



**File Code:** 1920

**Date:** January 28, 2022

Subject: Release of the Land Management Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement and Final Record of Decision for Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision

Dear Interested Parties:

On January 28, 2022 the Custer Gallatin National Forest is releasing our land management plan, final environmental impact statement, and final record of decision. The release of these documents is the culmination of six years of robust public involvement, collaborative energy and thousands partaking in caring for their public lands by helping to develop a plan for the next decade or more. The land management plan is the comprehensive overarching document that guides forest management for years to come.

The plan represents a careful and deliberate blend that supports healthy forests, strong economic opportunities, and world-class recreation. The plan will also help set priorities for investments that support work with state and federal entities, tribes, partners, communities, and stakeholders to achieve active landscape management, vegetation, and wildlife conservation, and help maintain sustainable mining, grazing, forest products and recreation industries. Thousands engaged and commented throughout the process making a stronger plan overall.

Key aspects of the land management plan include:

- Direction to guide sustainable recreation, grazing, mining, and forest products.
- Direction for a range of land allocations including recommended wilderness, eligible wild and scenic rivers, backcountry areas and recreation emphasis areas.
- Direction to guide vegetation management, reflecting current science supporting plant and wildlife persistence.
- Direction that integrates the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and supports active fuels management near communities and homes.
- Direction promoting partnerships to facilitate getting more work accomplished on the ground.
- Direction for wildlife and aquatic species habitat management including lynx, grizzly bear, bison, bighorn sheep, native fish, and other wildlife species.
- Identifies key linkage areas within the Custer Gallatin National Forest that promote further connectivity and movements of species across the landscape.

All documents and release material, including a foundational guide to understanding key decisions of the land management plan can be found online at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/custergallatin/home/?cid=FSEPRD897383>, by navigating to [www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin](http://www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin) and clicking on the right-hand Forest Plan Revision quick link or under features. Viewing the Land Management Plan online is strongly recommended. Flash drives with planning documents are available upon request.



The Custer Gallatin National Forest is grateful for the thoughtful, respectful, and diverse public dialogue and comment that has been displayed throughout the plan revision process. The level of engagement truly helps to build a more robust and comprehensive plan. We thank you for your time and dedication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary C. Erickson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "M" and a distinct "C" and "E".

MARY C. ERICKSON  
Forest Supervisor