration for their habitat is generally not directed. Bear presence is neither actively discouraged nor encouraged.

The Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) Program will assume the lead role in management actions involving grizzly bears. More specifically, the tribal wildlife biologist or Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife Department (BFWD) director will review and comment on all activities of the Tribe or Bureau of Indian Affairs that require tribal permits, environmental assessments, or similar documentation to ensure that conservation of bear habitat is considered in the process. Mitigation will be required so that impacts on bears and/or their habitat from such actions will be minimal.

4.3 Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

The Flathead Indian Reservation includes important grizzly bear habitat, primarily in the Mission Mountains along the eastern edge of the Reservation. Grizzly bear habitat within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation is located primarily on tribal trust lands, although limited bear use also occurs on private lands held by Tribal members and non-members.

The Flathead Indian Reservation Forest Management Plan (2000) sets long and short term goals and objectives for all forest resources and proposes to use an ecosystem-centered, coarse-filter approach to provide ecosystem structures and processes on a broad scale, while using a fine filter strategy to protect sensitive species like grizzly bears. Direction is provided in the form of objectives and standards.

Forest-wide wildlife objectives include road closures and improving wildlife habitat through implementation of travel corridors and linkage zones while forest-wide transportation objectives call for re-routing roads out of riparian areas in timber sale planning areas. Specific reference to threatened and endangered species in the forest-wide standards states that land management activities that deal with the presence or potential presence of such species and their habitats will require Biological Assessments and consultation with the USFWS. Although Standard 8, under the Forest-wide Standards for Wildlife Management (page 284) points out that standards and guidelines for grizzly bear management and habitat follow recognized standards emphasizing secure areas, minimal roads, travel corridors, linkage zones and habitat maintenance, no specific guidance is provided in this document.

Specific management of grizzly bear habitat falls primarily under the direction of the *Flathead Indian Reservation Grizzly Bear Management Plan* (1981). The goal of the plan is to secure and or/maintain a viable self-sustaining population in critical habitat occupied in the Mission Mountains. Objectives dealing with habitat management call for maintaining habitat required for a viable population, minimizing humanbear conflicts, and managing natural resources to minimize adverse effects and maximize benefits for bears while meeting the natural resource needs of the Confederated Tribes. Habitat management strategies are included in Chapter II, Section B, of the Flathead Indian Reservation Grizzly Bear Management Plan and address the following (overpage):

Flathead Indian Reservation Grizzly Bear Management Plan	
Road management	Incorporate forestry practices that minimize adverse effects. Include road
	closures, seasonal closures, buffer strip maintenance and visual cover
Cover	Visual cover should be maintained along streams, wet areas and adjacent to
	major habitat components such as snow chutes and shrub fields
Timing of forest	General timber harvest and road activity limitations for each habitat
management	component. Planning of timber sales to consider maintaining disturbance-free
activity	zones around each timber sale for at least 2 years.
Livestock Grazing	Minimize competition and conflict by reviewing leases in critical habitat.
	Limitations as to time of year, access and class of stock recommended.
Private land	Identify low elevation habitats subject to possible subdivision and residential
development	development. Incorporate management strategies including zoning, easements
	and acquisition
Seasonal area	Temporary recreational trail closure, temporary campground closure, seasonal
restrictions	restrictions on grazing; limitations on road construction activities.

Direction is also provided in the *Mission Mountain Tribal Wilderness Management Plan* and the *Buffer Zone Management Plan*. Although guidelines are similar to those outlined in the Grizzly Bear Management Plan, special management consideration within the Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness is also provided by the following:

- Special Grizzly Bear Management Zone established in 1982, surrounding McDonald Peak and Ashley Lakes drainage. Each year the entire area is closed to human use from July 15 (earlier if the situation warrants it) to October 1 (later if the situation warrants it) to both minimize disturbance to bears, and to provide for the safety of people.
- <u>Ashley Lakes Day Use Area</u> located within the Special Grizzly Bear Management Zone, is restricted to day use only when the area is open to recreational use (when the Grizzly Bear Closure is in effect, this area is also closed).
- <u>Spring Stock Use Closure</u> since 1989 the entire Tribal Wilderness area is closed to all livestock use (including pack and riding stock) from March 1 through June 30.

