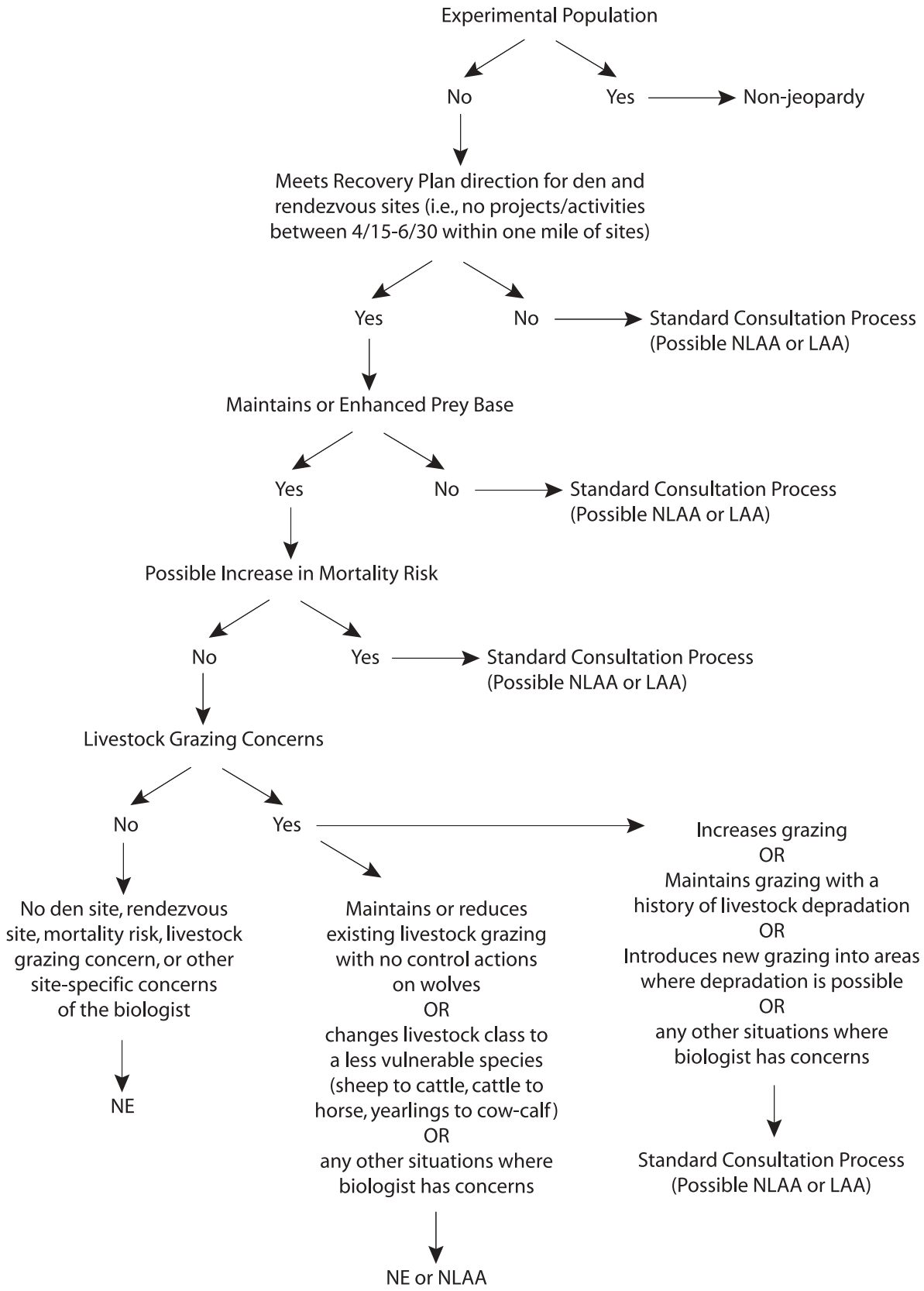
APPENDIX U
WOLF PROJECT SCREENING ELEMENTS AND DETERMINATIONS

The following screening process is intended to facilitate ESA processing of project consultation requirements. The wolf screen should be used to assist in identifying projects that have "no effect" (NE) or "not likely to adversely affect" (NLAA) determination calls for the wolf. All projects that do not fall into the NE or NLAA must consider the wolf by using the established process for evaluating impacts of proposed projects on threatened and endangered species [i.e. project analysis (including cumulative effects) Biological Assessment, and consultation with USFWS].

The gray wolf screen includes a series of flowcharts. If the project screens to the NLAA determination that is not prefaced with the 'Standard Consultation' requirement as identified on the flow chart, then the project qualifies for the programmatic concurrence. If the project screens to "Standard Consultation", then the project is not included in the programmatic concurrence and standard consultation processes need to be followed. It is possible to reach an NLAA determination and still be required to apply standard consultation procedures. This is because the nature of the project warrants additional consideration above and beyond that provided by the programmatic concurrence.

The major components of the wolf screen are population designation (wild or experimental) and whether the proposed project has any relationship to den or rendezvous sites during spring/summer, the prey base and/or livestock grazing. The original draft of the wolf screen was based on the following references and personal communications and has been modified through review by the Montana Level I Team:

- USFWS 1987. Wolf Recovery Plan.
- Fontaine, Joe. Personal communication (with Mike Hillis)
- USDA and USDI. 2000. Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project, Final Environmental Impact Statement.
- USDA and USDI. Biological Assessment. Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project. In preparation.


Experimental Population
No
Yes
Non-jeopardy
Meets Recovery Plan direction for den and rendezvous sites (i.e., no projects/activities between 4/15-6/30 within one mile of sites)
Yes
No
Standard Consultation Process (Possible NLAA or LAA)
Maintains or Enhanced Prey Base
Yes
No
Standard Consultation Process (Possible NLAA or LAA)
Possible Increase in Mortality Risk
No
Yes
Standard Consultation Process (Possible NLAA or LAA)
Livestock Grazing Concerns
No
Yes
No den site, rendezvous site, mortality risk, livestock grazing concern, or other site-specific concerns of the biologist
NE
Maintains or reduces existing livestock grazing with no control actions on wolves
OR
changes livestock class to a less vulnerable species (sheep to cattle, cattle to horse, yearlings to cow-calf)
OR
any other situations where biologist has concerns
NE or NLAA
Increases grazing
OR
Maintains grazing with a history of livestock depradation
OR
Introduces new grazing into areas where depradation is possible
OR
any other situations where biologist has concerns
Standard Consultation Process (Possible NLAA or LAA)