

Appendix C – National Categories for Management Areas³⁴

Category 1

In Category 1, ecological processes such as fire, insects, and disease are allowed to operate relatively free from the influence of humans. A predominantly diverse, native vegetation results from natural succession and disturbance processes, while non-native vegetation is rare. People who use Category 1 areas must be self-reliant and should expect little contact with others. Few, if any man-made facilities and structural improvements are present. Travel is non-mechanized with few exceptions. Typical types of Category 1 areas are designated as wilderness, roadless, and backcountry lands. A small amount of motorized use may be required to restore desired conditions in core restoration areas.

Category 2

These areas provide for conservation of representative, or particularly rare and narrowly distributed, ecological settings or components. They help ensure conservation of ecosystems or ecosystem components that may provide important functions ensuring the overall sustainability of larger landscapes. Human influences on the ecological processes are limited to the degree possible, but are sometimes evident. Type of human use varies, but generally is not intensive. Travel is generally non-motorized. Some of these areas help provide an important role under an adaptive management philosophy by providing “natural” reference areas that are intensively managed for a particular objective. These areas are often formally designated. Research natural areas, national recreation areas, designated wild and scenic rivers, and special interest areas are typically included in Category 2.

Category 3

Ecological values are in balance with human occupancy and consideration is given to both. Resource management activities may occur, but natural ecological processes and resulting patterns will normally predominate. Ecosystems are allowed to function naturally while resource use may change over time to accommodate the ecological factors. Although these areas are characterized by predominantly natural appearing landscapes, an array of management tools may be used to restore or maintain relatively natural patterns of ecological progress. This will result in some evidence of human activities. Users expect to experience some isolation from the sights and sounds of people in a setting that offers some challenge and risk. Restrictions on motorized travel may vary from area to area and from season to season.

Category 4

Ecological values are managed to provide recreational use, but are maintained well within the levels necessary to sustain overall ecological systems. Resource use for other values is not emphasized and has little impact on ecological structure, function, or composition. Human use is recreation oriented. Sights and sounds of people on the site are expected and may even be desired. Motorized transportation is common.

Category 5

These areas are primarily forested ecosystems that are managed to meet a variety of ecological and human needs. They are often characterized by a substantially modified natural environment. A wide variety of structure and composition is present, some showing the effects of past management activities, others affected by predominantly natural forces such as fire, insects, and diseases. Ecological conditions are maintained, while emphasizing selected biological structures and compositions considering the range of natural variability. These lands often display high levels of investment, use, and activity; density of facilities; and evidence of vegetative manipulation. Users expect to see other people and evidence of human activities. Facilities supporting the various resource uses are common. Motorized transportation is common.

³⁴ USDA Forest Service 1982.

In some ecosystems, intensive management is necessary to restore the systems to their range of natural variability. This management is usually a combination of prescribed fire and timber harvest treatments. These lands appear similar to “natural” landscapes if left to function under natural disturbance processes. Restoration to the range of natural variability will only be a goal when stated as part of the decision documented in the Record of Decision for a particular forest plan. On some forests in Region 2, the decision may be to manage these resources outside of their range of natural variability, or a documented decision that management within the range of natural variability is not possible to accomplish within the life of the forest plan.

Category 6

These areas are primarily grasslands or other non-forested ecosystems managed to meet a variety of ecological and human needs. They are often characterized by a substantially modified natural environment. Ecological conditions are maintained while emphasizing selected biological structures and compositions considering the range of natural variability. A wide variety of structure and composition is present, some showing the effects of past management activities, others affected by predominantly natural forces such as fire, insects, and diseases. These lands often display high levels of investment, use and activity, density of facilities, and evidence of vegetative manipulation. Users expect to see other people and evidence of human activities. Facilities supporting the various resource uses are common. Motorized transportation is common.

Category 7

Public lands are intermingled with private lands to such an extent that ecosystem management objectives for National Forest System lands must be tempered by other landowners’ uses and objectives. Human activities have altered the natural appearance of these landscapes in most areas on both the public and private lands. Sights and sounds of people predominate. Private land use is often residential. Resource use is not planned on a sustainable basis, but may occur in concert with surrounding private land values. Motorized transportation is common.

Category 8

Ecological conditions including processes are likely to be permanently altered beyond the level needed to maintain natural-appearing landscapes and ecological processes by human activities. These areas are generally small in scale. Ecological values are protected where they affect the health and welfare of human occupancy. Areas such as mines or other concentrated uses are included in this category. Human activities are generally commercial in nature and directly or indirectly provide jobs and income. Motorized transportation is common.

Figure 133. Management area crosswalk to the national categories for the six GYA national forests.