Through a variety of funding sources, the Tribes are also actively purchasing important bear habitat along the Mission Mountain Front and valley bottom. To date, the Tribes have purchased or protected close to 2,000 acres of occupied and usable habitat. Over 1,000 acres are being managed specifically for wildlife habitat values.

5. Federal Lands

5.1 National Parks (NP)

Glacier National Park (GNP) is the only national park located within the geographic range of this management plan. The National Parks Service's *Resource Management Plan* (1994) instructs National Park managers to "perpetuate and prevent from harm (through human actions) wildlife populations as part of the natural ecosystem of parks" while GNPs *General Management Plan* (GMP), completed in 1994, sets the general management philosophy and direction for the next 20 years. The GMP sets management zones that reflect the grizzly bear management situations as defined in the Recovery Plan. For example the Visitor Services Zone in Glacier GMP sets out the same parameters as those for Situation 3 in the

Recovery Plan. The Backcountry Zone roughly approximates Situation 1. Glacier's Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan (2004) defines the backcountry camping permit system, layout of designated backcountry campgrounds, trail brushing standards, bear information sign standards and other pertinent management actions that benefit bear conservation

Specific reference to bear habitat within GNP is also dealt with in the *GNP Bear Management Plan* (2004) which states that "the staff of Glacier National Park is responsible for protecting and perpetuating the naturally functioning ecosystems in the Park, including bears and their habitat". Outlined goals include providing for the long term survivability of the grizzly bear in GNP and the NCDE and fulfilling the mandate of Congress, as expressed in the National Park Service Organic Act of 1916, by striving to protect and maintain the natural habitat and status of the bears, while maximizing the security and safety of the Park visitor. Direction provides for educating backcountry users and temporary closure of backcountry areas with consistent bear presence. Furthermore, the Park recognizes the importance of collaborating with other agencies, Indian tribes and private individuals and organizations in the NCDE to enhance the regional survivability of the grizzly bear. The *GNP Bear Management Guidelines* (2004) are intended to be used as a field guide for meeting the objectives of the Bear Management Plan.

5.2 National Wildlife Refuges (NWR)

The NWR System encompasses national wildlife refuges, wetlands and other special management areas and resource management falls under the direction of USFWS. It's mission is "to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations" (*National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1997*).

Within the area covered by this report, two refuges under various land ownership patterns exist. The National Bison Range Complex encompasses Lost Trail NWR, Ninepipe NWR, Pablo NWR, Northwest Montana WMD, the Swan River NWR plus 18 waterfowl production areas. Lee Metcalf NWR is located to the south. The USFWS currently has three management programs for the protection of resources under the National Wildlife Refuge System; a Waterfowl Production Area, a Wildlife Management Area or a Refuge Unit.

In August 2005, the USFWS approved the establishment of the *Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area* along the eastern edge of the Continental Divide in northwestern Montana. The Conservation Area will be monitored as part of the Refuge System in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 and other relevant legislation, executive orders, regulations, and policies, including the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan (USFWS 1993). Using funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the USFWS plans to purchase perpetual conservation easements from willing sellers on 170,000 acres of private land to conserve wildlife habitat. The easements will help maintain a relatively large, unfragmented block of habitat between existing protected areas including state wildlife management areas, The Nature Conservancy's Pine Butte Swamp Preserve, and Boone and Crockett Club's Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch. According to the *Environmental Assessment and Land Protection Plan for the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area* (2005) grazing will not be restricted on the land, however, subdivision and development for residential, commercial, or industrial purposes will be prohibited. Altering the natural topography, converting native grassland to cropland, wetland drainage or establishing game farms would also be prohibited.

5.3 Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Habitat management guidelines for grizzly bears on federal lands administered by the BLM in western Montana are located within area specific *Resource Management Plans* (RMP). The BLM also relies on the Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines (1986) and the Interagency Rocky Mountain Front Wildlife Guidelines (1987) for resolving management issues on the eastern front.

