

APPENDIX V

GRIZZLY BEAR MANAGEMENT

GRIZZLY BEAR PROJECT SCREENING ELEMENTS AND DETERMINATIONS

The following grizzly bear screening process is intended to facilitate ESA processing of project consultation requirements for minor projects, when a “no effect” or “not likely to adversely affect” determination is “clearly” the appropriate conclusion. Projects not meeting or included in the criteria presented must follow standard processes for conducting project analysis, BA development, and consultation.

The process relies heavily upon criteria developed as a part of the R1, R4, R6 National Fire Plan Consultation Screening Process, LRMPs, consultation processes, and other relevant plans. Criteria may differ among areas or units, but since the criteria have gone through planning, decisions, and review, they are considered adequate management elements for this process.

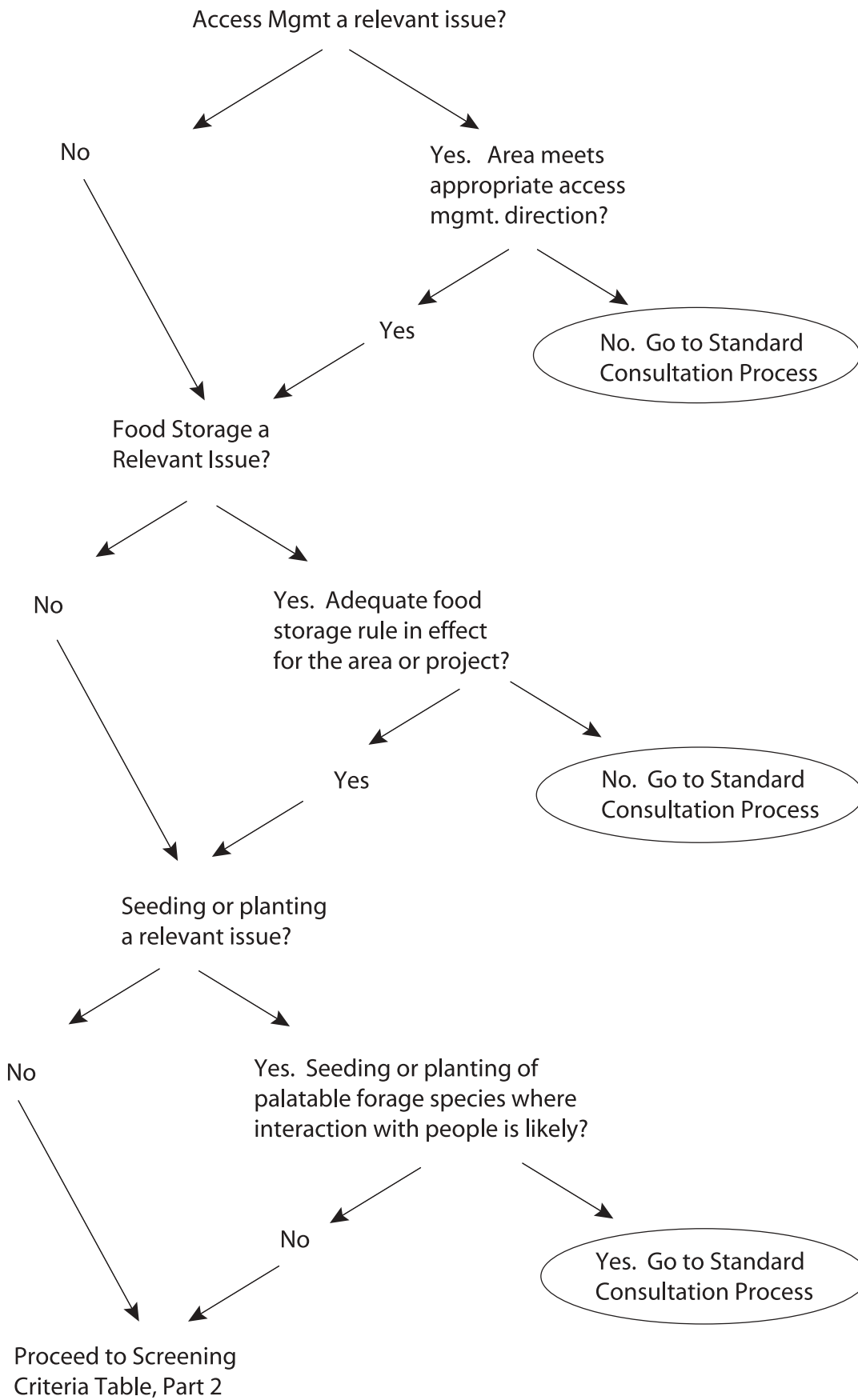
The grizzly bear screen is two-tiered. The Grizzly Bear Screening Process Part 1 is the first tier. If a proposed project does not satisfy the three considerations identified in Part 1 then standard consultation procedures must be followed. If the proposed project successfully meets the criteria identified in Part 1 then proceed to Part 2. Passing to the next tier