		National Management Area Category							
MA	Description	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	
Beaverhead National Forest									
1	Custodial management	X							
6	Research Natural Areas		X						
7	Developed recreation sites							X	
8	Dispersed recreation sites			X					
9	Wilderness	X							
10	Wilderness study	X							

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MA	Description	1	2	3	4	5	6	8
13	Timber/wildlife					X		
14	Wetlands			X				
16	Timber					X		
17	Timber/range					X		
18	Timber/range/recreation					X		
19	Wildlife/timber(low)/range					X		
20	Wildlife/timber(mod)/range					X		
21	Wildlife/timber(mod)					X		
22	Range (high)						X	
23	Range (mod)						X	
24	Wildlife/range						X	
25	Big game winter range			X				
26	Big game summer range/timber					X		
27	Watershed restoration				X			
28	Recreation complex							X
30	Historic/scenic trails			X				
Bridger-Teton National Forest								
1B	Timber/range					X		
2A	Primitive and semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation		X					
2B	Motorized recreation					X		
3	River recreation			X				
4	Municipal watersheds		X					
6A-6D, S	Wilderness	X						

		National Management Area Category						
MA	Description	1	2	3	4	5	6	8
7A	Grizzly bear recovery through scheduled timber harvest				X			
8	Grizzly bear habitat recovery—few roads/habitat security			X				
9A	Developed and administrative sites							X
9B	Special use recreation areas			X				
10	Some development and roads while having no adverse wildlife effects			X				
12	Backcountry, dispersed recreation and wildlife security areas		X					
Custer National Forest								
B	Livestock grazing/minerals						X	
C	Key wildlife habitat/MS 1/current allotment status maintained			X				
D	Timber/range/wildlife					X		
E	Mineral management emphasis						X	
F	Recreation							X
G	Timber					X		
H	Wilderness study	X						
I	Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness	X						
L	Research Natural Areas		X					
P	Administrative sites							X

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MA	Description	1	2	3	4	5	6	8
Q	Wild horses			X				
R	Municipal watersheds				X			
T	Scenic highway			X				
Gallatin National Forest								
1	Developed recreation sites							X
2	Ski area special use permits							X
3	Custodial management/maintain present conditions	X						
4	Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wilderness areas and recommended wilderness	X						
5	Travel corridors			X				
6	Semiprimitive motorized and nonmotorized			X				
7	Riparian areas (timber and grazing suitable)				X			
8	Timber management					X		
9	Timber with dispersed recreation					X		
10	Timber interspersed with grassland					X		
11	Forested big game habitat					X		
12	Wildlife summer and winter range				X			
13	Occupied grizzly bear habitat (forested suitable timber)				X			

		National Management Area Category						
MA	Description	1	2	3	4	5	6	8
14	Occupied grizzly bear habitat, big game winter range, not suitable for timber but suitable for grazing			X				
15	Occupied grizzly bear habitat (mostly grassland), suitable grazing			X				
16	Grassland, unsuitable timber						X	
17	Forage production for livestock and wildlife			X				
18	Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area		X					
19	Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area		X					
20	Cabin Creek recreation and wildlife management area		X					
21	Proposed Research Natural Areas		X					
24	Mineral extraction							X
26	Administrative sites							X
	Acquired lands		X					
Shoshone National Forest								
2A	Semiprimitive motorized recreation			X				
2B	Rural and roaded natural recreation				X			
3A	Semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation				X			
4B	Management indicator species					X		
5A	Big game winter range (nonforested)					X		

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5B	Big game winter range (forested)					X		
7E	Wood fiber production					X		
8A	Pristine wilderness	X						
8B	Primitive wilderness	X						
8C	Semiprimitive wilderness	X						
8E	Fitzpatrick Wilderness addition	X						
9A	Riparian area management			X				
9E	Water impoundments				X			
10A	Research Natural Areas		X					
10D	Wild and scenic rivers	X						
10E	High Lakes Wilderness Study Area	X						
10F	Dunoir Special Management Area	X						
Targhee National Forest								
1.1.6, 7, 8	Designated wilderness	X						
1.2	Wilderness study area	X						
1.3	Recommended wilderness	X						
2.1.1	Special management areas		X					
2.1.2	Visual quality maintenance		X					

		National Management Area Category						
MA	Description	1	2	3	4	5	6	8
2.2	Research Natural Areas		X					
2.3	Eligible wild river		X					
2.4	Eligible scenic river		X					
2.5	Eligible recreational river		X					
2.6.1(a)	Grizzly bear habitat (no ASQ, no cross country, no sheep)		X					
2.6.2	Grizzly bear core area		X					
2.6.5	Grizzly bear security area		X					
2.7(a,b)	Elk and deer winter range		X					
2.8.3	Aquatic influence zone		X					
2.9.1	South Fork Snake River eligible scenic river		X					
2.9.2	South Fork Snake River eligible recreation river		X					
3.1.1(a)	Nonmotorized			X				
3.1.2	Nonmotorized			X				
3.2(b-j)	Semiprimitive motorized			X				
4.1	Developed recreation sites							X
4.2	Special use permit recreation sites							X
4.3	Dispersed camping management				X			
5.1(c)	Timber management					X		

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MA	Description	1	2	3	4	5	6	8
5.1.3(a,b)	Timber management (no clearcutting, urban interface)					X		
5.4(a-c)	Elk summer range					X		
5.2.1,2	Visual quality maintenance and improvement					X		
5.3.5	Grizzly bear habitat (non-interchangeable [NIC] for ASQ), no cross country, phase out sheep)					X		
6.1(b)	Range management						X	
8.1	Concentrated development areas							X
	Water		X					