- Garnet Resource Area (GRA) includes sizable amounts of public land in Missoula, Granite, and Powell counties. Although the *Garnet Resource Management Plan* (1986) recognizes that the area contains current and historic habitat for four threatened or endangered species including the grizzly bear, at the time of writing the RMP, there was no known occupation by grizzly bears. No amendments have been made to the plan and it is not due for revision until 2012 (Jim Sparks, wildlife biologist, Missoula). There are currently no habitat management guidelines in place for grizzly bears.
- Great Falls Resource Area (GFRA) management direction is provided within the *Headwaters Area Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* (1983). Specific guidance includes mitigating the negative effects of livestock grazing through modified livestock grazing plans that deter grazing until July 1. Further direction is also provided for forestry management practices, and oil and gas leasing and development. Direction regarding habitat access management is, however, lacking (Fred Roberts, wildlife biologist, Lewistown).
- <u>Butte Field Office</u> (FO) is currently engaged in the scoping phase of revising its existing RMP. A supporting environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared which will address a wide variety of issues and analyze a reasonable range of alternatives for resource management in the planning area. In addition, the Butte FO is currently working on travel plans for several areas; road density analysis will be conducted for these travel plans (Sara LaMar, wildlife biologist, Butte).

5.4 National Forests (NF)

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976 provides the legal basis and direction for development of national forest plans. NFMA specifies that the National Forest System be managed to provide for diversity of plant and animal communities to meet multiple use objectives. In addition, regulations adopted in 1979 (36 CFR 219) augment the diversity policy by requiring management of habitats to maintain viable populations of vertebrates.

Within western Montana, area specific land management direction for grizzly bear conservation is contained in individual Forest Land Resource Management Plans (LRMP). Many of these plans were produced in the 1980s and several are in the process of revision: the Bitterroot, Lolo, Kootenai and Flathead National Forests are currently revising their forest plans and expect them to be released in winter 2006.

Additionally, the 2001 Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) record of decision to amend Forest Plans in Montana, North Dakota and portions of South Dakota, recently limited wheeled motorized cross-country travel in most National Forests in this geographic area. Several Forests have, or are currently in the process of, amending their travel plans to provide off-road motorized opportunities. The 2004 Record of Decision regarding Forest Plan Amendments for Motorized Access Management within the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Recovery Zones changes the LRMPs for the Kootenai, Idaho Panhandle, and Lolo National Forests by amending the objectives, standards, and guidelines that address grizzly bear management within the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak recovery zones. Specific amendments are summarized below under each Forest, however, major changes include removing existing Forest Plan standards regarding linear

open road density and habitat effectiveness and setting specific numeric standards for open motorized road density, total motorized road density and core habitat for each BMU.

Flathead National Forest

The Flathead National Forest LRMP (1986), or Forest Plan, includes a goal to recover and conserve the grizzly bear (pages II-5 and II-7) and calls for standards that ensure all management activities and projects involving grizzly bears and their habitat be planed, designed and implemented in accordance with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines (pages II-25 through II-33). The Flathead Forest also has management plans for the Bob Marshall, Mission Mountains and Great Bear Wilderness Areas.

An amendment to the Forest Plan in 1995 (*Amendment #19*) provides specific forest-wide objectives and standards for direction for grizzly bear habitat and timber management, and establishes the primacy of such guidelines over all other plan direction. Principle changes in forest-wide standards for the grizzly bear require that there be no net increase in total motorized access density greater than 2 miles/square mile, no net increase open motorized access density greater than 1 mile/square mile and no net decrease in the amount or size of secure core area. Specific objectives are summarized below.

Flathead National Forest Plan	
Secure core area	Secure core areas are ≥2500 acres in size, distributed to provide seasonal habitats
size, distribution	approximately proportional to availability, and remain in place for at least 10
and durability	years once established and effective.
Secure core habitat	In subunits where USFS ownership >75%, secure core habitat is ≥68% (10 year
percent	goal) and ≥60% (5 year goal).
Secure core habitat	No reduction in secure core on USFS in subunits <75% USFS ownership.
trend	
Road densities	In subunits >75% USFS ownership: ORD is <19% of MS 1 and MS2 with density
	>1 mi/sq. mi (10 year goal); ORD is <19% of MS1 and MS2 with density >1 mi/sq.
	mi (5 year goal); TRD is <19% of MS1 and MS2 with density >2 mi/sq. mi (10 year
	goal); and TRD is ≤ 24% of MS 1 and MS2 with density > 2 m/sq. mi (5 year goal)
Road density trend	No increase in motorized access density on USFS lands in subunits with
	intermingled ownership pattern and/or <75% FS ownership.
Monitoring efforts	Monitoring of human access and road densities required, coupled with annual
	reports.

