



# Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision

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

## Reviewers Guide to Commenting

Kicking off year three of four, the draft revised plan is ready for public review. The Forest has worked hard to listen, analyze and create the draft plan and draft environmental impact statement (EIS) now available for a 90-day public comment period, anticipated June 5, 2019 at midnight based on Federal Register publication.

Commenting continues to be a key role to stay involved throughout the remainder of the planning process; offering your thoughts and playing a role in further refining the draft plan.

Four alternatives, as well as a "no-action" alternative based on the current forest plans, take into account the spectrum of public comments we have heard. The draft EIS weighs the benefits and tradeoffs of each alternative.

***Every alternative has benefits and tradeoffs to the American public and to the resources.***

Review documents:

- Online at [www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin](http://www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin) and click on Forest Plan Revision, then Draft Plan/Draft EIS or
- In person – at district offices and local libraries – ask at reference desks.

### Keep in Mind When Commenting:

- Review the documents in depth.
- Consider and weigh the tradeoffs and benefits of each alternative.
- Keep in mind the deciding official (Mary Erickson as Forest Supervisor) can choose elements from different alternatives.
- Think solution-oriented. Provide specific examples for a solution. This is more effective than simply a for/against statement.
- Provide rationale and reasoning; avoid assuming the reader knows your viewpoint or perspective.
- If providing scientific literature, connect WHY the citation is relevant to the area you are commenting on.
- **Avoid the quick answer to vote** and not provide anything more. **Dig deeper, consider the long term**, consider other viewpoints and provide reasoning when commenting.
- Each alternative is multi-faceted. Be specific about certain elements of an alternative, rather than "voting" for or against an alternative.
- Reflect and formulate your thoughts clearly before submitting, ensuring they are clear and concise.



# Reviewers Guide to Commenting

## Instructions for Commenting

The comments that you provide during the 90-day comment period will help us to further refine our alternatives and finalize our final environmental impact statement and forest plan.

### Comment Electronically

**Comments must be submitted within 90-day comment period, anticipated June 5<sup>th</sup> (by midnight) or postmarked on the same date, based on Federal Register notice.**

*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 CFR 219.53(A)). **One must provide name and contact information with your substantive formal comment for standing.** 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. Comments, names and addresses will be part of the public record.*

### Comment by:

- Visiting online at [www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin](http://www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin) and clicking Forest Plan Revision – then click on draft plan, draft EIS then on commenting once ready to submit.
- Directly link at: <https://tinyurl.com/caracgnf>
- By Mail to Custer Gallatin National Forest, Attn: Forest Plan Revision Team, P.O. Box 130, (10 E Babcock), Bozeman, MT 59771

## Aid to Providing Your Input

When providing your comment keep in mind the spectrum of uses on the land and other interests. The plan aims to balance many uses across the landscape, protect resources and contribute to social and economic sustainability.

If you have a concern, please offer a proposed solution or alternative. Some questions to consider may include:

- Do you agree/disagree with plan components? If you disagree, what changes would you suggest or can you suggest additional management direction that you would like to see considered?
- Do you have suggestions for a particular area?
- Do you have comments or suggestions about specific elements of an alternative?
- Do you have additional information to contribute to the EIS analysis?

