

Draft Record of Decision, Custer Gallatin National Forest Land Management Plan, pages 49–50 (July 2020).

Administrative Review

The decision to approve the plan for the Custer Gallatin National Forest is subject to the objection process identified in 36 CFR Part 219 subpart B (219.50 to 219.62). The responsible official who will approve the final record of decision for the Custer Gallatin National Forest Land Management Plan is Mary Erickson, Forest Supervisor for the Custer Gallatin National Forest, 10 East Babcock, Bozeman, Montana 59715 (406) 587-6701. The regional forester is the reviewing officer for the revised plan since the forest supervisor is the responsible official (36 CFR 219.56(e)(2)).

Objections, including attachments, must be filed within 60 days of the publication date of the legal notice published in the newspapers of record; the Bozeman Daily Chronicle (Bozeman, Montana), the Billings Gazette (Billings, Montana), and the Rapid City Journal (Rapid City, South Dakota). Objections, including attachments, received after the 60-day objection period will not be considered. The publication date in the newspapers of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or time frame information provided by any other source. It is the responsibility of the objector to ensure that the reviewing officer receives the objection in a timely manner. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the objection filing period.

An objection must include the following (36 CFR 219.54(c)):

- (1) The objector's name and address along with a telephone number or email address if available—in cases where no identifiable name is attached to an objection, the Forest Service will attempt to verify the identity of the objector to confirm objection eligibility;
- (2) A signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection);
- (3) Identification of the lead objector when multiple names are listed on an objection. The Forest Service will communicate to all parties to an objection through the lead objector. Verification of the identity of the lead objector must also be provided if requested;
- (4) The name of the Custer Gallatin plan or the Custer Gallatin species of conservation concern being objected to and the name and title of the responsible official;
- (5) A statement of the issues or parts of the plan revision to which the objection applies;
- (6) A concise statement explaining the objection and suggesting how the proposed plan decision may be improved. If the objector believes that the 2020 plan is inconsistent with law, regulation, or policy, an explanation should be included;
- (7) A statement that demonstrates the link between the objector's prior substantive formal comments and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment; and
- (8) All documents referenced in the objection (a bibliography is not sufficient), except that the following need not be provided:
 - a. All or any part of a Federal law or regulation,
 - b. Forest Service Directive System documents and land management plans or other published Forest Service documents,
 - c. Documents referenced by the Forest Service in the planning documentation related to the proposal subject to objection, and
 - d. Formal comments previously provided to the Forest Service by the objector during the plan revision comment period.

This is also an opportunity to object to the regional forester's list of species of conservation concern for the Custer Gallatin National Forest. The Custer Gallatin has provided the regional forester with public comments received on species of conservation concern. The regional forester considered comments received and reviewed the documentation, rationale, and best available scientific information. If necessary, changes were made to the list. The identification of the species of conservation concern list is subject to a separate objection process. The Chief of the Forest Service is the reviewing officer for species of conservation concern identification since the regional forester is the responsible official (36 CFR 219.56(e)(2)). Information about species of conservation concern is available at <http://bit.ly/NorthernRegion-SCC>.

Electronic objections must be submitted to the Objection Reviewing Officer via the CARA objection webform at <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=50185>.

Electronic submissions must be submitted in a format that is readable with optical character recognition software (for example, Word, PDF, Rich Text) and be searchable. Please be explicit as to whether the objection is for the Custer Gallatin plan or the Custer Gallatin species of conservation concern.

The following address should be used for objections submitted by regular mail, private carrier, or hand delivery: Objection Reviewing Officer, USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, 26 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, MT 59804. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding Federal holidays. Objections can be faxed to the Objection Reviewing Officer at (406) 329-3411. The fax coversheet must include a subject line with "Custer Gallatin Plan Objection" or "Custer Gallatin Species of Conservation Concern" and should specify the number of pages being submitted.

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this draft decision or the objection process, please contact Virginia Kelly, Plan Revision Team Leader, Custer Gallatin National Forest Supervisors Office, 10 East Babcock, Bozeman, MT 59715 or by phone at (406) 587-6701.