Helena National Forest (HNF)

The *Helena Forest Plan* (1986) provides direction and guidelines for the management and conservation of grizzly bear habitat. This direction is described in the Forest-wide Goals (FP-II/1), Forest-wide Objectives (FP II/4), Forest-wide Standards (FP II-17, 19), Individual Management Area direction (FP III/56, 59, 60), Management Areas Monitoring Requirements (FP III/96), Forest Plan Monitoring Requirements (FP IV/8) and Forest Plan Appendix A (resolution of Issues and Concerns), D (Guidelines for Management of Grizzly Bear Habitat), E, (Grizzly Bear Management Outside of Recovery Zones), and N (Oil and Gas Leasing).

All of the HNF that lies within the NCDE Recovery Zone is classified as either MS 1 or MS 2. In addition to Appendix D, which provides guidelines for management of grizzly bear habitat both within and outside the recovery zone, the Plan also identifies forest-wide standards that directly or indirectly benefit grizzly bears and help minimize effects of roads and other activities on grizzly bears across the Forest.

Further direction calls for an open road density within MS 1 and MS 2 grizzly habitat (page II-19). Specific guidance is presented below.

Helena National Forest Plan		
Habitat	Maintenance or enhancement of sufficient bear habitat to meet population	
management in RZ	recovery goals for HNF.	
Road densities &	ORD not to exceed 1980 density of 0.55 mi./sq. mi. for MS 1 and MS 2.	
trends		
Seismic operations	Stipulations issued to protect threatened and endangered species by limiting	
	activities during critical periods, and protecting important habitat elements.	

Forest Plan *Amendment #13* (1998) replaces Appendix N with a new Appendix N and contains standard lease notices and stipulations for oil and gas leases issued in the HNF. These stipulations do, however, include a clause allowing for modification of the lease should new studies indicate that such habitat is not important. Stipulations and direction regarding leases within grizzly bear habitat include:

Helena National Forest Plan – Amendment 13 (1998)	
Resource	Stipulation
Habitat (MS 1)	No surface occupancy – surface disturbing activities precluded within area
	important for recovery and maintenance.
Denning Habitat (MS 2)	Timing limitation – surface disturbing activities precluded (Oct 15 to April
	15).
Spring Habitat (MS 2)	Timing limitation – surface disturbing activities precluded (April 1 to June
	30).
Summer Area (MS 2)	Timing limitation – surface disturbing activities precluded (July 1 to
	September 15).
Denning & Summer	No surface occupancy – preclude new surface disturbing activities within
Occupied Habitat (MS	overlapping occupied habitat.
2)	

Kootenai National Forest (KNF)

At this time, the Kootenai LRMP is in the process of being revised and a draft plan is expected to be released for public comment in February 2006. The *Kootenai LRMP* (1987), or forest plan, provides standards and guidelines related to grizzly bear management to (i) avoid the likelihood of jeopardizing the continued existence of grizzlies (ii) contribute toward grizzly bear conservation and (iii) coordinate Forest activities with the biological needs of the grizzly. Much of this direction is described in the Forest-wide Goals (FP-II-1), Forest-wide Objectives (FP II-6), Forest-wide Standards (FP II-22, 23) and Grizzly Bear Situation and Augmentation Discussion (Appendix 8).

The revised USFWS Biological Opinion (1995) directs the KNF to incorporate IGBC recommendations relative to the management of open and total road densities as well as core habitat. Subsequent rule sets and amendments, including the *Motorized Access Management Amendment* (March, 2004), establishes access management direction within the CYE; identified monitoring parameters include Open Motorized Road Density (OMRD), Total Motorized Road Density (TMRD) and Core Habitat. The 2004 Amendment also provides standards for bears in occupied areas outside the recovery zone. These include (i) no increases in linear open road density above baseline conditions and (ii) no permanent increases in linear

total road densities above baseline conditions. Amended habitat security standards and direction in the KNF is now provided by the following:

Kootenai National Forest Plan – amended habitat security standards (2004)	
Goals & Standards	Habitat security standards for specific BMUs
Core area	Numeric standards specific to each BMU; consider seasonal needs; fix in place
	for 10 year; in BMUs not meeting specific standard, projects affecting core must
	result in increased post-project core.
Habitat	No standard.
effectiveness	
Road density	No Linear ORD standard; OMRD = numeric standards specific to each BMU.
	TMRD = numeric standards specific to each BMU.
Road density trend	In areas not meeting OMRD and/or TMRD standards, actions affecting road
	density must result in move toward standards.
Movement corridor	Existing implementation - 600 ft between harvest corridors.
Administrative use	57 round trips, divided by season.
Timing constraint	No change – as per Grizzly Management Situation and Evaluation Guidelines
	(Appendix 8, p 10).
Mapped areas of	No net increases in linear ORD on USFS ownership land above baseline
bear occupancy	conditions in specified areas; no permanent increases in linear TRD above
outside of RZ	baseline conditions in specified areas.