does not immediately guarantee that a project will be covered by the programmatic concurrence. If the project results in a “Not Likely to Adversely Affect” determination then the project is covered under the programmatic concurrence. If the project could potentially result in a “Likely to Adversely Affect” determination then standard consultation processes need to be followed.

Three considerations are prerequisite to more detailed consideration of other project information and are considered in screening process Part 1. (1) The area must be in compliance with the appropriate access management direction. (2) Human foods, livestock feed, garbage, and other attractants must be managed by the application of an adequate “food storage rule” similar to the NCDE or Yellowstone food storage orders. If no specific rule exists for the area, use of either the Yellowstone or NCDE order will be considered adequate. (3) Projects that involve seeding or planting of grasses, forbs, or shrubs, must do so in a manner that will tend not to attract bears into areas where increased mortality risk or interaction between bears and people is likely.

After access management, food/attractant storage, and seeding/planting of grasses, forbs, or shrubs have been considered in Part 1, only then can other project details be considered in Part 2 of the screening process

Grizzly Bear Screening Process Part 1



Part 2: The following Screening Criteria Table displays activities and criteria, that when met, will allow the project to meet “screening elements”. If the project does not meet the identified criteria, the project should proceed through the established consultation process.

<i>#</i>	<i>Activity Type</i>	<i>Activity Component</i>	<i>Crew Level and Duration of Use</i>	<i>Screening Criteria</i>	<i>Determination</i>
1	Forest Products	Personal use firewood collection, berry picking, low/incidental mushroom picking, and collection of “other forest products” (such as bear grass greens, medicinal herbs, pachistima, etc)	Day and overnight use	Does not include off road mechanical skidding. Include “bear aware” education message	NLAA
		Commercial firewood collection, berry picking, and “other forest products” (such as bear grass greens, medicinal herbs, pachistima, etc), but does not include mushrooms.	Day use only or camping of ≤ 20 individuals and ≤ 5 days total/analysis area	Does not include off road mechanical skidding. Enforce sanitation standards, and Include “bear aware” education message.	NLAA
2	Mechanical	Off road heavy equip operation, such as site prep, fuel piling, log yarding, etc	NA	NA	Potential LAA, go to Standard Consultation process
		Helicopter use for monitoring, prescribed fire ignition, wildlife relocations, etc	Use includes few trips and ≤ 2 activities/year and ≤ 2 days/activity/analysis area	NA	NLAA
3	Habitat Restoration	See timber harvest, mechanical treatments, roads, weed control, and prescribed fire. Also includes monitoring, exclosure development, fish barrier development, fish spp removal/trapping, rotenone treatment, interpretation/Con Ed, meadow restoration, riparian planting and restoration, snag creation, and water source development.	Day use only or camping of ≤ 20 individuals and ≤ 5 days/analysis area	Project occurs between July 1 through March 31 or completed in ≤ 1 day in riparian areas. Project does not result in an increase in public use or user type.	NLAA
4	Prescribed Fire	General support, ignition, mop-up	Day use only or camping of ≤ 20 individuals and ≤ 5 days/analysis area	Does not include riparian areas	NLAA
		Fire line construction	Same as support	Fire line does not/will not function as a travel way	NLAA
		Defensible space treatments (within 100m of structure)	Same as support	Planting and/or seeding does not include palatable forage spp.	NLAA
5	Range	Infrastructure development	NA	NA	NLAA
		Grazing		Maintains or reduces existing livestock grazing or changes livestock class to a less vulnerable spp, and no history of depredation or control actions	NLAA

