

Species of Conservation Concern

An initial list of *potential* “Species of Conservation Concern” will be included in the Draft Assessment of Existing Conditions.

The Forest Plan revision process will result in a list of “Species of Conservation Concern”. The 2012 Forest Service planning regulations require changing from sensitive species designation to species of conservation concern for wildlife, fish, plants and invertebrates. The management direction in the revised Plan needs to contribute to maintaining a viable population of these species within their ranges.

A “Species of Conservation Concern” is a species, other than federally recognized threatened, endangered, proposed or candidate species, that is known to occur in the plan area (the Custer Gallatin Forest lands) for which the best available scientific information indicates substantial concern about the species’ capability to persist over the long term in the plan area.

Ultimately, the Regional Forester decides the list of Species of Conservation Concern. The Forest Service will consider many species and then apply criteria to decide the Species of Conservation Concern:

Species Considered Include:

- Species listed as most vulnerable on NatureServe, (a species conservation ranking system).
- Species removed within the past 5 years from the Federal list of threatened or endangered species, and other delisted species that the regulatory agency still monitors
- Species listed as threatened or endangered by relevant States or federally recognized Tribes
- Species identified by Federal, State, or Tribal entities as high priority for conservation
- Species identified as species of conservation concern in adjoining National Forest System plan areas
- Species petitioned for Federal listing and for which a positive “90-day finding” has been made
- Species for which the best available scientific information indicates there is local conservation concern about the species’ capability to persist over the long term in the plan area due to: 1) significant threats, 2) declining trends in population and/or habitat, 3) restricted ranges, or 4) low population numbers or restricted ecological conditions within the plan area.



Further consider those species known to occur on Custer Gallatin National Forest lands



Further consider those species
for which the best available scientific information indicates substantial concern about the species’ capability to persist over the long term on Custer Gallatin National Forest lands



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