Within that portion of the Kootenai Forest of the NCDE, the same habitat standards as the Flathead National Forest are followed.

Lewis and Clark National Forest

The Lewis and Clark National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) provides direction for the management of grizzly bear habitat. This direction is provided in the form of Long Range Goals (pp2-2 to 5) that includes aiding in the recovery of the grizzly bear in the NCDE. Additional direction is found in the Forest-wide Objectives (pp 2-4 to 9). Relevant objectives can be summarized as: important habitat for grizzly bears in the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wildernesses will maintained by natural processes; and management will emphasize recovery of the grizzly bear on the Rocky Mountain Division. More detailed management direction is found in the Forest-wide Management Standards (pp 2-25 to 73). Forest-wide standards can be summarized as:

- Manage recreation to minimize impacts to grizzly bears in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (a special order requiring food to be stored so it is not accessible to grizzly bears has been in place on the Rocky Mountain Division since 1995.)
- Grazing that affects grizzly bears should be made compatible with the needs of grizzly bears or such use will be disallowed (there was one sheep allotment on the Rocky Mountain Front when the plan was approved. This allotment has since been closed to sheep grazing.)
- Road use in general and for firewood collection after timber harvest activities is to be prohibited during important grizzly bear use seasons.
- Coordinate timber harvest activities to minimize disturbance to grizzly bears.*
- Maintain or improve production of grizzly bear food species on timber harvest sites.*
- Maintain escape cover and a degree of isolation for the grizzly bear in timber management activities.*

- Limit new road construction to an absolute minimum to provide isolation and disturbance free areas for the grizzly bear by avoiding wet areas, known feeding sites, known travel corridors.
- Where necessary restrict public use of existing roads to protect grizzly bear habitat.
- Use the Interagency Rocky Mountain Front Wildlife Management Guidelines to avoid or mitigate conflicts between land management activities and uses.

*This direction is specific to areas considered suitable for timber management activities. Of the approximate 782,647 acres of Lewis & Clark National Forest managed land in the NCDE only 8,026 acres (approximately 1%) are considered suitable for timber management activities.

Lewis & Clark National Forest managed lands in NCDE recovery area		
by management emphasis.		
Management emphasis	Acres	Percent of Area
Congressionally designated Wilderness, USFS Recommended	485,389	62%
Wilderness, USFS Wilderness Study Areas, or Research		
Natural Areas where direction is no motorized access.		
(Management Areas M,N,P,Q)		
Management areas for wildlife, primitive recreation, or other	184,938	23.6%
resource protection where direction is to minimize motorized		
public access. (Management Areas F,G,O)		
Management areas for wildlife habitat where the direction is	99,975	12.8%
for low motorized public access (0.5-1.5 miles per square mile).		
(Management Areas E,I)		
Management areas where the direction is for high motorized	12,319	1.6%
public access (3.0 miles per square mile) to facilitate use of		
public and private recreation developments. (Management		
Areas H,S)		

	Lewis and Clark National Forest Plan
Goals & Standards	Habitat security standards for specific BMUs
Core area	Standards for core area size and distribution are not set in the Forest Plan.
	However, size and distribution is a required reporting element in Section 7
	consultation with the USFWS on activities that may influence grizzly bears.
	The Interagency Rocky Mountain Front Wildlife Management Guidelines set seasonal restrictions that are implemented through the existing travel plan to
	provide core area.
Road/Route density	TMRD varies by management area from no motorized access, to low (0.5-1.5
	miles per square mile), to high (3.0 miles per square mile). In all cases, seasonal
	or year long restrictions may be used on roads and trails to protect natural
	resources. Because of restrictions ORD is often lower than the TRD identified as
	permissible in the table above. In addition, MRD is a required reporting element
	in Section 7 consultation with the USFWS on activities that may influence grizzly
	bears.

