

# Bison Conservation Framework in Forest Planning



Cara Staab  
Regional Wildlife Ecologist  
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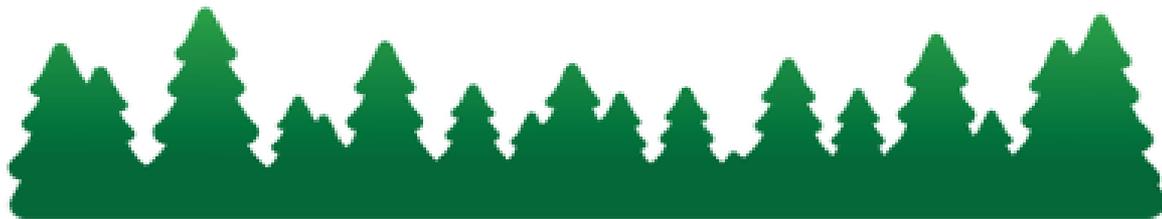
# A Forest Plan Provides...

- Framework for guiding decisions
- Vision, strategy, and sideboards
- Sustainable multiple use management
- Consistency



# Plan Components

- Desired conditions
- Objectives and Goals
- Standards and Guidelines
- Land use suitability



# A Forest Plan Does Not...

- Authorize projects
- Compel action
- Direct the public
- Manage wildlife



# Forest Plans are Guided By

- **Law:** National Forest Mgmt Act (P.L. 94-588)
- **Regulation:** 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219)
- **Policy:** Planning Directives (FS Handbook 1909)



# Custer Gallatin Plan Revision

- **Assessment: Feb 2017**
- **Proposed Action: April 2018**
- **DEIS: early 2019**



# Which Species?



All of Them!



# The Rule at 36 CFR§219.9



“...adopts a complementary

*ecosystem* and *species-specific* approach”

to maintain the *diversity* of plant & animal communities

and the *persistence* of native species

# The Rule at 36 CFR§219.9



Coarse filter = Ecosystem components

Fine filter = Species specific components

# Wildlife Connections

## Rule requirements for:

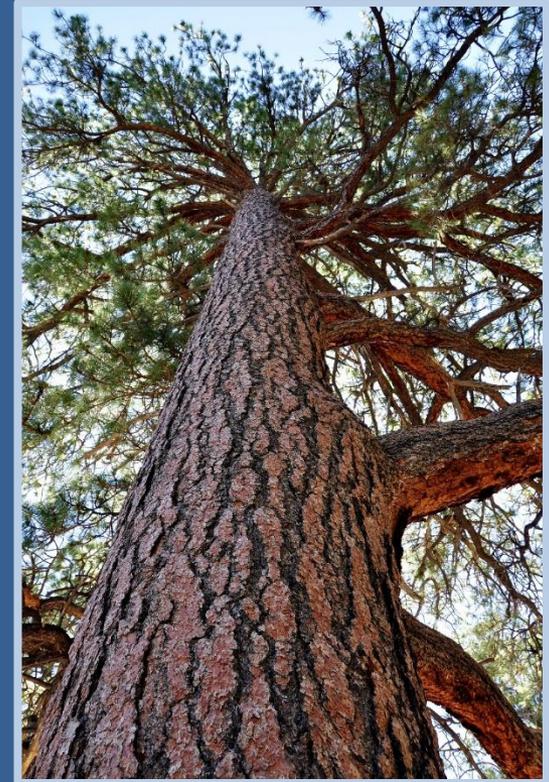
- 🐦 Ecological Sustainability
- 🐦 Plant & Animal Diversity
- 🐦 Ecosystem Services & Multiple Uses
- 🐦 Distinctive Roles & Contributions



# Ecological Sustainability

“Maintain & restore ecosystem integrity...”

“...of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, riparian areas, soil, air and water”



# Ecological Sustainability

“Maintain & restore ecosystem integrity...”

- Structure
- Composition
- Function
- Connectivity

“...of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, riparian areas, soil, air and water”



# Plant and Animal Diversity

“Maintain & restore diversity of ecosystems and habitat types”

- 🦅 Key ecosystem characteristics
- 🦅 Ecological conditions for native species
- 🦅 Rare plant & animal communities



# Plant and Animal Diversity

- 🐦 “Common” native species
- 🐦 Rare plant and animal communities
- 🐦 Federally-recognized species (ESA)
- 🐦 Species of conservation concern





## Species of Conservation Concern

“a species, other than federally recognized threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, that is known to occur in the plan area and for which the regional forester has determined that the best available scientific information indicates substantial concern about the species’ capability to persist over the long-term in the plan area.”