<i>#</i>	<i>Activity Type</i>	<i>Activity Component</i>	<i>Crew Level and Duration of Use</i>	<i>Screening Criteria</i>	<i>Determination</i>
		Grazing		Increases livestock grazing, introduces new grazing into areas where depredation more likely, or history of livestock depredation	Potential LAA, go to Standard Consultation process
6	Recreation	Trail maintenance or reconstruction	NA	Results in increased use or change of user type	Potential LAA, go to Standard Consultation process
		Trail maintenance or reconstruction		Does not result in increase in use or change in user type	NLAA
		New Trail construction			Potential LAA, go to Standard Consultation process
		Facility operations, including developed and dispersed camping		Educate public campers and enforce sanitation standards. Does not increase use or change user type.	NLAA
		Facility operations, including developed and dispersed camping		Sanitation standards are not enforced or use is increased or user type is changed.	Potential LAA, go to Standard Consultation process
7	Roads & Road Maintenance	Opening closed road			Potential LAA, go to Standard Consultation process
		Reclaiming road outside of riparian/spring habitat		Meets administrative use levels	NLAA
		Reclaiming road in riparian/spring hab		Project occurs between July 1 through March 31 or completed in ≤1 day, and meets administrative use levels	NLAA
		Reclaiming road		Does not meet administrative use levels, or occurs in riparian/spring habitat and active during 4/1-6/30	Potential LAA, go to Standard Consultation process
		Road Maint: blading, culvert cleaning, brushing, etc		Road is open, or use meets administrative use criteria	NLAA
		New road construction			Potential LAA, go to Standard Consultation process

<i>#</i>	<i>Activity Type</i>	<i>Activity Component</i>	<i>Crew Level and Duration of Use</i>	<i>Screening Criteria</i>	<i>Determination</i>
		Bridge or stream culvert replacement		Project occurs between July 1 through March 31 or completed in ≤ 1 day	NLAA
8	Silviculture Activities	Reforestation hand planting	Day use only or camping of ≤ 20 individuals and ≤ 5 days/analysis area	Does not include snow plowing for access	NLAA
		Reforestation mechanical treatments	NA	NA	Potential LAA, go to Standard Consultation process
		Insect suppression Aerial chemical application	NA	Chemicals do not effect cutworm moth or habitat	NLAA
		Insect suppression Aerial chemical application	NA	Chemicals affect cutworm moth or habitat, and in moth habitat	Potential LAA, go to Standard Consultation process
		Insect suppression ground chemical application	NA	NA	NLAA
		Insect suppression survey, fertilization, manual treatment, individual tree fire treatment, or pheromone treatment	NA	NA	NLAA
		Precommercial thinning			Potential LAA, go to Standard Consultation process
9	Timber harvest	Harvest, skidding, and/or hauling of timber products	NA	NA	Potential LAA, go to Standard Consultation process
10	Watershed restoration	Includes erosion control structures, sediment control, monitoring. Also, see reforestation, timber harvest, mechanical treatments, etc.	Day use only or camping of ≤ 20 individuals and ≤ 5 days/analysis area	Project occurs between July 1 through March 31 or completed in ≤ 1 day	NLAA
11	Weed control	Chemical, aerial or ground application	NA	NA	NLAA
		Sheep or goat grazing	NA	NA	Potential LAA, go to Standard Consultation process

CONSERVATION ACTIONS FOR GRIZZLY BEARS

The following excerpts from the Yellowstone Conservation Strategy and Grizzly Bear Management Plan for Southwestern Montana are pertinent to grizzly bear management in

the Dillon Field Office. These are the conservation measures that address the needs and risk factors for grizzly bear, and will be used to evaluate land management authorizations. The DFO is outside the Primary Conservation Area for grizzly, and only those actions specific to areas outside the PCA will be used.