Actual motorized route density is typically lower then the standards described above. In addition, the Lewis and Clark National Forest is in the process of revising the travel plan or motorized use map for roads and trails on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District. A decision is expected in the summer of 2006. This new travel plan will provide addition site specific direction above that found in the Forest Plan, most often this direction leads to open route densities below the levels identified in the Forest Plan.

Lolo National Forest

At this time, the Lolo LRMP is also in the process of being revised. Forest wide management direction in the existing *Lolo National Forest Plan* (1986) provides for the recovery of threatened species. It specifically regulates human access and use in and through occupied grizzly bear habitat and calls for tools, such as prescribed burning, to be used to enhance food-producing areas and improve habitat.

Essential grizzly bear habitat (MS 1) is further protected by Forest Strategy #24, which states that vegetative management objectives (including timber harvest and prescribed burning) will be established by the Forest wildlife biologist. Silviculture objectives and timber harvest timing must be compatible with those vegetative objectives. In areas where grizzly bear use is suspected or known to occur on an occasional basis (MS 2) activities must be scheduled so as not to conflict with bear activity.

According to the *Lolo National Forest Plan Five Year Review* (1993), there were several issues that required changes to the Forest Plan. Specific to the management of grizzly bear habitat, the forest had no ORD standard for occupied grizzly bear habitat in its LRMP. The review notes that adjoining national forests had already adopted the accepted ORD standard (1 mi/sq. mi) as a forest standard and suggested that adopting such a standard would provide consistent management direction across administrative boundaries, would be consistent with current research findings, and would comply with USFWS policy.

While the 1986 LNF LRMP contained no requirement for management of security habitat (effective grizzly bear habitat), in the early 1990s, the Forest adopted a requirement for management of displacement habitat within the Bear Management Analysis Areas (BMAA's: subunits within a BMU that are delineated for cumulative effects analysis). Beginning in 1999, direction for grizzly bear habitat management was provided by an Interim Rule Set issued by the Cabinet-Yaak/Selkirk Subcommittee of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee.

More recently, the Lolo National Forest LRMP amendment (*Motorized Access Management Amendment*, signed March, 2004) establishes habitat security and access management direction in the CYE; identified monitoring parameters include Open Motorized Road Density (OMRD), Total Motorized Road Density (TMRD) and Core Habitat. The 2004 Forest Plan Amendment also establishes standards for areas outside the recovery zone that are occupied by bears. Standards outside the recovery zone are (i) no increases in linear open road density above baseline conditions and (ii) no permanent increases in linear total road densities above baseline conditions. Amended habitat security standards and direction is now provided by the following (overpage):

Lolo National Forest Plan – amended habitat security standards (2004)	
Goals & Standards	Habitat security standards for specific BMUs
Core area	Numeric standards specific to each BMU; consider seasonal needs; fix in place
	for 10 year; in BMUs not meeting specific standard, projects affecting core must
	result in increased post-project core.
Habitat	No standard.
effectiveness	
Road density	No Linear ORD standard; OMRD = numeric standards for each BMU. TMRD =
	numeric standards for each BMU.
Road density trend	In areas not meeting OMRD and/or TMRD standards, actions affecting road
	density must result in move toward standards.
Opening size	Existing implementation - ≤40 acres, can be larger if there are no permanent
	roads within ½ mile of the unit
Administrative use	57 round trips, divided by season.
Mapped areas of	No net increases in linear ORD on USFS ownership land above baseline
bear occupancy	conditions in specified areas; no permanent increases in linear TRD above
outside of RZ	baseline conditions in specified areas.

Bitterroot National Forest

There is no specific mention of grizzly bear management in the *Bitterroot National Forest Plan* (1986). Chapter II-21, section f, states that no formal recovery plan has been established for threatened and endangered species in the Bitterroot Forest. Specific population objectives will, however, be established when sufficient biological information is available to do so. The *Bitterroot Forest Plan Five Year Review* (1994) points out that although the Forest Plan provides general direction for the maintenance and enhancement of habitat for sensitive species, conservation strategies for these species have not been completed and incorporated. Coordination with the USFWS, Idaho Fish and Game, and Montana FWP will continue.

6. Private Programs Affecting Public Lands.

The National Wildlife Federation in cooperation with other interested parties has a program to retire some public grazing allotments from willing sellers on areas where there are livestock-wildlife conflicts. To date they have retired over 300,000 acres of livestock allotments with willing sellers.