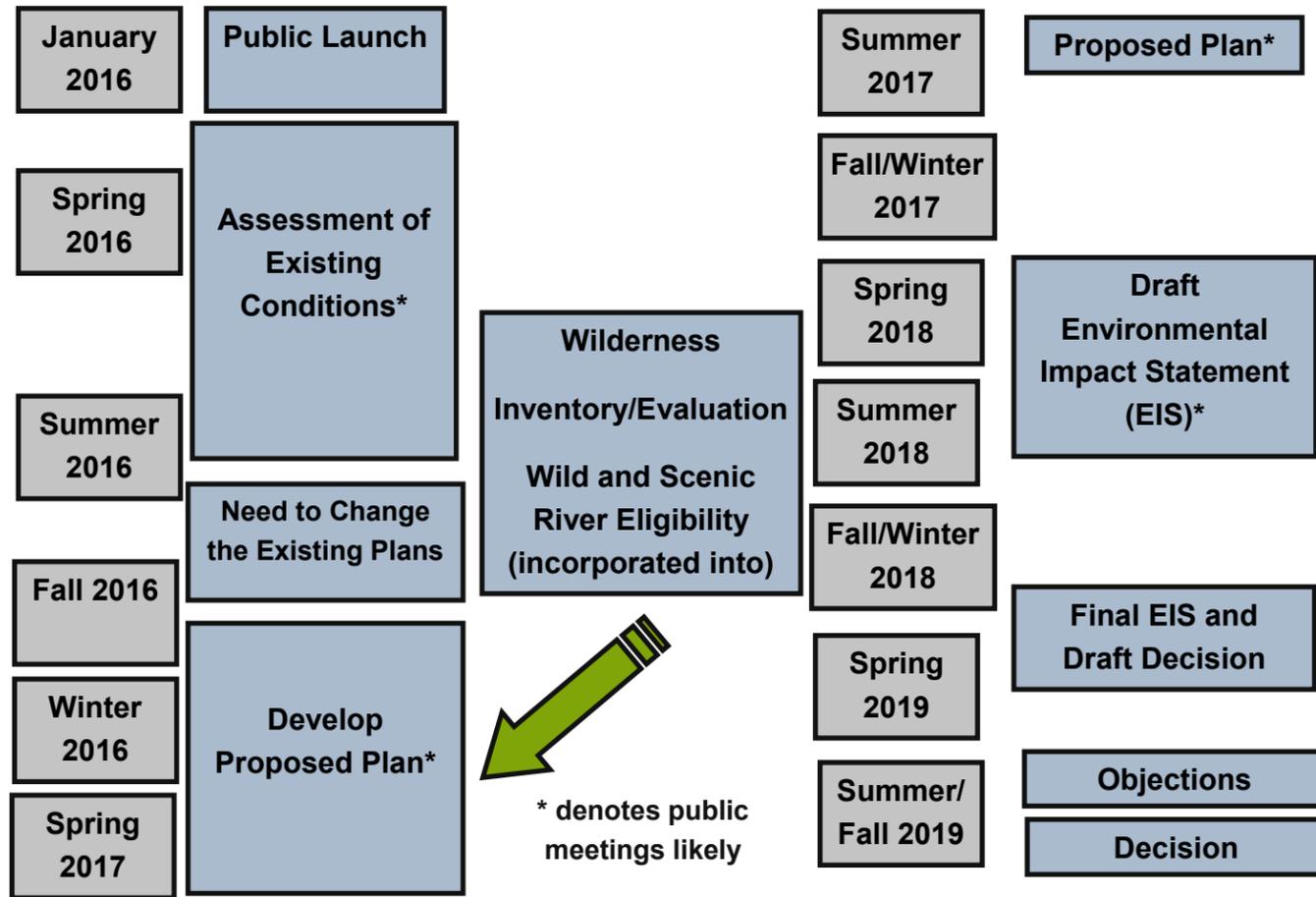




Custer Gallatin National Forest Forest Plan Revision Kickoff

Custer Gallatin National Forest begins a new four-year process that guides forest management for years to come



United States
Department of
Agriculture
Forest Service
Attn: Forest Plan Revision
Custer Gallatin National Forest
10 E Babcock, P.O. Box 130
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Custer Gallatin National Forest is starting a four-year process to revise its forest management plan.

A Forest Plan is the overarching framework providing broad direction, for Custer Gallatin National Forest management, use and protection for years to come.

The U.S. Forest Service manages the recently consolidated 3.1 million acre Custer Gallatin National Forest. Each former Forest, the Custer and the Gallatin, have a 1986 and 1987 Forest Plan respectively. At the end of the Forest Plan Revision process, the Custer Gallatin National Forest will have one plan that aims to balance multiple-uses and the restoration and maintenance of forest and water ecosystems. A Forest Plan does not make site specific calls.



Daisy Pass, Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center

“Your involvement in the Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision helps to create a VISION for the National Forest for the coming decades.”

- Virginia Kelly, Forest Plan Revision Team Leader

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Why Prepare a Revised Forest Plan?

Nationally each Forest has a Forest Plan. Forest Plans are to be revised every 15 years, although many Forest Plans take longer to revise. In 2012, the U.S. Forest Service adopted new direction for revising Forest Plans.

Although Forest Plans are adaptable over time, much has changed on the Custer Gallatin National Forest. The new planning rule (2012) provides enhanced commitment to collaboration and public engagement, continued adaptability to changing conditions over time, and a defined process to identify areas that may be suitable for designations such as research natural areas, wild and scenic rivers and wilderness. The rule also encompasses an “all lands” perspective asking how the Forest fits into the greater landscape. The plan aims for ecological, social and economic sustainability.

The First Step, The Assessment

In late January, the Forest kicked-off the Assessment of Existing Conditions and the first round of public meetings in February and March. This is the initial step to the four-year Forest Plan Revision effort. During the next six to nine months, a team of resource specialists work together to assess existing conditions and trends.

An assessment is meant to be a rapid analysis of existing information across the forest, along with gathering trends, perceptions, concerns and relevant information from the public to form a common understanding of topics and the landscape that make-up the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

The Assessment will look at 15 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

Several Ways You Can

Participate In Forest Plan Revision

Public Meeting Information, Opt-in Electronic Updates & Visit Online

- ◇ Use the [Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision Webpage](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/custergallatin/landmanagement/planning) at:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/custergallatin/landmanagement/planning>.

Mail or hand deliver written comments to:

Forest Service
Attn: Forest Plan Revision
Custer Gallatin National Forest
10 E Babcock, P.O. Box 130
Bozeman, MT 59771 (Includes comment cards at public meetings)

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Assessment Topics:

- 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.

Forest Plan Revision: Develop a comprehensive overarching document that provides broad direction for forest management in the coming years.

Forest Plan Outcomes: Adaptable over time; guide forest management, use and protection; provide broad direction, standards and guidelines that balance ecological, social and economic sustainability for the Custer Gallatin National Forest.