

Emphasis in 1987 Forest Plans, Current Management and Starting Option

Revision Topics/Issue	Emphasis in 1987 Forest Plans	Emphasis changes from amendments, policy & other agency decisions since 1987 that Influence Current Management	Proposed Emphasis in the Starting Option for the Revised Forest Plans
Access and Recreation	Forests mostly open to motorized use.	KNF covered by Montana/Dakota OHV Forest Plan Amendment that limits off road travel to existing roads and trails. IPNF not covered by this amendment.	Emphasis is on the identification of areas generally suitable or not suitable for motorized or non-motorized use. Sets the stage for future travel planning.
Inventoried Roadless Areas	One third of the zone is IRAs. Forest Plans allocated them to a wide range of Management Areas.	The Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR) of 2001, as well as regional direction, influences roadless area management.	Allocates IRAs mostly to backcountry use and recommended wilderness. Could be starting point for discussions with the States on their Petition for Roadless Area Management.
Vegetation	Plans generally emphasize timber production.	Increased emphasis on forest health and fuels reduction as a result of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA), the Healthy Forest Initiative (HFI), and the National Fire Plan.	Maintains current emphasis plus adds emphasis on sustainable wildlife and plant habitats and restoration opportunities.
Timber Production (On generally suitable timber lands)	Much of each forest allocated for timber production with silvicultural prescriptions that maximized growth and yield.	Forest Plan amendments such as Grizzly Bear Access amendment, INFISH and agency policy including the National Fire Plan and HFI have influenced how and where timber is harvested.	Timber harvest will support the vegetative management objectives. Timber harvest objectives will continue to be influenced by other resource considerations. Harvest levels may continue near current levels.
Fire Risk	Main emphasis on fire suppression.	More emphasis on reduction of risk to communities, and restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems as a result of HFRA, HFI and the National Fire Plan.	Continues current emphases. Recognizes community developed WUIs, and permits wildland fire use (WFUA) in certain areas under defined conditions.

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Wildlife	Emphasized recovery of T&E species and management of big game habitat. Zone has 12 wildlife species listed as Management Indicator Species.	Major amendments to both Forest Plans for access management in Grizzly Bear habitat and INFISH.	Continued emphasis on T& E species recovery and big game habitat. Incorporates Grizzly Bear Access Amendment direction. Use of Species of Concern and Species of Interest.
Watershed and Water Quality	Emphasized mitigation of impacts and reducing the risk from new and ongoing activities.	Clean Water Act requires identifying impaired waters & developing rehabilitation strategies. INFISH requires managing riparian areas to protect water quality.	Emphasis is on maintaining conditions in watersheds that are properly functioning and restoring those watersheds that are not properly functioning.
Aquatic Species	Emphasized mitigation of impacts, and reducing the risk from new and ongoing activities.	INFISH - Major amendment to both Forest Plans for management of riparian areas.	Continues the intent of INFISH. Increased emphasis on aquatic habitat improvements, watershed-scale restoration, and T&E Species Recovery using a more comprehensive strategy.
Economics and Social	High timber harvest levels generated high level of jobs and income for local communities. Management actions supported commodity-oriented lifestyles and values.	Contributions from timber management have decreased through time as harvest levels decreased and timber processing technology changed. Restoration activities and increased recreation have provided jobs and income to local communities. Some communities are transitioning from a commodity-based economy to a more diverse economy.	Local jobs and income generated through timber harvest, restoration activities, and recreation may be at levels similar to current. Management actions will support a variety of lifestyles and values.