



# Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision

## The First Step – The Assessment

*To sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.*

Forest Plan Revision will start in late January with the first step, the Assessment.

### Assessment of Existing Conditions

The Assessment of Existing Conditions identifies and assess existing information across a range of resources.

Relevant information provided by the public and government entities is considered in the range of information sources.

The Assessment phase is meant to:

- Build an understanding of the relevant information available prior to starting the development of the plan.
- Develop an understanding of the conditions and trends across the assessment topics.
- Build relationships with all interested parties, fostering participation throughout Forest Plan Revision.

### Assessment Topics

- Terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and watersheds
- Air, soil and water resources and quality
- System drivers and stressors
- Baseline assessment of carbon stocks
- Threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate species and potential species of conservation concern
- Social, cultural and economic conditions
- Benefits people obtain from NFS planning area (ecosystem services)
- Multiple uses and their contributions to local, regional and national economies
- Recreation settings, opportunities and access and scenic character
- Renewable and nonrenewable energy and mineral resources
- Infrastructure, such as recreational facilities and transportation and utility corridors
- Areas of tribal importance
- Cultural and historical resources and uses
- Land status and ownership, use and access patterns
- Existing designated areas located in the plan area including wilderness and wild and scenic rivers and potential need and opportunity for additional designated areas.