# Species of Conservation Concern





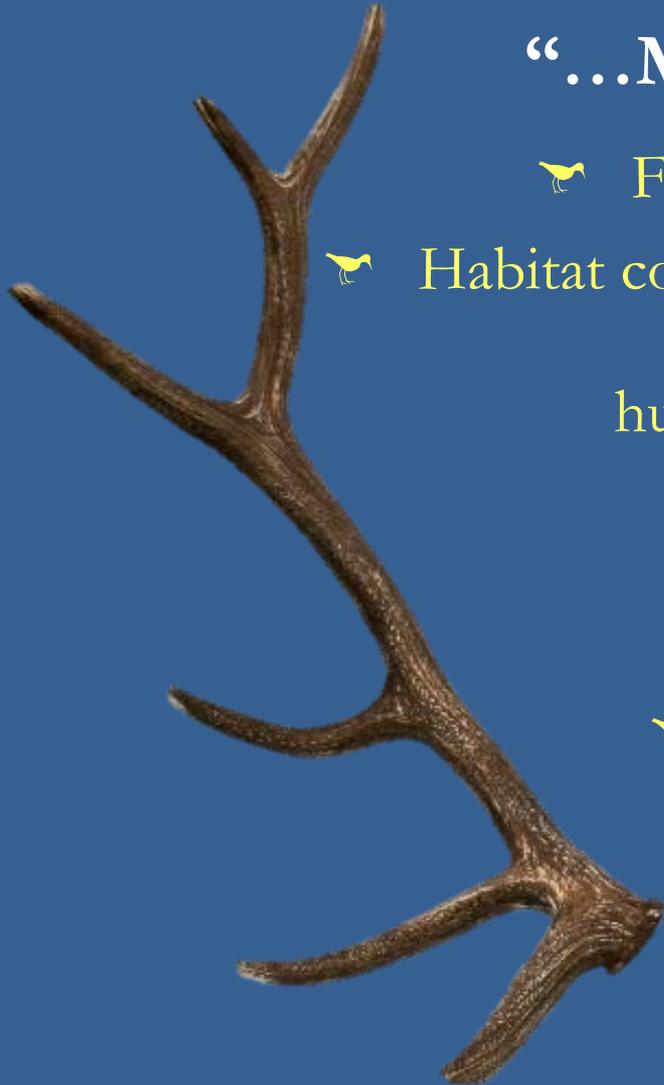
# Ecosystem Services & Multiple Uses

“...Must provide for...”

🦌 Fish and wildlife species

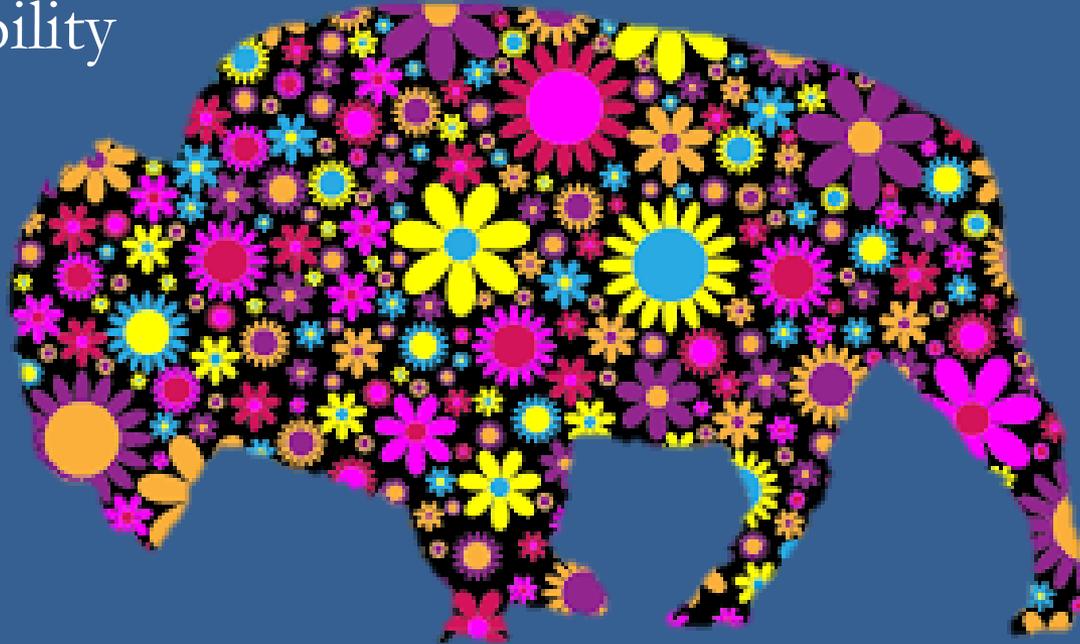
🦌 Habitat conditions for species commonly enjoyed and used for hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, observing, subsistence & other activities

🦌 Wildlife forage



# Distinctive Roles & Contributions

- Unique attributes or benefits of plan area
- Important & relevant at local, regional or national level
- Contribute to social, economic or ecological sustainability





# Wildlife Connections

## Rule requirements for:

- 🐦 Ecological Sustainability
- 🐦 Plant & Animal Diversity
- 🐦 Ecosystem Services & Multiple Uses
- 🐦 Distinctive Roles & Contributions



# Plan Components for Wildlife



Recognized in :

- Natural disturbance regimes & ecological processes
- Ecosystem Structure/function/composition
- Connectivity
- Key habitat characteristics
- Riparian & wetland buffers
- Species-specific provisions
- Ecosystem services & social benefits

