

4 Standards and Guidelines

- XV. *Mountain Goat*
- A. Provide for the long-term productivity of mountain goat habitat and viability of mountain goat populations, both native and introduced.
 1. Locate facilities and concentrated human activities as far from important wintering and kidding habitat as feasible.
 - a) Where feasible, locate facilities, camps, LTFs, campgrounds, and other developments 1 mile or more from important wintering and kidding habitat.
 - b) If the 1 mile or more distance cannot be achieved, mitigate possible adverse impacts by seasonally restricting or regulating human use and other site-specific mitigation measures.
 2. Forest Service and State of Alaska permitted or approved aircraft flights (fixed wing and helicopter), including helicopter yarding of timber, should maintain a 1,500-foot vertical or horizontal clearance from traditional summer and kidding habitat and animals whenever feasible. Where feasible, flight paths should avoid known mountain goat kidding areas from May 15 through June 15. Pilots will not compromise safety.
 3. Where feasible, maintain mountain goat important winter habitat capability. During project planning, use the most recent version of the interagency mountain goat habitat capability model, which shows the most important habitat to generally be productive old-growth forest within 1,300 feet of escape terrain (greater than 50 percent slope or cliff). Travel corridors used by mountain goats between important seasonal sites should be identified and maintained, especially when they occur in forested areas.
- XVI. *Marbled Murrelet*
- A. Cooperate and coordinate with state and other federal agencies to better understand the life history requirements and distribution of the marbled murrelet. Nesting habitat relationships are poorly understood.
 - B. If nests are found during project implementation, maintain a 600-foot, generally circular, radius of undisturbed forest habitat surrounding identified murrelet nests, where available. Minimize disturbance activities within this buffer during the nesting season (May 1 to August 15). Maintain the buffer zone and monitor the site for nesting activity for not less than two nesting seasons after nest discovery. Maintain the buffer if the nest site is active during the monitoring period. Buffer protection may be removed if the site remains inactive for two consecutive nesting seasons.
- XVII. *Moose Habitat*
- A. Develop habitat management direction for moose habitats. Coordinate planning with ADF&G.
 1. During project planning, inventory vegetative conditions in moose habitat areas to help identify short- and long-term changes in habitat conditions, and to assess the effects of various management activities.
 2. Plan habitat improvement projects utilizing a variety of techniques such as silvicultural treatments, young-growth management activities, prescribed burning, planting, and other vegetative manipulation techniques as appropriate.
 3. Coordinate other resource management activities to maintain or improve habitat conditions for moose. Where roads and human access are adversely affecting moose populations, incorporate this information into Travel Management planning objectives.
- XVIII. *American Marten*
- A. Implement a Forest-wide program, in cooperation with ADF&G, to provide and conserve habitat to assist in maintaining long-term sustainable marten populations.
 1. Where marten mortality concerns have been identified, cooperate with ADF&G to assist in managing marten mortality rates to within sustainable levels. Both access management on National Forest lands and hunter/trapper harvest regulations administered by the ADF&G shall be considered.
 - a) Participate in interagency monitoring of marten populations on the Forest. (See also Legacy Forest Structure Standards and Guidelines.)

- b) Where marten data suggest that mortality exceeds sustainable levels, work with ADF&G to identify probable sources of mortality. In an interagency analysis, examine the relationship between hunter/trapper marten harvest and human access.
- c) Where road access and associated human-caused mortality has been determined, through this analysis to be the significant contributing factor to unsustainable marten mortality, incorporate this information into Travel Management planning with the objective of reducing mortality risk. Local knowledge of habitat conditions, spatial location of roads, and other factors need to be considered by the biologist rather than solely relying upon road densities. Road management objectives would be developed and implemented through an interdisciplinary Access and Travel Management process or comparable process. (Consult Transportation Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.)

XIX. *Endemic Terrestrial Mammals*

- A. The objective is to maintain habitat to support viable populations and improve knowledge of habitat relationships of rare or endemic terrestrial mammals that may represent unique populations with restricted ranges.
 - 1. Use existing information on the distribution of endemic mammals to assess project-level effects. If existing information is lacking, surveys for endemic mammals may be necessary prior to any project that proposes to substantially alter vegetative cover (e.g., road construction, timber harvest, etc.). Surveys are necessary only where information is not adequate to assess project-level effects.
 - a) Survey islands smaller than 50,000 acres in total size (e.g., Heceta Island and smaller) that have productive old-growth forest suitable for timber harvest. Conduct surveys on larger islands if there is a high likelihood that endemic taxa are present and a high likelihood that they would be affected by the proposed project.
 - b) The extent and rigor of surveys will be commensurate with the degree of existing and proposed forest fragmentation, and potential risk to endemic mammals that may be present.
 - c) Surveys should emphasize small (voles, mice, and shrews) and medium sized (ermine and squirrels) endemic mammals with limited dispersal capabilities that may exist within the project area.
 - d) Use the most recent inventory protocols for surveys.
 - 2. Assess the impacts of the proposed project relative to the distinctiveness of the taxa, population status, degree of isolation, island size, and habitat associations relative to the proposed management activity.
 - 3. Where distinct taxa are located, design projects to provide for their long-term persistence on the island.
- B. Consider habitat needs of endemic mammals in design of thinning treatments.

Wildlife Habitat Improvement: WILD2

I. Improvement Projects

- A. Develop an aggressive young-growth management program to maintain, prolong, and/or improve understory forage production and to increase the development of old growth characteristics in young-growth timber stands for a variety of wildlife species (deer, moose, black bear, small mammals, birds, and other species of interest).
 - 1. Consider stands for young-growth treatments that meet the following conditions:
 - a) Historical deer winter range with high deer use.
 - b) Historical or potential moose winter range.
 - c) Areas with important and accessible consumptive and non-consumptive human uses of wildlife benefited by young-growth management.
 - d) High risk VCUs and within beach fringe—these areas have significant young growth and are important habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Young-growth