Final Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly Bear in the Greater Yellowstone Area March 2003

Chapter 1 - Introduction and Background

The future management of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population is envisioned as one in which the grizzly and its habitat are conserved as integral parts of the Greater Yellowstone Area. Within the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA), the grizzly bear population and its habitat will be managed utilizing a management approach that identifies a Primary Conservation Area (PCA) and adjacent areas where occupancy by grizzly bears is anticipated and acceptable. The PCA is the existing Yellowstone grizzly bear recovery zone as identified in the 1993 *Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan (Recovery Plan)* (USFWS 1993). The size of the recovery zone is not being expanded in this approach. Upon implementation of this Conservation Strategy, management using a recovery zone line and grizzly bear Management Situations described in the Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines (IGBC 1986) will no longer be necessary. The PCA boundary will replace the recovery zone boundary. In the Conservation Strategy, management direction is described for both the PCA and adjacent areas within the GYA. State grizzly bear management plans, forest plans, and other appropriate planning documents will provide specific management direction for the adjacent areas outside the PCA.

This Conservation Strategy was developed to be the document guiding management and monitoring of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population and its habitat upon recovery and delisting. This approach will remain in place beyond recovery and delisting. Ongoing review and evaluation of the effectiveness of this Conservation Strategy is the responsibility of the state and federal managers in the GYA. This Conservation Strategy will be updated by the management agencies every five years or as necessary, allowing public comment in the updating process. Upon implementation of the Conservation Strategy, the Yellowstone Grizzly Coordinating Committee (YGCC) will replace the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee.

The Conservation Strategy and the State Management Plans

The purpose of this Conservation Strategy (Strategy) and the state plans is to:

- Describe and summarize the coordinated efforts to manage the grizzly bear population and its habitat to ensure continued conservation in the GYA
- Specify the population, habitat, and nuisance bear standards to maintain a recovered grizzly bear population for the foreseeable future
- Document the regulatory mechanisms and legal authorities, policies, management, and monitoring programs that exist to maintain the recovered grizzly bear population
- Document the commitment of the participating agencies

Implementation of the management strategies requires continued cooperation between federal and state agencies.

The GYA is a dynamic environment; monitoring systems in the Strategy allow for dynamic management as environmental issues change. The agencies are committed to be responsive to the needs of the grizzly bear by dynamic management actions based on the results of detailed annual population and habitat monitoring.

The vision of the Strategy can be summarized as follows:

- The PCA will be a secure area for grizzly bears, with population and habitat conditions maintained to ensure a recovered population is maintained for the foreseeable future and to allow bears to continue to expand outside the PCA.
- Outside of the PCA, grizzly bears will be allowed to expand into biologically suitable and socially acceptable areas.

- Outside of the PCA, the objective is to maintain existing resource management and recreational uses and to allow agencies to respond to demonstrated problems with appropriate management actions.
- Outside of the PCA, the key to successful management of grizzly bears lies in bears utilizing lands that are not managed solely for bears but in which their needs are considered along with other uses.
- Expand public information and education efforts.
- Provide quick responsive management to deal with grizzly bear conflicts.
- Manage grizzly bears as a game animal; including allowing regulated hunting when and where appropriate.

Relationship to Other Plans

By integrating state plans into the Strategy, it was ensured that the plans and the Strategy are consistent where necessary and complementary. The state plans are formally incorporated in the Conservation Strategy as Appendices K, L, and M. Relationships with national forest and national park plans are also mentioned throughout the Strategy. Land and resource management plans for some national forests, national parks, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the GYA have incorporated the habitat standards and other relevant provisions of the Conservation Strategy. For those standards and provisions not yet incorporated into management plans, the agencies will implement the habitat standards and monitoring requirements in this conservation strategy through their established planning processes, subject to NEPA or other legal requirements.

