



File Code: 1920**Date:** June 30, 2020**Route To:** 1920**Subject:** Custer Gallatin NF Species of Conservation Concern**To:** Custer Gallatin National Forest Supervisor Mary Erickson

After consideration of public input provided for the Custer Gallatin National Forest's land management plan revision, a careful review of scientific information, and discussions with research scientists and other specialists, I have determined that the species identified in the enclosed list meet the criteria for species of conservation concern as defined by the 2012 planning rule and its implementing directives.

As Regional Forester, I am responsible for determining the best way to achieve the objectives for the conservation of at-risk species (Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2670.44). As your revised plan provides direction to maintain and restore the ecological conditions necessary to support long-term persistence of all native species using the complementary ecosystem and species-specific approach of the 2012 Planning Rule, I find the plan is sufficient to meet the sensitive species objectives of FSM 2670. Once the revised plan is in effect, the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species list no longer applies to the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

Please note that the identification of species of conservation concern is a dynamic process. New scientific information may prompt changes in the species of conservation concern list over time. My staff will continue to work with you and your staff to evaluate new information and determine if adding or removing species from the list for the plan area is warranted.

One change of note from the list of species identified for the draft plan in 2019, is the addition of westslope cutthroat trout. After careful review of the scientific information, including new information regarding threats related to increasing wildfire, I have determined the best available scientific information indicates substantial concern about the westslope cutthroat trout's capability to persist over the long-term in the plan area and have identified it as a sensitive of conservation concern for the Forest.

I would also like to acknowledge the high level of public interest regarding management of bison on the Custer Gallatin National Forest. Although bison do not meet the criteria for species of conservation concern on the Forest, I appreciate how the plan recognizes that bison are of great importance to local, regional, and national visitors and the tribes.

Updated information regarding the evaluation and scientific information used to determine species included and excluded as species of conservation concern for the Custer Gallatin National Forest can be found on the Northern Region webpage. This includes updates to the evaluation spreadsheets that were made in response to public comments, a review of new scientific information, and a question and answer document addressing questions we've heard



regarding species of conservation concern identification for all Northern Region forest plan revision efforts.

I appreciate the expertise and assistance of your staff during this process. I look forward to continuing to work together, along with our stakeholders, to ensure the diversity of species on the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

LEANNE M. MARTEN
Regional Forester

cc: Julie Schaefers, Christopher S. Savage

Species of Conservation Concern for the Custer Gallatin National Forest (June 9, 2020)

Table 1. Animal Species of Conservation Concern

Common Name	Scientific Name
Greater Sage-grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>
White-tailed Prairie Dog	<i>Cynomys leucurus</i>
Western Pearlshell	<i>Margaritifera falcata</i>
Westslope cutthroat trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi</i>

Table 2. Plant Species of Conservation Concern

Common Name	Scientific Name
Muskroot	<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>
Oval-leaf milkweed	<i>Asclepias ovalifolia</i>
Narrowleaf milkweed	<i>Asclepias stenophylla</i>
Frenchman's Bluff moonwort	<i>Botrychium gallicomontanum</i>
Peculiar moonwort	<i>Botrychium paradoxum</i>
Annual Indian paintbrush	<i>Castilleja exilis</i>
Heavy sedge	<i>Carex gravida</i> var. <i>gravida</i>
Small yellow lady's-slipper	<i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i>
Dense-leaf draba	<i>Draba densifolia</i>
English sundew	<i>Drosera anglica</i>
Beaked spikerush	<i>Eleocharis rostellata</i>
Whitestem goldenbush or Discoid goldenweed	<i>Ericameria discoidea</i> var. <i>discoidea</i> ; (Syn: <i>Haplopappus macronema</i> var. <i>macronema</i>)
Dakota buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum visherii</i>
Hiker's gentian	<i>Gentianopsis simplex</i>
Spiny hopsage	<i>Grayia spinosa</i>
Rockycree false goldenaster	<i>Heterotheca fulcrata</i>
Nuttall Desert-Parsley	<i>Lomatium nuttallii</i>
Meesia moss	<i>Meesia triquetra</i>
Dwarf purple monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus nanus</i>
Wooly twinpod	<i>Physaria didymocarpa</i> var. <i>lanata</i>
Beartooth large-flowered goldenweed	<i>Pyrrocoma carthamoides</i> var. <i>subsquarrosus</i> (Syn. <i>Haplopappus carthamoides</i> var. <i>subsquarrosus</i>)
Barratt's willow	<i>Salix barrattiana</i>
Shoshonea	<i>Shoshonea pulvinata</i>
Oregon checker-mallow	<i>Sidalcea oregana</i>
Northwestern thelypod	<i>Thelypodium paniculatum</i>