

APPENDIX N.

Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction, and Northern Rockies Lynx Standards and Guidelines

This attachment evaluates project compliance with applicable Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction (NRLMD) objectives, standards and guidelines. The vegetation management activities and projects as well as livestock-management NRLMD standards and guidelines do not apply to this project, and are not presented in this appendix.

Table N-1. Assessment of Project Compliance with NRLMD

ALL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES: Apply to Lynx Habitat in Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs) and Linkage Areas	Pre-Project Implementation Compliance	Post-Project Implementation Compliance
Objective ALL O1: Habitat connectivity		
Maintain or restore lynx habitat connectivity in and between LAUs and in linkage areas	LAUs are not currently isolated. Although the current ski area is on the border of two LAUs, a large portion of this border remains undeveloped. A linkage area has been defined in the Lookout Pass Ski and Recreation Area, where lynx may cross Interstate 90.	LAUs would not become isolated post-project implementation. Although the project area is on the border of two LAUs, a large portion of this border would remain undeveloped. The linkage area in the Lookout Pass Ski and Recreation Area would not be significantly altered.
Standard ALL S1: Apply to new or expanded developments and vegetation management projects		
New or expanded permanent developments and vegetation management projects must maintain <u>habitat connectivity</u> . Exception: Wildfire suppression or wildland fire use.	Habitat connectivity is currently somewhat impaired due to the presence of Interstate 90 and the current configuration of the ski area. The local configuration of lynx habitat is patchy, and occurs primarily east and south of the ski area.	The Proposed Action would only impact 0.5 acre of lynx habitat (multistory stage), or less than 1% of the habitat in the Lookout LAU (0% of the habitat in the St. Joe Divide East LAU). Therefore, the Proposed Action would not significantly impact habitat connectivity.
Guideline ALL G1: Apply to highway or forest highway projects on federal lands		
Methods to avoid or reduce effects on lynx should be used when constructing or reconstructing highways or forests highways across federal land. Methods could include fencing, underpasses, or overpasses.	There is no highway construction.	No highway construction is proposed.
Standard LAU S1: LAU boundaries		
LAU boundaries will not be adjusted except through agreement with the FWS, based on new information about lynx habitat.	There are no LAU boundary changes.	No LAU boundary changes are proposed.
HUMAN USE PROJECTS (HU): Apply to special uses, recreation management, roads, highways, and mineral and energy development projects in lynx habitat in LAUs only (does not include grazing or vegetation management projects)		
Objectives HU O1-O6: Managing large-scale human activities		
Managing snow compacting activities, developed recreation and ski areas, mineral development and highways.	Snow-compacting activities would continue to be managed in a 539-acre special use permit (recreation and ski) area under the Proposed Action.	Snow-compacting activities would be managed within a 1,193-acre special use permit (recreation and ski) area under the Proposed Action.

ALL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES: Apply to Lynx Habitat in Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs) and Linkage Areas	Pre-Project Implementation Compliance	Post-Project Implementation Compliance
Guideline HU G1: Apply to ski area development or expansion (snowshoe hare habitat)		
When developing or expanding ski areas, provisions should be made for adequately sized inter-trail islands that include coarse woody debris, so winter snowshoe hare habitat is maintained.	The project area does not currently consist of high-quality snowshoe hare/lynx foraging habitat.	The project area does not consist of high-quality snowshoe hare/lynx foraging habitat. The Proposed Action would impact 0.5-acre of multistory stage habitat. A single 1.4-acre patch of multistory stage habitat is situated such that it would be impacted by a ski trail. After development, 1.0 acre of habitat would remain as an inter-trail island. No other lynx habitat would be impacted by the creation of ski trails.
Guideline HU G2: Apply to ski areas (foraging habitat)		
When developing or expanding ski areas, lynx foraging habitat should be provided consistent with the ski area's operational needs, especially where lynx habitat occurs as narrow bands of coniferous forest across mountain slopes.	The project area does not currently consist of high-quality snowshoe hare/lynx foraging habitat, and does not occur as narrow bands of coniferous forest.	Under the Proposed Action, lynx foraging habitat would continue to be provided in a patchy distribution, reflecting the current situation.
Guideline HU G3: Apply to recreational developments (lynx movement)		
Recreation developments and operations should be planned in ways that both provide for lynx movement and maintain the effectiveness of lynx habitat.	The current configuration of the ski area is situated adjacent to a linkage across Interstate 90 at Lookout Pass Ski and Recreation Area. Small patches of lynx habitat currently exist in the ski area.	Lynx movement would be provided for by maintaining forest coverage in inter-trail islands, and by only developing a small area (11% of available habitat) within the special use permit boundary. The configuration of lynx habitat would remain in small patches, as currently exists.
Guideline HU G4: Apply to mineral and energy development sites (snow compaction)		
For mineral and energy development sites and facilities, remote monitoring should be encouraged to reduce snow compaction.	There are no mineral or energy developments.	The Proposed Action does not include mineral or energy developments.
Guideline HU G5: Apply to mineral and energy development sites (reclamation)		
For mineral and energy development sites and facilities that are closed, a reclamation plan that restores lynx habitat should be developed.	There are no mineral or energy developments.	The Proposed Action does not include mineral or energy developments.
Guideline HU G6: Apply to road upgrades (disturbance)		
Methods to avoid or reduce effects on lynx should be used in lynx habitat when upgrading unpaved roads to maintenance levels 4 or 5, if the result would be increased traffic speeds and volumes, or a foreseeable contribution to increases in human activity or development.	Roads are currently at Operational Maintenance Level (OML) 2.	There would be no upgrade of maintenance levels under the Proposed Action. Traffic speeds would remain low. Traffic volume would be increased temporarily during two 4-month construction periods.