Chapter 2 - Population Standards and Monitoring

To maintain a healthy (recovered) grizzly bear population in the GYA, it is necessary to have adequate numbers of bears that are widely distributed with a balance between reproduction and mortality. This section details the population criteria in the *Recovery Plan* that were necessary to achieve recovery, and the population standards necessary to maintain it. *Recovery Plan* criteria focus on the PCA and a 10-mile perimeter, whereas standards in the Strategy and the parameters in appended state plans focus beyond the PCA and encompass the entire GYA. Because grizzly bears are a difficult species to monitor and manage, multiple standards with additional monitoring items are identified to provide sufficient information upon which to base management decisions. It is the goal of the agencies implementing this Conservation Strategy to manage the Yellowstone grizzly population in the entire GYA at or above a total of 500 grizzly bears.

Chapter 3 - Habitat Standards and Monitoring

The habitat standards identified in this document will be maintained at identified levels inside the PCA. In addition to the habitat standards, several other habitat factors will be monitored and evaluated to determine the overall condition of habitat for bears. It is the goal of the habitat management agencies to maintain or improve habitat conditions existing as of 1998, as measured within each subunit within the PCA, while maintaining options for management of resource activities at approximately the same level as existed in 1998. The habitat standards in this document are subject to revision based on the best available science and will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

Habitat standards include:

- Maintenance of secure habitat at 1998 levels in each BMU subunit through management of motorized access route building and density, with short-term deviations allowed under specific conditions. Secure habitat is defined as more than 500 meters from an open or gated motorized access route or reoccurring helicopter flight line and must be greater than or equal to 10 acres in size.
- The number of commercial livestock allotments and number of permitted domestic sheep will not exceed 1998 levels inside the PCA. Existing sheep allotments will be phased out as the opportunity arises with willing permittees.
- Management of developed sites at 1998 levels within each BMU subunit, with some exceptions for administrative and maintenance needs

Habitat criteria that will be monitored and reported include:

- Monitoring open and total motorized access route density in each BMU subunit inside the PCA
- Monitoring of four major food items throughout the Yellowstone area: winter ungulate carcasses, cut-throat trout spawning numbers, bear use of army cutworm moth sites, and whitebark pine cone production. The incidence of white pine blister rust in sampled areas will also be monitored.

- Monitoring of habitat effectiveness in the PCA using the databases from the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Cumulative Effects Model
- Monitoring the number of elk hunters inside the PCA
- Monitoring the number of grizzly bear mortalities throughout the Yellowstone area on private lands and development of a protocol to monitor private land status and condition
- Land managers will ensure that habitat connectivity is addressed throughout the Yellowstone area as part of any new road construction or reconstruction

Chapter 4 - Management and Monitoring of Grizzly Bear/Human Conflicts

The management of grizzly bear/human conflicts inside the PCA is based upon the existing laws and authorities of the state wildlife agencies and federal land management agencies. Outside the PCA, state management plans will direct the management of nuisance bears. Management of nuisance bears usually falls into one or more of the following categories:

- Removing or securing the attractant
- Deterring the bear from the site through the use of aversive conditioning techniques
- Capturing and relocating the nuisance bear
- Removing the bear from the wild, including lethal control

The focus and intent of nuisance grizzly bear management inside and outside the PCA will be predicated on strategies and actions to prevent grizzly bear/human conflicts. It is recognized that active management aimed at individual nuisance bears will be required in both areas. Management actions outside the PCA will be implemented according to state management plans. These actions will be compatible with grizzly bear population management objectives for each state for the areas outside the PCA.

In circumstances that result in a nuisance bear situation outside the PCA, more consideration will be given to existing human uses. Site-specific conflict areas within and outside the PCA will be documented and prioritized to focus proactive management actions to minimize grizzly bear/human conflicts and address existing and potential human activities that may cause future conflicts. Past conflict management has demonstrated that grizzly bears can coexist with most human activities. Management of all nuisance bear situations will emphasize resolving the human cause of the conflict. Relocation and removal of grizzly bears may occur if other management actions are not successful.

