

Appendix D

Site-Specific Forest Plan Amendment

Road Use Restriction Periods

All action alternatives for the Forest Travel Planning Project include a site-specific amendment to the Clearwater Forest Plan. The purpose of Amendment Number 33 is to modify Clearwater Forest Plan Appendix F, Forest Travel Planning. The periods of restriction listed under Item IV, “ON-ROAD USE,” for Items IV. D. 2 and IV. D. 3 will be modified as described below:

- 1) Item IV. D. 2 will be changed to “Areas subject to erosion and/or watershed damage may be restricted seasonally, with the period of restriction to be determined based upon a site-specific review. Where conditions or levels of use by certain vehicles would not cause significant damage, such vehicles may be exempted from restrictions.
- 2) Item IV. D. 3 will be changed to “Key wildlife habitat – YEARLONG TO ALL VEHICLES. Where habitat is of seasonal importance, use will be constrained for only the period of time appropriate to protect that habitat, to be determined based upon a site-specific review.

The need for this site-specific adjustment was identified in the environmental analysis conducted Forest-wide for the Clearwater National Forest Travel Planning DEIS (see the DEIS, Chapter 1, Purpose and Need for Action). Forest Service policy permits Forest Plan amendments resulting from analyses conducted during Forest Plan implementation [36 CFR 219.10(f) and FSM 1922.5].

The Clearwater National Forest Travel Guide currently lists seasons of use for system roads, trails, and snowmobiles. There are more than 35 different date combinations for the different seasonal use restrictions. Both the public and the Forest Service find the variety of seasonal restrictions confusing. The purpose of this Forest Plan amendment is to minimize the number of different seasonal restrictions to only those necessary to provide for resource protection and recreational opportunities. There is a need to combine similar seasonal restrictions where resource protection objectives can be achieved, while still providing for a variety of recreational opportunities.

The Forest Supervisor has determined that the proposed changes are not significant since they are minor changes in standards and guidelines and will not alter the multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management.

This amendment will be effective concurrently with the Travel Planning decision because it is needed to implement this aspect of the decision for this project.

Adoption of this amendment will not specifically change the Forest-wide environmental impacts disclosed in the Clearwater National Forest Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This amendment would be applicable Forest-wide.