



File Code: 1920
Date: March 1, 2019

Subject: Public Review of Draft Forest Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision

Dear Interested Parties:

The Custer Gallatin National Forest is releasing the draft revised forest plan and draft environmental impact statement for public review. Public comment is open for 90-days from the notice of availability in the Federal Register.

A forest plan is the comprehensive overarching document that guides forest management, use, and protection for years to come.

Four alternatives are proposed as well as the “no-action” alternative (which is based on the current Custer and Gallatin Forest Plans). The draft environmental impact statement weighs the benefits and potential tradeoffs of each alternative and its effect on resources over the life of the forest plan.

Key revisions to the draft land management plan include:

- Direction to guide sustainable forest products, mining, grazing, and recreation.
- Direction to guide vegetation management, reflecting current science to support plant and wildlife persistence.
- Direction that integrates the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and supports active fuels reduction (removal of brush and small trees) near communities and homes.
- Direction for wildlife and aquatic species including lynx, grizzly bear, and bison and other wildlife species that allows for improved and more efficient habitat management while addressing the need to actively manage the vegetation within their respective habitats.
- Direction to promote further connectivity of animal species across the landscape.
- Direction for a range of land allocations including recommended wilderness areas, eligible wild and scenic rivers, backcountry areas and recreation emphasis areas.
- Direction promoting partnerships to get more work accomplished on the ground.

All documents and release material, including a helpful Reviewer’s Guide to Commenting, is available for download online by navigating to www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin and click on Forest Plan Revision then DEIS and Draft Plan and/or commenting directly at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/custergallatin/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd482956>.



Printed versions of the documents are available at our seven district offices, 12 area libraries, and Cooke City and Gardiner Chambers of Commerce (request materials at reference desks). A very limited number of hard copies are available upon request by calling 406-587-6735 or emailing cgplanrevision@fs.fed.us.

You are invited to review these documents. Comments on the draft forest plan, draft environmental impact statement and associated appendices will aid the forest in making a more comprehensive final revised forest plan and final environmental impact statement.

How to provide feedback

Public review and comment is invited 90-days from the publication of the notice of availability in the Federal Register (posted online).

Commenting allows one to obtain standing to participate in subsequent administrative and judicial reviews. To obtain standing, one must provide substantive written comment with your name and contact information in a formal comment period. The formal comment periods for the Custer Gallatin plan revision are the 2018 proposed action scoping comment period and the DEIS comment period. Commenting in the DEIS comment period is the final opportunity to obtain standing to participate in subsequent administrative and judicial reviews.

Commenting is preferred online given the scope of interest and number of comments anticipated, (navigate to: <https://tinyurl.com/caracgnf>), or can be submitted by mail:

Custer Gallatin National Forest
Attn: Forest Plan Revision
10 E Babcock, P.O. Box 130
Bozeman, MT 59771

Information received is part of public record including names and contact information. It is the responsibility of person providing comments to submit information by the close of the public review period.

Thank you for your interest in Forest Plan Revision.

Sincerely,



MARY C. ERICKSON
Forest Supervisor