Before any removal, except in cases of human safety, management authorities will consult with each other prior to judging the adequacy of the reason for removal. Captured grizzly bears identified for removal may be given to public research institutions or public zoological parks for appropriate non-release educational or scientific purposes as per regulations of states and national parks. Grizzly bears not suitable for release, research, or educational purposes will be removed as described in appropriate state management plans or in compliance with national park management plans. All grizzly bear relocations and removals will be documented and reported annually in the IGBST (Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team) Annual Report.

Chapter 5 - Information and Education

The purposes of the information and education aspects of this cooperative effort are to support the development, implementation, and dissemination of a coordinated information and education program. This program should be understandable and useful for the people who visit, live, work, and recreate in bear habitat to minimize grizzly bear/human conflicts and to provide for the safety of people while building support for viable bear populations. Information made available to the public will be open and responsive to public concerns. Open discussions with the public will increase credibility of the grizzly bear management program. These efforts will be reviewed periodically and program adjustments will be made as necessary. In addition, efforts will be expanded as the bear population expands and additional efforts are needed in areas that could become occupied in the near future.

The current information and education (I & E) working group within the Greater Yellowstone Area will continue. Members of this I & E team include public affairs personnel from Forest Service Regions 1, 2, and 4; Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks; the BLM; representatives from each state wildlife agency; and the information and education specialist from the IGBC. This team will continue to work with all affected interests to ensure consistency of information, efficient funding strategies, identifying and targeting audiences, developing partnerships, and identifying new tools for implementation.

Grizzly Bear Management Plan for Southwestern Montana 2002-2012

Specific Habitat Management and Guidelines

FWP will seek to maintain road densities of one mile or less per square mile of habitat as the preferred approach. This is the goal of the statewide elk management plan (including the southwestern Montana areas covered by this plan). The goal seeks to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife while maintaining reasonable public access. If additional management is needed based on knowledge gained as bears reoccupy areas, it should be developed and implemented by local groups as suggested in this plan.

The following general management guidelines are applicable coordination measures. They should be considered when evaluating the effects of existing and proposed human activities in identified seasonally important habitats for a variety of wildlife species including grizzlies on federal and State lands.

1. Identify and evaluate, for each project proposal, the cumulative effects of all activities, including existing uses and other planned projects. Potential site-specific effects of the project being analyzed are a part of the cumulative effects evaluation which will apply to all lands within a designated "biological unit". A biological unit is an area of land which is ecologically similar and includes all of the year-long habitat requirements for a sub-population of one or more selected wildlife species.
2. Avoid human activities, or combinations of activities, on seasonally important wildlife habitats that may result in an adverse impact on the species or reduce long-term habitat effectiveness.
3. Base road construction proposals on a completed transportation plan which considers important wildlife habitat components and seasonal use areas in relation to road location, construction period, road standards, seasons of heavy vehicle use, road management requirements, and more.
4. Use minimum road and site construction specifications based on projected transportation needs. Schedule construction times to avoid seasonal-use periods for wildlife as designated in species-specific guidelines.
5. Locate roads, drill sites, landing zones, etc., to avoid important wildlife habitat components based on site-specific evaluation.
6. Roads that are not compatible with area management objectives, and are no longer needed for the purpose for which they were built, will be closed and reclaimed. Native plant species will be used whenever possible to provide proper watershed protection on disturbed areas. Wildlife forage and/or cover species will be used in rehabilitation projects where appropriate.
7. Impose seasonal closures and/or vehicle restrictions based on wildlife, or other resource needs, on roads that remain open and enforce and prosecute illegal use by off-road vehicles if given authority. FWP will actively work to secure authority through the appropriate process and identify funding to support enforcement efforts.
8. FWP supports the U.S. Forest Service and BLM restrictions banning all off-road/trail use.
9. Efforts will be directed towards improving the quality of habitat in site-specific areas of habitually high human-caused bear mortality. Increased sanitation measures, seasonal road closures, etc., could be applied.

