

60-Day Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Custer Gallatin
National Forest Plan Revision
USDA – FOREST SERVICE

As directed by the National Forest Management Act, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, is preparing the Custer Gallatin National Forest's revised land management plan (forest plan). The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for its revised forest plan.

The Notice of Intent in the Federal Register initiates the 60 day scoping period, which guides the development of the EIS. We are seeking your comments on the proposed action. The proposed action is a detailed document that includes forest-wide and geographic area desired conditions, goals, objectives, standards, guidelines, and the suitability of lands for specific multiple uses, and includes lands that could be recommended to Congress for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System and the identification of rivers eligible for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system. It can be found on the Custer Gallatin National Forest website (www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin and click on Forest Plan Revision).

Comments submitted during the 60 day scoping period will be used to develop plan alternatives for analysis in the EIS. Virtual and Ranger-led informational gatherings will be held to provide a layout of the proposed action and address questions. Dates and locations are as follows and any changes to the meeting schedule will be communicated on the website.

Community Informational Meetings:

- January 16 – As part of West Yellowstone Town Council Meeting, West Yellowstone, MT Town Hall, (440 Yellowstone Avenue) 7:00 p.m.
- January 17 – Chat with the Ranger/Q & A – 9:00 a.m. at Yellowstone Grill, Gardiner, MT (404 Scott St).
- January 17 – Chat with the Ranger/Q & A – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Ekalaka Fairgrounds, Ekalaka, MT
- January 17 – Hebgen Lake Ranger District Open House/Q & A, West Yellowstone, MT (330 Gallatin Road) from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- January 18 – Chat with the Ranger/Q & A – 9:00 a.m. at Soda Butte Lodge, Cooke City, MT (209 Hwy 212).
- January 25 – Livingston Public Library – Informational Presentation/Q & A, at 6:00 p.m., Livingston, MT (228 W Callender St).
- January 25 – As part of Carbon County Commission Meeting, County Administration Building, Red Lodge, MT (17 West 11th Street) from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- February 5 – Chat with the Ranger/Q & A from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Broadus Library, Broadus, MT (101 S Lincoln).
- February 6th – Chat with the Ranger from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Tongue River Electric (TRECO), Ashland, MT (2435 US Hwy 212).
- February 6 – Bozeman Ranger District Open House/Q & A – (3710 Fallon Street, Suite C, Bozeman, MT) from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- February 7th – Chat with the Ranger from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at City of Colstrip City Council Chambers, Colstrip, MT (12 Cherry St).
- February 15 – Bozeman REI Community Room Informational Presentation/Q&A (2220 Tschache St, Bozeman, MT)

Virtual opportunities include:

Wednesday - January 10 at 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday – January 16 at 5:15 p.m.

Thursday – January 25 at 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday – January 31 at 5:30 p.m.

Thursday – February 8 at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday – February 13 at 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday – February 20 at 5:00 p.m.

Monday – February 26 at 1:00 p.m.

Login for all at: <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/cgpm-500/> (mobile device compatible)

Additionally community libraries and local ranger districts have master copies located at reference desks.

- Bicentennial Library of Colstrip
- Billings Public Library
- Cooke City Chamber of Commerce
- Ekalaka Public Library
- Harding County Library (Buffalo, SD)
- Livingston Public Library
- Stillwater County Library (Columbus, MT)
- Big Sky Community Library
- Bozeman Public Library
- Carnegie Public Library (Big Timber)
- Gardiner Public Library
- Henry Malley Memorial Library (Broadus)
- Red Lodge Carnegie Library
- West Yellowstone Public Library

Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received within 60 days from the date of publication of the NOI in the Federal Register. Submission of comments via electronic means is strongly encouraged and can be done at: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=50185> or <https://tinyurl.com/caracgnf> or by navigating to www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin and clicking on Forest Plan Revision. Email is acceptable at cgplanrevision@fs.fed.us with subject line “Comment draft plan – CGNF.” You can also mail or deliver written comments to Custer Gallatin National Forest, Attn: P.O. Box 130, (10 E Babcock), Bozeman, MT 59771. Further instructions for providing comments that will assist the planning team in reviewing comments can be found at www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin and click on Forest Plan Revision and then on Proposed Action.

Only those individuals and entities who have submitted substantive formal comments related to the Custer Gallatin National Forest plan revision during the opportunities provided for public comment during the planning process will be eligible to file an objection (36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §219.53(a)). The decision to approve the revised forest plan for the Custer Gallatin National Forest will be 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 Record of Decision for the Custer Gallatin National Forest Plan Revision is Mary C. Erickson, Forest Supervisor, Custer Gallatin National Forest Supervisor’s Office, P.O. Box 130, (10 E Babcock), Bozeman, MT 59771. For further information about the project, contact Forest Plan Revision Team Leader Virginia Kelly or Forest Plan Revision Public Affairs Specialist Mariah Leuschen-Lonergan at (406) 587-6735.