



File Code: 1920**Date:** April 15, 2021**Route To:****Subject:** Species of Conservation Concern List for the Custer Gallatin National Forest's Revised Land Management Plan**To:** Forest Supervisor, Custer Gallatin National Forest

During the pre-decisional review period for the Custer Gallatin National Forest's revised land management plan, I received objections regarding the identification of the Forest's species of conservation concern. Objectors asserted additional species should be included on the list, due in part to differences in their interpretation of the 2012 planning rule requirements. These objections were forwarded for review to the Acting Associate Deputy Chief, representing the Chief of the Forest Service Victoria Christenson.

After review by a team of specialists, she found I had appropriately applied the criteria outlined in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12. However, I did receive instruction to clarify several points related to the identification process, consider some additional information for specific species, and to clarify the rationale for not identifying some species. I was also instructed to evaluate one additional species that was not previously eligible for identification as Forest Service species of conservation concern on the Forest.

As instructed, resource specialists in the Northern Region reviewed the documentation and added information where needed to clarify why a species does or does not meet the definition of a Forest Service species of conservation concern found at 36 CFR 219.9(c). Specialists reviewed additional literature and new data where instructed, and rationale documents were updated to include relevant citations and clarify how available information was used to determine whether or not there is substantial concern about the capability of some species to persist.

I reviewed this additional documentation to determine if any changes were warranted and found that the expanded documentation further supports my previous findings. Thus, I have not made any changes to my determinations for the species evaluated for the June 2020 list.

Specialists also evaluated wolverine, which was not considered when I first identified the Forest's list of species of conservation concern because it was proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The Fish and Wildlife Service recently withdrew the proposed listing, making wolverine eligible for consideration as species of conservation concern. I reviewed the new species evaluation and found that the best available scientific information does not support a finding that there is substantial concern about the species' capability to persist over the long term in the plan area. Therefore, I am not identifying wolverine as a Forest Service species of conservation concern on the Custer Gallatin National Forest.



I have complied with the reviewing officer's instructions and have attached the April 2021 list of species of conservation concern for the Forest. The supporting documentation can be found on the Northern Region's website:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r1/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd500402> .

Please note that the identification of species of conservation concern is a dynamic process. New scientific information may prompt future changes in the identified species. Future evaluations will follow the process described in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, section 21.22b.

I look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in conserving the diversity of species on the Forest.

LEANNE M. MARTEN
Regional Forester

Enclosure

cc: Julie Schaefers, Christopher Savage

Species of Conservation Concern for the Custer Gallatin National Forest (April 2021)

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>