ALL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES: Apply to Lynx Habitat in Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs) and Linkage Areas	Pre-Project Implementation Compliance	Post-Project Implementation Compliance
Guideline HU G7: Apply to permanent road building (connectivity)		
New permanent roads should not be built on ridge-tops and saddles, or in areas identified as important for lynx habitat connectivity. New permanent roads and trails should be situated away from forested stringers.	The current configuration of roads is that associated with the current ski area. Forested stringers do not occur in the project area.	New permanent roads would not be built on ridge-tops or saddles, as the proposed ski lift terminal would be located below the ridge-top. No new roads would be built in the Lookout Pass Ski and Recreation Area linkage area.
Guideline HU G8: Apply to roadside brush removal		
Cutting brush along low speed, low-traffic-volume roads should be done to the minimum level necessary to provide for public safety.	The ski area would continue to manage access roads per Forest Service–approved management plans.	Brush cutting along the low-speed, low-volume roads would be done to the minimum level necessary to maintain safe travel conditions.
Guideline HU G9: Apply to temporary roads for all project types		
On new roads built for projects, public motorized use should be restricted. Effective closures should be provided in road designs. When the project is over, these roads should be reclaimed or decommissioned, if not needed for other management objectives.	All current administrative use roads within the ski area boundary are closed to public motorized use.	Temporary logging roads and permanent ski area access roads would be closed to public travel; all motorized use within the special-use permit boundary would be prohibited upon completion of expansion activities, except as authorized in the permit.
Guideline HU G10: Apply to ski areas (lynx security habitat)		
When developing or expanding ski areas and trails, consider locating access roads and lift termini to maintain and provide lynx security habitat if it has been identified as a need.	Lynx security habitat does not occur in the project area.	Lynx security habitat would not be impacted by the Proposed Action.
Guideline HU G11: Apply to designated snow routes or play areas		
Designated over-the-snow routes, or designated play areas, should not expand outside baseline areas of consistent snow compaction, unless designation serves to consolidate use and improve lynx habitat. This may be calculated on an LAU basis, or on a combination of immediately adjacent LAUs. This does not apply inside permitted ski area boundaries, to winter logging, to rerouting trails for public safety, to accessing private inholdings, or to access regulated by Guideline HU, G12. Use the same analysis boundaries for all actions subject to this guideline.	Does not apply because Proposed Action is a permitted ski area.	Does not apply because Proposed Action is a permitted ski area.
Guideline HU G12: Apply to winter access (non-recreation-related)		
Winter access for non-recreation special uses, and mineral and energy exploration and development, should be limited to designated routes or designated over-the-snow routes.	Does not apply because the Proposed Action is recreation special use.	Does not apply because the Proposed Action is recreation special use.

ALL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES: Apply to Lynx Habitat in Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs) and Linkage Areas	Pre-Project Implementation Compliance	Post-Project Implementation Compliance
LINKAGE AREAS (LINK): Apply to all projects in linkage areas, subject to valid existing rights		
Objective LINK 01: Intermingled land ownership		
In intermingled land ownership, pursue conservation easements, plans or land exchanges to reduce potential adverse impacts to lynx.	No changes in ownership are proposed.	No changes in ownership are proposed under the Proposed Action.
Standard LINK S1: Apply to highway or forest highway		
When highway or forest highway construction or reconstruction is proposed in linkage areas, identify potential highway crossings.	No highway construction is proposed.	No highway construction proposed under the Proposed Action.
Guideline LINK G1: Apply to land conveyances		
NFS lands should be retained in public ownership.	No land conveyance is proposed.	No land conveyance proposed under the Proposed Action.
Guideline LINK G2: Apply to livestock grazing in shrub steppe habitats		
Livestock grazing in shrub steppe habitats should be managed to contribute to maintaining or achieving a preponderance of mid- or late seral stages, similar to conditions that would have occurred under historic disturbance regimes.	No changes to grazing are proposed.	No changes to grazing are proposed under the Proposed Action.